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## EIGHTY PER CENT OF FIRES PREVENTABLE

### Official Figures of the Texas State Insurance Board Based on 24,338 Fires

State fire marshals, the federal authorities and fire prevention experts generally have estimated the proportion of fires due to preventable causes at between 25 and 30 per cent of the total number of fires. The Texas state insurance board, an official body, holds that practically 80 per cent of the fires are preventable by the exercise of reasonable care and protection, individual and municipal.

These figures of the Texas board are the most interesting because they cover every fire reported to it by the local authorities under the provision of the state law since December 1, 1910, now totaling 24,388. This is the largest mass of official data available, and furnishes a sufficiently broad basis of average to be conclusive, while the fact that it is furnished and tabulated by local and state officials puts it in a different class from statistics collected by the insurance Co's., which might be suspected of drawing conclusions to suit their own interests. In fact, the state authorities go much further than the insurance men in estimating the proportion of fires that are preventable.

Of 11,188 dwelling fires the Texas board holds that 83.1 per cent were due to preventable causes, and of the 13,150 fires in all other classes except cotton gins and automobiles, which are excluded because from inherent causes, the board holds that 75.4 per cent were preventable. Commenting on these figures the Texas board says:

"It will be noted in the data herein presented that more than 18 per cent of all the fires charged to the dwelling class alone, from known causes are the result of defective flues. The unsafe installation of stoves and other heating devices in the class of risks are responsible for 11 per cent of losses, while the sparks on the roof produce more than 5 per cent of the dwelling fires. The ever-present menace of the shingle roof is in evidence on every hand, and particularly is it noticeable in almost every cause shown carrying a heavy percentage of losses. It will be noted that gasoline and other volatile fires are entered with a loss ratio in all classes entirely out of keeping with conditions as they should be due almost entirely to improper storage and careless handling of those products."

## San Jose Scale.

Recently a man driving a wagon loaded with apples was seen selling out his fruit to the grocers of Cape Girardeau. A glance at these apples as one passed by showed that they were thickly speckled over with red spots, a sure indication of the presence of the San Jose scale. In fact, these insects were plainly visible to the experienced eye but examined under a pocket microscope they were seen in certain areas to be massed together in such numbers as to completely cover the surface. Especially this was the case in the hollow of the blossom end.

Any one who happened to eat one of these apples without peeling it must have swallowed numbers of this scale. It is certainly disgusting to think of eating this loathsome insect, and the Board of Health of Cape Girardeau would have been quite justified in confiscating the whole load as unsanitary and dangerous to the public health.

To the credit of Missouri it must be stated that this load of apples were grown in Illinois and brought over the river by the ferry. It is possible that the vendor of this fruit was ignorant of the presence of the scale notwithstanding all the publicity given to it in various ways.

But this is not all. The infesting of the apples was indubitable evidence that the trees of which they grew were even more infested by the scale and that their condition must be very bad indeed. Further evidence of the spread of the scale is to be seen in the very fruits exhibited at the County Fairs. Even on a large proportion of this choicest fruit will be seen the telltale pimples of the scale. Ever grower of fruit should be on his guard against this destructive insect and the best time to combat it is near at hand. Just as soon as the leaves fall after frosts or chard trees should be sprayed with lime sulphur wash. This can be bought in concentrated form for 12 to 15 cents per gallon, to be diluted by ten times its quantity in water, which reduces the costs to not over 1 1/2 cts. per gallon. Or it can be made at home slacking 15 lbs. sulphur with 15 lbs. lime, then adding some water and boiling in an iron kettle for one hour; then add water enough to make 50 gallons.

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DeWITT'S SALVE For Piles, Burns, Sores.

## For Immediate Release.

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 3.—The control of the levees along the lower Mississippi River and their completion by the national government has been endorsed again by a class of men whose opinions on such matters are perhaps even more conservative than those of the mayors, governors and others who have approved the project. This time the bankers of the country—the officials of the largest banks in the best cities from Maine to California and Canada to the Gulf have said what they think of the bill that was introduced at the last session of congress by Messrs. Ransdell and Humphreys and which is being fostered by the Mississippi River Levee Association.

As was the case with the governors of the various states, the mayors of 1209 cities, and the different commercial organizations throughout the country, the bankers are unanimously for the control of the lower Mississippi River floods by the government. Several are strongly in favor of the levee proposition while others do not commit themselves to a plan of flood protection but agree that immediate action by the government is necessary.

Several of these bankers will assist the Mississippi River Levee Association in aiding the Ransdell-Humphreys measure to pass. Offers to do what they could and their services at the direction of the Association were contained in several letters received recently by the Association.

The Atlanta Clearing House Association sent a letter signed by all of the members. It endorsed the levee proposition in strong terms.

