ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1932

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
Printed by CHARLES F. BANFIELD, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1933.

To His Honour J. W. FORDHAM JOHNSON,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Eleventh Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1932.

R. H. POOLEY,
Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1933.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page.
Report of Fire Marshal	5–7
Table I.—Inspections made and Orders issued	8, 9
Table II.—Fires reported	10, 11
Table III.—Causes of Fires	12, 13
Table IV.—Classification of Property	14–21
Table V.—Summary	22
Table VI.—Loss of Life	23

REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1933.

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

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Eleventh Annual Report as Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1932.

The statistics which accompany this report would indicate that our fire loss for 1932 totalled $3,299,005, compared with $3,162,394 for 1931. Two sawmill fires accounted for $493,882 of this loss. Of this amount, $414,000 was the estimated loss reported by the owners of one mill. Figures just received from the insurance adjusters, and too late to be included, place this loss at $298,800, a reduction of $115,200. This reduces our increase over 1931 to $21,411.

One serious thing to note is the increased fire loss in a number of our cities, nearly all of which maintain fire departments and presumably carry on organized fire-prevention work. It is a pleasure to find that in our two larger cities, Vancouver and Victoria, whose competent chiefs and officials carry on organized fire-prevention work, we had notable decreases in losses this year. Victoria had a decrease of more than 50 per cent. as compared with their 1931 loss and Vancouver one of over 30 per cent.

There has been a decided increase in the number of fires ascribed to arson. Seventeen persons have been arrested and tried for arson and conspiracy arising out of arson. Fourteen were convicted, two acquitted, and one case has not yet been settled. One case is worthy of note. As a result of our investigation the assured decided not to claim the insurance of $1,600 which was carried on the property. In another case, after conviction, the assured consented to a judgment for $2,000, money paid by the insurance company which was repaid to them. Still another claim for $2,300 was not paid owing to the assured being convicted of fraud.

Fire Investigation.—The work of fire investigation has been diligently carried on by Mr. W. A. Walker, Deputy Fire Marshal, who is in active charge of this work. During the year he has investigated 174 suspicious fires and assisted in holding fifteen inquiries, with the result as above noted. Perhaps the most outstanding case was the arrest and conviction of Robert Adkin, a professional arsonist, who came to us from Ontario, where he operated for some time. His conviction and sentence to four years in the penitentiary has checked the activities of a highly dangerous man who has a record throughout Canada. Acknowledgment is due to the Fire Marshal's Department of Ontario, the representative of the Underwriters' Investigation Bureau, the officials of the Vancouver Fire Department, and the Provincial Police for assistance and co-operation in this case.

Fire Prevention.—This important branch is continuing and an increase in the number of inspections made by local assistants is noted, with what results we can only conjecture. I think we can safely assume, however, that if this work had not been carried out there would have been a very decided increase in our fire losses.

Twenty-two appeals from orders issued by the local assistants have been received and passed on by the Fire Marshal. One appeal from his decision was made to the Court and was dismissed.

Educational Work.—The only organized body carrying on this important work is the Victoria and District Fire Insurance Agents' Association, who work in conjunction with Chief Vernon Stewart. I cannot speak too highly of the work carried on by these men under their efficient secretary, Mr. F. F. Fatt, ably supported by the press of the City of Victoria. There is no doubt in my mind that the reduction of over 50 per cent. in the fire loss in Victoria this year is due in a large measure to the work of this organization and the press of the city which gave them such splendid publicity and support.

A study of Table III. of the report shows a large number of fires due to defective heating appliances. During the past years we have had no control over this hazard, due to the fact that we have had no authorized standard of safety in Canada and no laboratories for testing such

appliances. I am glad to be able to report that we now have in operation at Ottawa the laboratories of the National Research Council of Canada, where all such appliances can be tested and approved.

An amendment to the "Fire Marshal Act" recently passed gives the Lieutenant-Governor in Council authority to pass regulations requiring all such appliances to be approved and a certificate of such approval to be filed with the Fire Marshal before they can be offered for sale or installed in this Province. We are under great obligation to the Honourable H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Dr. H. M. Tory, President of the National Research Council of Canada, for the personal interest and co-operation they have shown and given us in this matter.

