

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE FIRE MARSHAL
FOR THE PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1939



PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C. :
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1940.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

THE FIRE MARSHAL

OF THE PROVINCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT



PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VICTORIA, B.C. 1900

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 Eighteenth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

GORDON S. WISMER,
Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1940.

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REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,

VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1940.

*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 the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1939. This is my first report, Mr. J. A. Thomas, our veteran Fire Marshal, having retired on March 31st, 1939.

Although we have a slight increase in the number of fires, I am pleased to call to your attention the fact that our fire loss has dropped \$826,424 over that of 1938.

Fire Investigations.—During the year 162 fires were investigated and twelve inquiries were held under section 11 of the Act. Mr. W. P. Nicholls, our Acting Deputy Fire Marshal, who took office on September 1st, 1939, helped considerably in some of these investigations. Sixteen prosecutions were launched under the Act and regulations and sixteen convictions were obtained. There were three arson prosecutions and three convictions; three prosecutions on charges of perjury with two convictions; one conspiracy prosecution in which an acquittal was obtained; and one accused has been committed on a charge of attempted fraud and is still awaiting trial.

Inspection-work.—The work of inspection, for the most part, has been carried on by Mr. W. A. Oswald, Assistant Fire Marshal. His report shows that 1,365 general inspections, exclusive of theatres, hospitals, and schools, were made throughout the year. Eleven Government buildings were inspected, as well as fifty-nine public and private hospitals and forty-eight schools in co-operation with local Assistant Fire Marshals. Nine sets of plans for new or remodelled hotels, six for schools, and five for hospitals were checked and approved.

Wholesale Gasoline Storage.—Plans for twenty-six gasoline storage installations were checked and approved. Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the oil companies concerned to carry out the recommendations made by Col. E. Pepler, Deputy Attorney-General, following his investigation last year of the bulk-storage situation in and around the City of Vancouver, and some of the work has already been done.

Theatres and Film Exchanges.—Plans for twelve new theatres were checked. During the year five theatres were built or remodelled. Change of seating capacity took place in seven theatres. One hundred and eighty-seven inspections of theatres were made and thirty-seven inspections of film exchanges. Forty-one examinations for projectionists were held, of which thirty-seven candidates were successful and received certificates.

Oil-burner Regulations.—There were 1,251 National Research Council approval labels issued for various types of oil-burning stoves, heaters, and range oil-burners, after inspection had been made by Mr. Oswald to see if they conformed to requirements. Also 169 oil-burner installations were checked by him. In addition, 983 oil-burners previously labelled by the National Research Council or Underwriters' Laboratories were installed in the Province.

There were nineteen appeals made to the Fire Marshal from orders issued by local Assistant Fire Marshals, and hearings granted. There were no appeals taken to the Courts from his decisions.

I wish to express to my staff my appreciation of their excellent work, also to thank members of the police force throughout the Province, local Assistant Fire Marshals, insurance companies, and adjusters for their splendid co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. WALKER,

Fire Marshal.

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

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
<i>City Municipalities (33).</i>		
Alberni	3	—
Armstrong	78	—
Chilliwack	67	—
Courtenay	78	—
Cranbrook	1,054	55
Cumberland	78	—
Duncan	19	8
Enderby	9	1
Fernie	419	9
Grand Forks	129	9
Greenwood	—	—
Kamloops	138	2
Kaslo	—	—
Kelowna	851	13
Ladysmith	91	5
Merritt	59	22
Nanaimo	568	2
Nelson	1,320	67
New Westminster	4,149	871
North Vancouver	1,108	58
Port Alberni	186	101
Port Coquitlam	—	—
Port Moody	36	1
Prince George	130	46
Prince Rupert	889	—
Revelstoke	113	10
Rossland	985	97
Salmon Arm	41	1
Slocan	—	—
Trail	2,005	97
Vancouver	43,735	3,545
Vernon	218	24
Victoria	11,656	302
Totals	70,212	5,346
<i>District Municipalities (28).</i>		
Burnaby	5	5
Chilliwack	—	—
Coldstream	—	—
Coquitlam	—	—
Delta	—	—
Esquimalt	59	4
Fraser Mills	—	—
Glenmore	—	—
Kent	—	—
Langley	—	—
Maple Ridge	—	—
Matsqui	128	—
Mission	—	—
North Cowichan	—	—
North Vancouver	—	—
Oak Bay	519	21
Peachland	—	—
Penticton	164	2
Pitt Meadows	—	—
Richmond	51	15
Saanich	—	—
Salmon Arm	5	—
Spallumcheen	—	—
Sumas	39	—
Summerland	1	6
Surrey	13	1

