

Tisdale Observes Fire Prevention Week Oct. 6-12

Fire in Past 19 Years Has Cost Canada 7,726 Lives and \$726,000,000

Most of This Loss Could Have Been Avoided by Greater Care and Attention. Fire Prevention Week Featured in Hope of Reducing Unnecessary Waste of Property and Life.

Fire Prevention Week has been observed in Canada for a number of years past. The idea behind it is to rouse the public interest and effort to reduce the unnecessary loss of life and waste of property from the ravages of fires, most of which are preventable. If the public really realized the extent of the life and property toll and the fact that by far the greater part of the loss might be avoided, the death and damage would be greatly reduced from year to year until eventually they would be practically eliminated. This is the idea behind Fire Prevention Week. It is interesting to note that communities like Timmins, Schumacher and South Porcupine where the ideas of Fire Prevention have been given special prominence are outstanding in the North for their comparative freedom from fire. Fire Chiefs like Alex Borland, Maxwell Smith and Chas. Jucksch have done much to bring a large measure of safety from fire, and perhaps, their most valuable service in this particular has been through winning a large measure of co-operation from the public.

Fire Prevention Week is not "just another week." It has a definite meaning and purpose. Not only has it the support of the Dominion Fire Commissioner and the Provincial Fire Marshal, but it has a dignity given to no other special "week"—it is formally proclaimed each year by the Governor-General. In a recent "Extra" issue of The Canada Gazette the proclamation is given as follows:—

PROCLAMATION
L. P. DUFF,
Deputy Governor General
(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 any-wise concern, Greeting.

A PROCLAMATION
W. Stuart Edwards, Deputy Minister of Justice, Canada.

Whereas authoritative statistics compiled and published by the Dominion Fire Commissioner show that during the past nineteen years, eight hundred and sixteen thousand fires in Canada have destroyed insurable property valued at more than seven hundred and twenty-six million dollars and that during the same period seven thousand seven hundred and twenty-six persons have lost their lives and over twenty-four 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 insupportable 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 eighty 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 care 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 sixth of October, and ending on Saturday, the twelfth of October, in the present year as "Fire Prevention Week," and we do recommend to all our loving subjects that at some time during that week as may be found most practicable:

- All dwellings and their surroundings be carefully inspected by their occupants and all conditions likely to cause or promote the spread of fires removed, including: (a) defective stoves, furnaces, pipes and chimneys; (b) improperly installed electrical cords and appliances; (c) inflammable rubbish in attic, basement and closets; (d) gasoline or other dangerous volatile liquids used for cleaning purposes in the home; (e) the careless disposal of cigarette and cigar stubs, and ashes from pipes; (f) ashes in wooden boxes instead of in proper metal containers; (g) the practice of allowing small children to play with matches.
- All public buildings, stores, warehouses and factories be inspected and cleaned of rubbish in order to reduce

fire hazards and maintain health and safety.

- 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.
- Fire drills be held for the children in all schools, for the inmates of all 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 expeditious mode of exit in time of danger.
- 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.
- 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.
- All legislation and regulations enacted or issued by Dominion, provincial or municipal authorities dealing with fire prevention be given publicity by 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, and particularly the safeguarding of the lives of small children from fire.

Of All 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 Moore Duff, a Member of Our Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of Canada and Deputy of Our "Dear Uncle," Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor, Alexander Augustus Frederick George, Earl of Athlone, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, a Member of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Grand Master of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victoria Order, Companion of Our Distinguished Service Order, Colonel in Our Army (retired), having the honorary rank of Major-General, one of Our Personal Aide-de-Camp, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Our Dominion of Canada.

At Our Government House in Our City of Ottawa, this twenty-first day of August in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty and in the Fourth year of Our Reign.
By Command,
E. H. COLEMAN,
Under-Secretary of State

Fire Prevention Films Being Shown in Timmins

For Fire Prevention Week, Fire Chief A. Borland has secured a number of excellent films to be shown at schools, service clubs, etc., to emphasize the value of fire prevention. These films will be a feature at the Kiwanis Club luncheon on Tuesday of next week, Oct. 15th.

Be sure your match is out, so your luck won't be.

Lives of Settlers and Their Families Being Protected

Ontario Government Helps Settlers by Extending Fire Rangers' Duties.

Last winter The Advance noted only one case where lives were lost in fires at settlers' homes in this North. Other years each winter saw a number of such fires with several deaths. The pleasing change in the casualty roll must be credited at least in part to the Ontario Government's extension of the charter of the fire rangers. This theory appears to be upheld by the number of deaths last winter in other provinces where Ontario's present rules are not in force.

