FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1936

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
Printed by CHARLES F. BANFIELD, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1937.

To His Honour E. W. HAMBER,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1936.

GORDON McG. SLOAN,

Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1937.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Report of Fire Marshal	5
Table I.—Inspections made and Orders issued	8
Table II.—Fires reported	10
Table III.—Causes of Fires	12
Table IV.—Classification of Property	14
Table V.—Summary	23
Table VI.—Loss of Life	24

REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1937.

The Honourable Gordon McG. Sloan, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—Pursuant to section 34 of the "Fire Marshal Act," I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Fifteenth Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1936, together with statistics showing fire causes and losses for the different cities, municipalities, villages and fire districts. While we are glad to note the decrease in losses which started after our peak year of 1923, when there was $4,229,917, has been maintained until we have the present figure of $1,689,718, a decrease of $2,640,199 since that time and $251,984 below the previous year of 1935, yet I do not think that our problem of fire-prevention has been solved. Our conflagration hazards are still with us, ranges of wooden buildings, poor housekeeping, smokers' carelessness, defective chimneys and stove-pipes. All are still demanding their toll. And in addition to this we find that due to the economic conditions in many cities and municipalities fire-fighting equipment has become obsolete, fire-boats have been discarded and not replaced, the personnel of fire departments has been decreased until trained men to man existing apparatus are not available. Water systems have depreciated until water-mains will not stand the pressure needed to fight major fires. The extension of water-mains has not kept up with our industrial expansion and we find industrial plants costing upwards of a quarter of a million dollars and employing hundreds of men with only 4-inch mains to supply fire protection.

A fire-prevention engineer or an engineer of the Rating Bureau of the Underwriters, when finding such conditions as outlined above, may possibly look up a Government report to find what past fire losses have been, but he will also ask himself what will happen here when a fire starts, and the answer to the latter question will probably govern the insurance rates for that locality. I feel, however, that we may congratulate ourselves on the fact that there has been a very decided increase in fire-consciousness in the minds of our citizens. This is shown in the marked increase in the number of inspections made and orders issued during the year, and it is also shown in the greater interest taken by Boards of Trade, insurance-men's organizations, leading business-men, and the press in the work of fire-prevention.

I wish to express my appreciation of the courtesy of the members of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, who, while not obligated to do so, follow the practice of submitting plans of public buildings, such as hotels, hospitals, et cetera, to this office for checking and advice as to the best methods of preventing the spread of fire. Due credit should also be given to the Fire Chiefs in the cities and municipalities having fire departments and to the members of the Provincial Police who act as Assistant Fire Marshals in municipalities and unorganized districts where there are no fire departments. During the year the Fire Chiefs' organization have held five schools at convenient points throughout the Province, with a total attendance of 200. At these schools questions dealing with fire-prevention, fire-fighting, water-supplies, upkeep and handling of fire apparatus and life-saving equipment are discussed and demonstrations given. Many chiefs attend these schools at their own expense. The results are obvious. The men take greater interest in their work and acquire increased skill and efficiency. In the remaining districts which have no equipment the Provincial Police are doing splendid work. Their training in enforcing law has made them keen observers. Their carrying-out of the regulations under the Act without fear or favour has taught the citizens to comply with instructions promptly and to the entire satisfaction of the Fire Marshal. Many of the police have shown outstanding ability in fire-prevention work.

Fire Investigations and Incendiarism.—The work of this branch has been carried on in an efficient manner by the Deputy Fire Marshal, who brings to it a long experience of investigating and detecting crime. The prompt and searching investigation of all suspicious fires reported carried out by Mr. Walker, assisted by the local Assistant Fire Marshals interested,

I believe justifies me in making the statement that the crime of organized arson for gain is practically non-existent in this Province. Such cases as we have are found to be the work of weak-minded persons, usually illiterate, who, when they have a fire, whether by accident or design, attempt to obtain from the insurance companies by means of fraudulent proofs of loss payment for goods that never existed.

One hundred and twenty-eight suspicious fires have been investigated and eight inquiries have been held under section 12 of the Act. Three cases of arson were prosecuted and two convictions obtained and one acquittal. In these cases a saving of $8,900 to the insurance companies interested resulted. In another case the accused was found to be insane and committed to Essondale. The property loss in this case was $1,500 with no insurance. Two prosecutions arising out of evidence given at inquiries resulted in convictions in both cases. One of the accused men got a sentence of three years and appealed to the Court of Appeal. The appeal was dismissed. One, charged with attempting to obtain money under false pretences as a result of a claim of loss after a fire, entered a plea of guilty. In addition to this, Mr. Walker conducted thirteen prosecutions for various infractions of the regulations under the Act and secured twelve convictions, one being withdrawn.

