

INQUIRY SHOWS MANY REASONS FOR FIRE LOSSES

Frame Buildings and Faulty Construction the Principal Cause of Great Waste—America's Loss Enormous.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The United States government owns buildings that cost more than \$200,000,000 and is spending \$20,000,000 a year for new buildings. None of these buildings is insured against loss by fire. Insurance at the ordinary rate would cost more than \$500,000 a year, and the government avoids this great tax by constructing buildings that are securely fireproof.

Fireproof Buildings Cheaper. Tests to determine the strength and fire resistance of building materials are now made by the United States geological survey, and although these tests are designed primarily to meet the needs of the government as the largest consumer, their results are also available for general use.

The results already obtained show that cheaper fireproof materials can be used and that the difference in cost between fireproof and inflammable buildings will soon become so small that it will cease to encourage flimsy construction. They indicate that three to six times the necessary amount of material is habitually used in structural work. They also show the necessity of better building codes in cities and especially of a better enforcement of the codes already enacted if the present enormous fire losses are to be diminished.

Inquiry to Show Loss by Fire. The contrast between small losses by fire to government buildings and the immense losses reported from the country as a whole led the geological survey to make an inquiry as to fire losses in the United States and as to their exact cost to the people. The results of this inquiry are presented in the Survey's Bulletin 413, just published, which can be obtained free by applying to the director of the survey at Washington. The report is entitled "The fire tax and waste of structural materials in the United States," and was prepared by M. Wilson and J. C. Galloway of the survey. The inquiry covered not only the value of the property destroyed by fire but also the cost of maintaining fire departments, the amount of insurance premiums paid less the amounts returned, the cost of protective agencies, the additional cost of water supplies, and other elements of the fire loss.

Fire Loss Over a Million a Day. The investigation disclosed the fact that the total cost of fires in the United States in 1907, excluding that of forest fires and the marine losses, but including excess cost of fire protection due to bad construction and excess premiums over insurance paid, amounted to over \$456,455,000, a tax on the people exceeding the total value of the gold, silver, copper, and petroleum produced in the United States in that year. The cost of building construction in 1907 in 49 leading cities of the United States reporting a total population of less than 15,000,000 amounted to \$661,076,284, and the cost of building construction for the entire country in the same year is conservatively estimated at \$1,000,000,000. Thus it will be seen that nearly one half the value of all the new buildings constructed within one year is destroyed by fire. The annual fire cost is greater than the value of the real property and improvements in either Maine, West Virginia, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Alabama, Louisiana, or Montana. In addition to this waste of wealth and natural resources, 1449 persons were killed and 5554 were injured in fires in the United States in 1907.

Fire Loss Eight Times That in Europe. The direct loss by fires in this country is eight times as much per capita as in any country of Europe. The actual fire loss in the United States due to the destruction of buildings and their contents amounted to \$215,034,709, 4 per capita loss of \$3.51. The per capita loss in the cities of the leading European countries amounted to but 32 cents. Comparisons of the total cost of fires, which includes the items already stated, show that if buildings in the United States were as nearly fireproof as those in Europe the annual fire cost would be \$90,000,000 instead of \$455,000,000.

Scope of the Report. The report states the method of gathering the statistics collected, makes an analysis of the fire loss in city and country and on frame and brick buildings, and contains tables showing the increased cost of fire protection due to faulty construction. The predominance of frame buildings is set down as the most important cause of the great fire waste in the United States. Defective construction and equipment constitute a second cause.

Resume Drilling on Ontario Well. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Ontario, Or., Feb. 12.—Drilling will be resumed at the Ontario oil well Monday. The well has been closed down since early in the winter on account of the shortage in the coal supply. This well had been sunk to a depth of over 3500 feet when a cave in occurred after the casing had been pulled. The drill will have to be sunk 450 feet through the cave in before the bottom of the well is reached. It is the intention of the company to drill this well to a depth of 4500 feet.

Vale to Have City Park. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Vale, Or., Feb. 12.—At the regular meeting of the city council last night negotiations were entered into with A. H. Chester for the purchase by the city of five acres of land near the city limits to be used as a park site. The price paid was \$375 an acre. The council will pay him \$1000 of the purchase price in cash, and city warrants running for one year for the balance.

A SIMPLE HOME REMEDY. The New Remedy, Salgrene, for Rheumatism and Kidney Trouble, Daily Growing more Popular. Olive oil is an old and tested remedy for almost all kinds and all classes of diseases. Salgrene mixed with four ounces of olive oil makes an invaluable remedy for lumbago, kidney trouble and rheumatism. It is especially recommended in cases of kidney trouble, as it contains absolutely no alcohol, alcohol being irritant to the kidneys. Full directions will be found on bottle. Only a few more shares of Swastika stock for sale. Call at Swastika office, 210 Oak st., open Sunday 9 to 2 p. m.

