

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

In the midst of National Fire Prevention Week, which comes to an end Sunday, October 9, it is well to ponder over the farm fire cost of the country, which the United States Department of Agriculture says cost this country \$18,166,710 in 1918.

It is a staggering sum, this \$18,166,710 that is swept away by flames on the farms of the country. Yet the sum is growing. It is now estimated at about \$20,000,000 yearly.

Some of these fires are not preventable, it is true. Yet it is estimated by the department that 37 per cent of them are of a preventable nature, and another 30 per cent are of unknown origin, but believed to have been largely preventable.

With inadequate fire-fighting equipment on the farms of the country, fires are extremely hard to control. Prevention is the one best way to deal with them.

Among the preventable or partly preventable fires in 1918 are listed blazes from defective chimneys and flues which caused a loss of \$1,962,031. Sparks on roofs cost the farms of the country \$1,181,171. The careless use of matches by smokers and others caused farm fires which caused a loss of \$1,071,987. Stoves, furnaces, boilers and their pipes caused fires which rolled up losses of \$674,968. The largest single item in the losses was from lightning, which the department believes partly preventable. The loss from this cause was \$3,933,950.

Fire Prevention Week comes to a close on the semi-centennial of the great Chicago fire which, while occurring in a great city, had its traditional cause in the upsetting of a lantern, which yearly counts up a big toll in farm losses.

The lessons of Fire Prevention Week should be studied with care by the farmers of the country, as well as the city dwellers. Buildings should be inspected to see that they are in the best practical shape to prevent and resist fire; chimneys and flues, pipes, furnaces, stoves, etc., should be gone over with care to see that they are in the best possible condition before fires are started up for the winter; intelligently installed lightning rods should be placed on buildings; kerosene and gasoline receptacles should be kept apart and so different as to avoid the possibility of mistakes; matches should be kept in safe places, away from children, and should not be carried loose around farm buildings. Numerous other means of prevention can easily be exercised by the people of the country that will do much to cut down fire losses.

Precautionary measures will do much to cut down a loss that takes millions of dollars out of the possession of rural Americans each year and leaves nothing in its place. Prevention is much better than regret.

LAND ARMAMENT AND GAS WARFARE

The discussion of the armaments conference will probably be most prominently concerned with the limitation of naval armaments, but two other subjects mentioned in the agenda give opportunity for debates that may well develop into prime importance. The limitation of land armaments—the restriction of the size of armies—is something to which all the allies have given more or less attention since the armistice, but there is not the element of international competition that is found in the world's navies. But the maintenance of huge armies is quite as expensive as the construction of big navies, and an agreement on their limitation would reduce the financial burden of nations quite as effectively as a naval holiday.

The control of new agencies of warfare offers another field of discussion similar to the deliberations of The Hague convention. It is comparatively easy to formulate rules governing the use of poison gas and airplanes in any future war, but to devise means for preventing a militaristic nation from acquiring menacing stores of those weapons is quite another matter. Experts have predicted that the next war will be a war in the air, a feature of which will be deadly gas bombs. The armaments conference may accept that prediction and undertake to restrict the nations of the world from laying up huge stores of gas or building big air fleets, just as they propose to fix limits for the future building of battleships. It is certain that the scope of the conference will be considerably broadened beyond what is in the public mind at present, and it is to be hoped that the results achieved will extend beyond the mere limitation of navies.

TWO REPUBLICAN VICTORIES

In each of the two special elections held since President Harding's inauguration,—that in New Mexico for senator last week and that in Massachusetts for representative this week, the Republican candidate received a larger percentage of the total vote than was cast for Harding in last November's landslide. Either there is some mistake about the alleged unpopularity of the present national administration, or the Democratic party is too dead to take advantage of the situation. In both of these political divisions there were some factional troubles that might have been expected to operate against a Republican success; yet in both of them there was a big turn-out of the voters and Republican majorities as big as the biggest ever piled up. The drift toward the Democratic party is evidently one of the same variety that buried it in November last.

Lord Balfour declares that the League of Nations is "greatly crippled" because certain large nations remain outside. He might better have put it in the singular and said "nation" for it was the United States that was expected to furnish the support for the cripple.

The world is a pretty good place in which to live after all, if one keeps busy and thinks of something else besides himself. Do not wonder if you do find out some day that the other fellow

If you don't look ahead and make preparation for your own future it is quite possible that no one else will think of doing it for you.

low is more interested in his own affairs than he is in yours. It's the way of the world, you know.

With Our State Contemporaries

MODERN DANCING

Dancing is the natural expression of the human feeling for rhythm and music, and so is a diversion which all able-bodied people will enjoy. But it is made far more difficult for the ordinary person by the incessant changes in dance steps.