Inspections and Appeals.—Sixty-six thousand five hundred and forty-nine inspections were made by Assistant Fire Marshals and 5,929 orders to remove hazards were issued. In this work the local Assistant Fire Marshals were assisted by Mr. Walker and Mr. Oswald, of the Office staff. Mr. Walker made thirty-seven inspections in connection with his fire-investigation work and Mr. Oswald made 1,693 of public buildings other than hospitals, film exchanges, and theatres. In the above cases the orders were issued by the local Assistant Fire Marshals. Only three appeals from these orders were received by the Fire Marshal under section 20. There were no appeals from his decisions under section 21.

Theatres and Film Exchanges.—The work of this department, in charge of Mr. W. A. Oswald acting as Theatre Inspector, has been diligently carried out during the year. One hundred and thirty-four standard theatres using nitro-cellulose film and 102 theatres using 16 mm. acetate or non-inflammable film have been licensed during the year. Two hundred and four inspections were made and ninety-seven orders issued to improve conditions. One new theatre was opened and plans for nine others submitted and approved. Two hundred and twenty-two licences and permits were issued to projectionists to operate in theatres. Eleven examinations were held by the Examining Board; five of the candidates were successful and duly licensed.

Fifty-two inspections of film exchanges were made and twelve orders issued to improve conditions. Approximately 4,100,000 feet of nitro-cellulose film was taken out of service and shipped out of the Province and 200,000 feet destroyed by burning.

Government Buildings.—Regular inspection of Government buildings has been made during the year at the request of the departments having jurisdiction and reports and recommendations submitted to them.

Public and Private Hospitals.—In the course of our duties and at the request of the Department of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, more than seventy-two inspections of hospitals have been made by the Office staff and recommendations given and orders issued for improvements of conditions found existing.

Old and Dilapidated Buildings.—We still have many of these buildings in our cities and towns. During the past year quite a number have been removed, some by fire, and a number under orders of the local Assistant Fire Marshals. Fires that have originated in such places have caused serious loss to owners of adjoining property. However, they are gradually being cleared up or repaired and we expect the good work to continue.

Gasoline Storage Plants.—Forty-one sets of plans for land and marine storage of gasoline and oils have been submitted, checked, and approved during the year. In this connection, with reference to marine plants, the fine co-operation of the Dominion Department of Transport through the courtesy of Colonel A. W. R. Wilby, their representative on this Coast, is greatly appreciated.

Retail Gasoline Service-stations.—Fifteen plans of service-stations have been submitted to this office for checking and approval. These are in addition to a large number of plans which are passed on and approved by the local Assistant Fire Marshals.

Public Building Plans.—Thirty plans for public buildings for different occupancies have been submitted to the office for checking and advice as to the best methods of construction and fire-prevention.

Oil-burners.—One thousand nine hundred and sixty-five labels for oil-burners have been issued under the authority of the National Research Council after inspection by Mr. Oswald, and twenty-three plans for oil-burner equipment have been submitted to this office for advice. In addition, approximately 2,200 burners of all types, labelled by the National Research Council and the Underwriters' laboratories, have been received, approved by the Fire Marshal, and accepted for sale and installation in the Province.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the splendid co-operation of yourself as Minister of the Department and members of your staff. Acknowledgment is also due to Colonel McMullin, Commissioner of Provincial Police, and officers of his staff, to all local Assistant Fire Marshals for the splendid way they have carried out their duties, to the members of the insurance organizations for their support in our work, and to the members of my Office staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

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	9	4
Armstrong	35	------
Chilliwack	73	3
Courtenay	63	1
Cranbrook	770	31
Cumberland	42	2
Duncan	18	4
Enderby	44	------
Fernie	444	19
Grand Forks	126	13
Greenwood	------	------
Kamloops	358	4
Kaslo	------	------
Kelowna	809	8
Ladysmith	50	6
Merritt	68	21
Nanaimo	731	3
Nelson	1,104	98
New Westminster	4,313	918
North Vancouver	1,156	94
Port Alberni	129	13
Port Coquitlam	9	------
Port Moody	70	2
Prince George	245	91
Prince Rupert	1,411	70
Revelstoke	112	11
Rossland	1,074	81
Salmon Arm	33	2
Slocan	------	------
Trail	2,321	110
Vancouver	37,556	3,791
Vernon	349	180
Victoria	10,721	217
Totals	64,243	5,797
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	------	------
Chilliwack	1	1
Coldstream	------	------
Coquitlam	4	------
Delta	------	------
Esquimalt	47	1
Fraser Mills	------	------
Glenmore	3	3
Kent	4	4
Langley	------	------
Maple Ridge	------	------
Matsqui	------	------
Mission	164	------
North Cowichan	------	------
North Vancouver	------	------
Oak Bay	133	------
Peachland	------	------
Penticton	254	8
Pitt Meadows	------	------
Richmond	------	------
Saanich	------	------
Salmon Arm	------	------
Spallumcheen	------	------
Sumas	------	------
Summerland	9	------