"Believing, as we do," say the Atlantans, "that the United States Government should contribute largely, if not solely, to the protection of the property through which the great Mississippi River flows, we earnestly desire to lend our co-operation in pushing to a successful issue the bill which the people living in the states adjacent to the Mississippi have introduced in congress."

Since the people living in these states have already spent nearly \$70,000,000 in their efforts to cope with the floods, we feel that it is only right and just for the government to come forth and furnish the necessary \$60,000,000 to complete the levee system which will bring into cultivation millions of acres of the richest land in the world, now undeveloped, and which will add to the wealth of the nation annually eight times the amount of the expenditure necessary to protect these lands.

We, the undersigned members of the Atlanta Clearing House sincerely trust the United States Government will take a hand in this important problem and work it out to a successful termination, as we feel it a matter of supreme interest to the nation at large."

Here are some of the bankers letters:

Frank A. Vanderlip president of the National City Bank, of New York, one of the strongest financial institutions in the country has this to say:

"I consider it of great importance that speedy action be taken toward obviating the annual danger from floods on the lower Mississippi. The damage done is so extensive, and the suffering and financial loss so great that it is a national calamity when-

ever these floods occur. Affecting as it does the whole country, both from a business and a humanitarian standpoint, I believe the matter very properly comes within the scope of congressional action and I hope congress will see fit in the near future to make adequate appropriation for the great work that needs to be done there."

William J. Gray, vice-president of the First National Bank, of Detroit, says:

"I am clearly of the opinion that the matter of the control of the Mississippi River is one of national concern. I do not see how any few states can properly undertake the control of the whole problem, and it follows, that the national government ought to take upon itself, a large share of the burden."

Thomas B. Beal, president of the Second National Bank of Boston, says:

"I beg to say that I think the National Government ought to help you in solving the problem of the Mississippi floods."

The vice-president of the National Bank of Commerce, of New York City, says:

"We have a very distinct feeling that the National Government should control the flood situation along the Mississippi River. We wish you success in your plans."

H. L. Griggs, president of the Bank of New York, endorsed the levee proposition as viewed by Mr. Fox as follows:

"I am heartily in sympathy with the suggestion that the completion of the levee system is a national work, and should be undertaken by the government. If you will let me know the names of the committee to whom the bill in regard to this matter has been referred, I will write them on the subject when the regular session opens in December. Meanwhile I will welcome any suggestion from you as to how I can help in the matter."

## Centennial Celebration of the German War of Liberation

St. Louis, Mo.—Missouri will be well represented at the national celebration, in St. Louis Oct. 4 to 11, inclusive, of the centennial of the German War of Liberation, according to information received by the committees having charge of the arrangements.

Because of this great celebration, with its monster street parades and other festivities, including the unveiling of a splendid monument to Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, founder of the present system of physical culture, and portrayals by float, living picture and tableaux of the stirring scenes that marked the defeat of Napoleon's forces, in the Battle of Leipzig (also spelled Leipsic) by the Germans and their allies, the railroads have made the most extensive reduced rates extending to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the Gulf of Mexico and the Dominion of Canada.

The well known Missouri Germans expected to participate actively in the centennial celebration include Dr. Charles Weinsburg and George Withum, both of St. Louis, respectively president and secretary of the Missouri German-American Alliance; William C. F. Lenz, also of St. Louis, the Missouri member of the National Executive Board of the Alliance; and E. E. Kies of Jackson.

Opening Saturday, October 4, with the state convention of the German-American Alliance of Missouri, and closing Saturday,

October 11, with the unveiling of the Jahn monument, on Art Hill, in Forest Park, attended by a notable parade of Turners, the Germans celebration, including, as it will, the biennial convention, the mornings of October 6 to 8, inclusive, of the National German-American Alliance, is expected easily to over shadow all the other St. Louis Fall Festival events combined. These events will include the Veiled Prophet pageant and ball (actual cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000) the night of October 7; aeroplane contests, at the Mississippi river or Forest Park or both, as the weather permits, the week of October 6 to 11, under the auspices of the Aero Club of St. Louis; the Seventh Annual Automobile Show, At Forest Park Highlands, an immense summer garden, being the first display in the United States of 1914 models; motorcycles races at the St. Louis Motordome, October 8, 9, 11 and 12; and motorboat races on the Mississippi river, October 5, under the auspices of the Western Rowing Club.