Up to the time the tango craze spread over the country eight or ten years ago, dancing was fairly well standardized. Anyone who did it the year before, could do it the next year, and a great many of the middle-aged people enjoyed it. Then came the development of modern dancing, with thousands of dancing classes teaching a bewildering variety of steps.

Just as soon as the crowd had learned one new figure, then it went out of style and some new ones had to be acquired. This made business fine for the dancing teachers, but it spoiled the sport for all who could not afford time and money to follow these whims of the popular taste.

Dancing of recent years has seen some absurd extremes. There was the snake-like and wriggling "shimmy," which could no more be called the poetry of motion than the contortions of the boneless man in the circus tent. On the opposite extreme, the fox trotting of the present day seems about like walking around the hall. But while these freaks and follies come and go, the old standard waltz that our grandmothers loved still remains the favorite of those who dance for the sake of rhythm more than to exhibit their ability to copy the latest freak.

Married people frequently think, when they get a home of their own and a family of children, that their dancing days are over. The women of that age claim they get no invitations if they attend a dance. But if the married crowd finds themselves neglected, they can have their own dancing groups, and follow the fads of the day if they want to, or dance standard old figures that will always be good. People need not think their dancing days are over so long as they are able to walk to the dance hall.—St. Johns News.

BUILDING OR BREAD LINES

A certain amount of amiable optimism makes life pleasant at times, but it does not, of itself, sustain life. Just now a little wholesome and frank pessimism is in order. Two hard facts are staring us in the face: the unemployed now number fully 6,000,000 men and winter is coming on.

It is all very commendable and very agreeable, up to a certain point (and also very easy) to rely on a favorable turn which will ease the hard circumstances of creature existence, but times come when it is well to realize that few good things just happen or are vouchsafed to humanity by a beneficent providence. The thoughtful are in agreement now, that work must be found for the idle or we are in for a winter of deprivation and suffering.

Fortunately, by taking thought and acting promptly, work can be provided for those now idle and the many others who may be released from industry with the coming on of the cold season. Public works offer the way out.

As everybody knows, many construction projects have been postponed from year to year for just seven years. Much public improvement long held up, should now move rapidly forward. A very great deal of this work can be done during the winter season. The directing minds in the construction industry long ago learned how to cope successfully with cold weather.

This is not only a way out of a bad situation but in the opinion of many it is the only way out. The choice rests between action or inaction, between building or breadlines, between public works or public charity. Only a flabby and unjustifiable optimism will prevent public officials making the proper choice. Now is the time for some robust and rational realism; if we don't take control of the situation in the only way available the coming winter will be one of suffering for the millions of unemployed and their dependents, the women and the children, the aged and the infirm.

While it is unpleasant to direct thought to what will surely happen if we go on waiting for providential, or congressional, relief, it is pleasant indeed to point out that if public works projects be driven forward, now, useful work will be provided for those released from industry and great sums of money will be placed in general circulation, to the immediate and substantial benefit of all lines of business.—Editorial from Municipal and County Engineering, Indianapolis, September, 1921.

Police Report For September

The police report for the month of September, submitted to the city commission Tuesday evening is one of the best in months from the point of arrests made and fines reported.

During the month thirty-six arrests were made on warrants and one without a warrant, making a total of 37 arrests for the month. Of this number nearly thirty were arrested for violation of the traffic ordinance of the city. A few were arrested for drunkenness.

A total of \$357.00 in fines is reported in the police report for the month, one of the large amounts in fines ever reported in a single month.

The Story of Our States

By JONATHAN BRACE I.—DELAWARE



TWO DELAWARE falls the honor of being the first of the original thirteen states. December 7, 1787, it officially adopted the Constitution and thus was made a beginning of our present Federal government. According to the seventh article of the Constitution, however, it was necessary for nine states to ratify it before it actually came into force. So it was not until the following June, by which time eight other states had accepted the Constitution, that the United States of America actually came into being.

The early history of Delaware was a varied one. It started in 1638 when a small party of Swedes settled at the mouth of the Delaware river and called it New Sweden. In 1655, Peter Stuyvesant, the governor of the Dutch colony of New Netherlands, annexed this territory. But it did not long remain Dutch, for in 1664 the English took possession. When Pennsylvania was deeded to William Penn he desired access to the seacoast and at his urgent request Delaware was transferred to Penn's proprietorship. From the beginning of the eighteenth century, however, Delaware had its separate legislature, and at the time of the Revolution it became an independent state.

