

TIME FOR BAD FIRES

LIGHTNING CAUSES GREATEST DAMAGE DURING MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST.

LESS RESISTANCE BECAUSE OF DRYNESS OF WEATHER

Fourth of July Another Prolific Source of Fire Damage—Twenty-One Fires on Record of Last Year—State Marshal Roe Says Day Has Come to Be Dreaded by Many Instead of Enjoyed.

Special to Times-Republican.

Des Moines, June 28.—Fires from lightning are more prevalent during the months of July and August than any other period of the year according to the records of the state fire marshal's office. It is during these months that the most severe electrical storms occur as a rule and the lightning seems to do more damage in this period than at any other time. Especially is this true if the weather is dry, for then there is not the resistance to the lightning which is present when the air is moist and the earth is full of moisture. Altogether last year there were 271 fires in Iowa caused by lightning damaging property to the extent of \$403,653.

The Fourth of July is a prolific time for fires. Last year there were twenty-one fires caused by fireworks causing a property damage of \$4,113. The damage to life and limb is recorded in State Fire Marshal Ole O. Roe calls attention to the great danger and damage done by fireworks on the Fourth in his last annual report. He says the Fourth is invariably a day when fire departments in all of the cities and towns are kept on the qui vive. He declares that the Fourth is a day dreaded by many instead of a day of rejoicing and gladness.

"Most of us do not realize the great loss of life and property every year caused by fireworks," says Mr. Roe. "In eight years as a result of the careless handling of fireworks amounted to \$2,500,000. A fire caused by fire crackers destroyed two-thirds of the city of Portland, Maine, a number of years ago and burned property to the value of \$10,000,000. From the same cause Pittsburg lost \$50,000 worth of property in one day."

"Fireworks may be divided into two classes; those exploded in the upper air as sky rockets and toy balloons and those discharged near the earth. The second class includes the small cracker, the cannon or giant cracker, the blank cartridge, toy pistols, pin wheels, etc. Those discharged close at hand are the most dangerous."

State Superintendent A. M. Deyoe and others of his department went to Ames today, with a number of other educators from southern Iowa, and are attending the annual state conference of superintendents of county schools that will be held there practically all week.

The big question before these county superintendents at the present time is the method of complying with the law which requires the teaching of domestic science and agriculture in every school of the state. It will be recalled that several years ago the legislature decreed that after July 1 this year every teacher securing a certificate must pass examination in these vocational studies. Then they must be taught in every school after this time. Now how can this be done and to what extent shall it be required? At first this looked like an unsolvable problem ahead of the educational interests of the state. It seemed impossible to require that every schoolman should be able to tell the boys about raising hogs and plowing for corn, or be able to instruct in how to use the jackplane and buck saw; or that every male pedagogue should be able to instruct in making pies and sweeping the stairways. A great deal of thinking has been done the past few years in effort to arrive at a solution of the problem. All those who have been doing the thinking will go over the mat-

ter in conference at Ames this week. Standards will be discussed for these vocational studies and an agreement reached as to the extent and nature of the examinations to be made for certificates.

Another feature of the conference will be that the consolidation of schools. C. J. Brown, the state superintendent of Louisiana, will tell what has been done in the south, where there has been much progress in this line.

E. G. Lockhart, of Minneapolis, an architect who has won fame for having designed some of the best school buildings of the country, is to have a day for representations of the subject of school architecture, which is recognized as of growing importance.

Favorable weather the past week has permitted the farmers to get into the corn fields and the corn is improving rapidly. Mr. George M. Chappel of the local weather bureau expects the corn to make a splendid growth if the weather remains favorable. Farmers are behind with their work and warm, dry weather is needed all over the state.

Bankers report there is a steady demand for money and has been since April, when work opened up. There appears to be as much building over the state as in 1914 which was considered a banner year. Thousands of automobiles are being purchased. The automobile department of the secretary of state's office to date has registered 130,732 automobiles while at this time last year the number was 94,165 showing an increase of 36,571 this year.