Monday, the opening day of the national convention of the German-American Alliance, an association incorporated by act of Congress and at present organized in 42 states, there will be an automobile tour of the city by distinguished visitors. That night a large banquet in their honor will be given at the Liederkranz, the largest and most fashionable German club of the city. The Liederkranz mixed chorus will sing. Among the guests of honor will be the officers of the Alliance, Dr. C. J. Hexamer of Philadelphia, Pa., president; Joseph Keller of Indianapolis, Ind., first vice-president; John Tjarks of Baltimore, Md., second vice-president; Col. E. C. Stahl of Trenton, N.J., third vice-president; Hon. John D. Chappellmann of Charleston, S. C., fourth vice-president; Hon. John Schwaab of Cincinnati, Ohio, fifth vice-president; Theodor Sutro of New York City, sixth vice-president; Prof. Leo Stern of Milwaukee, Wis., seventh vice-president; John Hermann of San Francisco Calif., eighth vice-president; H. Weniger of Philadelphia, treasurer; Herman Weder of Philadelphia financial secretary; and Adolph Timm of Philadelphia, secretary.

Living pictures of the German War of Liberation will be shown at the academic celebration in the Coliseum Wednesday night. There will be a concert, patriotic tableaux by the turners, and signing by a mixed chorus of 2000, consisting of thirty-five singing societies.

There will be two German parades, that beside the one accompanying the dedication of the Jahn monument being the torchlight procession Thursday night, 14,000 German-Americans beside a military escort of 2,000 United States regulars, militiamen and veterans and a number of historical floats participating. Incidentally Thursday will be German Day in St. Louis.

Inasmuch as St. Louis is the home of the largest lager beer brewery in the world, (Anheuser Busch,) that, of course, will be overlooked. There, Friday morning, will be a "Fruehschoppen" in honor of the visitors, and the next morning, that of the last day of the celebration, similar entertainment will be provided at the second largest St. Louis Brewery, (Lemp.)

From the viewpoint of Germans, at least, the program of the first two days of the celebration will be of general interest. A reception Saturday morning,

October 4, to delegates to the state convention will be followed by the calling to order of that convention at 2 p. m. That evening the visitors will be officially welcomed to a smoker. Festival services Sunday morning will precede the second session, that afternoon, of the state convention. That night a gala performance will be staged at the Victoria theatre, a modern playhouse erected by the St. Louis Germans for the production of high-class plays in the German language.

The festival committee, which has charge of the arrangements for the centennial celebration, consists entirely of St. Louisians, many of whom are of national note. Adolphus Busch is honorary president of the festival committee, the honorary vice-presidents of which are Charles Nagel, who was secretary of commerce and labor in President Taft's cabinet; Frederick W. Lehmann, former solicitor-general of the United States; Max von Locher, German consul at St. Louis; Henry W. Kiel, mayor of St. Louis, and Ben Altheimer. The other officers of the committee and the chairmen of the sub-committees are: E. C. Buechel, chairman; August H. Hoffmann, treasurer; J. A. Valentin Schmidt, corresponding secretary; Theodore Schmid, recording secretary; Richard Bartholdt, chairman. Historical committee: Otto F. Stifel, chairman; Jahn Monument committee: Edward Devoy, chairman; Finance committee: P. M. Hucks, chairman; Auditing committee: Edward L. Preetorius, chairman; Invitation committee: Dr. Carl Barch, chairman; Honorary Citizens Committee: William C. F. Lenz, chairman; National committee, National German-American Alliance, Dr. Chas. H. Weinberg, chairman; City committee: National German-American Alliance, Albert von Hoffman, chairman; Press, Exploitation and Railroad committee, George Withum, chairman; Saenger committee: Carl Schmoll, chairman; Turner committee: Philip Morlang, chairman; German societies: William Vach, chairman; German Military societies: Rembert von Muenchhausen, chairman; Military Escort committee: William Petersen, chairman; Free Thought societies: Owen Miller, chairman; Music committee: Emil Frei, chairman; Decoration committee: Charles F. Galenkamp, chairman; Coliseum committee: Rev. Jacob G. Rees, chairman; German Evangelical societies. Mr. von Muenchhausen has charge of the festival committee's headquarters, in the Temple building.

Outsiders who have heard vaguely that St. Louis was founded by the French, but who are unfamiliar with its present racial composition may be unaware that about 50 per cent of the 700,000 St. Louisians are German or of German descent.

St. Louis experienced a tremendous influx of Germans, many of them former university students, after the revolution of 1848. Fresh from one struggle in behalf of the cause of freedom, hundreds of these newcomers again enlisted for war, this time to help free the southern slaves. St. Louis has two daily newspapers in German and is the seat of various German institutions of learning, including Concordia Theological Seminary. It has about seventy-five churches in which the German language is used, and in most of which special festival services will be held Sunday, October 5. Twenty-seven of these are German Evangelical, twenty-three are German Evangelical Lutheran and eighteen are Catholic. The reluctance to abandon the language of the fatherland is illustrated by the fact that but six St. Louis churches are English Evangelical Lutheran. There are German Baptists and Germans of many other denominations. The Liederkranz, where some of the centennial festivities will be held, is one of the foremost clubs of the city. Its magnificent clubhouse has housed many notable functions. The Germans, as a whole, rank high in St. Louis, commercially, professionally and socially.



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