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

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
<i>District Municipalities—Continued.</i>		
Tadanac	34	—
West Vancouver	—	—
Totals	1,018	54
<i>Village Municipalities (19).</i>		
Abbotsford	—	—
Burns Lake	17	2
Chapman Camp	—	—
Creston	—	—
Dawson Creek	51	11
Gibsons Landing	—	—
Hope	—	—
Mission	400	37
McBride	—	—
New Denver	—	—
Pouce Coupe	29	3
Quesnel	10	—
Silverton	11	3
Smithers	106	23
Stewart	—	—
Terrace	—	—
Tofino	—	—
Vanderhoof	75	5
Williams Lake	—	—
Totals	699	84
<i>Fire Districts (12).</i>		
Cariboo, County of	78	1
Ioco	—	—
Kootenay, County of	323	24
Nanaimo, County of	82	—
Pacific Mills, Limited	4	1
Powell River	552	—
Prince Rupert, County of	48	—
University Area	320	—
Vancouver, County of	12	—
Victoria, County of	11	1
Westminster, County of	—	—
Yale, County of	105	19
Totals	1,535	46
Grand totals	78,464	5,530
Grand totals, 1938	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

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
<i>City Municipalities (33).</i>		
Alberni	4	\$447
Armstrong	3	383
Chilliwack	10	1,626
Courtenay	9	7,241
Cranbrook	10	3,644
Cumberland	7	973
Duncan	9	1,841
Enderby	3	14,517
Fernie	8	381
Grand Forks	10	2,429
Greenwood	3	432
Kamloops	23	5,796
Kaslo	2	146
Kelowna	38	65,013
Ladysmith	3	38
Merritt	5	722
Nanaimo	37	3,297
Nelson	19	4,189
New Westminster	95	106,927
North Vancouver	35	7,291
Port Alberni	21	8,840
Port Coquitlam	1	125
Port Moody	3	547
Prince George	8	6,137
Prince Rupert	9	303
Revelstoke	10	3,441
Rossland	20	6,107
Salmon Arm	2	138
Slocan	1	35
Trail	29	4,161
Vancouver	1,665	399,852
Vernon	13	1,877
Victoria	257	72,026
Totals	2,372	\$730,922
<i>District Municipalities (28).</i>		
Burnaby	74	\$11,807
Chilliwack	12	4,156
Coldstream	8	10,694
Coquitlam	12	7,312
Delta	5	1,876
Esquimalt	20	849
Fraser Mills	2	563
Glenmore	4	909
Kent	5	2,244
Langley	16	27,501
Maple Ridge	19	28,089
Matsqui	13	8,766
Mission	5	9,353
North Cowichan	16	11,039
North Vancouver	20	1,870
Oak Bay	78	3,280
Peachland		
Penticton	26	13,055
Pitt Meadows	2	825
Richmond	29	42,397
Saanich	69	25,043
Salmon Arm	6	5,023
Spallumcheen	4	4,278
Sumas	4	10,045
Summerland	7	4,325
Surrey	32	61,453

