

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 9th to 15th—REMEMBER—“Reasonable Precaution Will Save Lives and Property”

ASHES OR ASSETS?

That depends upon your **INSURANCE**

COVERAGE

Consult

D. B. STEWART

H. L. SEAR

Phone 79-L

88 Great George St.

Provincial Fire Marshall Comments On Loss To Prov.

In the year 1937 there were reported to us 264 fires with a property loss of \$222,500. Mr. Charles A. Beer, Provincial Fire Marshall said in an interview recently. Of the loss \$131,350 was covered by insurance and the remainder \$91,150 was a direct loss to the persons whose property was destroyed.

In classifying the leading causes of fires in the Province in 1937 we find that sparks, involving almost entirely roofs until wooden shingles, caused a \$41,000 loss. The obvious remedy is the application of patent shingles, Mr. Beer said. It is very noticeable, especially in congested areas that people have begun to realize the value of the patent shingle and it should be emphasized from a fire standpoint I believe in time fires from sparks on wooden shingles will become one of the minor fire causes.

The next leading cause was

chimneys and flues. Loss from this source was approximately \$31,000. "This cause presents a very serious problem," Mr. Beer declared. "It is obvious property owners cannot be expected to strip their flues down for inspection, although some of the older buildings have serious defects in chimneys or flues. There is no reason, however, why property owners could not inspect their flues from the attic up and also in the basement. A great many of the fires from defective flues occur in these areas."

Last year the third largest offender was lightning, Mr. Beer stated. Loss from this cause was in excess of \$11,000 and occurred principally in rural districts. It could have been eliminated almost entirely by properly installed and approved lightning rod equipment, which is efficient to the extent of 99 per cent. The Province has a very fine Lightning Rod Act and an efficient inspection department which assures a person having their premises rodged of receiving the maximum of protection.

"Our old enemy smoking and matches is a serious offender, due almost entirely to carelessness," the Fire Marshall continued. The person who throws down a cigarette or cigar butt without making sure it is extinguished, and the person who leaves a lighted cigarette on the edge of a table or desk is certainly not using his hear for the purpose for which it was intended.

Stoves, furnaces and stovepipes come in the class of the major causes of fires, Mr. Beer said. There was no possible excuse for such being the case as with a little careful inspection this cause could be almost entirely done away with.

In classifying the 1937 loss as to occupancy we find that farm properties lead the list. Then comes mercantile and manufacturing, dwellings other than farm, and public buildings.

In European countries where the per capita loss exceeds \$1.00 authorities in charge are very much disturbed, the Fire Marshall said. In Prince Edward Island for the past 18 years the per capita loss ranged from \$1.87 to \$9.33, with an average of \$3.67. This means a fire loss during the past 18 years amounting to almost \$60.00 for every man, woman and child in the Province. If the people of Prince Edward Island were taxed this amount in addition to the present burden it is very probable more time and thought would be given fire prevention.

The National Fire Protection Association, which is international spends a great amount of money each year in providing rules and regulations setting forth safe means of installing the various types of hazardous machinery and appliances used in all walks of business life and home life today. The Fire Marshall's Office in Charlottetown is always ready to assist the people of the Province in making safe from fire their premises. Mr. Beer pointed out, at no cost to the public the proper rules and regulations will be obtained and the installation inspected so that the people will have every opportunity to avail themselves of the experience of the North American Continent. Concerning rural districts and including village, the towns with-



Mayor E. A. Foster

Inspector Gives Electrical Safety Rules

The largest recorded fire in history was the burning of Rome in A. D. 64. That was the occasion when Nero is supposed to have "fiddled" while his capitol was consumed. The second largest fire of all time was the Chicago Fire in 1871. The anniversary of the Chicago Fire is observed each year throughout the United States and Canada as Fire Prevention Week, during which a nation-wide effort is made to reduce the country's tremendous economic loss from fire.

As a part of Fire Prevention Week, Mr. E. S. Chandler, Provincial Electrical Inspector for Prince Edward Island, urges all householders in this territory to make a survey of their electrical equipment to see if they might constitute a fire hazard. We can be sure that history's largest fire was not caused by "crossed wires" because electricity was not used for seventeen centuries after Rome burned. It is a fact that electricity is blamed for more fires than it really causes, but there are definite fire hazards in the misuse of electricity with which every householder should be

sullied in the death of four people.

