

State of Iowa  
1920

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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
**STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
FOR THE YEAR 1919

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J. A. TRACY  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Published by  
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Des Moines

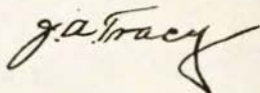
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

Des Moines, February 1, 1920.

HON. W. L. HARDING, *Governor of Iowa.*

SIR: In compliance with the provisions of law I have the honor to submit herewith the ninth annual report of the affairs of this office covering the period beginning January 1, 1919, and ending December 31, 1919, both dates included.

The first six months of this year were under the supervision of Mr. Ole O. Roe, then State Fire Marshal.



*State Fire Marshal.*

STATE FIRE MARSHAL.

Appointed by the Governor. Term, Four Years. Expires July 1, 1923.

Office	Name	Legal Residence	Birthplace
Fire Marshal	J. A. Tracy	Sioux City	Iowa
Deputy	E. J. Frowick	Des Moines	Iowa
Assistant	Lee M. Dowis	Centerville	Missouri
Assistant	John C. Pryde	Boyd	Iowa
Chief Clerk and Stenographer	Laura M. Pedersen	Des Moines	Illinois

The entire expense of the state fire marshal's office is paid out of the general revenues of the state.

## NINTH ANNUAL REPORT STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For the year 1919, 3,957 fires were reported to this office involving a loss of \$8,819,835. The property involved in these fires was valued at \$38,442,529. Of the total loss reported, property to the value of \$6,399,520 was covered by insurance, leaving an excess of loss over insurance amounting to \$2,420,315. Included in this excess are 578 properties involving a loss of \$345,881 upon which no insurance was carried.

The total number of fires reported for 1919 was 436 less than 1918.

The fire loss for 1919 was greater by \$2,379,064 than that of 1918. This large increase was caused by the one fire and explosion amounting to \$2,452,177 which occurred in the Douglas Starch Works at Cedar Rapids.

The average daily fire loss of the year amounted to \$24,164, and the average loss in each fire was \$2,228, which shows an increase of \$762 per fire over 1918. This is accounted for by the rapid increase in values.

During the year seven (7) fires occurred in each of which the loss exceeded \$95,000, as follows:

January 19, Sioux City.....	\$ 256,963
January 26, Dodge City (Camp Dodge).....	95,891
May 22, Cedar Rapids.....	2,452,177
October 19, Iowa Falls.....	100,000
November 18, Dubuque.....	278,286
December 12, Fairfield.....	107,500
December 16, Fort Madison.....	119,360
Total.....	\$3,410,177

### A BRIEF COMPARISON OF FIRE LOSSES DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS

In 1915, there were 3,810 fires, totalling a loss of.....	\$6,006,914
In 1916, there were 4,471 fires, totalling a loss of.....	5,991,242
In 1917, there were 4,953 fires, totalling a loss of.....	7,216,245
In 1918, there were 4,393 fires, totalling a loss of.....	6,440,771
In 1919, there were 3,957 fires, totalling a loss of.....	8,819,835

From this it will be observed there were 436 less fires in 1919 than in 1918.



Taking into consideration the rapid advance in the cost of labor as well as all kinds of building materials and merchandise, the actual fire waste in volume shows a reduction, although in dollars it is on the increase. This should awaken the people to a full realization of their duty against gross carelessness which is responsible for three-fourths of the enormous fire waste that is rapidly depleting our country.

In 1919 the number of farm dwellings burned was 354 and the loss on buildings was \$560,982, and on contents \$174,611.

The sound value of these farm dwellings was reported at \$712,225, and that of their contents at \$260,043.

The number of town dwellings damaged or destroyed was 1,632, and the loss on buildings was \$530,064, and on contents \$189,751.

The number of farm barns damaged or destroyed was 315, and the loss on buildings was \$523,298, and on contents \$377,730.

The number of town barns damaged or destroyed was 132, and the loss on buildings was \$67,746, and on the contents \$60,305.

During the year there were 227 lightning fires. Of these 131 were farm barns, only seven (7) of which were rodded. The loss on these farm barns and contents struck by lightning was \$265,945. Of the balance of these lightning fires, only two (2) were rodded.

There is evidence tending to show that in nearly every case where rodded buildings were struck, the rods were either defective or improperly constructed, and as far as known this same ratio of loss by lightning has prevailed during the past nine years, showing conclusively that properly constructed lightning rods are an almost absolute protection against loss by lightning.