SCHUMANN-HEINK HAS STRANGE POWER OVER HUMAN HEART



Mme. Schumann-Heink.

Schumann-Heink, whose coming concert on Wednesday, January 23, is being anticipated with such eager anticipation, is now in the full glory of her vocal and dramatic powers. When she opened her season's concert work to the most critical audience America can assemble, a Boston Symphony Orchestra concert in Carnegie Hall, New York, it was current talk among the effect that she had never been in better voice. In timbre her wonderful contralto has a certain elusive, unexplainable power of enchantment that no other singer of this day or generation can hope to attain.

The Musical Courier says of it: "The mezzo voice of Mme. Schumann-Heink is a source of wonder and causes many an envious sigh to escape from contraltos (soprano, too), who marvel at the ease with which the popular singer meets such demands. In her second number from Gounod's 'Sapho' the legato passages showed that velvety and opulent coloring which only Mme. Schumann-Heink can produce. "The obligato of the French horn quartet was satisfying in the extreme, and formed a delightful background for

The glorious tones of the famous contralto, who invested this number with a wholesome and convincing style fully in accord with its requirements. "As on her first appearance on the program, Mme. Schumann-Heink was rewarded with a volley of applause and could easily have violated the Boston Symphony's 'no encore' rule had she so elected. She was recalled by enthusiastic plaudits at least half a dozen times after each of her solos. "It was a Schumann-Heink triumph."

THE STRANGER WITHIN OUR GATES

D. A. Lampkin, Peru, Iowa.—I would like to be able to have judges appointed from the three states of Oregon, California and Colorado to test and compare Iowa apples with those of these three states. I would also like to take a contract to prove to Oregon apple growers that their fruit, or any other grown on the Pacific coast, cannot compare with Iowa's in richness of flavor.

Harry Conley, Oakbrook, Wis.—I have often wondered if there cannot be constructed a strain of music that will act the same upon the senses as chloroform. I believe that there are waves of emotion during our sleep that have affinities for waves of sound and that when these affinities are brought together one may be made to sleep as long as the sound waves are kept up.

Elmer A. Blackwell, Beaver, Penn.—Honest, I thought Portland was a little dinky town of about 5000 population. Never was so surprised in my life as I was when I got off the train last night and heard about a thousand fellows making noises like hotel runners. Say, why doesn't your commercial club invade Pennsylvania with its advertising literature? People back there don't know anything about the advantages of this country. Me? Why, I'm going to camp here for a while, because I have found a town to my liking.

S. E. Franks, Peoria, Ill.—I am going back home and tell my friends who have insomnia to come out here and take a nap. This is the first time in two years that I have slept later than 5 a. m. Now I lie in bed till I am ashamed of myself.

WELL! WELL! Come and get cash for your Alaska Pitt and Conl. Portland Concrete Pipe and Equipment Alameda Con. Cascade Mining & Milling. If your price is right Your cash is ready. F. J. Catterlin & Co., Lumberman's Bldg.

GOSSIP OF THE TRAVELLING MEN

By the Secretary. If any member of the Travellers Protective association has had any doubt that our new president, C. D. Frazer, is not going to make things hum along the lines of betterment this year, the following letter to the hotel men of Oregon will dispel that doubt.

As will be seen by a careful reading of the letter, Mr. Frazer does not antagonize the hotel men but rather wants to cooperate with them in equipping and disseminating information that will be mutually advantageous. Secretary-Treasurer J. C. Gibson, under direction of President Frazer, is mailing the following letter together with a copy of the two acts the "nine-foot sheet" and "five escape" bills, to all the hotel keepers of Oregon for their information and guidance, to enable them to equip intelligently as required by statute. The letter follows:

Portland, Or., Feb. 12.—To the hotel keepers of Oregon—Gentlemen:—The Oregon and Washington division of the Travellers Protective association claims the authorship of two acts of the 1909 legislature, known as the "nine-foot sheet" and "knotted-ropes fire escape" bills. "We framed and recommended them to the legislature because we believed they were for the interest of the travelling public, from a standpoint of both health and safety.

"It is our belief that all thinking hotel people will agree with us. The enclosed copies of the laws are self-explanatory even to the penalty of omission. "In view of the fact that we are responsible for the passing of these important laws, we feel called upon to protect our friends, the hotel people, as far as we can by this information and our friendly offices. It is our wish that every hotel in Oregon observe these laws. We do not wish to have a single fine assessed against any hotel, as we realize such would be an expensive luxury. Therefore, we hope that you will see to it that your hotel is equipped with nine-foot sheets and knotted ropes before the hotel inspector files information against you. We will also thank you to advise us at your earliest convenience that your hotel is so equipped. We shall take pleasure in advising all travelling men of your improved equipment.

