EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1929

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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1930.

To His Honour ROBERT RANDOLPH BRUCE,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Eighth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1929.

R. H. POOLEY,

Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1930.

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REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1930.

The Honourable R. H. Pooley, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Eighth Annual Report as Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1929.

The total value of buildings and contents destroyed by fire during this period was $4,190,100. Five adult persons lost their lives. The increase in losses over the same period in 1928 was approximately $1,500,000. Nearly one million of this increase was contributed by seventeen of our cities, the balance being principally in the unorganized districts where no fire protection is available.

The total loss from fire in 1929 nearly reached that of 1923, which was the peak year since records have been kept by the Department.

This increased loss for 1929 was not unexpected. Early in the year warnings were broadcasted by the Dominion Meteorological Service to the effect that owing to the lack of rainfall the fire hazard would be a serious one. In an endeavour to cope with the situation, early in the year notices were sent to the assistant fire marshals advising them to see that all fire hazards were cleaned up and special care taken to prevent fires starting. Pursuant to this over 56,000 inspections were made and nearly 7,000 orders to remove hazards and improve conditions were issued and enforced. Yet in spite of this our losses have mounted. What they would have been had this action not been taken we must leave to the imagination.

There appears to be a tendency on the part of some officials to piously attribute their increased fire losses to an act of God. Our investigations, however, reveal that they are usually from another source. In one city, the stream which was the only source of supply to their reservoir was, owing to the extreme cold, frozen solid. Under these conditions the elderly labourer, who was glorified with the title of "Foreman of the Waterworks," decided to drain the reservoir and clean it. This was done. At this time a fire occurred. The only water available was in the pipes and a 25-gallon chemical tank. The result, a conflagration and a property loss of $157,000. To make the situation more interesting, the Deputy Fire Marshal, while investigating the fire, made an inspection of what was left of the city and reported over seventy serious fire hazards consisting of highly inflammable trash located in dilapidated buildings and rear yards. While this condition existed the local assistant fire marshal, whose duty under the Act is to attend to just such matters as this, was busy in the fire-hall cleaning paint off an old wagon.

Another case is that of a city which has been carrying on a very laudable campaign to attract industries and with very considerable success. For years the fire chief has been asking for larger water-mains and better equipment for their protection from fire. In this city during 1929 four major fires occurred. Two were industrial plants, one a school, and in the other several public buildings were involved. The total loss for the four fires was $575,000. Their fire loss for the year increased from $10,000 in 1928 to over half a million in 1929. They have since purchased a pumping-engine, but the pipe for the enlarged water-mains is still piled in the city yards.

Our chief city of Vancouver shows a loss total of $1,089,730, being an increase of $387,717 over the 1928 loss for Vancouver, Point Grey, and South Vancouver combined.

The conditions existing on the Burrard water-front of Vancouver are such that a serious conflagration is long overdue. For the past eight years the attention of councils and citizens generally has been called to the serious hazards existing here and the entirely inadequate fire protection available. Surveys have been made, public meetings held, and wide publicity given by the press of the city. A committee was appointed by the president of the Board of Trade, but at the time of writing there have been no results. The chief of the fire department put an item for fire-boats in his 1930 estimates, but it was struck out before it reached the council.

When the conflagration happens it will probably involve the major portion of the Water Street wholesale district. I presume it will be referred to as an act of God.

A fire in this city which involved a loss of life is worthy of note. It occurred in an industrial plant. Our investigation showed that it was caused by a defective electrical heating apparatus which had been installed in an oven used for baking enamel. This was installed without the knowledge or consent of the city officials, and, as above stated, the resultant fire caused the death of a young man employee of the company. For this act the persons responsible were convicted and fined $10. An amendment to the "Fire Marshal Act" passed last session provides an adequate penalty for this sort of thing, which has been altogether too common in the past. In the future the law will be strictly enforced.

Provincial Government Buildings.—Regular inspection of Government buildings has been made during the year. With a few minor exceptions, conditions were found excellent. Only two serious fires have occurred in these institutions during the year—namely, at the Colony Farm, Essondale. Both were undoubtedly due to spontaneous ignition of oily rags. One occurred in the new addition to the farm cottage while under construction and the responsibility was entirely that of the contractors in charge of the work. The promptness and efficiency of our Essondale Fire Department under Chief Hughes prevented a serious loss. They cannot be too highly commended for their excellent work. As a result of these fires, steps were at once taken to furnish these institutions with adequate fire protection equipment. A 40-gallon chemical extinguisher was at once purchased and put in commission. Later a 500-gallon LaFrance combination pumper hose and chemical was purchased and installed. Plans were prepared and approved for a pumping plant and distributing-mains with a rated capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute for the protection of the farm buildings. This will be put in commission in the very near future. I wish to express my appreciation of the support and co-operation I have received from the departments responsible in bringing the fire protection of this important institution to such a high standard of efficiency.