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

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Surrey	30	-------
Tadanac	36	-------
West Vancouver	-------	-------
Totals	685	17
Village Municipalities (17).		
Abbotsford	-------	-------
Burns Lake	-------	-------
Creston	-------	-------
Gibsons Landing	-------	-------
Hope	9	-------
Mission	386	42
McBride	32	7
New Denver	-------	-------
Pouce Coupe	37	4
Quesnel	8	16
Silverton	16	-------
Smithers	32	7
Stewart	-------	-------
Terrace	-------	-------
Tofino	40	2
Vanderhoof	29	1
Williams Lake	-------	-------
Totals	589	79
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	144	29
Ioco	-------	-------
Kootenay, County of	22	1
Nanaimo, County of	-------	-------
Pacific Mills, Limited	-------	-------
Powell River	506	-------
Prince Rupert, County of	116	-------
University Area	211	2
Vancouver, County of	18	2
Victoria, County of	-------	-------
Westminster, County of	-------	-------
Yale, County of	15	2
Totals	1,032	36
Grand totals	66,549	5,929
Grand totals, 1935	52,849	4,742
Grand totals, 1934	53,150	3,502
Grand totals, 1933	56,998	4,325
Grand totals, 1932	74,441	5,753

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	5	$95
Armstrong	1	146
Chilliwack	9	8,568
Courtenay	4	114
Cranbrook	19	46,248
Cumberland	7	2,421
Duncan	10	3,008
Enderby	2	38
Fernie	4	804
Grand Forks	15	4,052
Greenwood	5	21,762
Kamloops	11	1,003
Kaslo	----	----------
Kelowna	16	24,502
Ladysmith	7	1,748
Merritt	6	729
Nanaimo	40	3,271
Nelson	24	26,362
New Westminster	85	17,207
North Vancouver	29	13,355
Port Alberni	12	610
Port Coquitlam	1	264
Port Moody	4	441
Prince George	9	1,231
Prince Rupert	11	8,554
Revelstoke	11	8,139
Rossland	12	1,823
Salmon Arm	9	7,147
Slocan	----	----------
Trail	22	1,046
Vancouver	1,167	498,737
Vernon	10	1,882
Victoria	201	25,171
Totals	1,768	$730,478
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	66	$33,330
Chilliwack	16	13,576
Coldstream	1	18
Coquitlam	8	2,771
Delta	6	1,806
Esquimalt	12	672
Fraser Mills	1	1,050
Glenmore	----	----------
Kent	5	3,052
Langley	16	11,301
Maple Ridge	23	35,693
Matsqui	14	12,083
Mission	7	5,853
North Cowichan	17	23,641
North Vancouver	23	63,965
Oak Bay	50	5,863
Peachland	1	5
Penticton	20	7,348
Pitt Meadows	1	5
Richmond	17	15,626
Saanich	41	10,420
Salmon Arm	7	12,023
Spallumcheen	1	400
Sumas	6	3,450
Summerland	5	4,815
Surrey	30	32,185
Tadanac	15	11,020
West Vancouver	34	2,065
Totals	443	$314,036

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Village Municipalities (17).		
Abbotsford	2	$25
Burns Lake	------	----------
Creston	2	4,274
Gibsons Landing	------	----------
Hope	1	90
Mission	5	4,313
McBride	1	216
New Denver	------	----------
Pouce Coupe	------	----------
Quesnel	1	350
Silverton	1	10
Smithers	3	1,327
Stewart	1	233
Terrace	2	2,360
Tofino	2	325
Vanderhoof	1	10
Williams Lake	4	2,688
Totals	26	$16,221
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	35	$174,428
Ioco	1	90
Kootenay, County of	97	92,559
Nanaimo, County of	99	138,391
Pacific Mills, Limited	5	16,111
Powell River	8	3,910
Prince Rupert, County of	32	48,951
University Area	4	82
Vancouver, County of	28	32,523
Victoria, County of	29	20,398
Westminster, County of	15	19,454
Yale, County of	69	82,086
Totals	422	$628,983
Grand totals	2,659	$1,689,718

