SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1938

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1939.

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 Seventeenth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

GORDON S. WISMER,

Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1939.

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REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1939.

The Honourable Gordon S. Wismer, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—Pursuant to section 44 of the "Fire Marshal Act," I have the honour to submit my Seventeenth Annual Report as Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1938, together with statistics showing fire causes and losses in the Province. I am sorry to say it is necessary to call your attention to an increase of $385,956 in fire losses over the year 1937. This increase is due to greater losses in some of our cities.

Wholesale Gasoline Storage.—This matter, referred to in my last report, has been very much before us due to the fact charges were made publicly that conditions existing in the City of Vancouver were a serious hazard. One hundred and thirteen inspections were made of these plants, both in the City of Vancouver and other districts, and they were found to be in excellent condition, well up to the standards required by the American Petroleum Institute. In view of the fact that for the last twenty years we have never had a fire in a gasoline storage plant I feel that the situation in this Province with regard to gasoline storage is well in hand.

Fire Investigations.—The report of the Deputy Fire Marshal, Mr. W. A. Walker, shows that he has conducted 186 fire investigations during the year, seven inquiries under section 11 of the Act and seventy-four inspections. There were eleven prosecutions under the "Fire Marshal Act" and regulations, resulting in eleven convictions; eleven prosecutions under the Criminal Code with nine convictions; one committed for trial and one acquittal.

The work of inspection has been carried out by Mr. W. A. Oswald. His report shows that 1,483 general inspections, exclusive of theatres and hospitals, have been made during the year.

Public Buildings.—Fifteen Government buildings were inspected by Mr. Oswald during the year; also seventy-one public and private hospitals and sixty-four schools were inspected in co-operation with local Assistant Fire Marshals.

In connection with orders issued by local Assistant Fire Marshals, eighty-six appeals were made to the Fire Marshal and hearings granted. There were no appeals from his decisions to the Courts.

Theatres and Film Exchanges.—Two hundred and seven inspections of theatres have been made and forty-two orders issued to correct faults. Four new theatres were completed and opened during the year. Forty-eight inspections were made of film exchanges and 145,000 feet of film removed from service. Forty-six candidates for projectionist licences were examined, of whom thirty-eight were successful and received certificates.

Oil-burner Regulations.—One hundred and eighty-nine oil-burner installations were checked by Mr. Oswald and 1,372 National Research Council approval labels for oil-burning equipment were issued following inspections. In addition, 957 oil-burners previously labelled by the National Research Council or the Underwriters' Laboratories, have been sold in the Province.

I wish to express to my entire staff my appreciation of their loyalty and excellent work; to members of the police throughout the Province for their co-operation and assistance; to local Assistant Fire Marshals and to all insurance companies.

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	1	1
Armstrong	62	-------
Chilliwack	24	4
Courtenay	66	2
Cranbrook	1,276	59
Cumberland	55	5
Duncan	37	24
Enderby	16	-------
Fernie	344	15
Grand Forks	147	3
Greenwood	-------	-------
Kamloops	-------	-------
Kaslo	-------	-------
Kelowna	721	17
Ladysmith	34	1
Merritt	71	28
Nanaimo	692	4
Nelson	1,808	88
New Westminster	5,320	948
North Vancouver	1,200	80
Port Alberni	185	75
Port Coquitlam	-------	-------
Port Moody	80	5
Prince George	208	5
Prince Rupert	104	-------
Revelstoke	60	1
Rossland	1,146	121
Salmon Arm	13	1
Slocan	-------	-------
Trail	2,373	128
Vancouver	42,690	3,769
Vernon	320	136
Victoria	12,309	197
Totals	71,362	5,717
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	11	9
Chilliwack	2	-------
Coldstream	-------	-------
Coquitlam	-------	-------
Delta	-------	-------
Esquimalt	61	4
Fraser Mills	-------	-------
Glenmore	7	5
Kent	-------	-------
Langley	-------	-------
Maple Ridge	-------	-------
Matsqui	17	-------
Mission	112	-------
North Cowichan	-------	-------
North Vancouver	-------	-------
Oak Bay	510	-------
Peachland	-------	-------
Penticton	182	2
Pitt Meadows	-------	-------
Richmond	75	9
Saanich	-------	-------
Salmon Arm	3	-------
Spullumcheen	-------	-------
Sumas	28	1
Summerland	2	-------
Surrey	10	5