Public and Private Hospitals.—Co-operating with the Department of the Honourable Provincial Secretary, a close check has been kept on all hospitals throughout the Province. Orders for alterations and improvements of conditions were issued and enforced where such were necessary. Owing to the tragedy that occurred in a clinic at Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., where over one hundred persons lost their lives as a result of inhaling the gases of burning nitro-cellulose film used for X-ray purposes, a prompt survey of our hospitals and clinics in this Province was at once made. The conditions under which nitro-cellulose X-ray film was stored and used were found to be exceedingly dangerous. Acting on your instructions, I proceeded to Ottawa, where a conference had been arranged by the Canadian Fire Marshals to discuss the question of the best method of preventing such a catastrophe in our Canadian hospitals. Attending and addressing this conference were a number of the leading radiologists and experts on nitro-cellulose film in Canada and the United States. As a result of attending this meeting I was in a position on my return to inaugurate an educational campaign among the hospitals in this Province with a view to providing for the safe-keeping of the nitro-cellulose film in use and to arrange for the use of the acetate safety-film in the future. In carrying out this work I was ably assisted by Mr. J. H. McVety, president of the British Columbia Hospitals' Board, and members of the Executive, and by Drs. F. C. Bell and H. McIntosh, of the staff of the Vancouver General Hospital. Without the co-operation and advice of these men my work along these lines would not have been so successful as it proved to be. I am glad to report that to-day over 95 per cent. of our hospitals and clinics are using the acetate safety-film, and that in the very near future the use of the nitro-cellulose film for X-ray purposes will be entirely prohibited in this Province.

Fire Districts.—It having been found that the practice of creating fire districts in the towns of our unorganized districts was not working out satisfactorily, I consulted Colonel McMullin, Commissioner of Provincial Police, and we decided to make all the unorganized territory in each county a fire district and appoint the staff-sergeants and sergeants of the force as assistant fire marshals in charge. This we believe will make for efficiency in the work of fire prevention in the districts where there is no fire protection available. This act on the part of Colonel McMullin is in line with the fine co-operation and assistance I have always received from him and the officers of the force. Without it it would be almost impossible to carry on the work of fire prevention in the unorganized districts.

During the year Mr. A. A. MacDonald, Deputy Fire Marshal, resigned to take the position of Fire Chief at Trail, and Mr. W. A. Walker, a former sergeant on the Provincial Police Force, was appointed in his stead. As a trained investigator he has taken over the work of fire investigation and is having splendid success along that line.

Moving-picture Theatres Act.—The work of theatre inspection has been actively and efficiently carried out by Mr. W. A. Oswald, Assistant Fire Marshal in this office. During the year he has inspected nearly all theatres in the Province, many of them several times. In sixty-four of them changes and improvements were ordered. Plans for remodelling seventeen existing theatres for the installation of synchronized sound equipment were approved and the remodelling carried out. Twenty-one installations and inspections of synchronized sound equipment were made during the year. One hundred and eighty-six machines were inspected and repairs ordered. The new high intensity reflector arc lamp installed in some of the larger houses was found to have increased the temperature in some cases as much as 600° F. over the former reflector lamp. This called for greater precautions to prevent fire. No new theatres were built during 1929.

The revision of film at the exchanges has been closely checked and as a result our fire loss due to defective film was only $1,064, compared with $4,226 in 1928. Our film report system revealed the fact that approximately 175,000 feet of film was defective and it was ordered out of service. This was a decrease of 297,000 feet from 1928.

In addition to his work of inspection, Mr. Oswald conducted or assisted in conducting thirty-one projectionists' examinations throughout the year. Eighteen inspections were made of the film exchange building which houses ten exchanges. In eight instances orders were issued to improve conditions. Film exchange managers through their fire inspection department have given splendid assistance in keeping conditions up to a proper standard in these exchanges.

I wish to express my appreciation to the members of my staff, who have made it possible to carry out the work of the office in compiling the fire statistics, and also to the members of the Provincial and Municipal Police Forces, who have acted as assistant fire marshals in their several districts.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. A. THOMAS,
Fire Marshal.

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS MADE AND ORDERS ISSUED BY ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS.

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	8	3
Armstrong	45	1
Chilliwack	43	2
Courtenay	.....	.....
Cranbrook	1,020	77
Cumberland	46	3
Duncan	40	.....
Enderby	50	2
Fernie	530	33
Grand Forks	13	2
Greenwood	10	4
Kamloops	412	23
Kaslo	.....	.....
Kelowna	.....	.....
Ladysmith	27	7
Merritt	30	19
Nanaimo	661	14
Nelson	1,289	63
New Westminster	1,845	261
North Vancouver	821	154
Port Alberni	43	23
Port Coquitlam	.....	.....
Port Moody	48	6
Prince George	225	98
Prince Rupert	445	210
Revelstoke	405	2
Rossland	240	113
Salmon Arm	23	.....
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	1,615	77
Vancouver	37,619	5,181
Vernon	.....	.....
Victoria	7,515	259
Totals	55,068	6,637
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	75	44
Chilliwack	14	.....
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	.....	.....
Delta	24	.....
Esquimalt	72	1
Fraser Mills	.....	.....
Glenmore	.....	.....
Kent	.....	.....
Langley	10	2
Maple Ridge	3	.....
Matsqui	5	.....
Mission	66	2
North Cowichan	23	1
North Vancouver	6	.....
Oak Bay	134	8
Peachland	.....	.....
Penticton	.....	.....
Pitt Meadows	.....	.....
Richmond	174	60
Saanich	3	.....
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Spallumcheen	.....	.....
Sumas	.....	.....
Summerland	28	.....
Surrey	.....	.....