The number of stores destroyed or damaged was 258, and the loss on buildings was reported at \$424,944, and on contents \$826,353.

The sound value of these store buildings was reported at \$4,122,436, and their contents at \$5,426,349.

The number of factories destroyed or damaged was 48, and the loss on buildings was \$1,257,964, and on contents \$1,320,036.

The sound value of the factories destroyed or damaged was reported at \$2,587,754, and their contents at \$3,709,613.

The number of schoolhouses destroyed or damaged was 33, and the loss was reported at \$27,217. The sound value of these buildings with contents was reported at \$405,815.

The number of churches destroyed or damaged was 32, and the loss on buildings and contents was \$176,121.

The number of automobiles damaged by fire was 88, valued at \$99,072, and damaged \$14,609.

The number of elevators destroyed or damaged was 20, and the sound value of these buildings was reported at \$155,500, and that of their contents at \$76,664. The damage was reported at \$141,685 on buildings and on contents at \$58,512.

I also wish to call your attention to the fact that 863 roof fires occurred, 277 defective chimney fires, 105 spontaneous combustion fires, 79 electric wiring fires in buildings, and 250 fires resulting in a loss of \$290,053 in which gasoline or coal oil was involved.

Inspections of buildings and premises by myself and regular deputies to the number of 897 were made in 132 different cities and towns in the state, upon the basis of which there were issued 166 orders to remove buildings, 76 to repair, 78 to change, 56 to clean up and repair, and 211 to clean up inflammable rubbish.

Outside of the personal inspections made, a great many fire hazards were eliminated through correspondence based upon the complaints of fire chiefs, city officials, insurance companies, and others. In addition to the foregoing, 851 inspections of grain elevators, mills and food storage plants were made by 78 inspectors who were duly appointed by me with the approval of the executive council of the state. These inspections were made in 81 different counties, and I am pleased to say that there has been a marked change for the better in and about elevators, mills and storage warehouses since the practice of appointing conservation inspectors began three years ago. These inspections have lessened the issuing of orders by this department to the minimum.

As a rule the office has had excellent co-operation from most of the fire chiefs in the matter of inspections and fire prevention work. Ready compliance has been had in perhaps ninety-five per cent of the cases where orders have been issued. In a few cases it has been necessary to begin suit for the collection of the statutory penalty for failure to comply, but in every case so far the orders have been complied with before the case came to trial. This is largely due to the co-operation we have had of the city officials in the towns where the property was located.

Many of the inspections made by this department were made in response to requests from the fire chiefs or other city officials who do not care to assume the responsibility of issuing orders in their own town and perhaps against their own neighbor, and we

have endeavored in every instance to respond to the requests from such officials.

130 suspicious fires were investigated in 91 different places in 55 different counties of the state.

In many cases sufficient evidence was gathered to warrant the assumption that the fires were set by design, but not enough evidence was obtained to convince the grand jury or a jury of twelve men beyond a reasonable doubt that some certain person was responsible for setting the fire although in several cases the assured made no claim for damages, and in other cases the parties left for parts unknown.

Of the 130 fires investigated, 69 were found to be incendiary or probably incendiary, which shows a large reduction over previous years.

During the year 1919, 22 arrests and prosecutions were had which resulted in the conviction of seven (7), five (5) were tried and acquitted, one (1) was dismissed by the county attorney after the jury had disagreed in two trials, one (1) was discharged by the magistrate at the preliminary hearing, two (2) cases no indictments were returned, and the other six (6) have been indicted and the cases are waiting trial by jury.

Appended hereto as a part of this report are five tables of statistical information.

#### THE STATISTICAL WORK.

Until the establishment of the state fire marshal's office and the provision for the collection and publication by this department of certain data pertaining to fire losses, there had been no office or other agency in the state concerned in gathering this information.

When we consider that about twenty-five per cent of the total annual fire loss in this state is not covered by insurance, we must at once conclude that the only approximately complete and accurate statistical information relative to these matters is obtained by the state fire marshal.

In addition to the loss reported, our report covers the material of which buildings are made, the damage to buildings and contents separately, also the nature of the occupancies. Furthermore, the cause of each fire, so far as the same is ascertainable, is set out.

#### INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS.

Since this office was established July 4, 1911, 1,412 fires have been investigated by this department. As a result of these inves-

tigations 197 prosecutions were commenced resulting in the conviction of 117, with 15 indictments still pending court action. This is outside of the many cases where small children set fire for the purpose of excitement, no mention of which are made on account of the age of the children.

While we have succeeded in convicting a number of criminals, we confess that many have escaped their just dues. Some of this is due to the lack of men and means to obtain the necessary evidence to convince the court and jury, but much of it is due to the lack of law enforcement in the community in which the crime was committed.

In many cases where the circumstantial evidence is very strong against a person charged with arson, the inexperienced or timid county attorney presents the case in a lukewarm manner to the grand jury. The grand jury may listen with interest but often is loathe to indict where the charge is burning to injure the insurance company. Again they argue that unless they are sure of a conviction there is no use putting the county to the expense of a trial. In other cases they argue that the insurance company is back of the prosecution in order to evade the payment of the loss, and no indictment is returned, thus losing sight of the fact that a crime has been committed and the guilty party should be punished.

In cases where indictments are returned cases are continued from time to time until the witnesses are scattered, or influence is brought to bear to change their evidence and thus defeat the ends of justice.

In the matter of gathering evidence, we have exercised the greatest care that no innocent person should suffer, but where we are satisfied that a crime has been committed, we have done everything within our power to bring the guilty ones to justice without fear or favor.

We have had many cases reported to us for investigation and found there was no evidence tending to show that fire was set by design, and in these cases we have set matters right as far as we were able. We have also made it a universal practice of not burdening the county attorney with evidence gathered unless there was evidence tending to show that a crime had been committed.

We have made many investigations and failed to find evidence sufficient to warrant a prosecution. Nevertheless we have felt and others have assured us that these investigations have had a good moral effect on the community where the investigation was made,



bringing to the attention of the people the fact that there is an agency in the state looking after the party who sets fire for revenge or gain.

#### DEATH LOSSES BY FIRE.

128 deaths were reported as the direct result of fire. Of this number 25 were women and 38 were children. In 32 cases fatal to life gasoline or coal oil was involved. In 8 cases children were burned to death playing with matches, and in 12 cases children were burned to death on account of bonfire carelessness. In 17 cases women were burned to death as the result of stove carelessness.

In addition to those burned to death, several cases were reported where death was caused by inhaling gas from automobile exhaust.

54 deaths resulted from explosions in mills, garages, etc.

#### GASOLINE AND COAL OIL.

These fiendish murderers of women and innocent children are still at large and are being harbored by educated people with but little if any effort on their part to safeguard precious lives against a most horrible death. The evidence is overwhelming against these defendants who are well known all over the land, and still they go unpunished, committing their atrocious crimes without fear of apprehension or confinement. The defendants have been conspiring together for years and carrying on their nefarious work in a most reckless manner without fear of prosecution as will be seen by the four pages of evidence following.

## IOWA CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS

Girl Mistakes Gasoline for Kerosene and Fire Results

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 16.—Three children of the family burned today at 41 years have three more such at home.

They, a girl of 12, her two brothers and a younger sister, were sitting in a parlor of a house on the corner of 41st and 12th streets, Des Moines, Ia., when the fire broke out.

The father and an older brother were on the roof of the house and were not hurt.

## THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILD IS VICTIM OF BONFIRE BURNS

"Billy" Hannan, Fort Des Moines Lad, Dies Hour After Accident.

Fatally burned when he climbed a fence for a bonfire, Billy Hannan, 3-year-old son of Thomas Hannan, of Fort Des Moines, died today after being burned at the Washington hospital.

## GIRL DIES FROM BURNS RECEIVED STARTING FIRE

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—Dorothy Ware, 11 years old, was fatally injured by fire yesterday.

She was playing with a bonfire when her dress caught alight.

She was brought to the local hospital where she died.

## TWO BARES BURN TO DEATH

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—Two young girls, 1 year old and 2 years old, were burned to death in their home here Wednesday night.

The children were playing with matches on a firebox which ignited.

Three Known Dead, Two Missing and Eleven Injured When Coach Overtaken.

## VICTIMS CAUGHT IN FLAMES

Two of the Three Recovered Bodies Unidentified; Injured Persons in Hospital.

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—Three persons were burned to death, three were injured and two are unaccounted for in the wreck of a motor bus which jumped the rails at the Manassas Junction & another railway at Halls Crossing.