Theatres.—The work of theatre inspection in charge of Mr. W. A. Oswald, Assistant Fire Marshal in this office, has been diligently carried on. During the year 174 theatres were visited and, where necessary, conditions corrected. Thirty-five examinations for projectionists have been held throughout the year. Twenty-two men made the required standard and were licensed. Eighty-two licences to regular theatres and twenty special licences were issued by the Fire Marshal during the year.

The question of a safe standard for theatres has been under consideration for some years. Owing to the marked difference of opinion between the Fire Marshal and theatre-owners regarding this, I ventured to recommend that the whole matter be referred to a committee of the National Research Council for a report. This was done and the completed report is now before you for your consideration. I trust that this report and the action taken by yourself will clear up matters that have been a very considerable cause of friction in the past.

In connection with his duties as Theatre Inspector, Mr. Oswald has been active in the work of inspection of public buildings such as hotels, apartment-houses, schools, gasoline service-stations, public garages, and wholesale gasoline plants. Seven hundred and nineteen orders were issued under his instructions to remedy dangerous conditions. Thirty-seven plans of public buildings have been checked over and approved during the year. In addition, he has assisted in the investigation of fires and prepared plans to be used as exhibits in Court.

Government Institutions.—Regular inspections of all Government institutions have been made during the year. I am glad to note that improvements in the water-supply at Tranquille have been made, a fire-hall built, a hose and ladder truck put in commission, and a splendid fire department organized with a competent man in charge. These improvements mark a decided advance in the safety of this institution and the lives of the inmates from fire.

At Essondale the fine standard of fire-protection equipment has been maintained under the efficient supervision of the Superintendent, Dr. Crease, and Chief Hughes, of the Fire Department. The only exception noted is that owing to economic conditions existing it was found necessary to return one full-time fireman to hospital duties. I am glad to note, however, that his services are still available in case of emergency.

The situation regarding the fire protection at the New Westminster institution has given us considerable worry in the past owing to the age and type of construction of the older portions of the building and the inadequate water-supply. I am glad to be able to state that steps are being taken to remedy this condition by the provision of a sufficient water-supply taken from the Vancouver and District Water Board mains, which, with the installation of larger mains and a circulating system completely around the building, will provide ample water for domestic and fire-protection purposes. In addition to this, the obsolete electric wiring in the basement has been removed and the wiring brought up to a safe standard. This work, together with the installation of fire stops in the basement to prevent the rapid spread of fire, will help to make this building reasonably safe and protect the lives of the helpless people who occupy it. We gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of the Honourable R. W. Bruhn, Minister of Public Works, and the efficient members of his staff in planning and carrying out the greatly needed improvements.

Minor improvements have been carried out in the institution at Marpole in order to keep it up to a safe standard. While this building is, perhaps, not well adapted for the purpose for which it is used, every possible care is being taken to make it reasonably safe.

We feel that in all our public institutions the standard of safety has been raised each year and that the money for their protection has been well laid out, and to-day they compare favourably with any in Canada.

In conclusion, I may say that December, 1932, marked the close of the most strenuous year I have ever experienced in the years I have been connected with the work of fire prevention and investigation, due, perhaps, to the unusual economic conditions existing. While the work has been heavy, it has been lightened by the co-operation and support given by yourself as Minister of the Department, which I gratefully acknowledge. Thanks are also due to Colonel McMullin and his officers, to my fellow fire marshals, to the Underwriters' Investigation Bureau representing the insurance interests, to the local assistant fire marshals throughout the Province, and the members of my staff. They have all helped and, like myself, regret that more has not been accomplished.