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire-resisting	18, loss	$12,734
Brick or concrete	224, ,,	283,521
Frame	2,417, ,,	1,393,463
	2,659, ,,	$1,689,718

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Acetylene-torch carelessness	2	$42
Ashes against wood	33	3,180
Boiler insufficiently protected	2	656
Candle carelessness	12	164
Carburettor back-firing	22	3,330
Car upset	6	2,428
Chemical explosion	1	74
Children playing with fire	6	407
Clothes too near fireplace	5	96
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	58	6,598
Coal-gas explosion	3	51
Coal-oil carelessness	4	993
Collision	3	475
Curtains from lamp	1	3
Curtains from stove	9	128
Defective battery connection	1	20
Defective brooder	1	80
Defective chimney	164	102,302
Defective fireplace	20	6,142
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	5	209
Defective lamp	1	1,210
Defective matches	1	22
Defective oil-burner	10	2,854
Defective oil-stove	3	2,816
Defective oil-valve	1	250
Defective oven	2	436
Defective sawdust-burner	1	280
Defective stove or stove-pipe	23	18,234
Defective wiring	20	11,672
Dust explosion	1	200
Electrical appliances	114	9,208
Engine back-firing	5	8,325
Exposure	92	299,435
Film igniting from hot aperture plate	1	200
Fire-crackers	19	5,221
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	17	2,488
Gas explosion	6	8,399
Gasoline carelessness	26	10,695
Gasoline explosion	8	9,633
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	15	3,806
Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	504
Gasoline-torch carelessness	3	103
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	2	34
Grease on stove	25	16,420
Hot brick placed in bed	1	18
Hot slag falling on beam	1	8
Incendiary	30	26,812
Incense-burner upset	1	10
Kettle boiling dry	1	60
Lamp explosion	1	500
Lamp upset	6	4,627
Lantern upset	2	3,681
Lightning	18	3,960
Liquid-dye explosion	1	30
Live coals	7	85
Match carelessness	34	5,007
Matches, children with	21	3,838
Mattress too near stove	4	24
Oil-furnace back-firing	7	988
Oil-stove explosion	1	75
Overheated asphalt-mixer	1	25
Overheated cyclone-pipe	1	200
Overheated electric motor	1	131
Overheated fire-box	1	55
Overheated machinery-bearings	4	16,008

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

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Paper from fireplace	1	$7
Paper from stove	1	19
Sawdust-burner back-firing	7	3,808
Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	4	177
Seat ignited from exhaust-pipe	1	8
Shavings, caught in conveyor, ignited	1	255
Short circuit	131	23,895
Smokers' carelessness	607	56,625
Sparks from acetylene-torch	2	275
Sparks from boiler	5	27,273
Sparks from bonfire	1	1,000
Sparks from burning rubbish	8	625
Sparks from bush fire	5	5,351
Sparks from chimney	293	148,089
Sparks from cupola	1	339
Sparks from engine	4	125,066
Sparks from fireplace	197	3,405
Sparks from forge	2	4,176
Sparks from furnace	8	1,090
Sparks from grass fire	3	523
Sparks from lead-pots	2	1,010
Sparks from locomotive	2	32
Sparks from mill burner	8	6,180
Sparks from slash fire	3	6,251
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	39	28,675
Sparks from picking-machine	1	1,897
Spontaneous combustion	19	33,467
Static electricity	2	3,175
Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	2	1,425
Stove explosion	8	261
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	102	81,662
Sun's rays	1	17
Tar boiling over	7	10,381
Thawing pipes	15	5,209
Thawing radiator	1	50
Unknown	256	497,949
Watch fell in sawdust-burner	1	18
Wood too near furnace	1	99
Wood too near stove	8	3,986
Totals	2,659	$1,689,718