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
<i>District Municipalities—Continued.</i>		
Tadanac	13	\$2,237
West Vancouver	42	5,691
Totals	543	\$304,680
<i>Village Municipalities (19).</i>		
Abbotsford	2	\$52
Burns Lake	—	—
Chapman Camp	—	—
Creston	1	25
Dawson Creek	2	101
Gibsons Landing	1	24
Hope	—	—
Mission	5	2,386
McBride	1	15
New Denver	1	739
Pouce Coupe	—	—
Quesnel	5	1,119
Silverton	—	—
Smithers	2	1,319
Stewart	2	1,140
Terrace	2	79
Tofino	—	—
Vanderhoof	2	1,493
Williams Lake	—	—
Totals	26	\$8,492
<i>Fire Districts (12).</i>		
Cariboo, County of	62	\$144,727
Ioco	1	35
Kootenay, County of	102	113,983
Nanaimo, County of	114	121,152
Pacific Mills, Limited	7	584
Powell River	9	501
Prince Rupert, County of	14	26,546
University Area	7	2,937
Vancouver, County of	26	24,164
Victoria, County of	37	55,549
Westminster, County of	9	9,544
Yale, County of	68	159,794
Totals	456	\$659,516
Grand totals	3,397	\$1,703,610

NOTE.—Construction of Buildings—

Fire-resisting	34, loss	\$2,366
Brick or concrete	313, "	271,334
Frame	3,050, "	1,429,910
	3,397, "	\$1,703,610

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Acetylene-torch carelessness.....	4	\$236
Ashes against wood.....	19	1,794
Asphalt boiling over.....	1	10
Boiler insufficiently protected.....	5	62,583
Bunsen burner, carelessness with.....	2	19
Candle carelessness.....	25	851
Carburettor back-firing.....	35	4,458
Car upset.....	9	7,659
Children playing with fire.....	1	25
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe.....	67	5,528
Coal-oil carelessness.....	3	2,487
Collision.....	1	100
Curtains from lamp.....	1	1,008
Curtains from stove.....	9	370
Defective brooder.....	3	885
Defective chimney.....	172	72,680
Defective fireplace.....	28	2,241
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe.....	4	1,430
Defective gasoline-line.....	1	225
Defective matches.....	9	153
Defective motor.....	1	25
Defective oil-burner.....	6	1,083
Defective oil-stove.....	1	123
Defective oven.....	1	204
Defective stove or stove-pipe.....	29	18,528
Defective wiring.....	27	22,259
Dust explosion.....	2	94
Electrical appliances.....	138	26,224
Exposure.....	68	44,728
Film falling on electric-light globe.....	1	95
Fire-crackers.....	17	188
Friction on brake-drum.....	1	500
Friction on fan-belt.....	1	20
Fuel-oil spilling on hot engine.....	2	3,522
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected.....	11	8,977
Gasoline carelessness.....	20	30,443
Gasoline explosion.....	3	4,750
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe.....	17	2,365
Gasoline-pump damaged by car.....	1	400
Gasoline-torch carelessness.....	8	2,314
Gas-plate insufficiently protected.....	2	142
Grease on stove.....	51	5,572
Hot iron falling on floor.....	1	1,000
Incendiary.....	58	77,771
Kettle boiling dry.....	3	13
Lamp explosion.....	6	2,324
Lamp upset.....	8	1,709
Lantern upset.....	1	9
Lightning.....	4	7,196
Live coals.....	14	203
Match carelessness.....	53	3,368
Matches, children with.....	41	9,787
Mattress too near furnace.....	1	9
Mattress too near stove.....	2	15
Molten metal.....	1	559
Oil-furnace back-firing.....	8	1,216
Oil-stove explosion.....	1	4,979
Oil-stove upset.....	1	2
Overheated machine-knives.....	2	43
Overheated machinery bearings.....	5	3,730
Overheated rock ignited rubber belt.....	1	1,000
Sawdust-burner back-firing.....	17	10,223
Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected.....	5	1,407
Short circuit.....	144	87,352
Smokers' carelessness.....	1,128	79,551