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS MADE AND ORDERS ISSUED BY ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS.—*Continued.*

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Tadanac	57	.....
West Vancouver	40	5
Totals	734	123
Village Municipalities (8).		
Abbotsford	2	.....
Burns Lake	9	3
Creston	.....	.....
Gibsons Landing	.....	.....
Mission	213	21
Smithers	.....	.....
Terrace	4	.....
Vanderhoof	6	.....
Totals	234	24
Fire Districts (24).		
Anyox	13	12
Burns Lake	4	1
Dawson Creek	.....	.....
Golden	22	.....
Hazelton	12	6
Hedley	.....	.....
Ioco	5	1
Kimberley	.....	.....
Lucerne	.....	.....
Moyie	.....	.....
Nakusp	.....	.....
Oliver	31	2
Pacific Mills, Limited	.....	.....
Port Essington	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Powell River	480	.....
Princeton	31	8
Quesnel	40	2
Rolla	.....	.....
Sandon	.....	.....
Stewart	10	15
Telkwa	1	1
Union Bay	.....	.....
University Area	269	.....
Totals	918	48
Grand totals	56,954	6,832
Grand totals, 1928	43,075	4,938
Grand totals, 1927	47,221	4,437
Grand totals, 1926	52,134	5,003
Grand totals, 1925	49,889	4,759

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	1	$10
Armstrong	1	13
Chilliwack	8	2,410
Courtenay	4	1,782
Cranbrook	17	545
Cumberland	2	69
Duncan	5	315
Enderby	2	197
Fernie	8	1,325
Grand Forks	5	2,894
Greenwood	1	195
Kamloops	18	25,098
Kaslo	1	135
Kelowna	9	4,566
Ladysmith	7	4,529
Merritt	5	26,600
Nanaimo	38	20,743
Nelson	17	17,918
New Westminster	75	671,833
North Vancouver	35	107,173
Port Alberni	16	4,127
Port Coquitlam	6	830
Port Moody	3	10,280
Prince George	11	13,361
Prince Rupert	14	3,485
Revelstoke	6	11,555
Rossland	39	166,834
Salmon Arm	14	17,101
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	13	10,754
Vancouver	1,012	1,089,730
Vernon	10	1,251
Victoria	180	46,838
Totals	1,583	$2,264,496
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	63	$67,832
Chilliwack	17	15,534
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	8	12,601
Delta	9	20,728
Esquimalt	9	855
Fraser Mills	.....	.....
Glenmore	2	5,575
Kent	.....	.....
Langley	21	33,942
Maple Ridge	14	12,969
Matsqui	11	16,272
Mission	7	5,999
North Cowichan	5	2,737
North Vancouver	32	18,770
Oak Bay	41	78,757
Peachland	2	143
Penticton	11	4,640
Pitt Meadows	.....	.....
Richmond	14	17,845
Saanich	28	15,647
Salmon Arm	1	125
Spallumcheen	1	47
Sumas	9	10,990
Summerland	6	3,368
Surrey	20	32,187
Tadanac	19	10,090
West Vancouver	20	4,145
Totals	370	$391,798

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Village Municipalities (8).		
Abbotsford	.....	.....
Burns Lake	3	$6,070
Creston	1	500
Gibsons Landing	.....	.....
Mission	7	6,000
Smithers	1	6
Terrace	2	808
Vanderhoof	.....	.....
Totals	14	$13,384
Fire Districts (24).		
Anyox	.....	.....
Burns Lake	.....	.....
Dawson Creek	.....	.....
Golden	3	$35,029
Hazelton	1	1,000
Hedley	1	2,440
Loco	.....	.....
Kimberley	1	150
Lucerne	.....	.....
Moyie	1	1,381
Nakusp	4	32,205
Oliver	1	361
Pacific Mills, Limited	3	3,016
Port Essington	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Powell River	2	10,725
Princeton	3	3,676
Quesnel	2	40
Rolla	.....	.....
Sandon	.....	.....
Stewart	3	5,110
Telkwa	2	575
Union Bay	1	850
University Area	4	15,230
Totals	32	$111,788
Unorganized Districts (15).		
Boundary	22	$40,297
Fort George	12	147,536
Fort St. John	4	10,910
Hazelton	14	38,999
Kamloops	18	17,359
Kootenay, North-east	12	21,846
Kootenay, South-east	52	300,217
Kootenay, West	46	167,072
Lillooet	11	21,326
Nanaimo	68	176,485
Prince Rupert	15	32,511
Vancouver-New Westminster	47	230,465
Vernon	18	26,881
Victoria	42	165,470
Yale	6	11,260
Totals	387	$1,408,634
Grand totals	2,386	$4,190,100