Three other people were injured at 4 45 tonight. The bus was fitted to run on railway tracks.

## BURNS FROM CLOTHES FIRE PROVE FATAL

Dorothy Ware Dies After Horrible Accident Caused by Playing With Matches at Her Home.

## GONFIRE BURNS KILL IOWA GIRL

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—Dorothy Ware, 11 years old, was fatally injured by fire yesterday.

She was playing with a bonfire when her dress caught alight.

She was brought to the local hospital where she died.

## WOMAN MEETS TRAGIC DEATH

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—A woman was killed in her car when it was struck by a fire which started in a garage at the same time.

The car was on fire at the time of the fire.

## 5-YEAR-OLD CHILD BURNED TO DEATH

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—A 5-year-old child was burned to death in a house when the father was playing with matches.

The child was playing with matches when the father was playing with matches.

## GAS TANK EXPLODES; ONE DEAD, TWO HURT

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—A gas tank exploded in a garage here today, killing one person and injuring two others.

The explosion occurred when the gas tank was being filled.

The accident occurred when the gas tank was being filled.

## FIRE VICTIM DIES AT LOCAL HOSPITAL

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—A woman who was burned in a fire at her home here yesterday died at the local hospital today.

## CHILD PLAYING WITH MATCHES DIES IN FIRE

Special to The Register. Des Moines, Ia., July 15.—A 5-year-old child was burned to death in a fire when he was playing with matches.

The child was playing with matches when the fire broke out.

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The child was playing with matches when the fire broke out.

The victims of the fire listed are listed almost every day in the papers. Women, children, old people, sleeping persons are all in danger.

## MAY DIE IN STARTING FIRE WITH GASOLINE

The kindling was wet at Herman 24th house, 1721 Heron street, this morning.

Several attempts to light the fire in the heating stove failed, on Jay Street some gasoline on the wall.

The explosion that followed scattered the kindling and set off a sliding alarm. The man rolled in some blankets and called for help. The man said he had not expected to live. He was taken to St. Henry hospital by the police.

## FLAUGHT WITH MATCHES; 2 TOTS DIE OF BURNS

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—The young son of Ephraim Chesley and daughter of Arthur Hanson, living at Florin street here, were fastened to death by matches after which the mother, with a neighbor, was playing ignored the fact it was on the chimney place where children who were between a and 2 years old, got off their escape by reaching an open flame.

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## OIL IN LAMPS WAS GASOLINE

Thinking that she had purchased a gallon of kerosene, Mrs. Nellie Pickens, residing at 22 1/2 West Second street, Cleveland, filled her lamp with the oil left in the gallon can. The oil was gasoline and when she lit the lamp it exploded. The flame of the lamp was so hot that it set the lamp on fire.

## POURS OIL ON FIRE; BURNS ARE FATAL

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 25.—Mrs. Chas. A. Lauer, 57 years old, died last night. She was burned to death when she poured oil from a can on the furnace fire in her kitchen. Mrs. Lauer's husband had just covered the yard before stopping her. He was painfully burned.

## GAS EXPLODES—MAN BURNED ON HANDS

A gasoline explosion in the rear of the New Market House building, which is on 11th Street, resulted in the death of one man and the injury of another.

The explosion occurred at 10:30 p. m. on Monday. The man who was killed was identified as John J. Harty, 35 years old. He was attended by police surgeons.

## STOVE EXPLODES, 2 BADLY BURNED

ROSEN CITY, Jan. 25.—Explosion of a gas stove in the kitchen of a residence at 10th Street, resulted in the serious injury of Mrs. Peter Martin and her young son, who were sleeping in the room above. An explosion of the stove at 10:30 p. m. on Monday resulted in the death of Mrs. Martin and her young son, who were sleeping in the room above. An explosion of the stove at 10:30 p. m. on Monday resulted in the death of Mrs. Martin and her young son, who were sleeping in the room above.

## USED GASOLINE; IS BADLY BURNED

WALKER, Wis., Jan. 25.—A woman, who was badly burned by the use of gasoline in her stove, was taken to the hospital. The woman, who was badly burned by the use of gasoline in her stove, was taken to the hospital.

## BLIND, BURNED TO DEATH

April Lady Elm, where explosion occurred.