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

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Tadanac	26	------
West Vancouver	------	------
Totals	1,046	35
Village Municipalities (19).		
Abbotsford	------	------
Burns Lake	20	2
Chapman Camp	------	------
Creston	------	------
Dawson Creek	32	5
Gibsons Landing	------	------
Hope	------	------
Mission	402	39
McBride	------	------
New Denver	------	------
Pouce Coupe	23	------
Quesnel	------	------
Silverton	20	------
Smithers	58	14
Stewart	------	------
Terrace	------	------
Tofino	------	------
Vanderhoof	72	9
Williams Lake	------	------
Totals	627	69
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	119	24
Ioco	------	------
Kootenay, County of	129	1
Nanaimo, County of	21	------
Pacific Mills, Limited	4	1
Powell River	552	------
Prince Rupert, County of	57	------
University Area	327	------
Vancouver, County of	29	3
Victoria, County of	12	------
Westminster, County of	------	------
Yale, County of	86	14
Totals	1,336	43
Grand totals	74,371	5,864
Grand totals, 1937	68,079	5,826
Grand totals, 1936	66,549	5,929
Grand totals, 1935	52,849	4,742
Grand totals, 1934	53,150	3,502

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	7	$44,397
Armstrong	4	1,171
Chilliwack	8	14,834
Courtenay	7	518
Cranbrook	10	4,495
Cumberland	5	779
Duncan	13	3,307
Enderby	7	8,435
Fernie	5	438
Grand Forks	4	77
Greenwood	------	----------
Kamloops	14	578
Kaslo	------	----------
Kelowna	12	450
Ladysmith	7	1,321
Merritt	5	430
Nanaimo	41	3,126
Nelson	24	36,548
New Westminster	72	22,849
North Vancouver	38	1,707
Port Alberni	16	2,338
Port Coquitlam	5	7,407
Port Moody	4	1,645
Prince George	9	1,519
Prince Rupert	15	2,875
Revelstoke	6	11,643
Rossland	11	973
Salmon Arm	14	10,007
Slocan	------	----------
Trail	27	1,924
Vancouver	1,559	1,244,118
Vernon	11	1,641
Victoria	246	27,170
Totals	2,206	$1,458,720
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	82	$22,879
Chilliwack	18	14,372
Coldstream	3	2,650
Coquitlam	5	388
Delta	9	5,051
Esquimalt	14	1,364
Fraser Mills	------	----------
Glenmore	1	30
Kent	4	2,655
Langley	19	15,342
Maple Ridge	17	48,688
Matsqui	19	12,735
Mission	4	7,204
North Cowichan	13	8,216
North Vancouver	15	375
Oak Bay	53	770
Peachland	2	3,499
Penticton	25	8,719
Pitt Meadows	4	1,920
Richmond	41	82,206
Saanich	62	9,081
Salmon Arm	3	18,993
Spallumcheen	3	4,133
Sumas	8	6,423
Summerland	8	14,698
Surrey	25	22,023
Tadanac	14	2,905
West Vancouver	45	2,465
Totals	516	$319,784

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Village Municipalities (19).		
Abbotsford	1	$9
Burns Lake	2	5,740
Chapman Camp	------	------
Creston	8	13,048
Dawson Creek	1	25
Gibsons Landing	2	27
Hope	2	4,029
Mission	5	8,516
McBride	------	------
New Denver	1	6,800
Pouce Coupe	4	3,453
Quesnel	3	265
Silverton	------	------
Smithers	3	9,490
Stewart	1	75
Terrace	3	2,949
Tofino	------	------
Vanderhoof	9	20,128
Williams Lake	------	------
Totals	45	$74,554
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	48	$99,837
Ioco	------	------
Kootenay, County of	90	96,928
Nanaimo, County of	124	244,651
Pacific Mills, Limited	3	141
Powell River	3	192
Prince Rupert, County of	13	43,548
University Area	7	2,546
Vancouver, County of	37	47,966
Victoria, County of	40	23,211
Westminster, County of	20	21,653
Yale, County of	86	96,303
Totals	471	$676,976
Grand totals	3,238	$2,530,034

NOTE.—Construction of Buildings—

Fire-resisting	22, loss	$2,511
Brick or concrete	257, ,,	297,998
Frame	2,959, ,,	2,229,525
	3,238, ,,	$2,530,034

