

350 FIRES IN KINGSTON INCIDENTS OF THE DAY

IN FIVE YEARS CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS

An Appeal Is Made For More Care By the People So As To Prevent Fires.

Kingston, Oct. 9.—(To the Editor): October 9th has been proclaimed by the Governor-General as fire prevention day throughout Canada. The loss by fire in Canada during the year 1918 of over \$30,000,000 has led to an active effort on the part of the Dominion and Provincial Governments to cut down the number of fires due to preventable causes.

Looking over the records of the Kingston fire department for the five years 1914 to 1918 one is struck with the amount of loss caused by carelessness, and the number of alarms needlessly sent in to the department. There were 543 calls received during these years. Thirty-three calls were for purposes other than fires, such as tests from the underwriters, calls for palmator, and also for fires outside the city limits, while forty-four were false alarms, so that 466 actual fire calls were received, 350 of which were directly attributable to careless habits of the citizens.

Leaving the loss at the fire that occurred at the Davis & Sons tannery in August of 1914, aside, there has been a loss of \$210,055 in those five years, of which I am personally convinced that \$150,000 could with ordinary care have been avoided. There were 175 calls, entailing a loss of over \$35,000 caused by defective stoves, furnaces and other heating or cooking appliances. Chimneys, stove-pipes, sparks from chimneys and similar causes.

Fifty-one calls were for fires caused by burning rubbish and the loss amounted to about \$15,000.

Thirty-nine calls with loss of about \$8,000 were caused by children playing with matches, and numerous injuries and in some cases death resulted.

Twenty-two calls with loss of \$23,000 were caused by careless smokers throwing lighted matches, cigars, or cigarettes away.

Six calls, loss about \$2,000 were caused by using an open flame to thaw frozen water pipes.

Seven calls, loss about \$3,500 were caused by using dirty or defective coal oil heaters or cookers.

Fourteen calls were for grass fires. Three calls loss about \$2,000 caused by coal oil lamps being overturned.

Two calls were caused by placing dusting rags behind stoves and these caused over \$1,000 loss.

Eight calls with loss of about \$2,000, caused by defective installation of fire places and grates.

One call loss \$100, caused by placing wood to dry on top of a hot stove.

A leaky gas tube caused a loss of over \$500.

Looking for school books or clothes in dark and getting seven runs with loss about \$4,000.

Leaving the current on electric irons was responsible for five runs and a loss of \$2,000.

Cleaning children's clothes with a mixture of gasoline, caused serious injury to one woman and a loss of over \$350, while in another case greasy overalls, carelessly thrown over a hot air register, caused a loss of over \$1,500.

One fire, placed on record as of unknown origin and where the loss was over \$3,000, I am convinced was caused by a workman, lighting his pipe and carelessly tossing the match aside.

The probable cause of the fire that occurred at the Central school in 1918 was, that a match dropped on the floor was swept with the sweepings into the dust chute, and this caused a fire where the loss was about \$3,500.

With these facts before us, may I be permitted to urge a more earnest co-operation in endeavoring to cut down the fire losses within the City of Kingston. We our citizens, take ordinary precaution in keeping their home and places of employment, free from accumulation of rubbish and combustible material. See that their heating appliances are in good order previous to lighting them for the winter use. See that stove pipes, chimneys and etc are clean and in good working order. Let each one look carefully over their insurance policies and note that any of these conditions, known to the assured, will in case of fire, be sufficient cause for the insurance companies withholding payment of loss.

The attention of our business men is respectfully called to a recent amendment to the criminal code respecting prevention of fires, whereby they become personally responsible for any loss either to their own property or adjoining property, where a fire occurs through their negligence, if they have failed to obey any law intended to prevent fires or to fail to provide apparatus for the extinguishment of fires when they occur, when they have been advised or notified to do so by the proper authorities.

I am also adding that during the coming winter, a complete inspection of all buildings within the city will be made having in view the fire protection and fire prevention required, and a record of each inspection and recommendation will be placed on file in the chief office for future reference. May I ask for your assistance in this work. Clean up and keep clean your building from all combustible material. Send all such material to the city incinerator, remove all ashes and other incombustible material to the city dump at the north end of Bagot street. Send for the chimney sweeper and have your chimneys cleaned, and with the cutting down of our heavy fire losses, we will be in a better position to ask and demand a reduction in the insurance rates now in force.—James Armstrong, Chief Fire Department.

On His Way To Kingston. Rev. John A. McDonald, Bala, Ont., is visiting friends in Almonte. He is on his way to Kingston to join his wife, who has been visiting her mother since the death of her father, Rev. Mr. Fairlie. His son, Neil, is entering Queen's to take a course in electrical engineering and his daughter Margaret is attending the Faculty of Education.

