

1331. An attempt was made to procure statistics of fires which have occurred during the year 1893; of fire appliances and of systems of water supply.

The returns were prepared by the several municipal officers with great willingness though involving considerable labour.

1332. Those for Ontario cover fifty cities, towns and incorporated villages, containing a population of 533,500 persons, or about 25 per cent of the whole population of the province.

1333. The number of fire alarms in these fifty places during 1893 was 1,552, and the number of fires 534. Thus there was an average of one fire in every three alarms.

1334. The number of those fires stated to be incendiary is 95, or about 1 in every 6.

1335. Leaving out Toronto, for which city no particulars could be obtained, the total value of the property involved in fires is given at \$1,709,500, the insurance loss on which was \$344,419, or $99\frac{7}{10}$ cents per head of the population of the cities, towns, and incorporated villages included. The total insurance losses paid by the fire insurance companies in Canada, according to their returns to the Government amounted to \$5,010,092, or an average per head of \$1.01 per head of the population of the Dominion. The close approximation of these per head statements indicates that the fifty cities, &c., are fairly representative of the Dominion at large.

1336. These 50 urban places have a staff of 1360 officers and men for duty in connection with fires. The fire apparatus consists of 30 steam engines, 20 chemical engines, and 10 hand engines, 140 hose reels and hose wagons and 79,000 feet of hose.

1337. Of the incendiary fires 51 are recorded in Toronto, or more than one-half.

1338. The returns from the province of Quebec included fourteen cities and towns, with a population of 283,906 persons. In these there were 910 fire alarms and 674 fires, 74 per cent of alarms materialized in fires. The number of incendiary fires was 31, or one incendiary in every twenty-two fires. Montreal reported 27 of these incendiary fires. In the other provinces,