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Alcohol vapour explosion	1	$23
Ashes against wood	36	4,771
Blasting, carelessness in	1	825
Boiler insufficiently protected	3	109
Candle carelessness	11	3,140
Carburettor back-firing	31	6,034
Car upset	13	7,122
Children playing with fire	5	899
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	56	2,814
Clothing, falling on steam-pipe, ignited	1	5
Collision	4	5,240
Curtains from candle	3	23
Curtains from lamp	3	53
Curtains from stove	7	121
Defective belt	1	53
Defective boiler	1	150
Defective brooder	2	565
Defective chimney	191	85,028
Defective fireplace	23	2,032
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	5	346
Defective matches	6	96
Defective motor	1	6,613
Defective oil-burner	11	1,573
Defective oil-stove	4	128
Defective stove or stove-pipe	23	16,302
Defective wiring	21	28,860
Dust explosion	6	670
Electrical appliances	125	9,916
Ether explosion	1	50
Exposure	79	178,570
Film break at the aperture	1	5,700
Fire-crackers	23	806
Friction in pulley	1	152
Friction of logging-cable	1	25,353
Friction on brake-drum	7	49
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	19	592
Gas-burner insufficiently protected	2	53
Gas explosion	5	386
Gas furnace back-firing	1	67
Gasoline carelessness	31	47,794
Gasoline explosion	3	292
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	9	1,095
Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	15
Gasoline-torch carelessness	3	44
Grease dripping on hot sawdust	1	539
Grease on stove	40	8,667
Hot castings on wood	1	5
Ignition of paint-remover	1	2,353
Incendiary	30	67,652
Incense-burner upset	1	11
Kettle boiling dry	1	18
Lamp explosion	1	57
Lamp upset	4	8,556
Lantern upset	1	12
Lightning	14	17,355
Live coals	8	322
Match carelessness	44	1,111
Matches, children with	32	2,602
Molten metal	3	165
Oil-furnace back-firing	9	1,191
Oil-stove explosion	1	35
Oil-stove upset	2	95
Overheated electric motor	1	20
Paper from fireplace	2	86
Sawdust-burner back-firing	7	869

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

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	7	$2,606
Short circuit	136	30,395
Smokers' carelessness	990	838,876
Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	15
Sparks from boiler	9	17,248
Sparks from bonfire	10	9,116
Sparks from burning rubbish	4	2,155
Sparks from bush fire	26	83,984
Sparks from chimney	278	85,721
Sparks from engine	9	80,932
Sparks from fireplace	249	5,570
Sparks from forge	2	111
Sparks from furnace	6	2,320
Sparks from grass fire	5	2,564
Sparks from grinding-machine	1	125
Sparks from locomotive	1	500
Sparks from mill burner	13	49,156
Sparks from slash fire	4	16,563
Sparks from smudge fire	1	3,650
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	39	8,503
Sparks from welding-machine	3	2,253
Sparks igniting alcohol	1	303
Spontaneous combustion	18	24,253
Static electricity	1	50
Stove explosion	5	4,236
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	127	87,824
Sulphur, ignition of	2	90
Sun's rays	3	77
Tar boiling over	6	421
Unknown	293	614,062
Wood too near stove	2	105
Totals	3,238	$2,530,034