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	15	10
Armstrong	88	.....
Chilliwack	.....	.....
Courtenay	.....	.....
Cranbrook	1,596	59
Cumberland	58	11
Duncan	10	4
Enderby	8	.....
Fernie	385	13
Grand Forks	278	35
Greenwood	.....	.....
Kamloops	230	7
Kaslo	.....	.....
Kelowna	345	6
Ladysmith	20	11
Merritt	11	7
Nanaimo	639	3
Nelson	920	62
New Westminster	2,900	324
North Vancouver	1,069	94
Port Alberni	166	46
Port Coquitlam	.....	.....
Port Moody	63	4
Prince George	216	92
Prince Rupert	480	176
Revelstoke	100	2
Rossland	814	94
Salmon Arm	6	4
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	1,501	76
Vancouver	50,112	4,267
Vernon	153	21
Victoria	10,246	170
Totals	72,429	5,598
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	.....	.....
Chilliwack	.....	.....
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	17	4
Delta	.....	.....
Esquimalt	34	7
Fraser Mills	.....	.....
Glenmore	.....	.....
Kent	.....	.....
Langley	.....	.....
Maple Ridge	.....	.....
Matsqui	.....	.....
Mission	118	3
North Cowichan	52	12
North Vancouver	4	.....
Oak Bay	141	4
Peachland	.....	.....
Penticton	.....	.....
Pitt Meadows	.....	.....
Richmond	.....	.....
Saanich	.....	.....
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Spallumcheen	.....	.....
Sumas	.....	.....
Summerland	3	.....

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

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Surrey	2	.....
Tadanac	21	.....
West Vancouver	.....	.....
Totals	392	30
Village Municipalities (16).		
Abbotsford	.....	.....
Burns Lake	.....	.....
Creston	25	2
Gibsons Landing	.....	.....
Hope	.....	.....
Mission	250	24
New Denver	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Quesnel	.....	.....
Silverton	.....	.....
Smithers	51	.....
Stewart	31	10
Terrace	.....	.....
Tofino	3	1
Vanderhoof	60	18
Williams Lake	.....	.....
Totals	420	55
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	71	13
Ioco	3	.....
Kootenay, County of	172	40
Nanaimo, County of	4	.....
Pacific Mills, Limited	.....	.....
Powell River	546	5
Prince Rupert, County of	109	3
University Area	234	1
Vancouver, County of	.....	.....
Victoria, County of	.....	.....
Westminster, County of	.....	.....
Yale, County of	61	8
Totals	1,200	70
Grand totals	74,441	5,753
Grand totals, 1931	72,821	6,852
Grand totals, 1930	60,136	6,912
Grand totals, 1929	56,954	6,832
Grand totals, 1928	43,075	4,938

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	5	$14,489
Armstrong	2	270
Chilliwack	9	3,608
Courtenay	12	10,466
Cranbrook	7	11,719
Cumberland	14	69,103
Duncan	4	4,980
Enderby	3	4,826
Fernie	12	5,523
Grand Forks	5	716
Greenwood	1	219
Kamloops	20	32,312
Kaslo	3	4,836
Kelowna	13	7,776
Ladysmith	9	24,665
Merritt	4	2,965
Nanaimo	38	64,050
Nelson	29	69,791
New Westminster	114	205,005
North Vancouver	35	12,347
Port Alberni	16	7,367
Port Coquitlam	4	583
Port Moody	3	6,408
Prince George	12	4,406
Prince Rupert	33	45,266
Revelstoke	10	26,558
Rossland	12	5,930
Salmon Arm	2	350
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	15	6,047
Vancouver	1,210	323,156
Vernon	12	20,653
Victoria	216	82,694
Totals	1,884	$1,079,084
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	95	$48,070
Chilliwack	24	36,275
Coldstream	2	1,076
Coquitlam	9	8,756
Delta	12	10,287
Esquimalt	19	5,196
Fraser Mills	1	13
Glenmore	2	2,610
Kent	4	7,559
Langley	19	33,016
Maple Ridge	29	58,970
Matsqui	15	11,921
Mission	7	5,348
North Cowichan	14	8,194
North Vancouver	23	435,408
Oak Bay	42	4,613
Peachland	.....	.....
Penticton	10	34,414
Pitt Meadows	2	1,318
Richmond	35	58,734
Saanich	48	30,771
Salmon Arm	5	11,339
Spallumcheen	5	11,646
Sumas	7	11,009
Summerland	2	7,466
Surrey	54	88,888
Tadanac	12	2,642
West Vancouver	32	7,520
Totals	529	$943,059