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire-resisting	31,	loss	$178,342
Brick or concrete	235,	,,	411,276
Frame	2,120,	,,	3,600,482
	2,386,	,,	$4,190,100

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Alcohol ignited by hot soldering-iron	1	$8
Ashes against wood	35	27,848
Boiler insufficiently protected	1	100
Brushes ignited in oven	3	162
Candle carelessness	15	393
Carburettor back-firing	35	14,037
Car upset	2	876
Children playing with fire	4	711
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	32	15,845
Coal-gas explosion	4	43,920
Coal-oil carelessness	4	2,191
Coat falling on hot-air register	1	73
Curtains from candle	2	151
Curtains from electric light	1	4
Curtains from lamp	4	50
Curtains from stove	4	128
Defective acetylene welder	1	513
Defective boiler	1	25
Defective chimney	122	132,830
Defective electrical installation	1	20,686
Defective film	4	1,064
Defective fireplace	33	6,235
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	7	4,793
Defective gas connection	4	24,250
Defective heater	1	275
Defective lamp	3	8,782
Defective matches	2	18
Defective motor	1	85
Defective oil-burner	2	5,990
Defective oil connection	1	2,000
Defective oil-stove	5	2,116
Defective sawdust-burner	1	5
Defective stove or stove-pipe	43	35,092
Defective wiring	19	31,299
Dutch oven back-firing	1	95,858
Electrical appliances	81	35,431
Engine back-firing	1	478
Exposure	143	380,239
Fire-crackers	15	2,143
Friction in drying-machine	1	21
Friction in stand-roll	1	53
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	14	18,682
Gas-furnace back-firing	1	56
Gasoline carelessness	29	55,723
Gasoline explosion	2	2,350
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	14	6,661
Gasoline-stove explosion	2	2,256
Gasoline-torch carelessness	8	6,885
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	3	344
Grease on stove	19	9,524
Hot biscuits wrapped in paper	1	22
Hot bolt fell into barrel	1	10
Hot brick put in bed	1	40
Hot pan placed on verandah-rail	1	14
Ignition of floor-wax	1	68
Incendiary	18	37,434
Incense-burner upset	2	74
Lamp explosion	7	10,201
Lamp upset	16	11,500
Lantern upset	2	6,291
Lightning	12	152,540
Live coals	29	871
Match carelessness	26	2,521
Matches, children with	37	12,899
Matches, mice with	3	1,508

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES—*Continued.*

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Mattress too near stove	2	$144
Oil-furnace back-firing	3	332
Oil-stove explosion	1	19
Overheated asphalt	1	58,038
Overheated dry-kiln	3	96,498
Overheated electric motor	2	840
Overheated elements	1	2,276
Overheated vulcanizing-machine	1	9,686
Overheating of machinery bearings	1	70
Paper from fireplace	2	10
Paper from stove	2	99
Pitch being melted, ignited	1	24
Rubbish too near stove	2	633
Short circuit	85	120,044
Smokers' carelessness	400	295,607
Sparks from acetylene welder	6	275
Sparks from boiler	6	4,763
Sparks from bonfire	1	347
Sparks from burning rubbish	16	10,461
Sparks from bush fire	19	63,821
Sparks from chimney	232	233,128
Sparks from engine	3	6,237
Sparks from fireplace	112	6,803
Sparks from forge	1	800
Sparks from furnace	12	279,067
Sparks from locomotive	1	50
Sparks from mill burner	14	21,388
Sparks from motor	1	80
Sparks from slash fire	4	9,738
Sparks from smelting-pot	1	46
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	36	18,864
Spontaneous combustion	32	187,537
Static electricity	8	13,876
Stove explosion	4	187
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	119	168,900
Sulphur burning	1	142
Sun's rays	1	13
Tar boiling over	6	837
Thawing pipes	27	2,543
Trolley broke	1	1,331
Unknown	313	1,327,126
Wood too near furnace	3	9,241
Wood too near stove	8	2,927
Totals	2,386	$4,190,100

