

# Startling Loss of Life And Property from Fire

**Proclamation by Dominion Details the Loss in Canada Through Fire. Co-operation of All Sought to Reduce This Loss. Fire Prevention Week Proclaimed.**

In earnest effort to arouse the public to the sad loss in property and lives from fire, and to urge greater thought and care to avoid destructive fires, each year there is proclaimed in Canada a week known as "Fire Prevention Week." This year this week, during which different methods are used to direct public attention to the fire menace, is to be observed next week. The plans and purposes of the week are clearly and emphatically set forth in the Dominion proclamation, given herewith in full as published in The Canadian Gazette this week:

**Proclamation**  
L. P. Duff, Administrator  
(L.S.)

**CANADA**  
GEORGE THE SIXTH, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

To All to Whom these Presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern, Greeting:

**A PROCLAMATION**  
(C. P. Plaxton, Acting Deputy Minister of Justice, Canada) — Whereas authoritative statistics compiled and published by the Dominion Fire Commissioner show that during the past seventeen years, seven hundred and twenty-seven thousand fires in Canada have destroyed insurable property valued at more than six hundred and seventy-seven million dollars and that during the same period seven thousand two hundred persons have lost their lives and over twenty-two thousand others have been seriously injured as the result of fire;

And Whereas the waste thus occasioned, represented in terms of human life, money, labour, time and

natural resources, cannot be re-created but is an absolute and irrevocable loss largely distributed over the entire population through the agency of fire insurance which imposes an inescapable and burdensome tax upon industry and thrift and substantially adds to the cost of living;

And Whereas it is shown by reliable statistics that at least eight per cent. of the fires which occur originate either directly or indirectly through inexcusable ignorance and neglect and are therefore preventable and that the exercise of reasonable prudence and proper carefulness on the part of responsible individuals would substantially reduce the losses occasioned by fire;

And Whereas economic and humanitarian considerations imperatively demand that human life and material resources in Canada be so far as possible conserved in order that the general welfare of the people may be measurably increased;

And Whereas it is desirable that the attention of the public be directed to the extent and underlying causes of the preventable loss of life and property by fire and to the best and most practicable means for its control and that a specific period of the year be set apart and properly designated for the dissemination of such information;

Now Know Ye that We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, have thought fit to appoint and do appoint the week commencing Sunday, the ninth of October, and ending on Saturday, the fifteenth of October, in this present year as "Fire Prevention Week," and we do recommend to all our loving subjects that some time during that week as may be found most practicable—

1. All dwellings and their surroundings be carefully inspected by their occupants and all conditions likely to cause or promote the spread of fires removed.

2. All public buildings, stores, warehouses and factories be inspected and cleaned of rubbish in order to reduce fire hazards and maintain health and safety.

3. All hotels, theatres, asylums, hospitals and other institutional buildings be inspected and provision made for all changes necessary to protect the occupants from danger in the event of fire.

4. Fire drills be held for the children in all schools, for the inmates of institutions and for the employees in all large stores and factories in order that a greater degree of safety may be ensured by acquainting the occupants with the best and most expedient mode of exit in time of danger.

5. Special instruction on the subject of fire prevention be given by the teachers and by municipal officials in the schools and that such appropriate literature as may be made available be distributed to the pupils.

6. Boy Scout leaders give instructions to the troops under their control as to the best means of co-operating with municipal fire departments in the prevention and extinguishment of fires and especially as to the desirability of qualifying for the Fireman's Badge.

7. All legislation and regulations enacted or issued by Dominion, provincial or municipal authorities dealing with fire prevention be given publicity by the municipal officials and that by public meetings or otherwise as may to them seem most fit, they endeavour to impress upon the citizens the national importance of safeguarding life and property from loss by fire.

Of all of which our loving subjects and all others whom these presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed. Witness: Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Counsellor The Right Honourable Sir Lyman Poore Duff, a Member of Our Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of Canada and Administrator of the Government of Our Dominion of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, this Eighth Day of September, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight and in the Second Year of Our Reign.

By Command,  
E. H. COLEMAN,  
Under-Secretary of State.

## Urge More Action to Prevent Fires

**Resolutions Passed at Ottawa Conventions.**

(From Ontario Fire Marshal's Office) Association of Canadian Fire Marshals—At the annual convention held in Ottawa on July 18, 1938, the following were elected the officers of the Fire Marshals Association for the ensuing year: Immediate Past President—Ernest Lavigne, C.E., Fire Commissioner of Quebec; President—W. J. Scott, K.C., Fire Marshal of Ontario; Vice-president—F. X. Ahern, Deputy Fire Commissioner, Quebec; Secretary-treasurer—J. E. Ritchie, Fire Prevention Engineer, Ontario.

