

THE ST. HELENS MIST

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FIRE LOSSES HEAVY IN 1921 AND 1922.

Fire losses last year in the United States and Canada were \$333,654,950—heaviest in history, with the exception of 1906, year of the San Francisco conflagration.

Bad as was the 1921 record, the record for 1922 will be worse if losses for the first five months are maintained for the rest of the year, for fire waste this year, from January 1 to June 1, totaled \$168,756,750, as compared with \$135,925,600 for the corresponding period in 1921.

The record is even worse than the foregoing figures indicate, for they do not show the deflation in property values. Insurance authorities attribute this bad showing largely to business depression, saying that it is noticeable that sections where trade depression is acute the fire losses are most severe.

For the moment these excessive losses may seem to fall upon the insurance companies, but ultimately they will be passed along, at least in part, to the country's policyholders. They are a part of the penalty which honest business and industry must pay for the fraud and trickery of dishonest business.

THE COUNTRY LAD'S CHANCE.

Judge Gary, visiting Wheaton, Ill., his old home town, said that while he could give no general rule for success, he would advise every young man to get his start in the country. It will make him healthy physically, intellectually and morally, and it gives him a better chance.

THE PERFECT ROAD.

What is expected to be the most perfect piece of road in existence is soon to be constructed on the outskirts of London. Altogether it will be six miles long, and it will cost nearly a million dollars a mile, though much of that cost is not properly chargeable to construction.

The road is to be 150 feet wide from fence to fence. For the present, along most of the route, the space for wheeling vehicles is being made 50 feet wide, with a margin of turf and a ten-foot footpath on each side.

Once made, the solid paving will not be broken up to put in gas or water mains. Provision for everything of that kind is made beforehand, and whenever pipes of any kind have to cross the railway they will be carried in subways.

All of us believe in a lowering of prices—for the other fellow.

GOOD TIME FOR FARMING.

The National City Bank of New York, after analyzing the census figures for last year, declares that for the first time in the history of our country there are more people working in factories than on farms.

This not only means that the farmer now has a bigger market for his products, but that he is a greater buyer of manufactured goods because an increasingly large proportion of factory employes are making things for comfort and convenience of the people in the country.

If we forget the year or two of hard times, now happily passing, we can see that farming is not a crowded business, and we can be sure that it will be generally prosperous in the future.

The man who gets discouraged now and leaves the farm because he thinks farming "don't pay" will be making a mistake.

ONE YOUNG JEW.

One year ago Solomon Dabinski came to this country from Poland, a Jew speaking no English. While working hard for a living in a New York factory, Dabinski was told last week that he had won the bronze medal offered by the National Society of Colonial Daughters of Washington for the best patriotic essay in English.

Does the average non-Jewish-American think he could go to Russia, or Poland, not knowing the language, and in a year win first prize for a composition in Russian or Polish, while working for a living in a factory?

Think that over. Dabinski in his paper quoted Green's "History of the English People." He found time to read that while working in the factory.

If we spent more time studying the good things in others, there would be less race and religious hate.

YOUNG MR. DODGE.

Young Mr. Dodge of Detroit and the open highways had "stepped on" twice too often. Neither wealth nor his late father's name served to keep him from a five days' sentence to that interesting club, the Detroit house of correction.

But thinking people will not blame Mr. Dodge for it all. He is a reproduct. Heredity gave him the desire to get what he wanted. His father had the same quality, but had been drilled into following the hard road of industry instead of shortcuts.

The raising of youth with "charge it" as a method and "speed" of all sorts as an environment is usually a failure.

Young Mr. Dodge is typical. He is the second generation of wealth where no sensible antidote has been given for wealth's advantages.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALVIN YORK.

Alvin York, America's greatest hero in the world war, has had another streak of luck. Some people would call it that but others may give it another name.

York has been in debt, and for two years his crops have not been profitable. He was offered a big sum to go into the movies, but declared he would go hungry and cold before he would commercialize the record that he made in France.