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	184	Ashes against wood	1	$730	
		Clothes too near stove	1	8	
		Curtains from stove	2	46	
		Defective chimney	8	438	
		Defective match	1	3	
		Electrical appliances	7	118	
		Exposure	3	705	
		Fire-crackers	1	4	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	70	
		Gas-burner insufficiently protected	1	35	
		Gas explosion	1	40	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	94	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	2	
		Grease on stove	3	279	
		Incendiary	1	362	
		Match carelessness	5	28	
		Matches, children with	2	128	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	2	36	
		Overheated electric motor	1	20	
		Short circuit	4	116	
		Smokers' carelessness	106	8,333	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	26	
		Sparks from chimney	14	793	
		Sparks from fireplace	5	29	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	36	
		Unknown	8	9,990	
					$22,469
Armouries	3	Smokers' carelessness	3		1,506
Automobiles	298	Alcohol vapour explosion	1	$23	
		Carburettor back-firing	24	2,227	
		Car upset	13	7,122	
		Collision	4	5,240	
		Defective wiring	11	477	
		Electrical appliances	2	32	
		Exposure	4	1,245	
		Friction on brake-drum	7	49	
		Gasoline carelessness	6	1,564	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	9	1,095	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	10	
		Incendiary	5	1,767	
		Match carelessness	2	42	
		Short circuit	99	12,261	
		Smokers' carelessness	86	3,809	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	958	
		Unknown	21	3,114	
					41,035
Bakeries	3	Smokers' carelessness	1	$20	
		Unknown	2	4,257	
					4,277
Banks	3	Smokers' carelessness	2	$67	
		Sparks from chimney	1	3	
					70
Barber-shops	4	Electrical appliances	2	$306	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	1,450	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	20	
					1,776
Barns	36	Blasting, carelessness in	1	$825	
		Defective brooder	1	550	
		Defective chimney	2	110	
		Fire-crackers	1	85	
		Lightning	1	30	
		Matches, children with	2	975	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	595	
		Sparks from bonfire	3	6,398	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	1,866	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	$2,456	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	6,936	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	100	
		Unknown	14	14,906	
					$35,832
Bath-houses	2	Defective stove	1	$300	
		Match carelessness	1	5	
					305
Blacksmith-shops	1	Sparks from forge	1		25
Boarding-houses	11	Smokers' carelessness	7	$309	
		Sparks from chimney	1	104	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	5	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	50	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	32	
					500
Breweries	1	Short circuit	1		115
Bridges	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		25
Bunk-houses	4	Clothes too near stove	1	$476	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	95	
		Sparks from stove	1	560	
		Unknown	1	250	
					1,381
Canneries	2	Defective chimney	1	$245	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	10,000	
					10,245
Carpenter-shops	1	Exposure	1		1,000
Chicken-houses	12	Ashes against wood	2	$30	
		Defective brooder	1	15	
		Exposure	1	5	
		Match carelessness	1	40	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	275	
		Unknown	5	3,164	
					3,529
Churches	6	Clothes too near stove	1	$15	
		Defective chimney	2	2,496	
		Incendiary	1	1,230	
		Lightning	1	7	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
					3,753
Clubs	10	Electrical appliances	1	$122	
		Grease on stove	1	21	
		Smokers' carelessness	7	156	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	50	
					349
Cold-storage plants	1	Unknown	1		15,769
Dairies	4	Oil-furnace back-firing	1	$10	
		Sparks from chimney	2	35	
		Unknown	1	201	
					246
Dry-cleaning establishments	1	Match carelessness	1		159
Dry-docks	1	Unknown	1		379
Dwellings	1,940	Ashes against wood	23	$3,704	
		Boiler insufficiently protected	1	25	
		Candle carelessness	11	3,140	
		Children playing with fire	5	899	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	49	2,245	
		Curtains from candle	4	61	
		Curtains from lamp	2	15	
		Curtains from stove	5	75	
		Defective chimney	151	68,286	
		Defective fireplace	20	1,820	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	5	346	
		Defective matches	4	83	
		Defective oil-burner	9	1,472	
		Defective oil-stove	2	69	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	18	$14,937	
		Defective wiring	6	17,030	
		Electrical appliances	86	5,355	
		Exposure	28	10,006	
		Fire-crackers	16	453	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	15	491	
		Gas explosion	2	206	
		Gas-furnace back-firing	1	67	
		Gasoline carelessness	10	5,222	
		Gasoline explosion	1	47	
		Grease on stove	30	7,273	
		Incendiary	8	8,461	
		Incense-burner upset	1	11	
		Kettle boiling dry	1	18	
		Lamp explosion	1	57	
		Lamp upset	4	8,556	
		Lantern upset	1	12	
		Lightning	8	3,344	
		Live coals	7	102	
		Match carelessness	28	627	
		Matches, children with	23	1,467	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	4	704	
		Oil-stove upset	1	91	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	4	694	
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	7	2,617	
		Short circuit	12	2,644	
		Smokers' carelessness	548	30,388	
		Sparks from bonfire	3	2,645	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	220	
		Sparks from bush fire	10	2,134	
		Sparks from chimney	232	58,831	
		Sparks from fireplace	243	5,522	
		Sparks from furnace	2	1,235	
		Sparks from grass fire	4	764	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	500	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	40	
		Sparks from smudge fire	1	3,650	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	35	7,653	
		Spontaneous combustion	6	2,225	
		Stove explosion	3	3,575	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	103	57,443	
		Sun's rays	3	77	
		Tar boiling over	5	413	
		Unknown	124	130,196	
		Wood too near stove	1	75	
					$480,318
Engines	1	Carburettor back-firing	1		93
Factories (box)	1	Unknown	1		187
Factories (broom)	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$44	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	15	
					59
Factories (coffee and spice)	1	Sparks from grinding-machine	1		125
Factories (furniture)	1	Sparks from furnace	1		758
Factories (jam)	1	Exposure	1		127,091
Factories (roof products)	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		50
Factories (sash and door)	3	Sparks from boiler	2	$100	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	447	
					547
Factories (suspender)	1	Unknown	1		1,217
Fishing-boats	13	Carburettor back-firing	6	$3,714	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	805	
		Gasoline explosion	1	70	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	81	
		Unknown	2	750	
					5,420