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Village Municipalities (16).		
Abbotsford	9	$2,351
Burns Lake	5	22,033
Creston	.....	.....
Gibsons Landing	1	1,377
Hope	2	3,275
Mission	8	2,740
New Denver	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	3	6,000
Quesnel	1	5
Silverton	.....	.....
Smithers	3	7,210
Stewart	16	45,389
Terrace	6	11,997
Tofino	.....	.....
Vanderhoof	1	9,571
Williams Lake	.....	.....
Totals	55	$111,948
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	45	$245,939
Ioco	.....	.....
Kootenay, County of	138	347,811
Nanaimo, County of	102	247,894
Pacific Mills, Limited	3	70
Powell River	1	10
Prince Rupert, County of	29	57,657
University Area	15	461
Vancouver, County of	29	51,883
Victoria, County of	31	73,184
Westminster, County of	18	11,795
Yale, County of	63	128,210
Totals	474	$1,164,914
Grand totals	2,942	$3,299,005

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire-resisting	29,	loss	$2,412
Brick or concrete	198,	,,	208,077
Frame	2,715,	,,	3,088,516
	2,942,	,,	$3,299,005

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Ashes against wood	23	$4,551
Brush drying on stove ignited	1	49
Candle carelessness	16	1,221
Carburettor back-firing	32	14,020
Car upset	5	2,700
Chair too near stove	2	72
Children playing with fire	4	85
Clothes falling on furnace-pipe	1	20
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	62	13,696
Coal-gas explosion	4	3,787
Coal-oil carelessness	8	514
Collision	2	2,150
Curtains from candle	6	136
Curtains from lamp	1	30
Curtains from stove	6	69
Defective brooder	1	375
Defective chimney	167	128,583
Defective fireplace	32	3,347
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	7	6,458
Defective gas-heater	1	88
Defective gasoline-stove	1	29
Defective gasoline-torch	1	205
Defective kiln	1	430
Defective matches	16	326
Defective oil-burner	16	2,557
Defective oil-stove	3	2,349
Defective stove or stove-pipe	48	62,105
Defective vacuum-tank	1	700
Defective wiring	21	25,945
Dust explosion	2	414,041
Electrical appliances	150	25,737
Exhaust-pipe broke, flames ignited framework	1	415
Exposure	193	335,125
Extract boiling over	1	4,443
Film piling up in sound-head	1	249
Fire-crackers	8	3,393
Fire from mechanical stoker ignited wood	1	26
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	15	5,917
Gas explosion	3	382
Gasoline carelessness	24	86,169
Gasoline-furnace back-firing	1	676
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	9	4,857
Gasoline-torch carelessness	4	5,040
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	2	26
Grease on stove	32	10,435
Hot brick placed in bed	1	16
Incendiary	55	243,681
Lamp explosion	3	2,761
Lamp upset	10	8,361
Lantern upset	1	1,850
Lightning	11	16,318
Live coals	44	848
Match carelessness	26	1,106
Matches, children with	22	6,947
Matches, mice with	2	253
Naphtha carelessness	1	250
Oil-furnace back-firing	8	2,000
Oil-pipe burst	1	101
Oil-stove explosion	1	1,950
Oil-stove upset	2	69
Overheated electric motor	1	136
Overheated machinery bearings	1	5,400
Paper from stove	2	80
Short circuit	85	72,108

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

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Smokers' carelessness	577	$96,950
Sparks from boiler	2	130
Sparks from burning rubbish	7	894
Sparks from bush fire	8	6,004
Sparks from chimney	242	104,111
Sparks from Christmas crackers	2	8
Sparks from fireplace	235	6,150
Sparks from furnace or furnace-pipe	8	1,570
Sparks from locomotive	1	27
Sparks from mill burner	3	24,882
Sparks from smudge fire	1	885
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	39	32,749
Spontaneous combustion	30	36,457
Static electricity	3	1,819
Stove explosion	6	212
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	132	169,614
Sulphur burning	1	20
Sun's rays	2	73
Tar boiling over	4	1,464
Thawing pipes	9	1,288
Unknown	399	1,265,500
Wood ignited from burning of bricks	1	90
Wood too near furnace	3	252
Wood too near stove	14	10,093
Totals	2,942	$3,299,005