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	132	Candle carelessness	1	$18	
		Children playing with fire	1	305	
		Clothes too near stove	4	51	
		Curtains from stove	1	47	
		Defective chimney	3	155	
		Defective oil-burner	2	1,210	
		Defective oil-stove	1	339	
		Electrical appliances	12	549	
		Exposure	1	537	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	2	111	
		Grease on stove	3	88	
		Incense-burner upset	1	10	
		Liquid-dye explosion	1	30	
		Match carelessness	1	3,762	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	150	
		Short circuit	2	140	
		Smokers' carelessness	78	2,816	
		Sparks from chimney	6	467	
		Sparks from fireplace	4	22	
		Stove explosion	1	8	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	4,520	
		Thawing pipes	1	275	
		Unknown	3	993	
					$16,603
Asphalt plants	1	Overheated asphalt-mixer	1		25
Automobile camps	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$8	
		Unknown	1	250	
					258
Automobiles	211	Carburettor back-firing	20	$2,892	
		Car upset	6	2,428	
		Collision	3	475	
		Defective battery connection	1	20	
		Defective wiring	5	583	
		Exposure	1	445	
		Gasoline carelessness	5	1,647	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	14	3,433	
		Incendiary	4	540	
		Match carelessness	2	525	
		Matches, children with	1	44	
		Seat ignited from exhaust-pipe	2	381	
		Short circuit	93	11,574	
		Smokers' carelessness	35	1,803	
		Sparks from chimney	2	22	
		Thawing radiator	1	50	
		Unknown	16	3,103	
					29,965
Bakeries	7	Defective oven	2	$436	
		Defective wiring	1	595	
		Exposure	1	2,454	
		Match carelessness	1	27	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	13	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	700	
					4,225
Banks	1	Sparks from chimney	1		10
Barber-shops	3	Smokers' carelessness	1	$3	
		Sparks from chimney	1	24	
		Unknown	1	575	
					602
Barns	27	Incendiary	3	$2,320	
		Lamp upset	1	360	
		Lantern upset	2	3,681	
		Lightning	2	766	
		Matches, children with	1	1,500	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Short circuit	1	$550	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	2,295	
		Unknown	14	18,205	
					$29,677
Bath-houses	1	Unknown	1		10
Blacksmith-shops	1	Unknown	1		3,774
Boarding-houses	10	Electrical appliances	1	$2	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	67	
		Sparks from chimney	2	26	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	25	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	8,027	
					8,147
Boat-building works	4	Exposure	3	$17,165	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	96	
					17,261
Boat-houses	2	Clothes too near stove	1	$15	
		Short circuit	1	120	
					135
Bunk-houses	3	Sparks from stove	1	$2,070	
		Unknown	2	1,628	
					3,698
Canneries	1	Sparks from boiler	1		22,298
Chicken-houses	10	Defective brooder	1	$80	
		Defective chimney	1	75	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	25	
		Sparks from stove	1	250	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	160	
		Unknown	4	3,931	
					4,521
Churches	8	Candle carelessness	2	$25	
		Defective stove	1	25	
		Short circuit	1	100	
		Sparks from chimney	1	250	
		Unknown	3	34,636	
					35,036
Clubs	7	Ashes against wood	1	$1,154	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	189	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	8	
		Sparks from chimney	1	20	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	643	
					2,014
Coal-bunkers	2	Defective wiring	1	$1,700	
		Gas explosion	1	50	
					1,750
Coal-yards	1	Unknown	1		158
Cold-storage plants	1	Sparks from engine	1		225
Cooperages	1	Sparks from boiler	1		175
Drill-halls	1	Exposure	1		1,245
Dry-cleaning establishments	1	Gasoline explosion	1		500
Dwellings	1,616	Ashes against wood	22	$1,802	
		Candle carelessness	9	121	
		Children playing with fire	5	102	
		Clothes too near fireplace	5	96	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	49	4,724	
		Coal-gas explosion	3	51	
		Coal-oil carelessness	3	935	
		Curtains from lamp	1	3	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Curtains from stove	7	$66	
		Defective chimney	135	97,908	
		Defective fireplace	19	6,132	
		Defective furnace	3	136	
		Defective lamp	1	1,210	
		Defective matches	1	22	
		Defective oil-burner	3	149	
		Defective oil-stove	2	2,477	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	16	17,023	
		Defective wiring	7	5,548	
		Electrical appliances	87	4,264	
		Exposure	42	18,672	
		Fire-crackers	9	4,818	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	8	855	
		Gas explosion	3	149	
		Gasoline carelessness	12	1,432	
		Gasoline explosion	2	703	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	62	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	20	
		Grease on stove	19	7,909	
		Hot brick placed in bed	1	18	
		Incendiary	8	6,495	
		Lamp explosion	1	500	
		Lamp upset	3	2,312	
		Lightning	12	2,661	
		Live coals	7	85	
		Match carelessness	24	589	
		Matches, children with	16	2,204	
		Mattress too near stove	4	24	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	4	660	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	75	
		Paper from fireplace	1	7	
		Paper from stove	1	19	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	5	3,617	
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	2	54	
		Short circuit	12	1,487	
		Smokers' carelessness	329	16,907	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	6	600	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	1,560	
		Sparks from chimney	241	74,959	
		Sparks from fireplace	187	2,690	
		Sparks from furnace	3	34	
		Sparks from grass fire	2	506	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	22	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	29	14,648	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	1,324	
		Stove explosion	6	231	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	75	42,954	
		Sun's rays	1	17	
		Tar boiling over	4	130	
		Thawing pipes	10	3,560	
		Unknown	132	143,417	
		Wood too near furnace	1	99	
		Wood too near stove	6	3,886	
					$505,740
Dye-works	1	Unknown	1		6
Factories (bed and mattress)	2	Sparks in picking-machine	1	$1,897	
		Unknown	1	64	
					1,961
Factories (box)	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		263
Factories (broom)	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		3
Factories (chemical)	1	Clothes too near stove-pipe	1		1,571