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Amusement-parks	1	Short circuit	1		$894
Apartments	59	Ashes against wood	2	$25	
		Clothes too near stove	1	7,973	
		Curtains from electric light	1	4	
		Defective chimney	1	49	
		Defective fireplace	2	184	
		Defective gas connection	1	202	
		Electrical appliances	5	82	
		Grease on stove	1	80	
		Live coals	1	20	
		Match carelessness	1	17	
		Matches, children with	1	20	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	150	
		Smokers' carelessness	31	912	
		Sparks from chimney	2	91	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	1,372	
		Unknown	5	1,400	
					12,581
Automobiles	146	Carburettor back-firing	34	$11,537	
		Car upset	2	876	
		Defective heater	1	275	
		Defective wiring	1	15	
		Fire-crackers	1	15	
		Gasoline carelessness	4	1,383	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	14	6,661	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	65	
		Match carelessness	1	150	
		Short circuit	42	10,416	
		Smokers' carelessness	16	1,596	
		Sparks from chimney	1	40	
		Unknown	28	13,179	
					46,208
Bakeries	6	Defective wiring	1	$8,312	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	175	
		Matches, children with	1	32	
		Short circuit	1	10,500	
		Unknown	1	17,767	
		Wood too near stove	1	1,058	
					37,844
Banks	2	Defective oil-burner	1	$460	
		Exposure	1	1,173	
					1,633
Barber-shops	6	Electrical appliances	2	$933	
		Exposure	3	8,195	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	25	
					9,153
Barns	59	Defective wiring	1	$1,000	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	936	
		Lamp upset	2	1,695	
		Lantern upset	1	800	
		Lightning	1	1,854	
		Match carelessness	1	599	
		Matches, children with	2	1,605	
		Short circuit	2	10,355	
		Smokers' carelessness	7	10,499	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	3	705	
		Sparks from bush fire	6	6,926	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	9,427	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	700	
		Unknown	28	43,807	
					90,908
Blacksmith-shops	6	Gasoline carelessness	1	$879	
		Gasoline explosion	1	2,250	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	1,455	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Incendiary	1	$1,460	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	5	
		Sparks from forge	1	800	
					$6,849
Boarding-houses	17	Curtains from lamp	1	$14	
		Defective fireplace	1	23	
		Defective furnace-pipe	1	100	
		Defective wiring	1	2,487	
		Electrical appliances	1	498	
		Match carelessness	1	14	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	55	
		Sparks from chimney	4	4,885	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	20	
		Sparks from furnace	1	123	
		Sulphur burning	1	142	
		Unknown	2	6,058	
					14,419
Boat-building sheds	1	Incendiary	1	.....	225
Boat-houses	1	Unknown	1	.....	630
Bottling-works	3	Sparks from chimney	2	$6,566	
		Unknown	1	4,340	
					10,906
Breweries	1	Unknown	1	.....	4,019
Bridges	2	Lightning	1	$757	
		Unknown	1	309	
					1,066
Bunk-houses	5	Gasoline carelessness	1	$300	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	4,000	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	250	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	886	
					5,436
Canneries	3	Ashes against wood	1	$4,151	
		Sparks from boiler	1	1,331	
		Unknown	1	153,264	
					158,746
Carpenter-shops	2	Candle carelessness	1	$65	
		Lightning	1	250	
					315
Chemical plants	1	Exposure	1	.....	41,067
Chicken-houses	20	Ashes against wood	1	$125	
		Defective stove	3	2,666	
		Lamp explosion	1	110	
		Lamp upset	2	7,166	
		Matches, children with	2	107	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	95	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	985	
		Unknown	8	7,058	
					18,312
Churches	5	Furnace insufficiently protected	1	$587	
		Incendiary	1	4	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	381	
		Thawing pipes	1	463	
		Unknown	1	5,150	
					6,585
Clubs	8	Defective stove-pipe	1	$250	
		Exposure	1	18,709	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	65	
		Sparks from chimney	3	737	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	111	
		Unknown	1	3,370	
					23,242
Coalyards	2	Sparks from mill-burner	1	$29	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	500	
					529
Cooperages	1	Sparks from mill burner	1	.....	175

