

# FIRE PREVENTION

Talk No. 11

by

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### The Evil Wooden Shingle

Shingle roofs in combination with chimneys, are held responsible for over 20 per cent of the dwelling house losses by fire.

The modern shingle is thin, and the machinery which now makes it leaves a fuzzy surface which, after a period of drouth, becomes like tinder. It is little wonder that a very small spark will set such a roof on fire. To such roofs is due largely the heavy loss from Fourth of July fire works.

A fire resistive shingle may burn when exposed to severe heat, but sparks and flying embers have no effect on them. For this reason, any roof is safer than a wooden shingle roof.

Pullman witnessed a spectacular fire when the chop mill burned on March 24th last. The wind carried a stream of sparks for several thousand feet through the air. Wooden shingles were largely responsible for those sparks and flying embers.

At the time of the conflagration at Salem, Mass., burning shingles were carried by the wind for a distance of over a mile.

We lock up our valuable papers in a fire-proof vault, and house our families in a wooden box with a tinder roof. Evidently our families are of secondary consideration. Not satisfied with that, the school children are housed daily in a building of similar flimsy construction.

To the contractor building entirely to sell, possibly the modern wooden shingle has an advantage. It is cheap, easy to apply and looks passably well. To the man building a home, the wooden shingle hasn't a single talking point. At a slight increased cost, a fire resistive shingle can be applied that will offer better protection, last longer and look just as good as any wooden shingle. The H. W. Jones-Manville Co. manufactures an asbestos shingle, the first cost of which is about five times that of a cedar shingle. The asbestos shingle, however, has an unlimited life, is absolutely fire proof and will materially reduce the insurance rate on the house. Why cover a large fine home with the same material you would use on a cheap cow shed? It seems inconsistent to say the least.

A number of fire resistive paints and stains have been placed on the market. So far, none have proven entirely satisfactory. However, any stain will keep the shingle in a better state of preservation and partially prevent the forming of the fuzzy surface.

Modern cities interested in fire prevention are eliminating the wooden shingle as a first precaution. Not only in the business district, but inside the corporate limits. A few fire resistive buildings offer no barrier to a conflagration when the majority of the buildings are frame with shingle roofs.

Unfortunately, it usually requires a serious conflagration in a community to awaken the local public to the necessity of eliminating shingle roofs.

One serious fire at a time is about all the average fire department can cope with. In the case of several fires breaking out in Pullman, what would happen? With our inadequate

water supply, frequently the hose stream will not reach inaccessible points of high roofs. During the chop mill fire my roof was covered with sparks and flying embers. All of the available fire fighting apparatus was at the scene of the fire. I knew the garden hose would not reach and the water pressure gave me hardly more than a squirt. What would you have done? Long before the sparks began to fall I knew what was coming and had my fight mapped out. First drenching the roof with water, via a bucketfull at a time. I spent over an hour extinguishing embers as they fell. Could you get on top of your roof in such an emergency? It might be well worth thinking about. This is especially true of some of the churches and three-story fraternity houses. Some of you may remember the trouble we had extinguishing the burning shingles on top of the Baptist church spire. It is just such emergencies that we must try to prevent, or at least prepare for.

### W. S. C. TENNIS STARS WIN FROM WHITMAN

The Cougar tennis team ended the 1921 season Saturday by defeating Whitman for the second time this year. The meet here with Whitman was close, the outcome of the matches being in doubt several times. In the doubles, the first two sets were taken by the Whitman representatives, W. S. C. winning all the rest of the sets and defeating their opponents. The State College won all but one of the single sets. In the meet with Idaho Thursday, the Cougars walked off with every set. This makes two overwhelming victories for the team against their Vandal rivals. The score for the matches with Idaho:

#### Singles

Cable, W. S. C., defeated Herrington, Idaho, 1-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Webber, W. S. C., defeated Hanson, Idaho, 6-3, 6-4.

Heald, W. S. C., defeated Veatch, Idaho, 6-0, 6-2.

#### Doubles

Heald and Webber, W. S. C., defeated Hanson and Herrington, Idaho, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

In the Whitman meet, singles: Sherwood, Whitman, defeated Cable, W. S. C., 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Webber, W. S. C., defeated Marquis, Whitman, 6-3, 6-2.

Heald, W. S. C., defeated Bratton, Whitman, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1.

Doubles: Heald and Webber, W. S. C., defeated Sherwood and Marquis, Whitman, 4-6, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

The season's average shows the comparatively good percentage of .666 out of a possible 1,000, the team having won 18 out of a possible 27 matches. Five men will receive letters, namely, Webber, Heald, Burke, Davidson and Cable. Probably all of these men will be back next year.

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