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES—Continued.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Sparks from acetylene-torch.....	4	\$34,212
Sparks from boiler.....	5	910
Sparks from bonfire.....	12	4,915
Sparks from burning rubbish.....	12	3,451
Sparks from bush fire.....	21	16,428
Sparks from chimney.....	205	72,671
Sparks from engine.....	5	22,486
Sparks from fireplace.....	261	5,021
Sparks from forge.....	2	749
Sparks from furnace.....	15	38,676
Sparks from locomotive.....	1	25
Sparks from mill burner.....	8	29,175
Sparks from picker-machine.....	3	3,599
Sparks from slash fire.....	4	6,912
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe.....	50	16,338
Spontaneous combustion.....	25	163,826
Stove explosion.....	8	943
Stove-lid falling on floor.....	1	5
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected.....	127	64,855
Sun's rays.....	1	50
Tar boiling over.....	3	765
Thawing pipes.....	4	1,170
Unknown.....	300	584,407
Wood too near furnace.....	2	467
Wood too near stove.....	6	790
Totals.....	3,397	\$1,703,610

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
Apartments	188	Ashes against wood	1	\$227
		Clothes too near stove	3	18
		Defective chimney	13	1,324
		Defective match	1	10
		Defective oil-burner	2	86
		Electrical appliances	9	195
		Exposure	1	107
		Fire-crackers	1	15
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	4
		Grease on stove	3	86
		Live coal	1	6
		Match carelessness	4	57
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	695
		Smokers' carelessness	125	3,802
		Sparks from chimney	10	3,121
		Sparks from fireplace	4	248
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	165
		Unknown	4	5,789
				\$15,955
Armouries	2	Smokers' carelessness	2	38
Asphalt plants	1	Asphalt boiling over	1	10
Automobile camps	3	Exposure	1	\$17
		Sparks from stove	1	55
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	31
				103
Automobiles	316	Acetylene-torch carelessness	3	\$16
		Carburettor back-firing	29	2,282
		Car upset	9	7,659
		Defective gasoline-line	1	225
		Defective match	1	39
		Defective wiring	10	279
		Electrical appliances	3	71
		Exposure	3	237
		Friction on brake-drum	1	500
		Gasoline carelessness	6	8,372
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	15	2,015
		Incendiary	4	935
		Match carelessness	2	181
		Matches, children with	2	20
		Short circuit	99	12,343
		Smokers' carelessness	90	5,106
		Sparks from bonfire	1	1,250
		Spontaneous combustion	1	85
		Unknown	36	18,334
				59,949
Bakeries	4	Defective oven	1	\$204
		Grease on stove	1	60
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	70
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	35
				369
Barber-shops	1	Unknown	1	15
Barns	37	Fuel-oil spilling on hot engine	1	\$1,800
		Hot iron falling on floor	1	1,000
		Incendiary	2	2,000
		Matches, children with	1	280
		Short circuit	1	4,125
		Smokers' carelessness	4	462
		Sparks from bonfire	1	236
		Sparks from bush fire	5	2,025
		Sparks from chimney	2	1,835
		Spontaneous combustion	2	1,302
		Unknown	17	14,781
				29,846
Blacksmith-shops	4	Sparks from forge	2	\$749
		Unknown	2	5,800
				6,549