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Dairies	5	Defective motor	1	$85	
		Exposure	1	392	
		Overheating of machinery bearings	1	70	
		Short circuit	1	674	
		Static electricity	1	117	
					$1,338
Dredges	1	Exposure	1	.....	600
Dry-cleaning establishments	4	Gasoline carelessness	1	$20,000	
		Gasoline explosion	1	100	
		Sparks from chimney	1	4	
		Static electricity	1	89	
					20,193
Dwellings	1,360	Ashes against wood	17	$7,796	
		Brushes ignited in oven	3	162	
		Candle carelessness	13	298	
		Children playing with fire	4	711	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	30	7,870	
		Coal-gas explosion	1	15	
		Coal-oil carelessness	3	2,151	
		Coat falling on hot-air register	1	73	
		Curtains from candle	2	151	
		Curtains from lamp	3	36	
		Curtains from stove	2	64	
		Defective chimney	100	90,990	
		Defective fireplace	24	4,296	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	1	1,946	
		Defective gas connection	2	43	
		Defective lamp	1	2,650	
		Defective oil-stove	4	2,111	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	33	21,694	
		Defective wiring	9	14,779	
		Electrical appliances	62	7,446	
		Exposure	69	87,055	
		Fire-crackers	8	475	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	7	1,183	
		Gas-furnace back-firing	1	56	
		Gasoline carelessness	6	1,932	
		Gasoline-stove explosion	2	2,256	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	2	584	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	28	
		Grease on stove	12	2,760	
		Hot biscuits wrapped in paper	1	22	
		Hot brick put in bed	1	40	
		Hot pan placed on verandah-rail	1	14	
		Ignition of floor-wax	1	68	
		Incendiary	11	6,262	
		Incense-burner upset	2	74	
		Lamp explosion	4	2,445	
		Lamp upset	12	2,639	
		Lightning	7	5,326	
		Live coals	26	731	
		Match carelessness	17	956	
		Matches, children with	26	8,186	
		Matches, mice with	1	2	
		Mattress too near stove	2	144	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	25	
		Paper from fireplace	2	10	
		Paper from stove	1	20	
		Short circuit	12	20,684	
		Smokers' carelessness	188	45,476	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	4	691	
		Sparks from bush fire	7	5,988	
		Sparks from chimney	193	93,657	
		Sparks from fireplace	106	6,292	
		Sparks from furnace	6	2,430	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	$23	
		Sparks from slash fire	2	3,852	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	32	11,741	
		Spontaneous combustion	10	8,105	
		Stove explosion	3	162	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	92	120,989	
		Tar boiling over	3	614	
		Thawing pipes	22	1,730	
		Unknown	132	225,886	
		Wood too near furnace	3	9,241	
		Wood too near stove	5	1,518	
					$847,654
Electrical sub-stations	1	Unknown	1		1,968
Elevators (grain)	2	Overheated electric motor	1	$400	
		Unknown	1	546	
					946
Engines	1	Short circuit	1		47
Exhibition buildings	2	Lightning	1	$130,353	
		Unknown	1	8,210	
					138,563
Factories (bed and mattress)	1	Defective electrical installation	1		20,686
Factories (box)	4	Sparks from mill burner	1	$13,700	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	217	
		Static electricity	1	175	
		Unknown	1	602	
					14,694
Factories (broom)	2	Defective chimney	1	$13,082	
		Defective furnace	1	1,000	
					14,082
Factories (furniture)	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		50
Factories (hardwood floor)	1	Sparks from furnace	1		2,791
Factories (jam)	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		15
Factories (paper box)	1	Defective gas connection	1		24,005
Factories (roofing material)	2	Sparks from boiler	1	$217	
		Tar boiling over	1	118	
					335
Factories (sash and door)	3	Coal-gas explosion	1	$200	
		Overheated dry-kiln	1	980	
		Sparks from chimney	1	103	
					1,283
Factories (suspender)	1	Static electricity	1		957
Factories (tent and awning)	1	Gasoline carelessness	1		20,589
Factories (tire)	1	Static electricity	1		159
Factories (varnish and paint)	1	Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1		314
Fences	3	Ashes against wood	1	$6	
		Exposure	1	672	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	55	
					733
Fishing-boats	2	Gasoline carelessness	1	$425	
		Unknown	1	900	
					1,325
Flour-mills	1	Friction in stand-roll	1		53
Freight-cars	3	Spontaneous combustion	1	$200	
		Trolley broke	1	1,331	
		Unknown	1	20	
					1,551
Gaols	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		10
Garages	40	Ashes against wood	3	$213	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	40	
		Defective chimney	3	5,790	
		Defective wiring	1	3	
		Exposure	2	545	
		Gasoline carelessness	7	987	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	276	
		Overheated vulcanizing-machine	1	9,686	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Short circuit	9	$3,516	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	55	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	347	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	1,100	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	8,792	
		Unknown	7	16,158	
					$47,508
Gasoline-stations	4	Short circuit	1	$35	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	5	
		Unknown	2	2,181	
					2,221
Gas plants	1	Unknown	1		1,031
Golf club-houses	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		47,977
Greenhouses	1	Defective sawdust-burner	1		5
Halls	12	Defective fireplace	1	$952	
		Exposure	3	9,635	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	1,854	
		Sparks from chimney	1	190	
		Sparks from furnace	1	3,943	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	71	
		Tar boiling over	1	80	
		Unknown	2	5,323	
					22,048
Hatcheries (chicken)	1	Coal-gas explosion	1		30,500
Hay-stacks	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		400
Hop plants	1	Unknown	1		95
Hospitals	7	Grease on stove	2	$353	
		Short circuit	1	38	
		Sparks from chimney	3	28	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	7,900	
					8,319
Hotels	90	Ashes against wood	1	$72	
		Defective chimney	4	14,649	
		Defective matches	1	8	
		Defective wiring	1	8	
		Electrical appliances	2	390	
		Exposure	4	4,685	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	257	
		Incendiary	1	4,730	
		Lamp explosion	1	5,400	
		Live coals	1	100	
		Match carelessness	2	67	
		Matches, children with	2	70	
		Short circuit	1	55	
		Smokers' carelessness	55	13,157	
		Sparks from chimney	5	36,626	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	4	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	35	
		Unknown	6	12,224	
					92,537
House-boats	1	Defective stove-pipe	1		976
Knitting-mills	1	Short circuit	1		39,779
Launches	8	Carburettor back-firing	1	$2,500	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	1,100	
		Sparks from stove	1	1,750	
		Unknown	4	5,091	
					10,441
Laundries	2	Defective fireplace	1	$25	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	1,157	
					1,182
Logging camps	10	Defective acetylene welder	1	$513	
		Engine back-firing	1	478	
		Short circuit	1	925	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	16,316	
		Sparks from engine	1	762	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from slash fire	2	$5,886	
		Sparks from stove	1	1,513	
		Unknown	2	1,480	
					$27,873
Lumber-piles	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$125	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	763	
					888
Lumber-yards	3	Defective wiring	1	$3,500	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	1,599	
					5,099
Machine-shops	1	Unknown	1		1,100
Machinery plants	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		350
Mining property	8	Defective stove-pipe	2	$8,934	
		Lantern upset	1	5,491	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	50	
		Unknown	4	23,892	
					38,367
Offices	18	Defective chimney	1	$50	
		Defective furnace	1	721	
		Defective lamp	1	2,100	
		Exposure	6	13,957	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	2	
		Short circuit	1	1,522	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	222	