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	133	Candle carelessness	1	$887	
		Clothes too near stove	2	9	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	173	
		Curtains from stove	2	23	
		Defective chimney	2	306	
		Defective fireplace	2	24	
		Defective furnace	1	26	
		Defective oil-burner	6	934	
		Defective stove	1	2,350	
		Electrical appliances	5	507	
		Exposure	2	521	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	7	
		Grease on stove	2	962	
		Live coals	2	35	
		Match carelessness	3	30	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	2	468	
		Smokers' carelessness	83	7,860	
		Sparks from chimney	1	12	
		Sparks from fireplace	5	59	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,829	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	2,213	
		Sulphur burning	1	20	
		Unknown	4	190	
					$19,445
Automobile camps	1	Grease on stove	1		482
Automobiles	157	Carburettor back-firing	26	$3,821	
		Car upset	5	2,700	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	47	
		Collision	2	2,150	
		Defective vacuum-tank	1	700	
		Defective wiring	1	40	
		Electrical appliances	2	16	
		Exposure	4	1,830	
		Gasoline carelessness	4	182	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	8	4,276	
		Match carelessness	1	200	
		Short circuit	42	4,311	
		Smokers' carelessness	15	802	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	177	
		Unknown	44	11,171	
					32,423
Bakeries	3	Ashes against wood	1	$15	
		Defective stove	1	10	
		Unknown	1	61	
					86
Banks	1	Exposure	1		125
Barber-shops	4	Exposure	3	$4,646	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	1	
					4,647
Barges	1	Carburettor back-firing	1		289
Barns	50	Defective stove	1	$650	
		Incendiary	1	560	
		Lightning	2	880	
		Short circuit	1	7,797	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	4,114	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	1,150	
		Sparks from smudge fire	1	885	
		Spontaneous combustion	6	7,088	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	650	
		Unknown	31	37,523	
					61,297
Barracks	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		10

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Battery plants	2	Defective furnace	1	$2,301	
		Oil-stove upset	1	54	
					$2,355
Blacksmith-shops	2	Sparks from chimney	1	$50	
		Unknown	1	25	
					75
Boarding-houses	14	Defective chimney	1	$50	
		Electrical appliances	1	50	
		Exposure	1	2,325	
		Live coals	1	8	
		Short circuit	1	372	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	61	
		Sparks from chimney	3	55	
		Stove explosion	1	50	
		Unknown	1	3,100	
					6,071
Boat-houses	2	Defective gasoline-stove	1	$29	
		Unknown	1	1,492	
					1,521
Bottling-works	2	Extract boiling over	1	$4,443	
		Unknown	1	433	
					4,876
Brick-kilns	1	Wood ignited from burning of bricks	1		90
Bridges	1	Sparks from locomotive	1		27
Bunk-houses	1	Sparks from chimney	1		1,025
Canneries	1	Unknown	1		1,315
Carpet-cleaning works	1	Unknown	1		2,790
Chicken-houses	16	Defective brooder	1	$375	
		Defective stove	2	3,571	
		Lamp upset	2	3,553	
		Short circuit	1	5,000	
		Sparks from stove	2	307	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	350	
		Unknown	7	10,105	
					23,261
Churches	6	Candle carelessness	1	$18	
		Exposure	1	88	
		Incendiary	3	4,718	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	21	
					4,845
Clubs	4	Exposure	2	$12,920	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	1,639	
					14,559
Dairies	3	Short circuit	1	$223	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	182	
		Sparks from chimney	1	68	
					473
Dry-cleaning establishments	5	Electrical appliances	2	$145	
		Naphtha carelessness	1	250	
		Short circuit	1	845	
		Static electricity	1	73	
					1,313
Dwellings	1,914	Ashes against wood	18	$3,158	
		Brush drying on stove ignited	1	49	
		Candle carelessness	13	249	
		Chair too near stove	2	72	
		Children playing with fire	4	85	
		Clothes falling on furnace-pipe	1	20	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	57	13,673	
		Coal-gas explosion	4	3,787	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Coal-oil carelessness	4	$250	
		Curtains from candle	6	136	
		Curtains from lamp	1	30	
		Curtains from stove	4	46	
		Defective chimney	142	100,095	
		Defective fireplace	31	3,328	
		Defective furnace	2	4,041	
		Defective matches	13	269	
		Defective oil-burner	8	934	
		Defective oil-stove	2	2,299	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	36	37,531	
		Defective wiring	11	14,093	
		Electrical appliances	123	15,557	
		Exposure	72	55,645	
		Fire-crackers	7	3,381	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	8	4,037	
		Gas explosion	2	344	
		Gasoline carelessness	12	3,064	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	1,836	
		Grease on stove	23	4,953	
		Incendiary	25	28,013	
		Lamp explosion	3	2,761	
		Lamp upset	8	4,808	
		Lightning	7	3,877	
		Live coals	41	805	
		Match carelessness	17	656	
		Matches, children with	15	5,020	
		Matches, mice with	1	128	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	2	35	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	1,950	
		Oil-stove upset	1	15	
		Paper from stove	1	30	
		Short circuit	16	25,223	
		Smokers' carelessness	349	20,418	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	424	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	3,054	
		Sparks from chimney	216	100,269	
		Sparks from Christmas crackers	2	8	
		Sparks from fireplace	224	5,961	
		Sparks from furnace	5	998	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	269	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	32	31,207	
		Spontaneous combustion	9	9,335	
		Stove explosion	4	157	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	113	100,199	
		Sun's rays	2	73	
		Tar boiling over	3	214	
		Thawing pipes	7	1,204	
		Unknown	180	290,827	
		Wood too near furnace	3	252	
		Wood too near stove	14	10,093	
					$921,245
Electric-light poles	1	Short circuit	1		20
Factories (furniture)	1	Unknown	1		5,565
Factories (jam)	1	Unknown	1		30
Factories (mattress)	1	Match carelessness	1		10
Factories (roofing material)	2	Dust explosion	1	$41	
		Unknown	1	100	
					141
Factories (sash and door)	1	Unknown	1		57,782

