



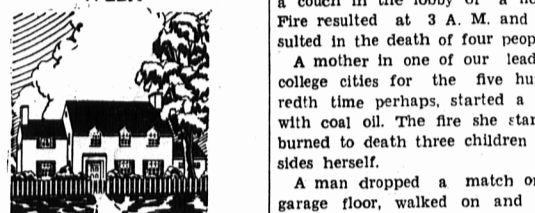
# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



## The Importance Of Personal Habits

The subject of personal habits is a very ticklish one, one which needs careful handling. It is an old saying that "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," and in this case we will take the fool's chance. In fact, that is what many people are doing in their careless personal habits with fire every day of their lives. Perhaps the most effective way to approach the matter is to relate the results of some personal habits in other people, as people generally like to hear about the other fellow.

### This is FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



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 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 that caused her death a few hours later. 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. Some grown-ups placed Strike-Anywhere matches on kitchen table. Two small children acted upon the implied suggestion and carried some to their playhouse.

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## Inspector Advises On Electrical Safety

Today, October ninth, is the anniversary of America's biggest and most costly fire. It was on October 9, 1871, that the fire started which reduced a large part of Chicago to ashes. Each year the week which contains this regrettable anniversary—this year the week of October 8-14, is observed nationally as Fire Prevention Week.

Cleaning up and fixing around the house, are the orders of the week, and Electrical Inspector, E. S. Chandler, reminds us that this check-up should include due attention to electrical wiring and appliances. Any hazards of an electrical nature which may have developed during the year, should be eliminated now. The use of electricity in homes has been gaining at a rapid rate, but this need not mean an increase in electrical fires if simple safety rules are observed, says Mr. Chandler. The following suggestions have been made to keep your electrical installation in safe working order.

1. Lamp sockets which have broken keys, or have pull chains which no longer work, and sockets which are coming apart, should be replaced. The same applies to switches that don't make good contact, and receptacles that will not hold attachment plugs securely.
2. If temporary extensions to the wiring have been made through the use of flexible cords, and these have been left in place to serve as permanent wiring, they should be removed and a safer, more permanent type of wiring should be substituted.
3. Examine all attachment and extension cords in the house for hazards due to injury or wear. If cords on lamps are worn to the point of exposure of copper conductors or damage to the insulation, they should be replaced at once. This also applies to the heater cords used on flatirons and other appliances. If heater plugs and attachment plugs are broken so that "live" terminals are exposed, or if bolts to hold these plugs together have been lost, the plugs should be discarded and replaced by new ones. In purchasing new cords, make sure that their quality is up to the minimum standards for safety established by Underwriter's or Hydro Laboratories. Approved cords carry the Underwriter's or Hydro label.
4. Short circuits of wires or short circuits in appliances cause fuses to blow out. The blowing of fuses should not be looked upon as an unfortunate occurrence but as an important signal that some unsafe condition has arisen. Find the faulty equipment and remove it from the circuit before the fuse is replaced.
5. If fuses blow out when too many lamps and appliances are connected to a circuit, it means that the circuit is over-loaded. Either a fewer number of appliances must be connected, or an addition circuit must be installed.
6. Fuses should be examined to see if they have been tampered with in any way. The fuse is the safety valve of the wiring system and fuses should never be altered in any way. There will be no temptation to "defeat" fuses if a few extra fuses are kept on hand. The recommended rating for fuses used in homes is 15 amperes.

## IS THERE A FIRE BUG IN YOUR HOME?

The greatest fire loss in Canada last year, over \$2,700,000 was caused by 4,700 fires traced to defective or carelessly handled stoves, furnaces, boilers and pipes.

Disastrous fires from cookstoves and heating stoves come from many causes, the most common one being turning on the draft and leaving the room. If the stove for either cooking or heating is too small it is dangerous because by forcing the fire the stove overheats with grave risk of setting fire to wood partitions or the soot in the pipes or flues. If large stoves are used, the fire will not have to be forced, thereby eliminating this hazard.