The programme at the meeting included the following papers and addresses: "Problems of Air Conditioning" by E. W. Fowler, Engineer with The National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York; "International Relationships among Fire Marshals" by Sherman V. Coultas, Fire Marshal, Illinois; "Fingerprints in Arson Investigation" by W. H. Stringer, Deputy Fire Marshal of Ontario; "Criminal Investigation" by Inspector R. Armitage, Royal Canadian Mounted Police; "Fire Insurance Companies and the Fire Marshals" by A. Leslie Ham, Canadian Underwriters' Association, Montreal; "Recent Criminal Code Amendments re Arson" by W. J. Scott, K.C., Fire Marshal of Ontario; "Statistical Report of Fire Losses" by J. Grove Smith, Dominion Fire Commissioner, Ottawa.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Be It Resolved that, in view of the continued high number of preventable fires that occur in all parts of the Dominion, particularly in residences, and of the proven value of a special inspection and fire prevention campaign, as demonstrated in a large number of municipalities, this Association of Canadian Fire Marshals, assembled in Ottawa on July 18th, 1938, urge upon the members of the Association to promote a still more intensive and widespread campaign during Fire Prevention Week—October 9-15, 1938, to enlist the co-operation of the Fire Chiefs and other municipal authorities in a comprehensive Fire Prevention Week programme, with special emphasis on the inspection of dwellings, with a view of having hazardous fire conditions eliminated or corrected so that needless waste occasioned by preventable fires may be materially reduced."

A similar Resolution was unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Dominion Fire Prevention Association held in Ottawa on the following day—July 19th, 1938—and copies of these two resolutions were sent to all fire chiefs throughout Canada.

## Chairman of Committee



Councillor Wm Roberts, chairman of the Fire and Light Committee on the town council. He is an enthusiast for fire protection and fire prevention.

## Legion Boy Scouts Hear About Fire Prevention

In keeping with Fire Prevention Week the members of the "B.E.S.L." troop of Boy Scouts heard a very interesting talk on "Fire Prevention" on Monday last in the Scout hall. Capt. J. Morton, of the Timmins Fire Dept., was the speaker and it is expected that some of the lads will take up Fire Prevention Work in the future.

## Fire Cost 246 Lives in Canada Last Year

**Nearly Half of These Tragic Victims Were Children.**

(By J. Grove Smith) Last year the Fire Demon numbered among his victims in Canada 246 men, women and children. However gloomy a picture this brings before our mind's eye, it is brightened somewhat in the fact that this was a reduction of 101 over the previous year. In 1936, 189 children lost their lives by fire, while in 1937, 105 children's lives were claimed. This is a staggering admission and the responsibility for such tragedies can in many cases be laid directly to the negligence of parents who far too often leave their helpless little ones alone in the house while they visit neighbours or go to a show. These holocausts frequently occur in rural districts where neighbors are long distances away and the parents are unable to reach their burning home in time to save their children from a horrible death.

Every parent should realize that it is his duty to teach his children the principles of fire prevention. They should not be allowed to play with fire, matches should be kept out of their reach and the playing with celluloid toys should be discouraged. By a strict adherence to the use of common sense, parents can thus save themselves the bitter anguish and life-long regret which must be ever present when a child perishes by their neglect.

## Fire Prevention Should Start with the Children

(From Insurance & Financial Review) Fire Prevention Week in Canada is set for the period from October 9th to the 15th, and during this time all classes of the public will be instructed in fire prevention methods in one form or another.

Instructions will be given to school children, to business men and factory workers, etc., and particular attention will be paid to Boy Scout groups, service clubs and municipal authorities. Radio programmes have been arranged and various individuals will help to tell the public throughout the Dominion how to guard against fire hazards. Fire Prevention Week may be all right in its way, but fire prevention should be preached and taught for 52 weeks in the year, as the fire losses in the past have proven such an economical waste not only in Canada but throughout the North American continent. We have a Fire Prevention Association, which is supposed to function the year around, but little or no information is given from it for the other fifty-one weeks of the year—at least it does not reach the public in the manner which we think it should.

To our way of thinking there is only one means of teaching fire prevention especially in the homes, and that is beginning with the children. Let us have fire prevention methods introduced into our public schools; let it be made compulsory by the Boards of Education. Once you instil into the minds of children a matter such as fire prevention and the hazards connected with it, they are liable to carry it through life, and as they grow older, so will their ideas of fire prevention and accident prevention grow with them. It is hard to "teach old dogs new tricks," and it is equally hard to instil into the minds of adults and show them the cost of carelessness, especially with respect to fire and accidents.