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Fish-reduction plants	1	Defective chimney	1		$250
Foundries	10	Defective chimney	1	$88	
		Defective stove	1	500	
		Defective wiring	1	3	
		Hot castings on wood	1	5	
		Lightning	1	10	
		Molten metal	1	140	
		Short circuit	1	1,610	
		Sparks from furnace	1	5	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	10	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	205	
					2,576
Freight-cars	5	Exposure	1	$609	
		Incendiary	1	450	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	302	
		Unknown	1	150	
					1,511
Fruit-packing plants	1	Sparks from bonfire	1		12
Gaols	1	Defective chimney	1		65
Garages	52	Ashes against wood	1	$20	
		Clothing, falling on steam-pipe, ignited	1	5	
		Defective chimney	1	1,950	
		Electrical appliances	1	70	
		Exposure	3	420	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	5	
		Gasoline carelessness	4	33,508	
		Incendiary	1	30	
		Lightning	1	11	
		Matches, children with	3	17	
		Short circuit	2	2,915	
		Smokers' carelessness	8	1,059	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	7	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	12,737	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	8	
		Unknown	20	19,869	
					72,636
Gasoline-shovels	1	Gasoline carelessness	1		40
Gasoline-stations	7	Exposure	2	$188	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	22	
		Gasoline explosion	1	175	
		Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	15	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	137	
		Unknown	1	6,500	
					7,037
Golf club-houses	2	Smokers' carelessness	2		184
Greenhouses	2	Exposure	1	$400	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	60	
					460
Halls	9	Clothes too near stove	1	$37	
		Exposure	1	3,153	
		Incendiary	1	10,200	
		Short circuit	1	1,400	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	43	
		Unknown	1	1,000	
					15,833
Haystacks	2	Incendiary	1	$200	
		Unknown	1	1,400	
					1,600
Hospitals	8	Defective stove-pipe	1	$25	
		Electrical appliances	2	306	
		Ether explosion	1	50	
		Live coals	1	220	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	14	
		Sparks from chimney	1	12	
		Sparks igniting alcohol	1	303	
					930

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Hotels	101	Defective chimney	2	$50	
		Defective matches	1	10	
		Defective wiring	1	8,999	
		Electrical appliances	3	59	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	26	
		Grease on stove	1	25	
		Smokers' carelessness	76	4,888	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	24,125	
		Sparks from chimney	2	25,053	
		Sparks from grass fire	1	1,800	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	2	270	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	51	
		Unknown	9	20,487	
					$85,843
House-boats	1	Sparks from chimney	1		11
Ice plants	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		750
Launches	2	Gasoline carelessness	1	$550	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	400	
					950
Laundries	6	Defective wiring	1	$1,750	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	105	
		Sparks from chimney	2	40	
		Unknown	2	180	
					2,075
Libraries	1	Exposure	1		25
Logging camps	21	Friction of logging-cable	1	$25,353	
		Lightning	1	13,910	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	481	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	41,435	
		Sparks from chimney	1	55	
		Sparks from engine	1	92	
		Sparks from slash fire	4	16,563	
		Unknown	9	48,998	
					146,887
Lumber piles	3	Matches, children with	1	$10	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	28	
		Unknown	1	2	
					40
Lumber-yards	1	Molten metal	1		5
Machine-shops	4	Sparks from chimney	1	$15	
		Sparks from forge	1	86	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	2,137	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	4	
					2,242
Mining property	10	Incendiary	2	$325	
		Short circuit	1	4,502	
		Sparks from engine	2	48,747	
		Sparks from furnace	1	191	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	106	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	5,500	
		Unknown	2	1,055	
					60,426
Motor-cycles	1	Gasoline carelessness	1		352
Mushroom-houses	2	Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	$85	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	312	
					397
Offices	18	Electrical appliances	1	$30	
		Exposure	3	514	
		Grease on stove	1	546	
		Incendiary	1	38	
		Paper from fireplace	1	77	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	19	
		Smokers' carelessness	9	144	
		Sparks from engine	1	4,500	
					5,868