A mother in one of our leading college cities, for the five hundredth time perhaps, started a fire with coal oil. The fire she started burned to death three children besides herself.

A man dropped a match on a garage floor, walked on and left it. A few minutes later, a fire ignited her clothing which resulted in burns that caused her death a few hours later.

A man attempted to sleep and smoke at the same time—result: he set bed afire, was overcome with smoke, and removed in an unconscious state. Only the timely arrival of the fire department saved him from being cremated alive.

Do you always think about the safety and welfare of those about you when you discard your match and cigarette stub? Are you mindful of the safety of your children in your home to the extent of providing safety matches, and keeping them out of their reach? Do you have proper respect for the dangerous properties of gasoline and always handle it with care?

The Sublime Indifference Of Smokers

In 12,963 instances last year, \$2,700,000 worth of property went up in smoke due to careless smokers. Fires from this cause are top ranking in the list of causes, as reported to the Dominion Fire Commissioner for 1937. Ten years ago this type of fire numbered slightly less than 3,000 for the whole of Canada. But with a steady increase in the number of smokers, principally among the fair sex, there appears also to have developed an indifference to the hazards of fire from carelessly disposed cigarettes, tobacco of 430 per cent in the number of fires from this cause. "Smokers' carelessness" can now be classed as Public Enemy No. 1 as far as fires are concerned. The question arises, are women more careless than men in the matter of smoking? Unfortunately, there are no statistics to enlighten us on this score, but the fact remains that far too many fires are started through the carelessness of smokers and only a careful disposition of cigarettes, matches and tobacco can stop it. Perhaps if these nearly 13,000 people responsible for this loss could be gathered together in one place and could witness nearly 2-3-4 millions of dollars worth of property go up in smoke with the cries of several entrapped persons mingling with the crackling of the flames, more care would be exercised in their smoking habits.

out fire protection the Fire Marshall said it was obvious when they were generally total. Therefore great credit was due smaller communities in their endeavour to provide protection. "I cannot let this opportunity pass without complimenting the citizens of the small village of Mt. Stewart for providing their community with an extremely fine pumping engine and a highly organized fire department. This village has provided itself with an engine and sufficient hose, to say nothing of other sundry equipment so that the whole village enjoys protection. The pumping engine is second only to that large pumper in Charlottetown so far as this province is concerned."

Fires Caused By Carelessness Fire Chief Says

Seventy-five Per Cent Of Charlottetown's Fire Loss Could Be Prevented, Is Belief.

It was estimated 75 per cent of the fire loss in Charlottetown, placed at approximately \$50,000 last year was due to carelessness, Fire Chief Angus McEachern said when interviewed in connection with Fire Week observance.

Defective chimneys and wooden shingles together comprised the major cause of fires in the city, the chief continued. Other offenders were cigar and cigarette butts, overheated stovepipes, hot ashes and cuspidors.

At this season, when furnaces and stoves are coming into use again, the chief said, it would be well for the citizens of Charlottetown to make an inspection of their property. Chief McEachern commented, inspect also the smoke pipes and chimneys and make all needed repairs and replacements. In addition inspect basements, attics and closets and keep them clear of rubbish and unnecessary inflammable materials. See that nothing but metal ash and trash barrels are provided. Mentioning gasoline as a major fire hazard the Fire Chief pointed out, "gasoline is more dangerous than dynamite. Never use gasoline inside the house for cleaning and when compelled to use it for any other purpose do not forget you are handling a powerful explosive which may endanger your life and property. It takes 83 pounds of dynamite to equal the explosive power of one gallon of gasoline. Don't take a chance!" the speaker advised.

The A B C of fire prevention is "always be careful." Fire prevention is an asset to a community, carelessness a liability. It is easier to remove rubbish before a fire than after. Eliminating fire dangers always safeguards life and property.

In connection with inspection of chimneys and flues the Fire Chief particularly stressed the need for inspection of the chimney where it goes through the roof. The house man has settled and leaving the upper portion of the flue supported by the roof timbers and causing an opening which permits sparks escaping. Many fires started in Charlottetown dwellings at the peak of the roof, it was pointed out.