"It shall be our purpose to undertake to induce every hotel keeper to properly equip before information is filed; this we consider as a duty to you and we might add that we shall take pleasure in answering promptly any

questions relative to these laws that you may ask. "Hoping that we may soon hear that your hotel is equipped according to these acts, I am, yours respectfully, "C. D. FRAZER, "President Oregon and Washington Division T. P. A."

The "nine-foot sheet" law, which was enacted at the last session of the legislature and which has been held up as the cause of much merriment, was backed by the travelling men who urged it to be a necessity from a sanitary point of view. The law provides, briefly, that all hotels in the state shall use sheets not shorter than nine feet. This, it is contended, is for the purpose of providing a sufficient length of clean linen to cover the sometimes unsightly and long used blankets and other coverlets under which the traveling public is forced to sleep.

The other law referred to, provides simply that all hotels in the state, not equipped with adequate fire escapes, shall provide a knotted rope for each room and have it so attached as to be accessible for use in time of fire.

Mrs. T. Schuyler Logan, national representative, is contemplating a trip to Portland in the near future in the interest of the association. S. S. McClintock of Seattle (Fairbanks, Morse & Co.) visited headquarters last week.

The following claims were paid to members of their division last month (January): Harry Lund, \$10; U. S. Booth, \$17.85; C. E. Palmer, \$25. Twelve applications were accepted during January from this division.

RICHARDSON FINDS COUNTRY PROSPEROUS

Tom Richardson, of the Commercial club, returned yesterday from a tour of the Pacific northwest. During the trip Mr. Richardson delivered a dozen or more speeches at "booster" meetings and met a large number of people very enthusiastic for the future of the country. "Things appeared very prosperous through the entire section that I toured," said Mr. Richardson, "and preparations are being made to receive a large number of settlers this year. The whole country looks good to me. "One thing that I learned to my pleasant surprise was that livestock can be shipped from Idaho to Portland and sold here to three markets, Portland, Seattle or Tacoma, and shipped on for the same price. This certainly should give Portland prominence as a livestock market."

Farm Sold for \$20,000. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Chehalis, Wash., Feb. 12.—Another big farm sale is reported in Lewis county. Sam Bean of Agate bought the 218 acres belonging to A. L. Stewart and located near Curtis for \$20,000.

MUST STOP HIS EFFORT TO LIVE CLOSE TO NATURE

(United Press Special Wire.) Chicago, Feb. 12.—An order to eat all the food his mother cooked for him and to wear warm clothing is the strange mandate issued today by Municipal Judge George W. Walker. Kever, 16, a pale and emaciated "apostle of the simple life," who has been trying to live quite close to "nature."

The order was issued at the instance of the boy's mother, who feared her son would starve to death. The mother blames what she calls "nature cranks" for her son's condition.

"Until a year ago he was a normal, healthy boy," she told the court. "Then these cranks lured him coming, and since then he has eaten nothing but uncooked food. He would wear nothing but a thin shirt and a pair of overalls. Even in snow weather he insisted on going without shoes, and would roll about in the snow until he was nearly frozen."

The court then issued his strange order and instructed the mother to destroy the "close to nature" literature.

MARRIED TWO MONTHS, MAN WANTS DIVORCE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Freewater, Feb. 12.—Suit was filed Thursday by G. W. Hansell a prominent fruit rancher, for divorce from his wife, Carrie Hansell, the grounds alleged being cruelty and inhumanity. Mr. Hansell was a widower of about 55 or 60 years of age, and was married only two months ago to his present wife who was the widow of Edward Dixon, who was killed in a dispute over a road by Mike Ryan over a year ago. The suit was filed by Godwin and Neal and a big legal battle will be the probable outcome. Both the partners to the suit have children by their former partners. About six months ago the citizens of Freewater and vicinity built a home for Mrs. Dixon who was in very destitute circumstances.

Notarial Commissions. Salem, Or., Feb. 12.—Notarial commissions have been issued to E. H. Test, Nyasa; F. P. Drinker and C. B. Russell, St. Johns; W. C. Campbell and H. E. Abry, Portland; Webster Holmes, Tillamook and H. T. Bagley, Hillsboro.

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THE SALES FOR FEBRUARY WILL AMOUNT TO AT LEAST \$300,000 IN

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Sales for Friday, February 11, 1910, Amounted to Over \$60,000 for One Day

Sales for Friday, February 11, 1910, Amounted to Over \$60,000 for One Day

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