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Factories (furniture)	1	Unknown	1		$93
Factories (roofing material)	1	Unknown	1		40,534
Factories (rubber gloves)	1	Static electricity	1		2,935
Factories (sash and door)	1	Unknown	1		30
Factories (ski)	1	Exposure	1		20
Factories (tent and awning)	1	Unknown	1		5,957
Fishing-boats	2	Engine back-firing	1	$607	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	2,000	
					2,607
Fish-reduction plants	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		20,123
Flour-mills	1	Overheated machinery bearings	1		6
Foundries	6	Sparks from chimney	1	$150	
		Sparks from cupola	1	339	
		Sparks from furnace	2	991	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	10	
		Unknown	1	170	
					1,660
Freight-cars	1	Tar boiling over	1		200
Fruit-packing plants	2	Unknown	2		22,461
Gaols	1	Incendiary	1		10
Garages	37	Acetylene-torch carelessness	2	$42	
		Ashes against wood	1	25	
		Carburettor back-firing	1	425	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	58	
		Defective chimney	2	94	
		Electrical appliances	2	72	
		Exposure	5	25,676	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	18	
		Incendiary	3	1,150	
		Matches, children with	1	10	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	98	
		Short circuit	5	851	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	1,249	
		Sparks from chimney	1	4,000	
		Unknown	7	11,668	
					45,436
Gasoline-stations	8	Carburettor back-firing	1	$13	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	5	
		Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	504	
		Incendiary	1	15	
		Short circuit	1	32	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	5	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	15	
		Unknown	1	710	
					1,299
Golf-club houses	3	Smokers' carelessness	1	$33	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	5,200	
		Unknown	1	418	
					5,651
Grandstands	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		100
Greenhouses	1	Defective chimney	1		25

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Halls	11	Defective fireplace	1	$10	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	75	
		Gasoline explosion	1	50	
		Incendiary	2	5,607	
		Lamp upset	1	5	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	7,503	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	2	
		Unknown	1	2,401	
					$15,653
Haystacks	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		175
Hospitals	4	Clothes too near stove	1	$7	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	93	
		Sparks from chimney	1	15	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	2,774	
					2,889
Hotels	81	Ashes against wood	1	$10	
		Defective chimney	2	70	
		Defective wiring	1	1,317	
		Electrical appliances	1	11	
		Exposure	4	9,265	
		Fire-crackers	1	2	
		Match carelessness	1	25	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	150	
		Short circuit	2	6,364	
		Smokers' carelessness	58	5,109	
		Sparks from chimney	6	19,960	
		Sparks from stove-pipe	1	23	
		Unknown	2	10,289	
					52,595
House-boats	2	Stove insufficiently protected	1	$150	
		Wood too near stove	1	75	
					225
Ice-cream plants	1	Tar boiling over	1		9,612
Junk-yards	1	Defective chimney	1		100
Launches	8	Defective stove	1	$620	
		Defective wiring	1	41	
		Gasoline explosion	2	1,050	
		Matches, children with	1	20	
		Unknown	3	2,150	
					3,881
Laundries	5	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$464	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	3,499	
		Static electricity	1	240	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	3,620	
					7,823
Logging camps	11	Engine back-firing	1	$1,400	
		Grease on stove	1	8,270	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	591	
		Sparks from chimney	1	38,500	
		Sparks from engine	2	4,841	
		Sparks from slash fire	2	5,736	
		Unknown	3	3,028	
					62,366
Lumber-piles	1	Incendiary	1		25
Lumber-yards	4	Exposure	1	$100	
		Sparks from chimney	1	1,897	
		Sparks from forge	1	55	
		Unknown	1	178	
					2,230

