

THE NEW BUILDING CODE.

It has not become generally known, excepting to those vitally interested, that the new building code with reference to its fire restrictions, marks out a certain limit in our District wherein only fire-proof buildings may be erected and that in case of destruction of any building to the extent of 65 per cent. of its value, repairs to such building cannot be made excepting they conform to the new code, which specifies that buildings in the district must be of brick, terra cotta, concrete, or some other non-inflammable material. It also specifies that the outer walls of these buildings must also be of fire-proof nature. This district so affected in Algiers is as follows:

Beginning at the Mississippi River, along the center line of Delaronde street to the center line of Vallette street; from the center line of Vallette street to the center line of Pelican avenue; from the center line of Pelican avenue to the center line of Verret avenue, and from Verret avenue to the banks of the Mississippi River. Verret avenue is the street parallel to and just this side of the Southern Pacific shops.

It may be seen at a glance that should the building code not be revised it would work a considerable hardship on those who have property in this district. In the first place, the houses here are not congested and there is not a sufficient demand for rentable property in this section that would justify the building of fire-proof structures; the amount invested would not bring over 2 per cent. in rentals. The code may also prevent the establishment of factories along these sites on the River.

Jos. W. Lennox, the contractor, has taken up the matter in the interest of the Algiers people, with Mayor Behrman. His communication was referred by the Mayor to the Board who has charge of the building code, and Mr. Lennox was notified to appear before the Board on Tuesday, but on account of the press of a great deal of other business, Mr. Lennox will not be heard until the coming Thursday. Mr. Lennox's letter to Mayor Behrman follows: Hon. Martin Behrman, Mayor, New Orleans, La.:

Dear Sir—The recently promulgated Building Code, in its application to the Fifth District (Algiers) is such as to work a hardship on a large number of residents and property owners, and you are respectfully urged to give it your attention, with a view to having some modifications made so as to give relief to the citizens without, in any sense, defeating the intention of the Code as a measure of protection.

The limits of the fire district are so laid down, and the restrictions of the Code in that district are so framed, as to be, in the opinion of some very well-informed judges, quite unsuitable to the circumstances; it includes a large area now occupied by residences and other buildings not in any way calling for, or warranting, costly fire-proof construction; neither is this section of the Fifth District the most congested, or busiest, or most valuable portion; nor is the fire risk greater, or as great, in this area as elsewhere.

But the most objectionable feature of the Code, as it now stands, is the effect it would have in the case of a fire which would destroy a building, or even damage it to the extent of 65 per cent. of its value.

This effect would be to practically prevent the repair or rebuilding of almost all such buildings, for in the very large majority of cases, the cost of a new, fire-proof building would be entirely too high to permit of a reasonable revenue being derived from the investment, and there is no probability the type of buildings now occupying this area being replaced by any such permanent and costly structures as are permissible according to the new Building Code. Unless modified, the Code will have the effect of condemning to vacancy, in case of fire, any of the ground upon which many cottages are now standing.

Yours respectfully, JOS. W. LENNOX.

METHODIST NOTES.

Rev. John Tansy, of Clifty, Ind., who again filled the pulpit of the Methodist Church, Sunday night, pleased a large congregation with his sermon. He was heartily congratulated. The following are excerpts from the sermon: Solomon excels all men in sacred or profane history in breadth of thought and grasp of his subject. They were, and are specialists. He touched all subjects, and gave light on all he touched.

Dr. Franklin said, near the close of his life: "A man is not fully born until he has passed through death." Daniel Webster has told us "the greatest thought that ever passed through my mind is personal responsibility to a personal God." These are profound moral truths. "Doth not Wisdom cry?" Is a personal minister of the God of mercy, pointing out safe paths, and crying in the ears of men, "how long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity, and the scornors delight in scorning and fools hate knowledge?"

If you will read Thanatopsis you will have a graphic but an appalling picture of the ruin made by course of time of human hopes and human institutions. Wisdom points to these, as these are, so are ye sure to be.

Confucius is the author of the oldest system of morals outside of the Bible. The map of China is a significant comment on any system without God in it. Mohammedanism after a trial of 800 years has succeeded only in rearing and educating a race of butchers. But Christianity remains the only system that can meet the needs of the human soul. It is God's workshop in which He moulds character into His own image of wisdom, power, purity and happiness.

But he that sinneth against wisdom wrongeth his own soul. No man can say, in this day, I did not know the value and effect of an act, or its influence and character and destiny. No man has any right to trifle with his soul, for it is God-given.