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—A blind man, who was badly burned by the use of gasoline in his stove, was taken to the hospital. The man, who was badly burned by the use of gasoline in his stove, was taken to the hospital.

## ONE MAN FATALY BURNED

Manager of Electric Plant Is the Victim.

PHOENIX, Ia., Jan. 25.—Herman Neumann, manager of the electric plant of Fortia, was seriously injured in a fire which destroyed a large amount of property.

A New York explosion, setting fire to the building, with the electric plant, which was badly burned, resulted in the death of one man and the injury of another.

## ESTHERVILLE HIT BY FIRE

Blaze in Business Section Causes Big Loss.

Blaze in Business Section Causes Big Loss.

## New Theater Is Among the Buildings Destroyed.

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—A fire which started from an explosion of gasoline destroyed two buildings and part of a third here, resulting in a loss of about \$250,000. The new Grand theater was among the buildings destroyed.

Gasoline explosion in the rear of the New Market House building, which is on 11th Street, resulted in the death of one man and the injury of another.

The explosion occurred at 10:30 p. m. on Monday. The man who was killed was identified as John J. Harty, 35 years old. He was attended by police surgeons.

## BURNED TO DEATH. Terrible Fate of Woman in Gas Fire.

Special to the Register.

SPRING CITY, Ia., Jan. 25.—Miss Mary Martin is dead from burns received in a gas stove explosion in her home at 10th Street. An explosion followed by a fire which started from a gas stove in her home at 10th Street. An explosion followed by a fire which started from a gas stove in her home at 10th Street.

## MRS. J. F. DIERKS DIES FROM BURNS

CLINTON, Ia., Nov. 25.—Mrs. J. F. Dierks died last night from burns received when the door of her stove was damaged by fire. Mrs. Dierks was badly burned by the use of gasoline in her stove. She was taken to the hospital, but died last night.

## WOMAN FATALY BURNED

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—A woman, who was badly burned by the use of gasoline in her stove, was taken to the hospital. The woman, who was badly burned by the use of gasoline in her stove, was taken to the hospital.

## AGED WOMAN LOST LIFE WHEN TRAPPED BY FIRE

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—An aged woman, who was trapped by fire in her home, died last night. The woman, who was trapped by fire in her home, died last night.

## FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL IS BURNED TO DEATH

WATERLOO, Ia., Sept. 25.—A five-year-old girl, who was burned to death by a fire in her home, was taken to the hospital. The girl, who was burned to death by a fire in her home, was taken to the hospital.

## YOUNG FARMER IS BURNED TO DEATH WITH GASOLINE

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—A young farmer, who was burned to death by the use of gasoline in his stove, was taken to the hospital. The young farmer, who was burned to death by the use of gasoline in his stove, was taken to the hospital.

## FRED DENNINGER TRIES TO START TRACTOR AND CAN CATCHES FIRE

ST. MADISON WOMAN SUBCUMBS TO BURNS.

ST. MADISON, Ia., Feb. 25.—A woman, who was burned to death by the use of gasoline in her stove, was taken to the hospital. The woman, who was burned to death by the use of gasoline in her stove, was taken to the hospital.

## WIFE, 14, DIES IN FIRE

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## SIX CHILDREN DIE IN BLAZE

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—Six children of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Fisher were burned to death in a fire in their home at 10th Street. The children, who were between the ages of 2 and 10, were taken to the hospital, but died last night.

## IOWA CHILD OF 2 BURNS TO DEATH

CLINTON, Ia., March 25.—A two-year-old child, who was burned to death by a fire in her home, was taken to the hospital. The child, who was burned to death by a fire in her home, was taken to the hospital.

## CHILD SETS FIRE TO HIS PAJAMAS, BURNS ARE FATAL

Little David Watson Dies of Injuries Sustained Wednesday Morning.

DETROIT, Ia., Jan. 25.—A young boy, who was burned to death by the use of gasoline in his pajamas, was taken to the hospital. The boy, who was burned to death by the use of gasoline in his pajamas, was taken to the hospital.

## YOUNG FARMER IS BURNED TO DEATH WITH GASOLINE

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## BURNED TO DEATH. Serious Woman Victim of Gasoline Explosion.

COLPAX, Ia., Jan. 25.—Mrs. B. B. Colpax is dead from burns received when the door of her stove was damaged by fire. Mrs. Colpax was badly burned by the use of gasoline in her stove. She was taken to the hospital, but died last night.