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Oil-sheds	1	Static electricity	1		$50
Paper-mills	2	Lightning	1	$43	
		Sparks from boiler	1	41	
					84
Peat plants	4	Sparks from bush fire	2	$10,213	
		Sparks from engine	1	10,500	
		Unknown	1	6,150	
					26,863
Piggeries	2	Defective chimney	1	$900	
		Unknown	1	517	
					1,417
Pool-rooms	1	Sparks from chimney	1		860
Post-offices	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$5	
		Unknown	1	1,400	
					1,405
Power-houses	4	Exposure	1	$40	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	1,300	
		Sparks from engine	2	6,050	
					7,390
Printing-offices	1	Defective oil-burner	1		100
Pulp-mills	3	Sparks from boiler	1	$34	
		Sparks from furnace	1	131	
		Unknown	1	17	
					182
Railway-stations	1	Unknown	1		25
Restaurants	7	Defective chimney	1	$10	
		Exposure	1	337	
		Grease on stove	1	125	
		Short circuit	1	125	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	4	
		Unknown	2	158	
					759
Rooming-houses	77	Ashes against wood	1	$30	
		Clothes too near stove	1	15	
		Defective chimney	6	1,077	
		Defective fireplace	1	165	
		Defective oil-burner	1	1	
		Electrical appliances	8	127	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	32	
		Short circuit	1	6	
		Smokers' carelessness	43	2,172	
		Sparks from chimney	7	1,403	
		Stove explosion	2	661	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	22	
		Sulphur, ignition of	1	40	
		Unknown	3	4,119	
					9,870
Sawmills	28	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$66	
		Electrical appliances	1	15	
		Incendiary	1	30,000	
		Short circuit	1	300	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	15	
		Sparks from boiler	5	17,073	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	2,428	
		Sparks from engine	2	11,043	
		Sparks from mill burner	6	48,322	
		Unknown	9	50,816	
					160,078
Schools	10	Clothes too near stove	1	$6	
		Incendiary	2	5,778	
		Sparks from chimney	2	20	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	420	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	185	
		Unknown	3	990	
					7,399