The case of the Milwaukee and Waukesha railroads vs. the Des Moines Union railway and others, involving property rights in the Des Moines union station and terminals valued at \$3,000,000, opens before Judge Wade in the federal court at Davenport today. Two hearings were held on this case by the late Judge Smith McEliason, his illness and death overtook him before the case was finished.

FATAL AUTO ACCIDENT.

Mrs. Henry Martin, Aged 60, Killed When Car Overturns, Near Creston. Special to Times-Republican.

Creston, June 28.—Sunday morning occurred another of the long list of deaths from automobile accidents in this section. The victim was Mrs. Henry Martin, aged 60. Mr. and Mrs. Martin and their two sons had been in Creston spending the evening on business and pleasure. They started for home northeast of here, about 10 o'clock. Mr. Martin and one son occupying the front seat and Mrs. Martin and another son in the rear seat.

When out about two miles they overtook a car driven by W. A. Sadtler on the Sadtler family. Mr. Sadtler was driving more leisurely than the Martins desired to travel and turned out to pass them. The road was comparatively level but one front wheel hit a stone culvert, causing the car to partly overturn. The car tipped to the right but in some manner Mrs. Martin was thrown out to the left, alighting upon her head and shoulders. She was unconscious from the first. Mrs. Martin was lifted into the car of Mr. Sadtler and quickly brought back to town, but she never recovered consciousness. Her neck was broken. The tragedy has shocked the community. The family is one of the most prominent in this section.

WOMEN ATTACKED BY CHARGE.

Eccentric Iowa City Woman in Desperate Struggle With Nurses. Special to Times-Republican.

Iowa City, June 28.—Two women were painfully but not dangerously injured in a desperate struggle here with Mrs. Ann Harrison, a wealthy octogenarian pioneer, of such eccentricities that it became necessary to confine her to a room, although no officials passed judgment upon her.

The captive was about to escape and the other aged women—her sister, Mrs. O. G. Govey, and the other, Mrs. Lettie Wilson, a Civil War nurse, aged 76, tried to force her back and lock the door. In the resulting struggle Mrs. Govey was knocked down, her head striking a piece of furniture, and Mrs. Wilson was also thrown backward, the ligaments of her back being torn.

The old ladies made a gallant fight, however, and restrained their charge finally, although both were compelled to receive surgical attention thereafter.

NO MULCT TAX REFUND

ATTORNEY GENERAL RULES THAT SALOONS CAN'T SECURE REBATE OF FUNDS.

PAYMENT HELD TO BE NO MISTAKE OF LAW

If Saloon Ceases to Operate, Remainder of Tax Must Be Credited to Loss—Saloonists Threaten to Bring Suit—Another Ruling Declares Telephone Companies Can Collect in Advance.

Des Moines, June 28.—Replying to an inquiry sent in from Iowa City, the state department of justice has given an opinion that saloonkeepers can not claim a rebate of the mulct tax if not permitted to operate for the full period for which payment is made.

Owing to the fact that the Des Moines saloonkeepers are asking the county for refund of \$6,450 of the mulct tax paid in the first quarter of 1915, the ruling may have an important bearing on the local situation.

The department says: "With reference to refunding to the saloonkeepers a portion of the mulct tax paid by them, I will call your attention to the decision of the supreme court in the case of Ahlers vs. City of Estherville, to the effect that when such a tax is paid the payment is no mistake of the law and can not be recovered back."

The county officials have refused to refund to the saloonkeepers and the latter are threatening to bring suit against the county.

Another interesting ruling recently given by the state department of justice is to the effect that telephone companies may charge for service in advance, providing there is nothing in the franchise to prevent it.

There have been rumors that some of the Iowa cities are about to be hit by an increase in telephone rates. Increase in the number of subscribers in the cities has caused the proposed move. At the Des Moines telephone exchange it is declared that no raise in rates is contemplated in Des Moines. The local exchange is said to have crossed the 20,000 mark in number of subscribers, several months ago.

WEEKS TRIES NEW AIRSHIP.

Iowa Aviator Completes German-Taube Machine and Makes Flights. Special to Times-Republican.