The other day the Rotary club of Nashville took up a collection and paid off the mortgage on the hero's little farm. The wolf has been driven from his door.

Some people may call this luck. Others will claim that it was the reward of faith. What do you think about it?

Ninety-nine out of every hundred Americans oppose sovietism, as they have been told it is practiced in Russia. Americans have no patience with a government that does not undertake to furnish its citizens with protection of life and property and to guarantee fee in the pursuit of happiness.

Are conditions there as bad as we have been told? Many people are asking these questions in all earnestness.

The belief is growing that there has been misrepresentation, either knowingly or unintentionally. The truth will come out eventually, of course, and if the peoples of the world find that they have been deceived they will resent it.

Signatures of more than 50,000 Oregon voters were obtained to the initiative petitions for placing the compulsory education measure on the ballot at the November election. The bill would make it compulsory for every child of school age to attend the public schools until he has completed the grammar grades. Under its provisions there would be no private schools for the boys and the girls of elementary school age.

There have been times when the average man did not know the name of the United States attorney general, but this is not the case now.

It is to be hoped that the government will get after Jack Dempsey while it is investigating the war frauds.

The world moves, of course, but sometimes we wonder whether it is going backward or forward.

Cooks Food by Sun.

The Smithsonian institution in Washington, D. C., in announcing Saturday that Dr. C. G. Abbot, assistant secretary of the institution, would leave Washington for Mount Wilson, Calif., the first of the week, where a solar observing station is maintained, said Dr. Abbot would, during the summer, make further experiments with his solar cooker.

"This device for cooking, using only the heat of the sun as fuel," said the institution's announcement, "was brought to a considerable degree of perfection last year, all of the cooking for the whole field party for the season being done with it. The apparatus consists of a parabolic cylindrical mirror with a polished aluminum surface which focuses the sun's rays on a tube filled with a mineral oil which communicates with an iron reservoir in which are two baking ovens of different temperatures. The circulation of the heated oil produces a very high temperature in the ovens which is maintained for several hours even after the sun has gone down or is covered by clouds.

"With this cooker it was possible to cook meat, vegetables, bread, cereal, etc., and to can fruits and vegetables and make preserves. This year it is hoped to even further perfect the device so that higher oven temperatures and more prolonged periods of heat storage will be obtained."

Mayor Oles of Youngstown, Ohio, has announced his entry into the race for governor of Ohio, running as an independent. He states there will be a campaign fund of \$100,000 raised by popular subscription, and that a private train, a freight car load of red fire and a brass band will accompany him throughout the state on a speaking tour.

Uncle Sam might recognize Mexico if he didn't know her so well.

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BIBLE QUESTIONS.

What king was taken in battle and hung to a tree until eventide?—Joshua 8, 28-29.

What punishment was given to Jonah for refusing to obey the command of the Lord?—Jonah 1, 4-17.

Who, to avoid being captured, was let down from a house top by a scarlet cord?—Joshua 2, 15-18.

By whom and to whom was the question asked, "How old art thou," and what was the answer given?—Genesis 47, 8-9.

Who followed a father's advice to drink no wine?—Jeremiah 35, 1-8.

By whose order were 70 brothers slain and their heads put in a basket?—2 Kings 10, 1-7.

What king had an iron bedstead?—Deuteronomy 3, 11.

Who built Nineveh?—Genesis 10, 11.

What woman helped to build the walls of Jerusalem?—Nehemiah 3, 12.

Where is it recorded that Moses was leprous?—Exodus 4, 6.

What to Do at 100.

A New Jersey farmer, Daniel Garton of Friendship, began his second century by tending his chickens and splitting the day's supply of firewood. At the age of 100 years he scorns games, daylight-saving time and other devices of the weak. He intends to keep right on working in the usual way until he becomes old.—New York Herald.

Some movie stars shine best by artificial light.

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