The floor should be protected from coals or sparks by a sheet of metal or asbestos cloth placed under the stove. A stove should not be placed nearer than 18" from walls or partitions of either wood or plaster and the wall should be protected by a sheet of tin, zinc or sheet iron hung loosely on hooks allowing space for the air to pass between the wall and its metal protector. It should extend from a few inches above the floor to at least a yard above the stove or range. All lath and plaster or wood ceiling over a large range should be guarded by a metal hood or ventilating pipes. Many fires result from grease or fat boiling over on the cooking stove. Throwing water on the stove only makes the blaze more dangerous as it causes the flame to spread. Ashes, baking soda, flour or salt should be used to smother the flames. Stovepipes should be cleaned every Autumn and where the pipes become thin or perforated, which condition is caused by the steam from sulphur-salt fumes from coal, the affected pipes should be replaced. See that pipes passing through a roof, wall, floor or ceiling are protected by a metal collar surrounding them, in which there is at least one inch of air space.

## Fire Prevention Week

In Canada and the United States the week of October 8th to 14th is being observed as Fire Prevention Week. The Dominion Fire Prevention Association in cooperation with Provincial Fire Marshals, local Fire Chiefs, and others are co-operating with civic organizations in the furtherance of the aims of Fire Prevention.

About 350 people are burned to death and a much larger number are injured by fire in Canada every year. The recorded loss of property by fire in Canada during the 15 years, 1921 to 1936 exceeded \$850,000,000. In other words, at our present burning rate, approximately one human life is sacrificed and \$110,000 worth of property is destroyed every day in the year. 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 firetraps, 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. Are you doing your part?

## Check Up In Your Home

The best place for fire prevention to start is in the home. Charity should start there according to the ancient saying, and certainly safety should come first. In order to safeguard the home, inspection should be made, not only Fire Prevention Week but periodically throughout the year. All heating and lighting equipment examined, chimney and pipes kept clean of soot; no smoke pipes permitted through combustible walls; disposition of ashes safeguarded. The fuse cabinet should be of metal or asbestos lined. Fuses in all fuse blocks, none of them bridged, and not over 15 ampere fuses used in branch circuits. All drop cords should be insulated, and not supported by any conductive material. Electric irons always detached when not in use and kept on metal stands.

**TEACH CHILDREN** Matches should be kept out of the reach of children and the children should be regularly taught the danger of fire and not to play with matches. The safest type of match to use is the "Safety Match" which may be lighted only on the box. Closets should be kept clean and all rubbish removed from the entire premises. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. Perhaps that is the reason it always

## PRIVATE TO GENERAL

PARIS—(CP)—General Joseph Vuillemin is now in charge of the French air forces, but entered the French army as a private. After six years he got a commission, and was a bomber pilot in the First Great War.

## SELDOM AT A LOSS

LONDON—(CP)—Lord MacMillan, minister of information, is credited with having a file of "after dinner" speech material. Called upon to speak he only has to forearm himself with a couple of entries, and expand on them.

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## Fire Prevention Week

### OCT. 8th. --- 14th.

THE MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of CHARLOTTETOWN are co-operating with a nation-wide movement to observe NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK—October 8th to 14th. 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.

**E. A. FOSTER, Mayor**

## Heating Hazards

The following suggestions are those which experience has found thoroughly practical and worthy of your most careful attention.

First—If you use gas plates or portable stoves, is the support for them of incombustible material or protection by incombustible material such as metal or asbestos? If not, heat radiation will frequently cause ignition.

Second—Are you using flexible rubber tubing instead of permanent metal piping for connections to gas mains? Rubber tubing deteriorates rapidly, permitting gas to escape and connections may easily be broken with the possibility of poison and fire. If absolutely necessary to use flexible tubing be sure the shut off valve is located in the solid connection of piping only and not at the stove.

Third—If you have one of the old type portable gasoline or similar type stoves about the house, the simplest precaution is to get rid of it, as sooner or later it is apt to cause trouble. If absolutely necessary to have one of these burners use the coal-oil type it is much safer, and while we speak of coal-oil never start or hurry a stove fire with it. It is certain disaster if you do.

Fourth—Is the electric pressing iron kept on a metal stand when not in use, and are all connections in A 1 condition? It is a wise precaution to have a service light installed in connection with these irons to indicate when the current is off or on.

Fifth—Do you leave the electric iron connected while answering the telephone? More fires are caused from this than any other electric heaters where they may come in contact with combustible material? Remember all heating devices are potential fire breeders and require constant care.

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