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
Boarding-houses	10	Clothes too near stove	1	\$55
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	513
		Incendiary	1	1,000
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	59
		Smokers' carelessness	4	153
		Sparks from chimney	1	4,290
		Sparks from fireplace	1	10
				\$6,080
Boat-building works	2	Exposure	1	\$5
		Smokers' carelessness	1	135
				140
Breweries	3	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	\$97
		Short circuit	1	7
		Smokers' carelessness	1	156
				260
Brick-kilns	1	Unknown	1	1,000
Bunk-houses	2	Incendiary	1	\$50
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	10,000
				10,050
Canneries	8	Incendiary	2	\$7,264
		Match carelessness	1	84
		Sparks from boiler	2	212
		Spontaneous combustion	1	75
		Unknown	2	59,484
				67,119
Cement plants	1	Unknown	1	2,500
Chemical plants	1	Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	5,533
Chicken-houses	15	Defective brooder	3	\$885
		Defective stove-pipe	1	18
		Incendiary	2	195
		Match carelessness	1	5
		Smokers' carelessness	2	210
		Sparks from bush fire	5	1,958
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	500
				3,771
Churches	7	Defective stove-pipe	1	\$80
		Exposure	2	769
		Grease on stove	1	65
		Incendiary	2	109
		Sparks from chimney	1	10
				1,033
Clubs	19	Defective chimney	1	\$50
		Smokers' carelessness	14	226
		Sparks from chimney	1	94
		Sparks from fireplace	1	115
		Unknown	2	5,811
				6,296
Dairies	5	Defective stove-pipe	1	\$250
		Smokers' carelessness	1	14
		Sparks from boiler	1	75
		Unknown	2	13,185
				13,524
Dredges	1	Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	28,629
Dry-cleaning establishments	4	Exposure	1	\$40
		Gasoline explosion	1	3,800
		Unknown	2	533
				4,373
Dwellings	1,996	Ashes against wood	7	\$176
		Candle carelessness	25	851
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	57	4,679
		Coal-oil carelessness	2	2,477
		Curtains from lamp	1	1,008
		Curtains from stove	6	316
		Defective chimney	132	55,361
		Defective fireplace	28	2,129

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	4	\$1,430
		Defective matches	6	90
		Defective oil-burner	3	986
		Defective oil-stove	1	123
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	21	17,462
		Defective wiring	11	8,694
		Electrical appliances	96	3,569
		Exposure	40	7,328
		Fire-crackers	11	120
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected ..	7	8,284
		Gasoline carelessness	3	528
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	3	89
		Grease on stove	40	4,689
		Incendiary	15	10,666
		Kettle boiling dry	1	4
		Lamp explosion	6	2,324
		Lamp upset	8	1,709
		Lantern upset	1	9
		Lightning	2	6,905
		Live coals	13	197
		Match carelessness	37	1,437
		Matches, children with	28	8,960
		Mattress too near furnace	1	9
		Mattress too near stove	2	15
		Oil-furnace back-firing	4	995
		Oil-stove explosion	1	4,979
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	11	308
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	4	30
		Short circuit	20	9,497
		Smokers' carelessness	601	27,413
		Sparks from bonfire	8	3,412
		Sparks from burning rubbish	4	1,073
		Sparks from bush fire	9	11,190
		Sparks from chimney	167	59,944
		Sparks from fireplace	250	4,433
		Sparks from furnace	10	5,630
		Sparks from locomotive	1	25
		Sparks from mill burner	1	7
		Sparks from slash fire	1	20
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	42	13,839
		Spontaneous combustion	9	6,349
		Stove explosion	6	762
		Stove-lid falling on floor	1	5
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	93	35,385
		Sun's rays	1	50
		Tar boiling over	2	735
		Thawing pipes	4	1,170
		Unknown	122	125,766
		Wood too near furnace	2	467
		Wood too near stove	4	769
				\$466,877
Engines	1	Smokers' carelessness	1	200
Factories (bed and mattress) ..	4	Sparks from picker-machine	3	\$3,599
		Unknown	1	100
				3,699
Factories (broom)	1	Unknown	1	2,874
Factories (furniture)	3	Unknown	3	2,668
Factories (rubber-glove)	1	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	271
Fences	8	Ashes against wood	1	\$3
		Exposure	2	11
		Smokers' carelessness	3	28
		Sparks from bonfire	1	15
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	15
				72
Fish-hatcheries	1	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	2,200

