

LOCAL CASES ARE GIVEN IN REPORT

States Fire Marshal Ole O. Roe, City's Conviction Secured and Investigation of Last April.

TEN PROLIFIC CAUSES

After Enumerating These, He Gives Some Good Advice for Lessening Losses by Them.

In the annual report of the fire marshal, Ole O. Roe, to Governor Clarke, mention is made of the prosecution of James Grigsby of Keokuk who was indicted for arson, and who was sentenced a year ago to the Anamosa reformatory. Grigsby was accused of setting fire to a dwelling house owned by Mrs. Nancy Keppel. Mention also is made of the investigation made here last April in connection with the fire which destroyed the Loewenstein barn and burned two horses.

A summary of causes of fires has been compiled by the fire marshal, and he lists the ten highest classes as the following, together with losses:

Unknown	969	\$2,307,471
Sparks from flue	527	200,624
Adjoining fires	451	916,180
Defective flues	375	370,648
Lightning	271	403,633
Children and matches	139	54,421
Spontaneous combustion	131	261,045
Incendiary and probably incendiary	120	147,643
Match carelessness	78	19,460
Smokers' carelessness	69	61,772
Total	3,130	\$4,742,872

About Incendiary Fires.

The fires reported as of incendiary or probably incendiary origin during the year 1914 number 130 or 2.8 percent of the total number of fires reported, while the loss from said cause during the year aggregates \$147,643 or 2.5 percent of the total fire loss of the state.

During the year 1913 the number of incendiary or probably incendiary fires amounted to 3.2 percent of the total number of fires while the loss from said cause amounted to 2.3 percent of the total loss.

While the number of fires reported as of unknown origin is still very large—entirely too large—there is encouragement in the fact that the amount of loss or damage resulting from fires so reported amounted to \$2,307,471 during 1914 while during 1913 they aggregated \$2,880,982.

There has been a discouraging increase, both in the number of fires and in the loss resulting therefrom where "defective flues" is given as the cause. In 1913 the loss from this cause was \$286,491 while during 1914 it was \$370,648.

Carelessness Here.

Practically every dollar's worth of loss from this cause is a loss due purely to carelessness and will not be materially remedied or reduced until municipalities, or possibly the state, provide by ordinance or by law for the construction and inspection of chimneys and flues.

The losses occasioned from "sparks from flue" are also quite numerous and larger by \$64,000 than during the year 1913. These fires, commonly known as "roof fires," can be very materially decreased, and undoubtedly will be in time, by the discontinuance of the shingle roof, at least in the business portions of cities and towns, and substituting therefor a roof of fire-resisting construction; also by paying more attention to the cleanliness of chimneys and furnaces and to the kind of fuel and the manner of feeding same to the heating plant.

Children and Matches.

"Children and matches" is another prolific source of fire, and the most deplorable phase of these fires is that they frequently result in loss of life to the child. Greater care upon the part of parents and more earnest attention to the lessons outlined in the bulletin for instruction in the cause and dangers of fires upon the part of teachers will alone lessen the fires from this cause.

While more lightning fire were reported than during 1913 the total loss from this cause is only about \$1,000 more than during the preceding year. I am more than ever convinced that if the installation of properly con-

YOUR HEAD AND STOMACH

Headache caused by a disturbed digestion is nearly always accompanied by pain in the stomach, belching of gas, vomiting and often by constipation. This sort of headache is generally located in the forehead and is not constant but comes and goes.

It does not come on immediately after eating but after the food has had time to ferment which it does because the digestive fluids that should take care of it are insufficient, because the glands that secrete these fluids are weak, because the blood is failing to nourish these glands properly.

Rich, red blood is the first essential to proper digestion and the digestive process cannot go on without it. When lack of nourishing blood causes fermentation and poisons are absorbed from the digestive tract, the pain in your head, advises you of the fact. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills give the blood just the elements they need to correct this condition and, with a laxative, when required, form a perfect treatment for the headaches of indigestion.

Mention this paper and we will send you two little books on the diet and the proper use of a laxative. Address: Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y. Your own druggist sells Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

structed lightning rods upon farm barns and other buildings that stand alone and thus are exposed to electrical storms, becomes general, there will be a material reduction in losses from this source.

Spontaneous Combustion.