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Fertilizer plants	1	Defective kiln	1		$430
Fishing-boats	2	Carburettor back-firing	1	$50	
		Lantern upset	1	1,850	
					1,900
Foundries	2	Defective chimney	1	$645	
		Defective furnace	1	35	
					680
Freight-cars	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$400	
		Unknown	1	275	
					675
Gaols	1	Unknown	1		101
Garages	34	Defective gasoline-torch	1	$205	
		Electrical appliances	2	25	
		Exposure	5	1,289	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	6,392	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	5	
		Incendiary	4	41,033	
		Matches, children with	1	75	
		Short circuit	4	14,039	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	15	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	2,800	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	22,679	
		Unknown	8	30,996	
					119,553
Gasoline-stations	8	Coal-oil carelessness	1	$24	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	48	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	3,099	
		Short circuit	1	6	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	27	
		Static electricity	1	1,700	
		Unknown	2	1,593	
					6,497
Greenhouses	1	Defective chimney	1		75
Halls	10	Match carelessness	1	$9	
		Matches, children with	2	1,706	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	182	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Unknown	3	15,029	
					16,931
Haystacks	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		50
Hospitals	6	Gasoline carelessness	1	$8	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	298	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	100	
		Sparks from chimney	2	901	
		Unknown	1	25	
					1,332
Hotels	65	Defective chimney	1	$100	
		Defective stove-pipe	2	11,260	
		Defective wiring	1	4,417	
		Exposure	13	46,651	
		Incendiary	1	21,950	
		Match carelessness	1	176	
		Smokers' carelessness	32	890	
		Sparks from chimney	4	474	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	20	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	387	
		Unknown	7	51,993	
					138,318
Ice-cream plants	1	Unknown	1		33,754
Laboratories	1	Sparks from chimney	1		28

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Launches	8	Carburettor back-firing	3	$7,360	
		Exhaust-pipe broke, flames ignited framework	1	415	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	1	581	
		Short circuit	2	800	
		Unknown	1	2,200	
					$11,356
Laundries	2	Unknown	2		2,118
Logging camps	2	Gasoline carelessness	1	$1,458	
		Incendiary	1	4,761	
					6,219
Lumber-yards	1	Unknown	1		2,079
Machine-shops	1	Exposure	1		39,797
Mining property	3	Gasoline carelessness	1	$75,032	
		Gasoline-furnace back-firing	1	676	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	2,000	
					77,708
Offices	16	Electrical appliances	2	$18	
		Exposure	4	1,968	
		Gas explosion	1	38	
		Grease on stove	1	37	
		Short circuit	1	10	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	89	
		Sparks from chimney	1	15	
		Sparks from stove	1	122	
		Unknown	1	13,251	
					15,548
Oil-refining plants	3	Oil-pipe burst	1	$101	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	275	
		Unknown	1	2,620	
					2,996
Orphanages	1	Fire from mechanical stoker ignited wood	1		26
Photographic studios	1	Unknown	1		1,626
Planing-mills	2	Defective wiring	1	$1,000	
		Unknown	1	26,492	
					27,492
Pole camps	3	Incendiary	2	$10,982	
		Unknown	1	2,611	
					13,593
Pool-rooms	3	Ashes against wood	1	$125	
		Exposure	2	2,135	
					2,260
Post-offices	4	Electrical appliances	1	$250	
		Exposure	2	3,912	
		Incendiary	1	823	
					4,985
Power-houses	2	Overheated machinery bearings	1	$5,400	
		Short circuit	1	1,200	
					6,600
Printing-offices	4	Exposure	2	$9,156	
		Short circuit	1	963	
		Unknown	1	9	
					10,128
Pulp-mills	1	Defective wiring	1		38
Railway-coaches	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		6
Railway-stations	1	Exposure	1		4,500