Eagle Grove, June 28.—Elliott O. Weeks, a Holmes boy, but now a resident of Eagle Grove, completed his German-Taube aeroplane here on Thursday and on Friday he made two of the prettiest flights ever witnessed in northern Iowa. The machine is the seventh that Mr. Weeks has built during his aerial career of the last four years and he says that never before, in the history of flying machines has a new machine been built in such record breaking time (twenty-eight days) and then on its maiden trip leave the ground without the least bit of trouble. At noon Friday, Weeks made his initial trip, going up some 3,000 feet and remaining in the air about ten or fifteen minutes. Again at 7:30 in the evening Weeks started with his machine a mile and a half west of the city and remained in the air a good thirty minutes, during which time he ascended to a height of 6,000 feet. He flew east over the city at a rate of forty miles an hour. On his return trip with the wind at his back he estimated his speed at 110 miles an hour.

Mr. Weeks has made upwards of a thousand flights since his first flight of over four years ago. His last flight, previous to the one he made here Friday was at Denver, Colo., on Sept. 13, 1913, when he was slightly injured and his machine wrecked in a fall. Eugene Riggs of Terre Haute, Ind., who has always been Mr. Weeks' mechanic, helped construct the machine here at Eagle Grove. The frame is made out of spruce and ash wood, together with Shelby seamless tubing and covered with balloon silk. The engine is one from the Hall Scott Aeronautic Engine Works at San Francisco and has a break test of 180 horsepower.

Weeks is booked to fly from this city Tuesday to Boone, where he will make several flights at the automobile races June 29 and 30.

IOWA HIGHWAY IN PICTURES.

Motion Picture Men Filming Lincoln Way to Reach Clinton July 2. Special to Times-Republican.

Clinton, June 28.—Word has been received that the car bearing the officers of the Lincoln Highway and the motion picture camera men will arrive here Friday evening July 2, and will spend the next day in getting motion pictures of Clinton and the left. New York May 15, after first dipping the rear wheels in the Atlantic. It will dip the front wheels into the Pacific on reaching San Francisco. It is planned to also baptize the car while here with Mississippi water.

Motion pictures of the principal cities along the way are being taken and will later be shown over the entire country. A feature of the pictures to be taken here will be a great automobile parade, the largest ever staged here. W. F. Coan, state consul for the highway, is in charge of local arrangements.

Montour News Notes.

Special to Times-Republican.

Montour, June 28.—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Irish have been entertaining recently the following persons: Miss Hazel Amador, of Toledo; Mrs. May Shrader, of Tama, and Mr. Frank Irish, a brother, from Toledo.

Children's day was observed in the M. E. church yesterday.

Miss Ala Ward has been suffering from tonsillitis but is convalescing.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Stevens, of Des Moines, have finished their vacation and returned home.

Rhodes Scholarship Examinations.

Special to Times-Republican.

Iowa City, June 28.—President T. H. Macbride, before leaving for Seattle, Wash., for the summer, announced the next Rhodes scholarship examinations for Iowa. Dr. Macbride, as chairman of the Iowa state examining board, sets Oct. 5 and 6 as the days. The winners will be sent to Oxford, England, for three years, with \$1,500 a year allowance.

Northern Iowa Items

Cedar Rapids. Bohemian Presbyterians, of Cedar Rapids, are to have a church of their own. Contract for the structure has already been let, the building to cost \$25,000. It will be known as the Huss Memorial.

Waukon. Money makes the mare go and evidently war makes the wool go, for a local buyer of wool in Waukon has purchased 20,000 pounds so far this season, and there are several wool buyers in this city.

Bellevue. Frank D. Prandy, a former Bellevue boy, who is now serving with a Canadian regiment in the European war, recently wrote a long letter to friends in which he tells of the engagement of April 22, when he was wounded and got a dose of German gas.

Estherville. Sheriff Samuel Normandine returned Thursday to Chicago with John McKana, who is wanted in Illinois on a charge of seduction. The man McKana has been working on a farm near Estherville for several weeks and was located and arrested by Sheriff Nilvison, of Emmet county, and held for the Illinois officer.