		Sparks from chimney	1	59	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,930	
					20,563
Paper-mills	2	Sparks from furnace	1	$267,902	
		Unknown	1	6	
					267,908
Pole camps	4	Sparks from bush fire	4		45,406
Pool-rooms	4	Exposure	1	$2,186	
		Matches, mice with	1	1,480	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	10	
		Thawing pipes	1	15	
					3,691
Post-offices	2	Exposure	2		454
Power-houses	1	Overheated elements	1		2,276
Printing-offices	5	Defective chimney	1	$193	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	35	
		Sparks from chimney	1	264	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	73	
		Unknown	1	380	
					945
Railway-stations	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		5
Restaurants	14	Ashes against wood	1	$282	
		Defective chimney	3	238	
		Defective lamp	1	4,032	
		Exposure	3	1,223	
		Grease on stove	2	324	
		Short circuit	1	78	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	264	
		Sparks from chimney	1	15	
		Wood too near stove	1	272	
					6,728
Rice-mills	1	Unknown	1		14,453
Rooming-houses	30	Defective chimney	1	$37	
		Defective fireplace	1	58	
		Defective matches	1	10	
		Electrical appliances	1	10	
		Exposure	1	2,850	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	72	
		Incendiary	1	36	
		Live coals	1	20	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	19	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Paper from stove	1	$79	
		Smokers' carelessness	14	3,992	
		Sparks from chimney	1	3	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	434	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	50	
		Thawing pipes	1	10	
		Unknown	2	496	
					$8,176
Sawmills	40	Defective stove-pipe	1	$500	
		Dutch oven back-firing	1	95,858	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	330	
		Lightning	1	14,000	
		Overheated dry-kiln	2	95,518	
		Overheated electric motor	1	440	
		Short circuit	2	2,422	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	8,185	
		Sparks from boiler	1	1,131	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	7,000	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	550	
		Sparks from engine	1	5,400	
		Sparks from mill burner	3	524	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	77	
		Static electricity	2	366	
		Unknown	19	375,593	
					607,894
Schools	20	Defective chimney	4	$1,599	
		Incendiary	1	20,586	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	9	
		Sparks from chimney	3	88,402	
		Sparks from furnace	1	1,871	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	361	
		Unknown	9	31,821	
					144,649
Sheds	17	Ashes against wood	1	$150	
		Exposure	1	100	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	47	
		Match carelessness	1	65	
		Matches, children with	1	100	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	845	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	350	
		Sparks from engine	1	75	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	3	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	100	
		Unknown	5	930	
					2,765
Shingle-mills	8	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$100	
		Exposure	1	10	
		Match carelessness	1	573	
		Sparks from boiler	1	1,750	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	2,329	
		Sparks from motor	1	80	
		Unknown	1	3,027	
					7,869
Ships	1	Defective oil-burner	1	.....	5,530
Skating-rinks	2	Unknown	2	.....	60,218
Slaughter-houses	1	Unknown	1	.....	200
Smelting plants	18	Defective oil connection	1	$2,000	
		Defective wiring	1	15	
		Hot bolt fell into barrel	1	10	
		Short circuit	1	100	
		Sparks from acetylene welder	6	275	
		Sparks from boiler	1	100	
		Sparks from smelting-pot	1	46	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	100	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Tar boiling over	1	$25	
		Unknown	3	7,015	
					$9,686
Stables	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		31,767
Steel-works	1	Unknown	1		22
Stores	93	Ashes against wood	2	$7,637	
		Coal-gas explosion	1	13,205	
		Defective chimney	1	5	
		Defective furnace	1	150	
		Defective oil-stove	1	5	
		Electrical appliances	3	17,015	
		Exposure	22	63,862	
		Fire-crackers	3	54	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	2	824	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	347	
		Incendiary	1	4,131	
		Lamp explosion	1	2,246	
		Matches, children with	1	379	
		Rubbish too near stove	2	633	
		Short circuit	2	93	
		Smokers' carelessness	30	138,869	
		Sparks from chimney	2	38	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	2,981	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	6	25,905	
		Sun's rays	1	13	
		Thawing pipes	1	10	
		Unknown	8	18,833	
					297,235
Stores and apartments	14	Ashes against wood	1	$130	
		Clothes too near stove	1	2	
		Defective fireplace	1	572	
		Defective furnace	1	51	
		Electrical appliances	1	26	
		Fire-crackers	1	1,561	
		Grease on stove	1	7	
		Match carelessness	1	80	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	157	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	15	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	328	
		Thawing pipes	1	315	
		Unknown	1	599	
					3,843
Stores and dwellings	34	Ashes against wood	1	$285	
		Candle carelessness	1	30	
		Curtains from stove	1	20	
		Defective chimney	1	5,946	
		Defective fireplace	1	82	
		Electrical appliances	1	105	
		Exposure	9	63,612	
		Fire-crackers	1	5	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	2,019	
		Grease on stove	1	6,000	
		Short circuit	1	82	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	515	
		Sparks from chimney	4	1,259	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	23	
		Sparks from stove	1	3,679	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	4,177	
		Unknown	2	3,076	
					90,915
Stores and offices	18	Alcohol ignited by hot soldering-iron	1	$8	
		Curtains from stove	1	44	
		Defective wiring	1	1,170	
		Electrical appliances	1	250	
		Exposure	2	3,122	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Friction in drying-machine	1	$21	
		Pitch being melted, ignited	1	24	
		Short circuit	1	2,245	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	10,852	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	50	
		Sparks from chimney	1	30	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	11,732	
					$29,548
Stores, offices, and rooms	4	Exposure	1	$7,219	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	15,712	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	38,027	
					60,958
Stores and rooms	36	Ashes against wood	1	$994	
		Defective boiler	1	25	
		Defective fireplace	1	43	
		Defective furnace	1	825	
		Defective stove	1	4	
		Electrical appliances	2	8,676	
		Exposure	3	15,190	
		Fire-crackers	1	33	
		Matches, mice with	1	26	
		Short circuit	1	84	
		Smokers' carelessness	14	871	
		Sparks from stove	1	181	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	35,429	
		Stove explosion	1	25	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	888	
		Unknown	3	179	
		Wood too near stove	1	79	
					63,552
Swimming-pools	1	Smokers' carelessness	1	.....	303
Theatres	5	Defective film	4	$1,064	
		Exposure	1	8,499	
					9,563
Tug-boats	3	Short circuit	1	$15,500	
		Unknown	2	9,200	
					24,700
Veneer-panelling plants	2	Sparks from boiler	1	$234	
		Static electricity	1	12,013	
					12,247
Warehouses	22	Ashes against wood	2	$5,982	
		Defective chimney	1	202	
		Defective wiring	1	10	
		Exposure	2	25,027	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	4,791	
		Matches, children with	1	2,400	
		Overheated asphalt	1	58,038	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	666	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	4,218	
		Sparks from chimney	1	10	
		Sparks from furnace	1	7	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	22,714	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	12,153	
		Unknown	4	139,065	
					275,283
Wharves	2	Sparks from mill burner	1	$25	
		Unknown	1	95,155	
					95,180
Wood-working plants	2	Defective stove	1	$68	
		Sparks from chimney	1	121	
					189
Totals	2,386		2,386		$4,190,100