Some years ago Magistrate E. R. Tucker, of Cochrane, chief coroner for Cochrane district, noted with regret the number of deaths in settlers' homes visited by fire. As coroner, he investigated scores of these fatalities, and in the vast majority of cases he found that the trouble was due to minor matters that could easily have been adjusted. Defective stovepipes, unsafe chimneys, flimsy partitions, too close to stoves, stovepipes not properly protected where entering chimneys or passing through partitions, these were the chief causes of fires at settlers' homes. In most cases the trouble might have been remedied at trifling cost. Slight alterations in construction, in arrangement of doors and windows were among the reasons for many of the fires in settlers' homes. In all cases where Magistrate Tucker conducts inquiries into deaths there is always the very fullest enquiry. Then with the facts gleaned, Magistrate Tucker is always anxious to give all the known facts in each case and also to make reports warranted by the particular case under investigation. In this way Magistrate Tucker gathered an unusually large amount of facts, and he urged the government to extend the duties of all fire rangers to include inspection of all settlers' homes as well as the surrounding land. Up to that time it was the custom to have the fire rangers inspect everything about the farms in their areas, but that the inspection should be stopped at the settlers' home. Any fire risk on the property was noted by the fire ranger and the settler urged to remedy it. The fire ranger, however, was not empowered to enter the house. There might be the most unnecessary and glaring fire risks in the settlers' home and not a word could be said. The result was a sad loss of life and property. In most cases the lives of the settler and his family were endangered by the practice. Shacks with only one room and perhaps but one door in the cabin, were a genuine hazard for all concerned. Magistrate Tucker tried many plans to overcome the trouble. He believed that in most cases where there were unnecessary fire risks in a settlers' home, the settler would be glad to make required changes if he knew what they were. Most of the changes could be made without any particular cost. He suggested that all settlers' homes be inspected and recommendations made for betterment in respect to guards from fire. This work, he pointed out, could be very well accomplished by empowering fire rangers to inspect the homes as well as the farms. The Advance was one of the first newspapers in the North to take up the question and give all possible support to Magistrate Tucker's plan. Literally, for years, The Advance hammered away at the idea. Eventually the government decided to accede to the wishes of those who hated to see the needless loss of property and lives through fire. Eventually, the government agreed to try the plan. The results so far fully justify the new plan adopted for the protection of the settlers from the danger of fire.

South Porcupine Fire Chief



Fire Chief Maxwell Smith, of South Porcupine, president last year of the Dominion Fire Chiefs' Association and one of the most active and interested of the growing company of patriotic citizens preaching "Fire Prevention."

Eighty Per Cent. of Fires Might be Prevented

The Dominion Fire Commissioner makes a very telling point in favour of Fire Prevention Week and every other method and plan designed to reduce fire losses and prevent fires. Eighty per cent of present fires could be avoided, he says. Most of them in fact are due to carelessness in the handling of inflammable material or in permitting unnecessary fire risks. It is admitted that people are more careful to-day than they used to be in regard to fires, but still greater progress is necessary in this line. If 80 per cent of fires may be avoided, it is up to every person to see that each one does his or her part to avoid the carelessness and lack of attention that is responsible for the fires that might be avoided.

Clean Up Yards and Cellars from Old Papers and Rubbish

You can help along the purpose of Fire Prevention Week by cleaning up yards, cellars, attics and other premises from old papers, rubbish and other waste.

CLEAN UP. Get those fire breeders and germ breeders out of your store and off the premises. They belong on the dump heap, but will never get there until you start something.

There is no reason for:
A backyard full of broken bits of packing cases.
A basement full of old papers, boxes and ashes.
A barn full of empty cases, packing material and old barrels you will never use.
All the wrapping paper and old newspapers which blow around the premises.
Start them on the road to the dump heap.

WARNING CARDS AGAINST GASOLINE IN CERTAIN SHOPS

Fire Chief Borland has a number of cards reading:
"Warning! The use of gasoline, benzene, naphtha, or any other unauthorized volatile liquid for spraying, degreasing and cleaning operations in this building is strictly prohibited. By order, Chief of the Fire Department."
Copies of this warning must be prominently displayed in all public garages, machine shops, etc."

Fire Prevention Week Again to Urge More Carefulness

These Things are Fire Risks as Well as Menace to Health.

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?

INSURANCE COMPANIES HELP IN FIRE PREVENTION

In connection with Fire Prevention Week and other efforts to secure greater safety in the matter of fire, the insurance companies have taken an excellent part. By advice and publicity they have done much to impress upon the public the need for greater attention to fire prevention methods and greater care in guarding against fire.

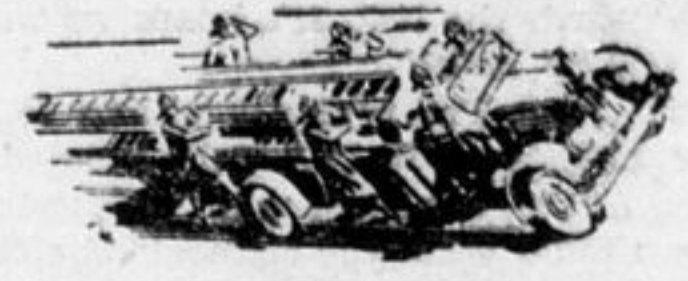
ROUYN'S FIRE LOSS LOWEST IN HISTORY OF THE TOWN

Rouyn, Oct. 5—The town of Rouyn's fire loss in the year ending October 1st made a new low in municipal history at \$483. There were fewer calls than usual and some evidence that the townspeople as a whole are being more careful of fire. Municipal chimney

cleaning, twice a year, is reducing the number of calls from that source. The per capita loss works out at less than five cents, a remarkable low point.

ALWAYS DO THIS

Put lighted matches, cigarettes, etc., out before you throw them away.



FIRE Protection

Our theatre is so constructed that the fire hazard has been reduced to a minimum. Our patrons can enjoy the program knowing that their safety is assured.

Cartier Theatre

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 6 to 12

TOWNSHIP of TISDALE

Nearly half the fires are preventable. Ordinary caution will greatly reduce this Township's annual fire loss. We have a very efficient and 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.

Help Keep Down Fire Loss in Tisdale

Signed—VICTOR H. EVANS, Reeve

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