DeWitt. A glass jar into which Mrs. M. L. Mosher, wife of Clinton county's crop expert, had poured hot fruit exploded Thursday afternoon and an artery in her arm was severed. A physician was called and although it was feared that the loss of blood would render her condition serious, she was able to be about the house today.

Cedar Rapids. Authorities here began search for the body of John U. Yavra, the proprietor of an automobile tire company who disappeared after leaving notes to relatives that he intended to end his life. He declared he would jump into the Cedar river. He ordered that \$1,000 of his insurance money be left to his sweetheart, Beattie Benoit. Police offer \$50 reward for recovery of the body.

Waterloo. After being an invalid for thirteen years, much of which time he was practically helpless, James P. Sherman, brother of former governor, Buren R. Sherman, is dead, aged 70. He was a victim of paralysis. For several years Mr. Sherman was part owner of the Iowa State Reporter in company with Matt Parrott and L. L. Girton. He had lived here more than forty years. His two daughters, Misses Evelyn and Belle, survive. His funeral was conducted by Knights Templar.

DeWitt. DeWitt is to have two Independence day celebrations, July 3, under the

auspices of the Farmer's Protective Association, the farmers and business men of the county will meet at Crystal lake for an immense picnic. Hon. P. H. Judge, of DeWitt, will deliver the oration of the day and Miss Margaret Buchanan will read the Declaration of Independence. There will be sports, boat races, a pavilion dance and an enormous pyrotechnic display. July 5, the Loyal Order of Moose will conduct the celebration in DeWitt, and the festivities planned for the attendants are magnificent. There will be three bands, the Mooseheart, Muscatine and Clinton. Attorney C. H. George of Clinton is to be speaker of the day, Miss Lenora Reihman, recently of Boston, will deliver the Declaration of Independence and there will be a grand parade of the Moose, boy scouts, bands, floats and citizens. Petersburg and DeWitt will play ball in the afternoon and the evening will conclude with fireworks and a bowery ball.

Dubuque. Tuesday was the Dubuque annual Sunday school parade day, and the occasion will long be remembered for its success. Thousands of the city's population turned out in the park. Beautiful floats featured the procession, which took three-quarters of an hour to pass a given point. Every office building and the sidewalks on the line of march were crowded as the procession moved past, many people from out of town visiting the city for the occasion.

Cedar Rapids. Miss Esther Heil, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heil, 314 South Seventeenth street, who with Miss Olga Novotny, spent two months on the Pacific coast, has returned home seriously ill. The young woman also had a narrow escape from serious injury while automobiling thru a canyon. The machine skidded and went down an embankment. Miss Heil was dropped ten feet into the canyon and her face lacerated by coming into contact with shrubbery. Miss Novotny escaped injury.

Cedar Rapids. H. B. Mills, of the United States secret service, arrived in Cedar Rapids at noon Friday with Harry West, alias Earl Tate, who is suspected of being a counterfeiter and robber. Mills turned the prisoner over to Deputy United States Marshal Healy. It is alleged that West, his brother, and another man passed counterfeit money in Kansas City. Mills declared that the mould for the counterfeit money was found in the possession of West's brother when the brother was arrested a short time ago. Harry West claims that he is innocent. He explained to the secret service man that the brother

committed the crime. It is also charged that West, his brother and the other man held up a jitney in Kansas City. Harry West was the last of the trio to be arrested. Mills followed him to a farm near Homestead, Iowa, and arrested him while he was plowing corn for a farmer. Harry West probably will be taken to Iowa City for trial.

Sioux City. E. L. Sallinger, claim agent for the Milwaukee railroad here and son of Justice E. I. Sallinger, of the Iowa supreme court, was so incensed when arrested by a railroad traffic policeman for driving across the tracks on the left side of Nebraska street, that he refused to pay his \$10 fine and started a fight on the validity of the traffic ordinance in police court. All the traffic officers on the scene agreed that Sallinger had driven on the wrong side of the street. Lieutenant Governor W. L. Harding argued Sallinger's case in police court.



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