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
Fishing-boats	3	Carburettor back-firing	1	\$740
		Gasoline explosion	2	950
				\$1,690
Foundries	2	Sparks from furnace	1	\$82
		Unknown	1	103
				185
Freight-cars	6	Exposure	1	\$275
		Smokers' carelessness	3	455
		Unknown	2	435
				1,165
Fruit-packing plants	2	Exposure	1	\$8
		Unknown	1	13,856
				13,864
Garages	58	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	\$220
		Ashes against wood	2	15
		Carburettor back-firing	2	1,211
		Defective motor	1	25
		Exposure	2	158
		Gasoline carelessness	4	708
		Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	400
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	9
		Incendiary	5	228
		Match carelessness	1	24
		Matches, children with	2	115
		Short circuit	5	6,694
		Smokers' carelessness	12	1,038
		Sparks from bonfire	1	2
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	5
		Sparks from bush fire	1	1,250
		Spontaneous combustion	1	10
		Stove explosion	1	164
		Tar boiling over	1	30
		Unknown	13	17,381
				29,687
Gasoline-stations	3	Gasoline carelessness	2	\$270
		Incendiary	1	80
				350
Greenhouses	3	Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	\$450
		Sparks from furnace	1	425
		Wood too near stove	1	20
				895
Halls	12	Ashes against wood	1	\$342
		Incendiary	1	1,045
		Matches, children with	1	162
		Short circuit	1	250
		Smokers' carelessness	4	555
		Sparks from chimney	1	7
		Sparks from furnace	1	6,469
		Sparks from stove	1	789
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	12
				9,631
Haystacks	1	Unknown	1	500
Hospitals	9	Defective chimney	1	\$411
		Defective stove-pipe	1	20
		Defective wiring	1	6,261
		Electrical appliances	2	130
		Lightning	1	59
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	60
		Smokers' carelessness	1	40
		Unknown	1	28
				7,009
Hotels	123	Clothes too near stove	1	\$25
		Defective chimney	3	5,909
		Exposure	1	2,671
		Gasoline carelessness	1	18,000

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
		Incendiary	2	\$569
		Match carelessness	1	35
		Smokers' carelessness	100	4,697
		Sparks from chimney	2	35
		Sparks from engine	1	8,093
		Sparks from fireplace	1	21
		Sparks from stove	3	1,288
		Spontaneous combustion	1	64
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	350
		Unknown	5	8,218
				\$49,975
House-boats	4	Defective stove-pipe	1	\$100
		Exposure	1	55
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	2,168
		Unknown	1	360
				2,683
Laundries	2	Sparks from chimney	1	\$75
		Unknown	1	18
				93
Logging camps	10	Electrical appliances	1	\$28
		Sparks from engine	2	8,893
		Sparks from slash fire	3	6,892
		Unknown	4	29,250
				45,063
Lumber piles	1	Incendiary	1	143
Machine-shops	2	Exposure	1	\$5,491
		Unknown	1	10
				5,501
Mining property	2	Gasoline carelessness	1	\$2,300
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	7
				2,307
Motor-cycles	5	Carburettor back-firing	3	\$225
		Collision	1	100
		Gasoline carelessness	1	150
				475
Mushroom-houses	1	Defective chimney	1	70
Offices	19	Bunsen burner, carelessness with	2	\$19
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	10
		Defective stove-pipe	1	546
		Electrical appliances	1	51
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	1	1,377
		Smokers' carelessness	6	1,751
		Sparks from chimney	2	49
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	50
		Unknown	4	2,593
				6,446
Paper-mills	2	Defective wiring	1	\$230
		Overheated machinery bearings	1	392
				622
Piggeries	1	Defective stove	1	33
Power-houses	2	Lightning	1	\$232
		Short circuit	1	750
				982
Printing-offices	2	Incendiary	1	\$12
		Short circuit	1	12
				24
Pulp-mills	3	Grease on stove	1	\$466
		Unknown	2	24,861
				25,327
Railway-stations	3	Sparks from bush fire	1	\$5
		Unknown	2	250
				255
Restaurants	16	Defective match	1	\$14
		Electrical appliances	1	13
		Exposure	1	1,000