I am pleased to be able to report that fires where "spontaneous combustion" has been given as the cause have been materially reduced both in number and in amount during the year just past. The total loss from this source reported during 1914 is \$261,045, while during 1913 this amount was \$468,599.

During the last two years considerable effort has been made not only by this department but by means of pamphlets and bulletins issued by the department of agriculture at Washington, as well as by the leading agricultural papers published in this state, to call the attention of farmers and others to the danger of fire resulting from conditions that produce spontaneous combustion, especially in farm barns, and I have no doubt that these various efforts are responsible for this desirable showing.

In addition to the fire causes enumerated above, I deem it my duty to call attention to two more; namely: those resulting from defective electric wiring, and from the careless handling of gasoline.

During the year 1914 there were 60 fires reported as resulting from defective electric wiring, aggregating a loss of \$218,112. In view of the rapid growth in the use of this means of furnishing light and power, I am of the opinion that the loss by fire from this source in the future will increase rather than diminish, unless adequate inspection is provided. Rigid local inspection of electric wiring supervised by a thoroughly competent state inspector, is demanded by every interest of safety to life and property.

Handling of Gasoline.

The loss to property by reason of the careless use, handling and storage of gasoline and other inflammable oils, during the past year, amounted to \$131,127. These forms of fuel have come into such general use during the last few years that special care should be exercised both in their storage and handling. The person or corporation who deals in such substances should be held to stricter account as to how and where he stores them. This should and can be remedied by law.

It is not easy to reach the individual user and induce him to act with prudence and care. This, however, must be done or there will continue from year to year to the detriment of the people of the state the sad details of an ever increasing number of lives lost because some one was ignorant or careless in the handling of these dangerous substances.

Better Fire System.

During the past two years much money has been expended in the state for better water service and fire apparatus, and many of the smaller towns which heretofore enjoyed no fire protection, have now fairly good water systems and some fire apparatus. In a number of places a very efficient volunteer fire department exists.

The most noticeable drawback to the efficiency of a local fire department in a small town is the want of a proper alarm system by which the firemen may be promptly called to the station. As every one knows, a few minutes time in the beginning of a fire is of the greatest value, and it would therefore, urge upon municipal officers everywhere to give this matter attention in order that the most modern and up-to-date system of giving alarms may be put into use.

Profitless.

Atchison Globe: Next to an argument, an investigation is the most futile thing.

WAR INFLUENCES DOMINATE MARKET

Foreign Trade is Now Being Conducted Under Very Abnormal and Very Unstable Conditions, Says Clews.

BIG EXPORT BUSINESS

It is Due to the War and Promises to Continue as Long as the Conflict Rages in European Countries.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—War influences continue to dominate the stock market. This week sterling exchange broke to 4.79, the lowest figure recorded. A sharp recovery followed upon rumors that large foreign government credits were to be established on this side; but the crisis in exchange necessitated fresh adjustment to war conditions, which are now being more keenly felt than at any time since the struggle began. Our foreign trade is being conducted under very abnormal and unstable conditions. In December the loss of imports was about \$70,000,000, chiefly in raw silk, wool, coffee, copper and textiles. Exports during the same month increased about \$12,000,000 over last year. Considering the heavy shrinkage in outward bound cotton, copper and oil, this increase was remarkable; being entirely due to extraordinary shipments of foodstuffs and war materials. The net result of December's foreign trade was an excess of \$130,000,000 in exports. The balance has been steadily growing during January and February; so that it is now estimated that the excess of exports has arisen considerably above \$200,000,000 since the beginning of the war. Of course the exchange market is demoralized by such unusual conditions, and emergency measures were necessary. The great banks of Europe are unwilling to part with their gold holdings for obvious reasons, and it is not to our interest to embarrass them by drawing gold, especially as our own stock is more than ample for requirements.

London displays phenomenal financial strength, not only in its ability to finance Britain's war, but also by its capacity to render financial assistance to the allies. Under the circumstances the most rational relief to the exchange crisis suggested, is the establishment of big credits in this market for Great Britain, France, or any of the allies whose credit may be satisfactory. The belligerents will continue to want foodstuffs and war materials, and we are fortunately in a strong enough position to easily give the credit necessary for such purchases until more normal conditions are once again in sight. For us at least it would be far better financing to grant the needed credit, than to force gold or security imports in payment at this time.