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Scows	1	Incendiary	1		$8,500
Seed-extraction plants	1	Defective chimney	1		1,218
Sheds	27	Ashes against wood	3	$55	
		Defective stove	1	445	
		Exposure	3	115	
		Fire-crackers	1	20	
		Incendiary	1	15	
		Matches, children with	1	5	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	262	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	19	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	235	
		Sparks from chimney	1	1	
		Sparks from stove	1	20	
		Unknown	7	565	
					1,757
Sheet-metal works	1	Tar boiling over	1		8
Shingle-mills	6	Sparks from mill burner	3	$704	
		Unknown	3	71,671	
					72,375
Ships	2	Electrical appliances	1	$2,500	
		Unknown	1	20,000	
					22,500
Smelting plants	12	Defective boiler	1	$150	
		Dust explosion	6	670	
		Electrical appliances	1	25	
		Molten metal	1	20	
		Short circuit	1	600	
		Sulphur, ignition of	1	50	
		Unknown	1	1,000	
					2,515
Smoke-houses	1	Grease dripping on hot sawdust	1		539
Stores	101	Ashes against wood	2	$149	
		Clothes too near stove	1	12	
		Defective chimney	5	5,899	
		Defective oil-stove	1	29	
		Defective wiring	1	601	
		Electrical appliances	4	400	
		Exposure	11	4,152	
		Fire-crackers	3	209	
		Gas-burner insufficiently protected	1	18	
		Gas explosion	1	25	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	10	
		Grease on stove	1	234	
		Ignition of paint-remover	1	2,353	
		Incendiary	1	75	
		Match carelessness	4	156	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	35	
		Short circuit	5	220	
		Smokers' carelessness	38	3,949	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	23	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	7	192	
		Unknown	11	59,777	
					78,518
Stores and apartments	15	Defective chimney	2	$157	
		Electrical appliances	1	10	
		Exposure	1	81	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	41	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	867	
		Sparks from chimney	3	32	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	79	
		Unknown	1	848	
					2,115
Stores and dwellings	18	Ashes against wood	1	$10	
		Defective oil-stove	1	30	
		Exposure	2	5,463	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Fire-crackers	1	$35	
		Grease on stove	1	149	
		Incendiary	1	121	
		Match carelessness	1	14	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	109	
		Sparks from chimney	3	113	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	2,056	
		Unknown	2	6,428	
					$14,528
Stores and offices	11	Ashes against wood	1	$40	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	4,327	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	2,997	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,057	
		Unknown	2	2,251	
					10,672
Stores and rooms	23	Defective chimney	3	$79	
		Exposure	1	50	
		Gas explosion	1	115	
		Grease on stove	1	15	
		Match carelessness	1	40	
		Smokers' carelessness	12	2,925	
		Sparks from chimney	2	30	
		Unknown	2	10,368	
					13,622
Street-cars	1	Short circuit	1		100
Tanneries	1	Defective chimney	1		42
Theatres	5	Defective belt	1	$53	
		Exposure	1	200	
		Film break at the aperture	1	5,700	
		Short circuit	1	25	
		Unknown	1	10,400	
					16,378
Tug-boats	1	Short circuit	1		3,200
Warehouses	28	Ashes against wood	1	$3	
		Defective motor	1	6,613	
		Electrical appliances	4	196	
		Exposure	7	22,766	
		Incendiary	1	100	
		Oil-stove upset	1	4	
		Short circuit	3	256	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	2	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	96	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	11,589	
		Unknown	7	73,813	
					115,438
Wharves	4	Smokers' carelessness	2	$770,694	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	25	
		Unknown	1	195	
					770,914
Woodworking plants	4	Defective chimney	1	$10	
		Exposure	1	5	
		Friction in pulley	1	152	
		Unknown	1	8,000	
					8,167
Workshops	5	Electrical appliances	1	$263	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Unknown	2	533	
		Wood too near stove	1	30	
					831
Totals	3,238		3,238		$2,530,034

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.					Amount of Loss.				
	City Municipalities (33).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (19).	Fire Districts (12).	Totals.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Totals.
1938.										
January	177	57	2	35	271	$38,510	$15,193	$4,600	$43,701	$102,004
February	150	38	13	21	222	12,790	11,437	16,513	17,741	58,481
March	155	43	1	36	235	19,514	26,399	12	21,860	67,785
April	185	30	7	46	268	48,512	9,973	10,793	38,538	107,816
May	251	40	.....	43	334	101,414	20,999	.....	69,480	191,893
June	208	37	4	48	297	75,374	28,537	12,503	106,749	223,163
July	185	30	2	52	269	809,388	33,220	7,234	161,894	1,011,736
August	154	54	3	44	255	189,456	104,580	4,796	38,362	337,194
September	147	35	1	30	213	28,899	20,273	9	56,089	105,270
October	184	63	5	33	285	65,448	26,808	17,893	33,567	143,716
November	202	44	3	38	287	27,638	8,140	57	29,211	65,046
December	208	45	4	45	302	41,777	14,225	144	59,784	115,930
Totals, 1938	2,206	516	45	471	3,238	$1,458,720	$319,784	$74,554	$676,976	$2,530,034
Totals, 1937	2,093	465	30	421	3,009	783,919	272,012	23,743	1,064,404	2,144,078
Totals, 1936	1,768	443	26	422	2,659	730,478	314,036	16,221	628,983	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
	9,507	2,293	161	2,128	14,089	$4,176,557	$1,551,684	$169,698	$4,396,094	$10,294,033

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1934–1938.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Bunk-house	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	1	--
Dwelling	Gasoline explosion	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Garage	Gasoline carelessness	1	--
Rooming-house	Unknown	--	3
Totals, 1938		7	3
Totals, 1937		3	--
Totals, 1936		4	1
Totals, 1935		6	5
Totals, 1934		2	2

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