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Machine-shops	3	Exposure	1	$212	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	16	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	120	
					$348
Meat-packing plants	1	Unknown	1		60
Mining property	7	Defective oil-burner	1	$994	
		Gasoline explosion	1	7,240	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	250	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	791	
		Sparks from engine	1	120,000	
		Sparks from forge	1	4,121	
		Unknown	1	1,100	
					134,496
Motor-cycles	2	Exposure	1	$75	
		Unknown	1	4	
					79
Mushroom-houses	1	Exposure	1		7,500
Offices	16	Electrical appliances	1	$1,837	
		Exposure	2	234	
		Match carelessness	1	2	
		Short circuit	1	100	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	183	
		Sparks from chimney	2	2,174	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	2	4,569	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	120	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	15	
		Unknown	1	12,000	
					21,234
Oil-houses	1	Steampipe insufficiently protected	1		73
Oil-refineries	2	Defective wiring	1	$10	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	39	
					49
Orphanages	1	Defective oil-burner	1		95
Playhouses (children's)	1	Unknown	1		10
Pool-rooms	2	Exposure	1	$20	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	15	
					35
Post-offices	1	Lightning	1		75
Power-houses	3	Shavings, caught in conveyor, ignited	1	$255	
		Short circuit	1	300	
		Unknown	1	1,500	
					2,055
Printing-offices	6	Ashes against wood	1	$4	
		Defective wiring	1	82	
		Lamp upset	1	1,950	
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	1	99	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Unknown	1	5,023	
					7,163
Pulp-mills	4	Overheated machinery bearings	3	$16,002	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	1,352	
					17,354
Railway-stations	2	Incendiary	1	$3,000	
		Unknown	1	1,198	
					4,198
Restaurants	15	Ashes against wood	1	$40	
		Defective chimney	3	160	
		Defective stove	1	62	
		Incendiary	1	10	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	1	$24	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	485	
		Sparks from chimney	2	17	
		Sparks from stove	1	82	
		Stove explosion	1	22	
					$902
Rooming-houses	37	Defective chimney	3	$831	
		Defective stove	1	10	
		Exposure	1	20	
		Fire-crackers	1	7	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	14	
		Match carelessness	2	9	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	41	
		Smokers' carelessness	17	376	
		Sparks from chimney	6	138	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	7	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	49	
					1,502
Sawmills	23	Electrical appliances	1	$250	
		Engine back-firing	1	200	
		Exposure	1	523	
		Incendiary	2	6,000	
		Lightning	2	412	
		Overheated electric motor	1	131	
		Short circuit	1	200	
		Sparks from boiler	1	3,000	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	1,000	
		Sparks from mill burner	5	5,950	
		Unknown	7	40,170	
					57,836
Schools	20	Chemical explosion	1	$74	
		Defective chimney	1	135	
		Defective furnace	1	65	
		Defective oil-burner	1	200	
		Exposure	2	220	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	84	
		Lightning	1	46	
		Short circuit	1	42	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	323	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	3,000	
		Sparks from chimney	2	14	
		Unknown	5	17,059	
		Watch fell in sawdust-burner	1	18	
					21,280
Scows	1	Sparks from boiler	1		250
Sheds	19	Ashes against wood	2	$75	
		Defective stove	1	5	
		Engine back-firing	1	318	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	10	
		Grease on stove	1	150	
		Incendiary	2	192	
		Matches, children with	1	60	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	872	
		Sparks from grass fire	1	20	
		Sparks from slash fire	1	515	
		Sparks from stove	1	25	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	5	
		Unknown	4	243	
					2,490
Shingle-mills	5	Sparks from boiler	1	$1,550	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	119	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	101	
		Unknown	2	55,293	
					57,063

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Ships	1	Electric appliances	1		$1,524
Skating-rinks	1	Exposure	1		191,611
Slaughter-houses	1	Unknown	1		500
Smelting plants	16	Defective oil-valve	1	$250	
		Dust explosion	1	200	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	50	
		Gas explosion	2	8,200	
		Hot slag falling on beam	1	8	
		Overheated cyclone-pipe	1	200	
		Short circuit	2	1,025	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	25	
		Sparks from furnace	2	25	
		Sparks from lead-pots	2	1,010	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	25	
		Thawing pipes	1	10	
					11,028
Stables	2	Defective chimney	1	$500	
		Unknown	1	15	
					515
Steam-baths	1	Overheated fire-box	1		55
Stores	78	Ashes against wood	3	$45	
		Clothes too near stove	1	15	
		Defective chimney	4	1,100	
		Defective furnace	1	8	
		Defective oil-burner	1	184	
		Defective sawdust-burner	1	280	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	139	
		Defective wiring	2	1,796	
		Electrical appliances	5	669	
		Exposure	13	10,150	
		Fire-crackers	3	255	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	50	
		Kettle boiling dry	1	60	
		Match carelessness	3	71	
		Short circuit	3	20	
		Smokers' carelessness	18	943	
		Sparks from chimney	5	3,837	
		Sparks from furnace	1	40	
		Stove insufficiently protected	3	11,921	
		Unknown	7	15,979	
		Wood too near stove	1	25	
					47,587
Stores and apartments	14	Clothes too near stove-pipe	1	$215	
		Curtains from stove	1	15	
		Defective chimney	1	31	
		Electrical appliances	1	17	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	75	
		Sparks from chimney	2	20	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	18	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	24	
					$415
Stores and dwellings	22	Defective chimney	1	$77	
		Defective oil-burner	1	22	
		Electrical appliances	1	3	
		Exposure	3	9,786	
		Fire-crackers	4	104	
		Short circuit	1	300	
		Sparks from chimney	2	35	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	2	6,951	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	99	
		Unknown	5	9,366	
					26,743

