

one week earlier there would have been a death list that would have shaken the indifference of the public and of legislators," said Olander.

"It required the Iroquois fire to wake Chicago to proper regulation of theaters. It required crashing buildings and many deaths to secure a building department which has power to suppress dangerous conditions."

The American Bureau of Shipping, which calls itself the "American Lloyds," is the only organization which has studied and fixes a standard of "stability," that is, whether a boat is topheavy, like the Eastland. Inspector Nicholas of the U. S. Steamboat Service said the federal government takes all its technical standard on "stability" from this bureau. Nicholas produced a big gilt-edged book gotten out by this bureau.

"This tells how to find out whether a vessel is topheavy like the Eastland?" asked the reporter.

"Yes," said Nicholas.

"Can you name any vessels running out of Chicago to which these standards have been applied by the bureau or by insurance companies or by anybody else?"

"The federal bureau has not examined the hull of the Eastland or any other vessel as to its stability. That has been left entirely with the insurance companies."

"What insurance companies would know about it?"

"Oh, there are many insurance companies."

"Would you name two or three of the best-posted ones we could go to for information on stability. We want to find out whether somebody or nobody has examined the Eastland as to stability or topheaviness."

"Well, there's McDonald's, they might know. I don't think of any others just now."

"You are certain that you have no record on this feature of the Eastland?"

"Yes, we are sure about that. Our department inspects hulls and boil-

ers. We have power to declare a vessel unseaworthy and forbid its operation. But the single matter of stability is entirely in the hands of the American Bureau of Shipping or the insurance companies."

"Do you know whether insurance companies have ever questioned the stability tests of the shipowners' bureau?"

"Not that I have heard of."

There are no officers or agents of the American Bureau of Shipping in Chicago, it was stated. Headquarters is in New York, with these officers: A. A. Raven, president; D. B. Dearborn, vice president; John W. Cantillon, secretary; E. Platt Stratton, supervisor; Walter Wood Parsons, treasurer.

HOW THE WORLD WAR BEGAN



One year ago today Austrian gunboats took up offensive positions in front of Belgrade, Serbia.