

the idea of making the person whose property is burned through fire pay for extinguishing it as well as to pay for any damage done to his neighbors' property. In Pennsylvania, laws have been passed embodying this principle and it is now established in the city of New York which recently collected from several concerns the cost of water used on the fire, the pro rata salaries of the men who worked at it, a rental on the apparatus and an additional charge of ten per cent on all to cover the overhead.

It is held that a man should be just as responsible for burning his neighbors' property as he would if his neighbor fell into a hole in his sidewalk and was hurt.

MADE A HOLIDAY

Mooley Started the Fire Prevention Day

On September 9th 1871, according to the story which we are told and which we believe or not as we see fit, Mrs. O'Leary went out into the little barn to milk the cow on her little farm just on the outskirts of the city of Chicago. It was far from light and she carried a lantern which she placed on the stable floor and then sat down and started to milk.

Now what particular devil possessed that cow does not appear. At any rate the cow was moved to kick and the cow's hoof struck the lantern. The lantern fell over. The oil ran out on the floor and the city of Chicago was all but wiped off the map.

That is the story we are told of the way the great Chicago fire started. Whether it is true or not is beside the mark. It is typical. Many fires start in just such a way.

But however, it started, the city of Chicago has reason to remember that day in October and so it is that Chicago has taken a mighty interest in the establishment of a National Fire Prevention Day on the anniversary of its misfortune, that other municipalities may learn a lesson from its experience.

The movement for Fire Prevention Day was started by the Safety First Federation of America. Last year the governors of twenty-nine states gave forth proclamations calling upon their people to observe the day by cleaning up their homes; by removing rubbish from dark corners; by seeing if they were prepared to meet the fire if it came. This year it is believed that practically every state will take part in this great movement, and there is reason to hope that President Wilson may issue a proclamation that will go far toward awakening people to their grave danger and to put the movement on a firm national foundation.

In his letters to governors urging them to impress upon the people the need of preventing the loss of life and property by fire, Frederick H. Elliot, Executive Secretary of the Safety First Federation laid down the following program:

That on October 9, all public buildings, factories and homes be thoroughly cleaned of all rubbish accumulation.

That all heating, lighting and fire extinguishing apparatus be examined and if found defective promptly repaired.

That fire drills be held in all schools, factories and other places where fire drills are necessary.

That lectures be given in public schools and sermons be preached in churches on the subject of fire prevention, and that meetings be held to arouse public interest in the matter.

The latest estimate of the loss by fire in the United States and Canada in 1914 was \$250,000,000. Add this to the cost of maintaining fire departments and the total is \$500,000,000. This amount is so stupendous that the mind cannot conceive it. \$500,000,000 would build a Panama Canal. There is a tax of \$5 a head on every man, woman and child in the United States. It means that every man, woman and child pays \$35 a year for fire protection.

The fact that insurance companies pay nothing, insurance companies are nothing but great money houses which collect from all their policy holders, so that those who are burned can pay their losses without being ruined. The policy holder passes the expense on and adds it to his product so that in the last analysis it is the public who pay.

The pity of it all is that ninety per cent of all fires are preventable. Ninety per cent of all fires are due to carelessness or ignorance. It may be carelessness in erecting the building; it may be carelessness in handling gasoline; it may be carelessness in hanging curtains too close to the gas jet; it may be carelessness in neglecting to put up lightning rods, but it is carelessness and it might be prevented.

The Safety First Federation en-

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Someone has advanced the opinion that the letter "e" is the most unfortunate letter in the English alphabet because it is always out of cash, always in debt, never out of danger and in hell all the time. For some reason he overlooked the fortunates of the letter so we call his attention to the fact "e" is never in war, always in peace; it is the beginning of existence, the commencement of ease and the end of trouble. Without it there would be no meat, no life and no heaven. It is the center of honesty, makes love perfect, and without it there could be no editors, preachers nor devils.—Fourth Estate.

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- Dunne, Amalin
- DeHart, Charlie
- Duspit, C. M.
- Hencie, Ella
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