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
		Matches, children with	1	\$57
		Short circuit	1	60
		Smokers' carelessness	6	56
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	118
		Unknown	3	4,313
				\$5,631
Rooming-houses	94	Clothes too near stove	1	\$56
		Curtains from stove	3	54
		Defective chimney	3	454
		Defective fireplace	1	152
		Defective wiring	1	5,915
		Electrical appliances	3	39
		Fire-crackers	1	3
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	20
		Gasoline carelessness	1	105
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	23
		Kettle boiling dry	1	3
		Match carelessness	2	26
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	2
		Short circuit	1	17
		Smokers' carelessness	57	1,779
		Sparks from chimney	7	74
		Sparks from fireplace	2	35
		Sparks from stove	1	2
		Spontaneous combustion	1	156
		Stove explosion	1	17
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	923
		Unknown	1	6
				9,861
Sawmills	33	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	\$60,000
		Electrical appliances	1	10,907
		Exposure	1	200
		Incendiary	2	34,626
		Molten metal	1	559
		Overheated machinery bearings	2	2,623
		Short circuit	2	50,465
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	25
		Sparks from chimney	1	50
		Sparks from engine	1	4,500
		Sparks from mill burner	3	28,593
		Unknown	17	99,221
				291,769
Schools	13	Clothes too near stove	2	\$665
		Defective chimney	1	10
		Incendiary	4	12,517
		Match carelessness	1	1,500
		Smokers' carelessness	1	6,011
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	250
		Sparks from chimney	1	6
		Spontaneous combustion	1	2,435
		Unknown	1	1,415
				24,809
Sheds	46	Ashes against wood	1	\$8
		Children playing with fire	1	25
		Defective stove	1	19
		Exposure	4	62
		Incendiary	7	2,189
		Matches, children with	4	157
		Short circuit	1	40
		Smokers' carelessness	6	595
		Sparks from burning rubbish	3	22
		Sparks from chimney	2	42
		Sparks from stove	1	225
		Spontaneous combustion	1	20
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	129

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
		Unknown	10	\$4,835
				\$8,368
Shingle-mills	8	Overheated machinery bearings	1	\$565
		Sparks from boiler	2	623
		Sparks from engine	1	1,000
		Unknown	4	33,046
				35,234
Smelting-plants	12	Ashes against wood	1	\$25
		Defective chimney	2	190
		Dust explosion	1	10
		Friction on fan-belt	1	20
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	1	35
		Overheated rock ignited rubber belt	1	1,000
		Short circuit	3	570
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	25
		Spontaneous combustion	1	75
				1,950
Stables	4	Clothes too near stove-pipe	1	\$25
		Incendiary	1	30
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	613
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	20
				688
Stores	112	Ashes against wood	2	\$967
		Boiler insufficiently protected	1	15
		Defective chimney	6	1,018
		Defective oil-burner	1	11
		Electrical appliances	10	1,337
		Exposure	4	2,583
		Fire-crackers	2	20
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	21
		Grease on stove	4	192
		Incendiary	1	274
		Kettle boiling dry	1	6
		Match carelessness	2	15
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	46
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	8,705
		Short circuit	5	2,327
		Smokers' carelessness	48	17,823
		Sparks from chimney	2	10
		Sparks from fireplace	1	127
		Sparks from stove	1	140
		Spontaneous combustion	2	1,533
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	5	4,124
		Unknown	11	15,516
				56,810
Stores and apartments	13	Defective chimney	1	\$105
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	141
		Oil-stove upset	1	2
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	4
		Smokers' carelessness	6	685
		Sparks from furnace	1	26,040
		Unknown	1	46
		Wood too near stove	1	1
				27,024
Stores and dwellings	22	Ashes against wood	1	\$8
		Clothes too near stove	1	5
		Defective chimney	3	7,631
		Defective wiring	1	20
		Electrical appliances	1	2,174
		Exposure	3	23,326
		Fire-crackers	1	15
		Match carelessness	1	4
		Matches, children with	1	26
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	45
		Smokers' carelessness	3	45