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Relief camps	2	Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	$650	
		Unknown	1	3,473	
					$4,123
Restaurants	11	Defective furnace	1	$5	
		Defective oil-stove	1	50	
		Defective wiring	1	1,599	
		Exposure	5	5,811	
		Grease on stove	1	255	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	10	
		Unknown	1	1,149	
					8,879
Rooming-houses	45	Clothes too near stove	1	$4	
		Defective match	3	57	
		Electrical appliances	3	37	
		Exposure	5	8,207	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	23	
		Hot brick placed in bed	1	16	
		Matches, children with	1	29	
		Short circuit	1	35	
		Smokers' carelessness	15	219	
		Sparks from chimney	3	150	
		Sparks from fireplace	3	105	
		Stove explosion	1	5	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	25	
		Thawing pipes	1	71	
		Unknown	5	6,325	
					15,308
Sawmills	17	Dust explosion	1	$414,000	
		Incendiary	2	54,784	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	3,300	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	24,613	
		Unknown	11	356,428	
					853,125
Schools	14	Defective chimney	2	$2,882	
		Defective oil-burner	1	300	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	550	
		Grease on stove	1	242	
		Incendiary	2	9,748	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	50	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	4,086	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	1,650	
		Sparks from chimney	1	830	
		Unknown	2	2,681	
					23,019
Sheds	13	Ashes against wood	1	$8	
		Incendiary	1	1,000	
		Matches, children with	2	107	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	650	
		Sparks from chimney	1	129	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	10	
		Unknown	6	1,797	
					3,701
Sheet-metal works	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		2,466
Shingle-mills	5	Unknown	5		26,191
Smelting plants	8	Defective furnace	1	$50	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	2	125	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	100	
		Sparks from boiler	2	130	
		Sparks from furnace	2	150	
					555
Stables	5	Defective wiring	1	$1,511	
		Exposure	1	185	
		Unknown	3	2,608	
					4,304