## AGED BOONE WOMAN DEAD FROM BURNS

WATERLOO, Ia., April 18.—Mrs. James Boone, 72 years old, died last night from burns received when the door of her stove was damaged by fire. Mrs. Boone was badly burned by the use of gasoline in her stove. She was taken to the hospital, but died last night.

## STUCK MATCH TO SEE IF GAS TANK WAS FULL; KILLED

WASHINGTON, Ia., Sept. 19.—A farmer, who was killed by a fire in his home, was taken to the hospital. The farmer, who was killed by a fire in his home, was taken to the hospital.

## WIFE, 14, DIES IN FIRE

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## MOTHER AND 5 YEAR DAUGHTER BADLY BURNED

MAY DIE IN RESULT OF A FLOODING—MOTHER AND DAUGHTER IN STOVE.

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## BOT BADLY BURNED; Eighteen Month Boy on "Energy" Saw Tank.

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Our records show that an average of 94 fires occur each year by children playing with matches, causing both death and destruction. The picture herewith is a fair sample of what can be found among boys in school.

When your school, hospital or orphanage lays in smoking ruins with victims lying injured or dead, parents should awaken to the great danger surrounding them at all times through this habit of match carelessness which often leads to pyromania. Eliminate this habit before death and destruction ensue.

#### WHO AM I?

"I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world; I cause death to both men and women alike everywhere; I leave poverty all over the land; I have wrecked more homes than the mightiest of siege guns; I steal in the United States alone over \$250,000,000 each year. I spare no one. I find my victims among the rich and the poor alike, the young and old, the strong and the weak, widows and orphans know me. I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently and often in the dark hours of the night. You are warned against me but you heed me not. I am everywhere—in the home, school, church, factory, and places of business. I am your worst enemy—I AM CARELESSNESS."

#### WARNINGS:

Don't decorate christmas trees with cotton or inflammable material.

Don't use cotton to represent snow. If you must have something to represent snow, use asbestos fiber.

Don't permit children to light candles on christmas trees.

Don't leave matches where children can get and experiment with them.

Don't use kerosene to start fire.

Don't allow oily rags to accumulate.

Don't light matches in clothes closets.

Don't use gasoline for cleaning near an open flame. One gallon of gasoline vaporized has an explosive power equal to 83 lbs. of dynamite.

Don't thaw frozen water pipes with a torch.

Don't put ashes in wooden receptacles or against wood.

#### FIRE PROTECTION.

Fire prevention and fire protection are synonymous. Fire protection, in the way of organized and well equipped fire depart-

What it is does carry matches in his pocket



ments, is becoming more and more common throughout the state. Even in the smaller towns motor driven apparatus is fast taking the place of horse or man power. Practically all of the larger cities have installed a full set of motor driven apparatus thus doing away with horse-drawn trucks. The change from the horse to motor power has passed the experimental stage. Chemicals are fast taking the place of the former practice of a deluge of water, thus saving thousands of dollars by reason of water damage.

Hand fire extinguishers are becoming more plentiful and are recognized as an almost necessity, not only in places of business and in the home, but on the farm, and I heartily recommend the purchase and installation of hand fire extinguishers for the store, factory, schools, home, automobile, and especially the dwelling and barn on the farm which are outside of fire protection.

Insurance companies could well afford to reduce the premium where fire extinguishers are installed, and would be a great incentive to the policy-holders for better fire protection.

Oil lanterns and match carelessness have been the cause of many barn fires that could be prevented by the use of the electric flashlight or dry cell lantern which are no more expensive than oil lanterns and much more convenient as they can be carried anywhere about the house and barn and used as a trouble lamp about the automobile with practically no danger of starting a fire.

Automobiles should never be stored in barns or driveways.

Cleaning with gasoline in the home is dangerous and should be prohibited.

Chimneys should be looked after every year.

A lightning rod properly installed is almost a sure protection against loss by lightning.

