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Best R. Greer Editor
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TO FIGHT FIRE ON THE FARM

Methods by which the annual fire toll of \$150,000,000 taken on American farms may be reduced were worked out by the Agricultural Committee of the National Fire Waste Council, in collaboration with the Insurance Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States which held its initial meeting at Chicago on July 14.

Insurance company officials, members of the staff of the National Chamber, agricultural publishers, farm bureau representatives, agricultural engineers, representatives of the Department of Agriculture and others constitute the committee.

A study of the possible safeguards against fire on farms was made. It has been found, for example, that the maligned lightning rod, when properly installed, reduces the hazard from lightning to a minimum. One insurance company reports only a single loss in forty years under such conditions, although lightning is the cause of many farm fires.

Methods of stacking hay and grains to prevent spontaneous combustion, construction of farm buildings and houses to retard fire, ways and means of fighting fires on the farm and similar subjects were considered by the committee. Fire losses on farms, it is believed, can be greatly reduced if relatively simple precautions are taken.

FIRE SALVAGE

How much of the estimated national fire loss of \$570,000,000 for 1925 is due to fire and how much is due to water is a question raised in the latest fire prevention bulletin of the National Fire Waste Council issued through the Insurance Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

No one knows what the water loss is but the Council concludes that it is considerable. For this reason it directs attention to possibility of reducing it by organized salvage.

Fire chiefs in a number of cities are now directing their efforts not only to extinguishing fires but to protecting property from water damage. The city of Los Angeles, for example, has organized two salvage companies as a part of the fire department. The fire chief reports that on two different occasions the salvage companies effected a saving in water damage of approximately more than \$100,000. Other cities are equipping their fire departments with salvage covers which are used to protect merchandise, furniture and various other articles.

"An opportunity," the bulletin suggests, "exists for the extension of fire department activities in a direction not now being followed. The indications are that any fire department making a determined and well organized effort to salvage property from water damage will reap a benefit in reduced fire loss."

THE EPHEMERAL STORE KEEPER

The ephemeral store keeper who has been a thorn in the side of business has been elevated to the dignity of a civic problem, it is found by the Civic Development Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

"The ephemeral merchandiser is attracting attention all along the line," it says in a statement on the subject, "because his failures affect not only his competitors who know the costs of doing business, but also the manufacturer and the wholesaler."

"The widespread adoption of zoning regulations — there are now 435 zoned cities and towns, with a population of more than 27,500,000 — has given us a new method of studying this problem that the retailers themselves have found unsolvable. The practice in adopting a zoning code is to assign very generous areas to commerce so that there may be no hindrance to legitimate expansion. In hundreds of instances there has been rezoning but in spite of such rezoning experience is showing that many of our commercial districts are too large. The result is a fragmentary, disorderly development which gives a general impression of cheapness and shabbiness. There is not enough legitimate business demand for more than a fraction of the frontage. Consequently cheap buildings are put up or too many old dwellings are partially converted in the hope that their ground floors will attract small retailers."

A Continuous Performance



STEWART'S WASHINGTON LETTER

BY CHARLES P. STEWART
NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON — Trust as extraordinary a senator as James A. Reed of Missouri to have an extraordinary secretary.

The fact is that Hicklin Yates is far more than a mere secretary, or even super-secretary. He comes pretty close to being an assistant senator. Indeed, there are quite a few full senators who aren't as important as Assistant Senator Yates.

Reed is very proud of his secretary, an assistant, and he has reason to be. Yates is a unique possession and extremely valuable.

Reed has so many interests and such strenuous ones, he's on so many Senate committees and sub-committees and special committees, he conducts so many investigations, he makes so many speeches, he's involved in so many fights, his time is so occupied and over-occupied that there simply isn't enough of him to go around.

As the saying is, he ought to be incorporated.

Well, in effect, so he is, with himself as president, engaged in mapping out broad general policies. Yates, as vice-president and general manager, is in charge of the company's actual operations.

For instance, everybody wondered how in the world Reed managed to push that investigation into the late Pennsylvania Republican senatorial primary election and keep up with his regular Senate work at the same time.

The investigation alone ran three sessions daily and far into the night. By itself it looked as if it was enough to keep the Missouri senator more than fully occupied while it lasted. Yet he always was on hand in the Senate chamber when the solons were transacting business, mixing into everything, debating and discussing and orating, just as if he had nothing else on his mind.

How did he do it?

The answer is—Hicklin Yates. When Reed was appointed chairman of the slush fund investigating committee, Yates, as his secretary, automatically became the committee's secretary.

He worked up the whole investigation.

It was his case, so to speak, prepared by him as an office lawyer prepares a case, to turn over to the court room specialist who develops it, through the examination and cross-examination of witnesses, sums up and demands a verdict on the evidence.

THREE VETERANS OF CLUB HOLD BANQUET

STILLWATER, Minn., July 24.—Three tottering veterans of the Civil War, last survivors of Minnesota's famous 'Last Man's Club' came here yesterday to attend the annual meeting—a meeting which may be their last.

The banquet table was set just as it was set some 40 years ago when the club was organized, but instead of 34 laughing comrades gathered around the table three only were there. The other 31 chairs were in place—30 of them covered with flowers and one of them draped in black in memory of Emil Graft of St. Cloud, Fla., who died since the last meeting.

In the center of the table sat the bottle of rare old burgundy which is not to be opened until there are only two survivors. That may be next year if one more veteran is "counted out" and if so the two remaining will drink a toast to their fallen comrades.

OUT OUR WAY

By Williams



TOM SIMS SAYS

It may be hot, but a fellow named Luke Warm was arrested in Chicago.

Europe's slogan just now is: "Say it with tears in your eyes."

Bobby Jones, golfer, deserves another cup if he escapes the movies.

Working in a bank would be more fun if they ever gave away samples.

Dawes was talking so fast when Congress ended he hasn't stopped yet. More millions for prohibition. Our coast line is a cost line.

PITCHFORK THRUST THROUGH MAN'S BODY

QUESNEL, B. C., July 24.—Slightly and painfully injured when he stumbled and fell upon a pitchfork which penetrated his body clear through in the region of his groin, E. D. Vandenberg, a rancher of Mud river, 66 miles northwest of here, was taken to the Quesnel hospital early this morning.

Alone in the hay field when he fell, Vandenberg showed great pluck as it required almost heroic effort to pull the fork out.

He then had to walk considerable distance home.

DEWETTERS ARRESTED

TACOMA, Wa., July 1.—Floyd Sowers, Sumner, Wa., and Darlow Bernard, San Francisco, deserters from the marine corps at San Diego, were arrested here today while driving an automobile which they admitted stealing in Oakland, Cal.

HEAD COLDS

Melt in spoon, inhale vapors, apply freely up nostrils.

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