

CLEAN-UP FIRE HAZARDS

Fire Prevention Week

By Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, the week of October 6th to 12th has been set aside as Fire Prevention Week. This week provides an annual occasion to impress upon public consciousness the enormous cost of the fire waste, to the end that conditions may be improved and fire carelessness reduced.

The world has passed through a year of the second Great War and we have all read accounts of the devastation and havoc that has been wrought by means of incendiary and high explosive bombs and we are shocked by the details of such accounts. Yet in the twenty years since Fire Prevention Week was first established in Canada, this country has recorded more than 800,000 fires involving a property loss of over \$726,000,000 and a loss in human lives of more than 7,700. Our complacency in this respect is only matched by the complacency with which we watched Hitler attain power.

Fire is no respecter of persons. Every man has a responsibility towards his neighbours and that responsibility should cause every right-thinking person to pause and consider what he owes the community in which he lives. We owe it to ourselves but in a greater degree to our fellow-citizens to permit no condition to exist upon our premises that will invite a visitation of fire. A great majority of fires are so easy to prevent that it is certainly a moral crime to tolerate the things which bring them about.

Cities and towns, like individuals, reap what they sow. To permit the erection of fire-traps, to fail to provide an abundant and reliable water supply and means of using it or to fail to apply the everyday rules of fire prevention, is to constantly face a menace of heavy fires and sweeping conflagrations.

Why tolerate a condition which not only levies tribute upon life and

property but in effect imposes an added cost to the conduct of every feature of business activity and increases the burden of the people in providing the necessities of life.

We cannot afford to go on and be indifferent to it all. Fire Prevention Week is a particular week set aside to call attention to the menace of fire. And just as we must throw our whole strength against the forces which aim to destroy our liberty, so should we be prepared to battle that other terrible demon—Fire.

The Dominion Fire Prevention Association in co-operation with provincial fire marshals, local fire chiefs, insurance organizations and other organizations of national scope is constantly working in the furtherance of the aims of Fire Prevention. Are you doing your part?

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 may follow.

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

A man dropped his cigarette in a couch in the lobby of a hotel. Fire resulted at 3 a. m. and resulted 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 six-year old child found it and ignited her clothing which resulted in burns and caused her death a few hours later.

A man attempted to sleep and smoke at the same time—result,

Teach Children Need of Fire Prevention

October 6th-12th is this year designated as Fire Prevention Week.

Fire Prevention Week is held as near to the anniversary of the great Chicago Conflagration which was said to have originated when a cow owned by a Mrs. O'Leary kicked over a lantern, setting fire to the barn and thus starting one of the greatest conflagrations known to mankind.

We have now been at war for something over thirteen months and may lessons have been learned so far, and among these is the great danger of fire when a community is bombed. Each community should be well prepared to offset the additional hazards and it is a well known fact that normal fire-fighting facilities are totally inadequate to handle a fire situation arising out of open hostilities.

Prince Edward Island in the past few years has been steadily improving its per capita fire loss with regard to the dollar value of the loss, but it is yet far from reaching the point where the losses are such that it is unnecessary to carry on Fire Prevention Campaigns. Unfortunately, the public do not, as a whole, take this matter as seriously as it should be taken and this is proven by the fact that over eighty per cent of all fire losses each year are known to have been preventable. In plain English, this means that our people are careless enough and thoughtless enough to cause a tremendous fire wastage, and although publicity campaigns have been carried on each year for many years the resulting improvements would not appear to justify the amount of time and work spent on the carrying out of these campaigns.

It is my firm belief that if sufficient thought was given to this subject the decision would be unanimous for the inclusion in the curriculum of our public schools of the subject of Fire Prevention. I believe that if this was done, in the course of a decade, the results would be amazing.

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.

Some grown-ups placed Strike-Anywhere matches on a kitchen table. Two small children acted upon the implied suggestion and carried some to their playhouse, innocently started a fire. Result, little boy burned fatally.

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

PADEREWSKI RELEASED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—(AP)—The Polish embassy said today Ignace Jan Paderewski, aged and famous Polish pianist, had been released by Spanish authorities and allowed to continue his journey to the United States.

Word to this effect was received from the Polish legation in Madrid. The message gave no further details, the embassy said.

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.

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Prevent Fire

These Simple Suggestions, if Followed By Everyone In The Family, Will Make Your Home Safe From Fire.

Remove rubbish, waste papers out before you throw them away. Keep matches where small children cannot reach them. Never smoke in the garage, barn, or attic, nor in bed.

Remove rubbish, waste papers and all unnecessary combustible materials. Provide metal ash and trash cans. Burn rubbish only in a safely covered brick or metal incinerator. Watch the fire.