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.
		Sparks from chimney	2	\$24
		Spontaneous combustion	1	522
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	1,000
		Unknown	1	2,195
				<hr/>
				\$37,040
Stores and hotels	1	Unknown	1	3,126
Stores and offices	4	Smokers' carelessness	4	981
Stores and rooms	33	Ashes against wood	2	\$23
		Defective chimney	3	62
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	42
		Grease on stove	1	14
		Incendiary	1	4
		Matches, children with	1	10
		Smokers' carelessness	18	4,612
		Sparks from chimney	3	101
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	75
		Unknown	2	8,800
				<hr/>
				13,743
Telephone exchanges	1	Overheated machinery bearings	1	150
Theatres	2	Film falling on electric-light globe	1	\$95
		Unknown	1	5,000
				<hr/>
				5,095
Tractors	1	Fuel-oil spilling on hot engine	1	1,722
Warehouses	38	Defective wiring	2	\$860
		Dust explosion	1	84
		Electrical appliances	3	7,520
		Exposure	4	575
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	19
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	1	315
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	100
		Incendiary	2	3,835
		Short circuit	2	195
		Smokers' carelessness	2	321
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	1,473
		Sparks from chimney	1	2,981
		Sparks from furnace	1	30
		Sparks from mill burner	1	300
		Spontaneous combustion	2	151,073
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	5	11,931
		Unknown	8	50,200
				<hr/>
				231,812
Water-tanks	2	Sparks from mill burner	2	225
Welding-shops	1	Unknown	1	25
Wharves	3	Fire-crackers	1	\$15
		Sparks from mill burner	1	50
		Unknown	1	10
				<hr/>
				75
Woodworking plants	3	Overheated machine-knives	2	\$43
		Smokers' carelessness	1	64
				<hr/>
				107
Woodyards	1	Unknown	1	150
Workshops	3	Gasoline carelessness	1	\$10
		Smokers' carelessness	1	100
		Spontaneous combustion	1	127
				<hr/>
				237
Totals	3,397		3,397	<hr/>
				\$1,703,610

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.
1939.										
January	182	43	2	29	256	\$113,936	\$26,115	\$1,070	\$24,737	\$165,858
February	217	48	3	41	309	43,656	15,654	216	83,923	143,449
March	200	46	2	33	281	25,124	13,022	47	35,446	73,639
April	210	52	3	30	345	60,768	33,682	2,045	66,538	163,033
May	214	49	—	41	304	42,983	17,055	—	88,763	148,801
June	164	41	2	38	245	73,756	37,193	1,623	80,248	192,820
July	192	35	1	33	261	50,497	8,899	1,329	30,445	91,170
August	210	46	—	32	288	71,551	34,077	—	55,382	161,010
September	165	45	4	32	246	156,919	20,883	851	46,794	225,447
October	193	49	4	41	287	41,420	14,929	1,151	98,512	155,412
November	180	35	2	31	248	12,087	62,442	22	36,270	110,821
December	245	54	3	25	327	38,225	21,329	138	12,458	72,150
Totals, 1939	2,372	543	26	456	3,397	\$730,922	\$304,680	\$8,492	\$659,516	\$1,703,610
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	628,933	1,689,718
Totals, 1935	1,900	479	30	415	2,824	759,958	384,373	23,398	773,973	1,941,702
	10,339	2,446	157	2,185	15,127	\$4,463,997	\$1,594,885	\$146,408	\$3,803,852	\$10,009,142

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1935-39.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	LOSS OF LIFE.	
		Adults.	Children.
Automobile.....	Car upset.....	1	--
Dwelling.....	Coal-oil carelessness.....	2	--
Dwelling.....	Lamp explosion.....	1	--
Dwelling.....	Oil-stove explosion.....	1	--
Dwelling.....	Unknown.....	2	--
Totals, 1939.....		7	--
Totals, 1938.....		7	3
Totals, 1937.....		3	--
Totals, 1936.....		4	1
Totals, 1935.....		6	5

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