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Stores	126	Clothes too near stove	2	$10	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	20	
		Defective chimney	6	13,535	
		Defective oil-burner	1	389	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	3	6,122	
		Defective wiring	3	1,747	
		Electrical appliances	4	38	
		Exposure	36	60,365	
		Fire-crackers	1	12	
		Grease on stove	1	175	
		Incendiary	7	43,493	
		Lightning	1	11,536	
		Match carelessness	2	25	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	55	
		Overheated electric motor	1	136	
		Paper from stove	1	50	
		Short circuit	3	6,225	
		Smokers' carelessness	22	48,355	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	10	
		Sparks from chimney	2	49	
		Sparks from stove	1	16	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	1,033	
		Static electricity	1	46	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	9,116	
		Unknown	19	94,224	
					$296,782
Stores and apartments	20	Ashes against wood	1	$745	
		Defective chimney	1	76	
		Electrical appliances	2	70	
		Exposure	2	390	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	725	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	10	
		Grease on stove	1	1,550	
		Short circuit	1	80	
		Smokers' carelessness	7	602	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	20	
		Unknown	2	225	
					4,493
Stores and dwellings	52	Ashes against wood	1	$500	
		Defective chimney	6	3,671	
		Defective wiring	1	1,500	
		Electrical appliances	2	1,674	
		Exposure	10	20,277	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	950	
		Incendiary	1	5,915	
		Matches, children with	1	10	
		Matches, mice with	1	125	
		Short circuit	1	69	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	246	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	150	
		Sparks from chimney	2	25	
		Sparks from furnace	1	422	
		Sparks from stove	2	216	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	8,896	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	22,065	
		Thawing pipes	1	13	
		Unknown	11	20,233	
					86,957
Stores and hotels	1	Defective chimney	1	.....	6,658
Stores and offices	20	Electrical appliances	1	$7,350	
		Exposure	2	1,128	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	2	26	
		Incendiary	1	5,960	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	$1,387	
		Smokers' carelessness	8	607	
		Unknown	5	50,006	
					$66,464
Stores, offices, and rooms	3	Exposure	1	$7	
		Lightning	1	25	
		Unknown	1	4,845	
					4,877
Stores and rooms	32	Candle carelessness	1	$67	
		Defective chimney	1	10	
		Exposure	6	22,303	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	25	
		Incendiary	2	8,441	
		Smokers' carelessness	11	701	
		Sparks from chimney	1	26	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	186	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	2,266	
		Unknown	6	29,366	
					63,391
Street-cars	1	Unknown	1		694
Tents	1	Unknown	1		300
Theatres	3	Exposure	1	$23,000	
		Film piling up in sound-head	1	249	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	859	
					24,108
Tug-boats	5	Carburettor back-firing	1	$2,500	
		Exposure	1	500	
		Incendiary	1	1,500	
		Short circuit	1	584	
		Unknown	1	1,025	
					6,109
Undertaking-parlours	1	Exposure	1		85
Warehouses	27	Defective chimney	2	$480	
		Defective gas-heater	1	88	
		Exposure	6	5,359	
		Grease on stove	1	1,779	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	5	
		Short circuit	4	4,306	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	75	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	177	
		Sparks from stove	1	881	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	9,557	
		Tar boiling over	1	1,250	
		Unknown	6	37,729	
					61,686
Wood-working plants	1	Unknown	1		16,964
Woodyards	1	Stove insufficiently protected	1		174
Totals	2,942		2,942		$3,299,005

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.					Amount of Loss.				
	City Municipalities (33).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (16).	Fire Districts (12).	Totals.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Totals.
1932.										
January	185	44	5	29	263	$77,223	$24,053	$2,727	$27,891	$131,894
February	185	28	7	35	255	242,202	29,509	20,795	128,882	421,388
March	154	35	3	31	223	50,155	32,775	6,459	34,511	123,900
April	146	39	1	31	217	67,421	34,891	5	45,686	148,003
May	169	50	6	59	284	104,849	41,164	9,129	166,029	321,171
June	140	37	8	38	223	75,269	447,980	12,975	81,650	617,874
July	135	45	1	48	229	230,856	67,375	1,377	99,616	399,224
August	141	42	2	51	236	52,269	47,715	2,023	235,046	337,053
September	158	50	1	41	250	50,130	98,468	3,607	113,096	265,301
October	140	39	5	48	232	51,278	31,816	2,684	99,231	185,009
November	112	58	1	24	195	36,175	48,778	777	90,999	176,729
December	219	62	15	39	335	41,257	38,535	49,390	42,277	171,459
Totals, 1932	1,884	529	55	474	2,942	$1,079,084	$943,059	$111,948	$1,164,914	$3,299,005
Totals, 1931	1,673	483	44	480	2,680	1,057,728	686,086	78,716	1,339,864	3,162,394
Totals, 1930	1,764	468	20	460	2,712	2,139,926	1,135,883	19,121	1,406,160	4,701,090
Totals, 1929	1,583	370	14	419	2,386	2,264,496	391,798	13,384	1,520,422	4,190,100
Totals, 1928	1,095	729	19	353	2,196	1,074,509	565,846	58,392	968,807	2,667,554
	7,999	2,579	152	2,186	12,916	$7,615,743	$3,722,672	$281,561	$6,400,167	$18,020,143

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1928–32.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Dwelling	Matches, children with	....	1
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....
Hotel	Incendiary	2	....
Store and dwelling	Exposure	1	....
Totals, 1932		6	1
Totals, 1931		6	2
Totals, 1930		8	5
Totals, 1929		5	....
Totals, 1928		16	....

VICTORIA, B.C.:
Printed by CHARLES F. BANFIELD, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1933.

675-433-3174