General business is again marking time. The spirit of confidence which began to develop after the fall elections is still maintained, but so far as positive action is concerned, progress is exceedingly slow. War imposes strong restraints. The volume of business shows only slight gains. Industry is somewhat more active, but there is still room for a large degree of improvement. Orders are being placed with more freedom by the railroads for steel products, and to this extent improvement can be reported in the great basic steel industry, all of which is at least encouraging and strengthens the belief in a permanent turn of the tide. The building trade also shows partial signs of recovery, the easier conditions of the money market and the low price of many raw materials serving to somewhat stimulate constructive operations. The most prosperous sections of the country continue to be the agricultural districts, where the good harvests of last year and the high prices obtained for agricultural products are making certain regions exceedingly prosperous. It is quite natural that the communities and industries dependent upon agriculture should share this prosperity. The result is that the country's trade as a whole is in a spotty and somewhat confused condition. Some interests are of course also profiting from the war. Nevertheless, these orders when all combined will constitute but a small fraction of our total domestic and foreign trade. Bank clearings are still running 12 per cent to 15 per cent below last year. Idle cars show a large increase compared with November. Railroad earnings are unsatisfactory. In December the decrease on the roads reporting was 10 per cent, and in January their earnings showed practically no improvement, but as the benefits of the recent concessions in rates begin to appear, better results should follow.

The investment situation is unchanged. There has been a fair demand for new issues; quite as good as could be expected in view of many perplexing conditions. The possibilities of large foreign demands for new capital appearing on this side keep the investment outlook somewhat unsettled. It is quite certain that to offset the losses from war there will be heavy inroads upon the supply of new capital, and good rates of interest are equally sure to be demanded. Quite a number of securities, however, can be selected in this market which already offer handsome returns to the purchaser, and the growing belief of brighter times ahead seems to be an effective barrier against any important decline. The market is thoroughly liquidated and foreign selling

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is far from being the element of weakness that was feared. At this time there is little fear of any further serious foreign liquidation. In addition to the belief that liquidation is nearly ended and that better times are ahead, the conviction is also growing that the war will not be as long as at one time feared. Prophecies are hazardous, and yet indications of exhaustion are too evident to be suppressed or disbelieved. When the end of the war is in sight, a sharp upward movement must be expected. Meanwhile, however, stock market operations should be conducted with persistent conservatism. Sharp fluctuations are inevitable owing to the chances of war; the uncertainties of which are proverbial.

There is one fundamental factor upon which to build confidence; that is there will be a good demand for our food products for months to come, war or no war. We have plenty to spare for export from the crops of 1914; and all indications point to a large acreage in 1915. Europe it is certain will raise small crops next year, even if the war terminates earlier than expected. For many reasons European soil cannot be adequately tilled this year and it will be years before the devastated districts can fully recuperate. We may be sure therefore of profitable prices for our surplus food products for some time to come. Additional reasons for confidence are the early adjournment of congress and the failure of the ship purchase bill.

HENRY CLEWS.

NAUVOO WILL GET REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

Illinois District Gathering is Going to Old Mormon City in April.

The next Rebekah assembly of this district will be held in Nauvoo on April 29 and 30, says the Independent. These were the dates selected yesterday at a meeting of the president of the assembly, Mrs. E. A. Walther, of this city; Vice President Mrs. Albert Ehlebe of Warsaw, and Secretary Mrs. A. L. Bennington of Dallas City. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Walther. Mrs. Lizzie Waggoner of Hamilton, Mrs. G. E. Hertzler of Warsaw, and Mrs. Bennington and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Knappenberger of Dallas

Avoid Mental Lopsidedness

In these times of stress when matters of tremendous issue press heavily upon our sympathy and judgment, it is of the gravest importance to our peace of mind and to the future of our country that we retain a fair mental balance. We must know all about men and things to judge them fairly. Read, this week, in THE LITERARY DIGEST for February 20th, all about

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Bag Fire Last Night. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., Feb. 22.—Two buildings were destroyed and four others were damaged here last night by a fire that for a time threatened to destroy the entire business section. Loss \$200,000. The Lucky Block and the Ziegenhelfer Brothers' Furniture company's store were destroyed. The glare in the sky was visible for ten miles.

—Read The Gate City want column.