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Stores and halls	2	Incendiary	1	$1,448	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	950	
					$2,398
Stores and hotels	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		509
Stores and offices	10	Defective chimney	2	$159	
		Electrical appliances	1	10	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	1,026	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	11	
					1,206
Stores and rooms	47	Ashes against wood	1	$25	
		Defective chimney	3	833	
		Defective stove	1	350	
		Exposure	3	862	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	851	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	5,489	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	31	
		Grease on stove	1	3	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	80	
		Short circuit	1	350	
		Smokers' carelessness	23	1,132	
		Sparks from chimney	4	1,544	
		Sparks from stove	1	57	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	83	
		Unknown	2	9,000	
					20,690
Street-cars	4	Short circuit	2	$340	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	30	
		Unknown	1	5,498	
					5,868
Theatres	3	Film igniting from hot aperture-plate	1	$200	
		Fire-crackers	1	35	
		Unknown	1	530	
					765
Tug-boats	2	Engine back-firing	1	$5,800	
		Unknown	1	391	
					6,191
Undertaking-parlours	3	Smokers' carelessness	1	$40	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	1,513	
		Thawing pipes	1	99	
					1,652
Warehouses	11	Defective chimney	1	$51	
		Exposure	2	2,643	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	223	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	49	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	12,507	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	5,257	
		Tar boiling over	1	439	
		Unknown	1	7,114	
					28,283
Water-tanks	2	Thawing pipes	2		1,265
Wharves	1	Gasoline explosion	1		90
Wood-working plants	1	Boiler insufficiently protected	1		192
Wood-yards	1	Unknown	1		5,017
Workshops	2	Defective chimney	1	$40	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	850	
					890
Totals	2,659		2,659		$1,689,718

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires Reported.					Amount of Loss.				
	City Municipalities (33).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (17).	Fire Districts (12).	Totals.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Totals.
1936.										
January	157	30	3	21	211	$24,464	$16,252	$1,625	$19,521	$61,862
February	201	65	4	59	329	62,018	29,600	340	85,537	177,495
March	156	38	--	38	232	72,578	30,050	------	192,555	295,183
April	176	29	3	43	251	44,150	11,163	520	35,080	90,913
May	124	28	2	42	196	51,164	20,747	760	29,999	102,670
June	110	28	3	20	161	25,782	19,036	464	22,895	68,177
July	145	44	--	43	232	66,614	32,700	------	46,317	145,331
August	139	31	3	29	202	243,896	15,127	2,522	35,622	297,167
September	103	33	1	26	163	32,351	16,087	1,360	65,668	115,466
October	137	27	1	34	199	50,804	34,756	3,774	31,336	120,670
November	163	46	2	38	249	25,494	70,174	1,566	15,562	112,796
December	157	44	4	29	234	31,153	18,344	3,290	48,891	101,688
Totals, 1936	1,768	443	26	422	2,659	$730,478	$314,036	$16,221	$528,983	$1,689,718
Totals, 1935	1,900	479	30	415	2,824	759,958	384,373	23,398	773,973	1,941,702
Totals, 1934	1,540	390	30	399	2,359	443,482	261,479	31,782	1,251,758	1,988,501
Totals, 1933	1,748	463	33	391	2,635	737,602	398,039	64,820	651,792	1,852,253
Totals, 1932	1,884	529	55	474	2,942	1,079,084	943,059	111,948	1,164,914	3,299,005
	8,840	2,304	174	2,101	13,419	$3,750,604	$2,300,986	$248,169	$4,471,420	$10,771,179

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1932–36.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Barn	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Sparks from stove	--	1
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Shed	Defective stove	1	--
Totals, 1936		4	1
Totals, 1935		6	5
Totals, 1934		2	2
Totals, 1933		6	--
Totals, 1932		6	1

VICTORIA, B.C.:
Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1937.

700-437-5770