H. A. Miller, Kingston, spoke on Monday at a meeting of the Belleville Life Underwriters' Association.

Rev. J. D. Ellis was appointed a member of the executive committee of the Methodist Mission Board.

LOCAL NOTES AND ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Happenings in the City and Vicinity—What the Merchants Offer to the Readers of the Whig.

Horse radish roots, Carnovsky's. Remember the woman's mass meeting in S.A. citadel to-night.

W. Swaine, piano tuner, orders at McAuley's, or phone 564w.

Brig-Gen. Ross will address the Liberal-Conservative meeting in Victoria Hall, Toronto, this Thursday evening.

Kingston was the alternative place for the holding of the Ontario Christian Endeavor convention in 1920 but Toronto won out.

Now is the time to have your piano tuned. We carry two expert tuners and will assure entire satisfaction. C. W. Lindsay, Limited.

The firemen were called at noon Wednesday, to extinguish a fire which started against a fence at the rear of H. C. Nickle's house on William street. Hot ashes set fire to some leaves and rubbish. Damage amounted to about \$20.

Unexcelled in Canada—DALY'S GOOD TEA—always the same. For sale at MAHOOD'S DRUG STORE, Kingston.

The lad who was arrested on Tuesday, charged with securing \$47.50 from a local bank, on his mother's bank book, and who was treating couple of his companions, was before Magistrate Farrell in Juvenile Court on Wednesday, and was allowed the go with a warning.

Every person favorable to the candidacy of Sir Henry Drayton as member for Kingston for the federal house, and for the unexpired term, should get busy and aid in the campaign and to show how advantageous it will be to Kingston to have the finance minister as its representative.

COL. LESSLIE RETIRING

FROM THE COMMAND OF THE CANADIAN ARTILLERY.

He is to be Succeeded by Col. A. T. Ogilvie—Col. Lesslie Has Had Twenty-Eight Years' Service.



COL. J. S. N. LESSLIE

Colonel James Norman Stuart Lesslie, officer commanding the Royal Canadian Artillery, is retiring after twenty-eight years' service in the Canadian Army. He served with distinction in the South African war, being brigade major of Artillery at the relief of Mafeking, May 1900.

In 1914 Col. Lesslie went to France with the R.C.A. and upon his return took charge of the training of the artillery reinforcements. He rendered most valuable service and now retires.

Col. Buff Ogilvie has been appointed to succeed Col. Lesslie as officer commanding the R.C.A. He was general officer commanding M.D. No. 11 early in the war but went to France and commanded an artillery unit.

The retirement of Col. Lesslie and the appointment of Col. Ogilvie takes place at once.

Best Blue Serge Suits. Prevost, Brock street, has received a case of the above suits made by the best manufacturer's guarantee. Just as well made as order work. Anyone in need of a blue serge suit would do well to see them. We will guarantee both color and workmanship.

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LECTURE ON WEST INDIES

Is Given in Gospel Hall by W. B. Huxter.

An interesting illustrated lecture on the West Indies was given at Gospel Hall on Wednesday night by W. B. Huxter, a former missionary at St. Vincent. Mr. Huxter's work was carried on among the natives of the West Indies, who are mostly negroes, descendants of the former slaves who used to be auctioned on the markets of St. Vincent like cattle. But now they are the great bulk of the population and they cultivate the plantations that produce the coconuts, cane sugar and bananas that form the chief source of the revenue of the islands. Although situated in the tropics, there is a great variety of climate in the mountainous region, ranging from tropical in the low lands to north temperature higher up. Mr. Huxter's account of the people was most interesting, showing what Christianity has accomplished, and the great need for making amply provision for the continuance of the work among them.

INDOOR BASEBALL LEAGUE.

The First Game Won by A. and N. Veterans, 46 to 10.

The Indoor Baseball League was officially started Wednesday evening, when Brig-Gen. V. A. S. Williams pitched the first ball to the G.W.V.A. team. A large crowd was present to watch the game, which was one of the A. and N. Veterans and the G.W.V.A., the latter being licked to the tune of 46 to 10. The A. and N. team played a very good game, but it must be said for the G.W.V.A. team that they did well, considering that it was the first time that any of them had played in the amatories for some years, and that the A. and N. Vets. have been playing for some weeks.

The score by innings was:
G.W.V.A. 5 2 0 0 1 0 10—10
A. and N. V. 2 10 11 7 0 11 0—46

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