Examine all stoves, furnaces, and smoke-pipes to make sure they are safe and well away from wood-work or other burnable materials. Have needed repairs made at once.

Value the advice of your fire chief who says that many fires are caused by dirty or defective chimneys. Have the chimneys cleaned regularly, and have all defects repaired.

Escape the danger of flammable liquid fires and explosions by keeping no gasoline in the house. Do dry cleaning with safe liquids or send the work to the cleaner. Never start fires with kerosene. Notify the electric company of

electrical trouble and the gas company of gas leaks. Replace "blown" fuses with new ones—not pennies. Avoid homemade wiring jobs. Don't look for gas leaks with a match.

Teach everyone in the family to be careful of fire, to watch stoves and other rubbish.

Fireproof your home as far as possible by fire-safe roofing, fire stopping in hollow walls and partitions to stop the spread of flame and a non-combustible basement ceiling.

Inquire of your fire chief, when buying a fire extinguisher, to be sure of getting the right kind. Don't hesitate to ask your firemen whenever you have questions on Fire Prevention.

Remember always where the nearest fire alarm box is and how to send an alarm. If telephoning be sure the address is clearly understood. Use a neighbour's phone rather than one in the burning building.

Explain to everyone in the house what to do in case of fire, how to put out fire in clothing by wrapping in a rug or blanket, what to do when grease catches fire in the kitchen.

Fire Prevention On The Farm

In the ten-year period 1930-1939, farm fire losses, exclusive of dwellings, in Canada amounted to nearly \$31,000,000 in 41,781 fires. Of the known causes there are eight which are responsible for 85 per cent of the total losses in farm fires. This loss may be greatly reduced by the exercise of care and forethought. The eight major causes and suggestions for the elimination of hazards in connection with them are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs:

1. Defective Chimneys and Flues. Chimneys should be cleaned out regularly and not allowed to burn themselves out, as sparks often escape through cracks in the chimney and set fire in the attic, or they may drop on dry combustible roofing, setting fire to it. The safest type of chimney is a good brick chimney built from the ground up and lined with fire clay or vitrified clay of a thickness of at least 3-4 of an inch.

2. Sparks on Combustible Roofs. This hazard can obviously be eliminated by means of incombustible roofing material instead of a material that will ignite readily when exposed to sparks or flying brands from other fires.

3. Lightning. The tremendous toll of life and property damage annually caused by lightning can be materially reduced by means of well installed lightning rods which have proven to be nearly 100 per cent efficient.

4. Spontaneous Ignition. On

farms this occurs most frequently in undercured or damp hay, although it also takes place in numerous other substances. To guard against this hazard, the following precautions should be observed: (a) Cure all hay well. (b) Do not pack the hay. (c) Do not place straw, fodder, bundles of grain or grass hay either at the bottom or top of mows of alfalfa, clover or soybean hays. (d) Guard against wetting of hay in storage from a leaky roof or open doors and windows. (e) Ventilate hay as much as possible immediately after it has been stored. (f) Avoid, if possible, wide, deep mows.

5. Matches. Make sure that your matches are completely out before discarding them. A good practice is to break them in two after the flame has been extinguished. Always strike matches away from you. Keep matches away from children and do not permit smoking in barns or near combustible material. During threshing operations insist on everybody clearing their pockets of match and place them in a safe container.

6. Gasoline or Kerosene. Gasoline or kerosene should never be used to start or revive a fire. Avoid the use of gasoline, benzene or other inflammable liquids for cleaning floors or clothes. There are safe and cheap solvents on the market for these purposes. Never fill lamps, lanterns, kerosene or gasoline stoves, while they are burning. If necessary to keep small

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quantities of gasoline, it should be kept in an approved safety can painted red and plainly marked "Gasoline." Small quantities of kerosene should be kept in closed cans of a size and shape different from that holding gasoline in order to lessen the chance of mistaking the one for the other.

7. Heating Equipment. Heating equipment should be properly installed, operated and maintained. Wooden floors under stoves should be at least 3 feet from woodwork or wood-lath and plaster partitions. Avoid long runs of smoke pipes. The sections should be securely joined and the pipes supported at frequent intervals. Smoke pipes should be at least 18 inches from unprotected woodwork. They should not pass through floors or closets or enter a chimney in an attic, and they should be cleaned at least twice a year.

8. Electrical Wiring. Electrical

wiring and repair work should be done by a competent electrical contractor. Circuits should not be overloaded and fuses of the correct amperage (15 amperes for the ordinary branch circuits) should be used. Disconnect irons, curling tongs, heating pads and other ap-

pliances when not in use. Remove all possible fire hazards but be prepared to fight a fire should it occur. Chemical extinguishers, pump-tank extinguishers, fire pails or barrels of water and ladders should be available on every farm.

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