Adding a word of warning to citizens to investigate to determine definitely if there was a fire before putting in a call, Mr. McEachern said "we are ready to risk our life to save yours. A false alarm may cost a life." The speaker requested parents to warn their children of the great danger of rushing to fires on bicycles, either in advance of the fire equipment or following it. Another source of worry to fire fighters was the practice of motorists of rushing headlong to fires, often delaying firemen.

Observance of a few simple rules by the general public would not only do much to prevent fires but generally assist firemen in fighting fires, which will occur despite all human precaution.

Do You Do This?

A careful study of fire records shows that at least 80 per cent of fires are preventable. The following examples are given from among the thousands of known causes to show how easy fires can start and the fatal results that follow.

A man dropped a cigarette in a rubbish pile in a rooming house and burned to death eleven people.

A man dropped his cigarette in a couch in the lobby of a hotel. Fire resulted at 3 a. m. and re-

IMPERIAL ESSO OIL HEAT

Costs Less

and is S-A-F-E, Odorless, Economical and Quiet.

It is entirely AUTOMATIC. A clean, unlitteled cellar

REDUCES FIRE HAZARD

Approved by Underwriter's, Laboratories, and National Research Council.

Consult Us On Your Heating Problem.

PALMER ELECTRIC

Phone 1444.

117 Kent St.

T. EDGAR MacNUTT

Representing

Imperial Insurance Office

Scot.ish Canadian Assurance Corporation

SERVICE - SECURITY - PROTECTION

Charlottetown

This is FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



To help make your home safe from FIRE, observe Fire Prevention Rules not only this week, but every week in the year.

W. K. ROGERS AGENCIES, Ltd.

INSURANCE

in all its branches

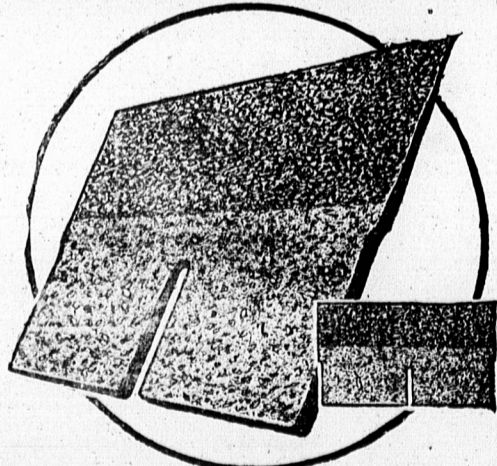
181 Queen Street

Phones 310 and 341

Charlottetown, P. E. Island

Protect Your Property From

FIRE



ASPHALT SHINGLES and INSUL BRICK SIDING

Prevent many fires from flying sparks and heat from nearby burning buildings.

For prices and information call at

THE ROGERS HARDWARE

COMPANY LIMITED

PHONE 105

CHARLOTTETOWN

Don't Run Risks

Fire is man's oldest servant but it remains untamed—and as treacherous as a tiger. It strikes swiftly—unexpectedly, bringing tragedy in its train . . . a careless match, or even a bit of defective wiring is enough to set it free . . . don't risk your home or place of business protect yourself against the ever present hazard of fire by the only known means . . . adequate insurance in strong, reliable Companies.

The oldest and largest Insurance Agency in Prince Edward Island Handling all kinds of Insurance. Representing sixteen of the leading Insurance Companies of the world, also Lloyd's of London

HYNDMAN & CO. LTD.

Lower Queen Street

Charlottetown

J. M. Nicholson, District Manager, Summerside
Allison McLean, District Manager, Montague

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 9 to 15, 1938

The Mayor and Councillors of Charlottetown are co-operating with a nation-wide movement to observe NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, October 9th to 15th

Its purpose is to spread information on fire prevention and fire control. The annual loss due to preventable fires has reached alarming proportions. It is time the nation learned to curb its carelessness. There are lessons in fire prevention we all can learn. Let us learn them.

Charlottetown is fortunate in having a most efficient Fire Department, but it is the duty of every citizen to practice fire-prevention at all times in order to stop fires before they start.



E. A. FOSTER, Mayor