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.						Amount of Loss.					
	City Municipalities (33).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (8).	Fire Districts (24).	Unorganized Districts (15).	Total.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Unorganized Districts.	Total.
1929.												
January	201	31	1	6	35	274	$172,755	$22,770	$800	$5,133	$57,686	$259,144
February	155	37	.....	4	29	225	155,307	29,786	.....	4,901	122,001	311,995
March	133	37	4	6	16	196	223,514	33,756	6,210	2,783	11,137	277,400
April	138	39	.....	3	45	225	64,230	30,978	.....	1,360	98,500	195,068
May	121	31	1	3	36	192	120,526	82,666	8	13,740	162,531	379,471
June	100	25	.....	2	28	155	210,561	14,110	.....	35	115,257	339,963
July	163	23	1	.....	41	228	754,168	30,219	1,658	.....	67,602	853,647
August	89	27	3	.....	58	177	176,198	17,595	1,117	.....	368,852	563,762
September	124	33	2	.....	27	186	59,434	21,990	3,562	.....	89,727	174,713
October	129	25	1	4	30	189	176,190	13,465	6	61,316	90,769	341,746
November	127	31	.....	2	24	184	78,571	82,563	.....	5,080	36,851	203,065
December	103	31	1	2	18	155	73,042	11,900	23	17,440	187,721	290,126
Totals, 1929	1,583	370	14	32	387	2,386	$2,264,496	$391,798	$13,384	$111,788	$1,408,634	$4,190,100
Totals, 1928	1,095	729	19	22	331	2,196	1,074,509	565,846	58,392	34,774	934,033	2,667,554
Totals, 1927	1,019	610	33	37	323	2,022	942,053	703,540	95,432	60,239	821,731	2,622,995
Totals, 1926	978	487	18	28	323	1,834	1,329,426	758,181	51,356	64,936	1,434,528	3,638,427
Totals, 1925	841	409	29	54	341	1,674	1,653,894	766,829	66,794	166,212	1,523,112	4,176,841
	5,516	2,605	113	173	1,705	10,112	$7,264,378	$3,186,194	$285,358	$437,949	$6,122,038	$17,295,917

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1925–29.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Barn	Smokers' carelessness	1	....
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	1	....
Dwelling	Lamp upset	1	....
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....
Factory (bed and mattress)	Defective electrical installation	1	....
Totals, 1929		5	....
Totals, 1928		16	....
Totals, 1927		8	4
Totals, 1926		8	10
Totals, 1925		5	4

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