Delaware is next to the smallest of our states, having an area of only 2,370 square miles. Its participation in presidential elections is limited to three electors. This is arranged according to population. Each state is entitled to the same number of presidential electors as it has members of congress, so the influence of the different states in voting for the President varies from Delaware's three electors to New York's 45.

As to the derivation of the name Delaware, this was appropriately given to the state from the river, which in turn was named after the bay and the bay was called Delaware in honor of Lord Delaware, who was governor of the Virginia colony in 1610.

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GOOD RESULTS BEING SECURED

VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL CAMPAIGN IS ACHIEVING GOOD RESULTS.

Lansing, Oct. 6.—State workers are optimistic regarding results of the venereal disease control campaign which Michigan has carried on the past three years.

They will not commit themselves to the statement that the incidence of syphilis and gonorrhea has been cut; they do say, however, that the majority of persons afflicted with syphilis or gonorrhea is now getting competent medical treatment, either by private practitioners or in municipal clinics, whereas three years ago treatment was haphazard, ignored, or of the quack variety.

With 20 municipal clinics established in the larger cities and working in cooperation with the state department of health, a total of 101,341 persons visited the clinics for treatment, examination, or advice during the present year, from Jan 1 to Sept. 1, according to department records. Treatments given at the clinics numbered 23,549, of which 16,095 were to men and 10,454 to women compared with a total of 12, 643 treatments in the corresponding period a year ago. Physicians reported 6,885 cases of gonorrhea, 5,182 cases of syphilis, and 108 cases of chancroid up to Sept. 1, making a total of 11,975 cases of venereal disease reported. Last year 13,112 cases were reported during the first 8 months.

"We must consider the effect of venereal disease control upon the generations yet unborn, and the diminution of misery and suffering with which we are daily surrounded, to understand just what the campaign means to society," states Dr. William J. V. Deacon, director, in commenting upon the work of the year.

A Lost Art.

An old shepherd who has just died in a village a few miles from here was unable to count beyond three. Nevertheless, he had charge of large flocks of sheep and could tell not merely when one was missing, but which particular animal had disappeared. The old man was unwilling to explain how he did it, and the secret had died with him.—Leighton Buzzard correspondence, London Daily Mail.

High Cost of Flirting. Mrs. Eke—"Your new hat is lovely, my dear. But \$75. I thought you said you were going to get a much cheaper one." Mrs. Wye—"Well, I was, but my husband was with me and when I saw him flirting with one of the salesgirls I took this \$75 hat just for revenge."—Boston Transcript.

Alma Ten Years Ago This Week

Charles Fishbeck, for over twenty years, chief of the Alma Fire Department, moved from Alma to Calgary, Canada, where he located on a farm. He was first elected chief in May of 1890, holding the office continuously until 1911.

County population from government census announced as 28,820, and that of Alma as 2,757.

John Luchini opened his new fruit and candy store on Superior street.

Alma College opened the football season winning 22 to 0 from the Saginaw Naval Reserves.

The Record can print it for you at a fair price.—advertisement 10-3w

Record Directory

FOR READY REFERENCE

Preserve This and Then You'll Know

President and Congress President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, Salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$150,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$250,000 in all. (Subject to change) Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa. Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 56 Senators and 432 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$2,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 111,817 population.

Party Division in 67th Congress: House 291 Rep., 122 Dem., 1 Soc., Senate 52 Rep., 37 Dem.

U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet Arranged in order of presidential succession: Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasurer, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denney, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$15,000. Associate Justice, salary, \$12,000 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. B. Day, Ohio, (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, W. Va. (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio, (Dem.)

Michigan Government Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Read, salary, \$300.00; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Oran B. Fuller, salary, \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary, \$5,000.00; Supl. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank P. Rogers, salary, \$7,500.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amon, salary \$800.00; Representative of District, David E. Locke, salary, \$800.00; Supreme Court Judge, salary, \$700.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Stearn, Howard Weist, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

County Officers Circuit Judge, Edward J. Moine, salary \$2,500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kross, salary, \$2,400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willett, salary, fees; Clerk, Bernice Cack, salary, \$1,500; Treas., Solway Esop, salary, \$1,500; Pros. Atty., O. L. Smith, salary, \$2,200; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heister, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Patten, salary, \$1,600; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Bahillo, fees; Drain Com., Eva Laycock, salary \$1,500; Coronors, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$300.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Philip Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Cramer, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary, \$2,000.00; City Clerk, Francis G. Hayward, salary \$2,000.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,800.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahillo, salary, \$1,500.00; Health Officer, Dr. John S. Day, salary, \$1,500.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1,750.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse K. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas F. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$5.00 per day on actual time.

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