You may not be able to do much to banish the horrors of war, but you certainly can do a lot to eliminate the horrors of fire.

Be sure the match is out, and thus avoid being "out" yourself, or putting your neighbor "out."

Observe Fire Prevention Week next week, and this week and every week do everything you can to avoid danger of fires.

## Fire Prevention for the Settlers

**Recent Action by the Ontario Government a Good Move.**

A Fire Prevention Week issue would not be complete without a reference to the recent action of the provincial government in making all fire rangers also deputy fire marshals and extending their authority to the inspection of homes as well as premises for fire risks. Every year for a sad number of years there have been precious lives lost in the North through fires at settlers' homes. Children have been the special victims of fires at settlers' homes. Stovepipes running through flimsy partitions, improper position of stoves, unsafe chimneys, have made the risk of fire in many settlers' homes a very serious one, while lack of attention to the placing of doors and windows reduces the chance of escape from the burning homes. These facts came to the attention of Chief Coroner E. R. Tucker in his careful and earnest investigation of each fire at settlers' homes in his territory. Mr. Tucker not only studied the buildings where tragic fires occurred but he also inspected other settlers' homes. He found that in practically every case the fire risk could be removed at practically no cost except a little work. His suggestion to the authorities was that the fire rangers, who already inspected the lands of settlers to avoid fire risks and the burning of valuable timber, should have their authority extended to the homes of the settlers so as to minimize the risk of home fires and the loss of valuable lives. The Advance and other newspapers of the North took up the

question and carried on a campaign for this measure of fire protection for the settlers. Recently, the Ontario Government took the action referred to and this will no doubt result in the saving of precious lives. With the fire rangers inspecting the homes of settlers no doubt the necessary changes will be made to assure a greater measure of safety from fire danger in these isolated homes. It is something well worth while, and deserving of special mention for Fire Prevention Week.

## Lesson of Haileybury Fire of 1922 Mentioned

An editorial in The Haileyburian last week says:

"Haileybury people should not overlook one anniversary which we will reach on Tuesday next. On October 4, 1922, the town witnessed one of the worst catastrophes which could strike any community, and while the passing years and our comparative freedom from the scourge of fire have tended to dim our memory to some extent, it would be a good thing if we all gave just a little thought on this anniversary. We are by no means secure or immune from the fire hazard, even though conditions are entirely different from what they were 16 years ago. We believe that the lesson of that autumn day has not been forgotten, but perhaps it is becoming less real as the years pass. The present is the time of year when a little extra attention given to our homes may easily save us heavy loss later on, and we would suggest that every citizen take a little time off somewhere around the anniversary and see what might be done in the way of fire prevention."

A little fire prevention is worth a lot to everybody.

## Careless Smokers Cause Many Fires

**One of the Chief Causes of Fires in Canada.**

(By Dominion Fire Commissioner)

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 and matches that is hardly imaginable. With an increase 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 two and three-quarter 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.



## FIRE!

The Great Leveller

Fire, like death, is no respecter of persons—it falls alike on the homes and buildings of the rich as well as the humble.

ONLY THE THOUGHTFUL

Escape the aftermath of fire—by insuring against financial loss. Those who are so well-to-do that the loss of property by fire will not bother them, are the only ones who can afford to be without insurance. The less money you have the greater is your need for insurance—YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT INSURANCE.

Call in let us show you how little fire protection really costs.

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16 Bruce Ave. Box 99  
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# Help Keep Down Fire Loss In Tisdale

Nearly half the fires are preventable. Ordinary caution will greatly reduce this township's annual fire loss. We have an efficient courageous fire department but they need your support.

Let us do our part. Keep chimneys and flues clean. Don't allow inflammable rubbish to accumulate. Be careful with gasoline and matches. Carefulness can stop the fire toll.

## Township of Tisdale

F. C. Evans,  
Clerk Treasurer.

V. Evans,  
Reeve

# If this should happen to you Are You Protected?

**A ROARING BLAZE . . .** a blackened, ruined building. At such time, your policy, alone, stands between you and heavy loss!

By insuring your property with us you obtain a protection that has been time and fire-tested for years . . . a protection that is shared by thousands of property owners throughout the Porcupine Camp . . . a protection that has been proved by the prompt and equitable payment of thousands of dollars in fire losses. . .

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