The wooden shingle is not only responsible for many disastrous fires in our state but as will be seen by the following statistics taken from Fire Engineer they were primarily responsible for the following conflagrations:

May,	1901,	Jacksonville, Florida.....	\$ 10,050,000
May,	1904,	Yazoo City, Mississippi.....	2,000,000
Sept.,	1908,	Chisholm, Minnesota.....	17,000,000
April,	1908,	Chelsea, Massachusetts.....	12,000,000
April,	1909,	Fort Worth, Texas.....	8,000,000
July,	1910,	Wallace, Idaho.....	1,000,000
April,	1911,	Bangor, Maine.....	3,500,000
Feb.,	1912,	Houston, Texas.....	4,500,000
Sept.,	1913,	Hot Springs, Arkansas.....	2,225,000
June,	1914,	Salem, Massachusetts.....	13,000,000
March,	1916,	Paris, Texas.....	11,000,000

There are 95 of the larger cities in the United States which have passed ordinances prohibiting the use of wooden shingles, 89 of which ordinances cover the entire incorporation.

Most of the ordinances have a provision which allows shingle roofs in use previous to the passing of the ordinances to be used for a period of twelve years providing they will last that long without repairs of more than an average of 20 per cent during the twelve year period.

Many cities have fire marshals of their own who do inspection work most of the time and no doubt in this way many fires are prevented.

We have given much attention to the securing of better building ordinances in cities and towns as well as better fire-fighting apparatus, and co-operating with the city officials in the better enforcement of their ordinances. This is one of the most important steps in reducing the fire waste.

Better conditions could be had if every person allowing a fire to start by his own gross carelessness could be held financially responsible for the damage done.

Under the laws of Iowa, cities and incorporated towns have ample power to provide a building code, also a fire limit district, and can specify what materials may be used in the construction of buildings both externally and internally.

This department has been diligent in impressing upon municipal authorities their duty in providing better building ordinances and enforcing those already in existence.

In connection with the erection of buildings, there should be the most rigid inspection to see that the chimneys, heating plants, and the electric wiring are properly installed.

The next thing to eliminate is CARELESSNESS. When we consider that more than two-thirds of the fires originate on the inside of buildings it becomes of the utmost importance that regular and rigid inspections of every place of business should be made by some one in authority, and where inflammable conditions exist the same should be ordered removed at once.

Every town or city should provide for an inspector in connection with the fire department, whose duty it shall be to see that every building in the town or city is regularly inspected and all fire hazardous conditions remedied.

Great care should be taken in the installation of electric wiring both for light and power. Every elevator, mill, storage house



and farm barn should be equipped with properly constructed lighting rods, also have water barrels and buckets as well as hand chemical fire extinguishers ready at all times where they can be reached promptly. There is nothing better than chemical fire extinguishers for use in gasoline and electric fires.

The business of fire insurance is simply that of collecting money from policy-holders and distributing certain amounts to those sustaining loss, and the only way to reduce the premiums is to reduce the losses which can be done by real FIRE PREVENTION activities. The office of the state fire marshal is devoting all of its time to inspection work and the prosecution of those who set fire by design. While there is a close relationship between the insurance companies and the state fire marshal's office, there is also a close relationship between the state fire marshal and the property owners, as the ultimate result will be and must be the reduction of the fire premiums or assessments paid. As the liability decreases, the cost of insurance must also decrease, and we know that fire conditions have changed for the better all over the state through the efforts of this office. The actual loss of materials is on the decrease although the loss in dollars is on the increase. There was an increase in the loss of \$2,379,064 in 1919 over 1918 by reason of the Douglas Starch Works fire and explosion in Cedar Rapids which totalled more than one-fourth of the total fire loss of the state for the entire year 1919. The country districts show a large reduction over 1918.

Gasoline as a fire producing agency was almost unheard of a few years ago and is steadily multiplying its agencies.

Electricity is also a fire producing agency by reason of faulty installation which should and can be remedied by state regulations.

The state fire marshal is and should be the servant of all of the people whether insured or not and one not designed to promote financial gain to any particular line of business.

The housing law, so often recommended in previous reports, has become a state law and is in full force and effect, and undoubtedly will have a tendency to better fire hazard conditions.

The fact still remains that many buildings and contents are sold annually to the insurance companies. This class of fires could be greatly reduced if the insurance agent who writes the insurance would refrain from writing over-insurance or cancel off when it becomes known that fire hazards are maintained.

The man who sets fire for gain not only destroys his own

property but often destroys the property of his neighbor who has little if any insurance. Crimes of this kind cannot be dealt with too severely.

## ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

### BARNEY, MADISON COUNTY.

The Corvin Vandewater case was mentioned in the report for 1918. On the night of August 26, 1918, a fire destroyed a blacksmith shop owned and occupied by Corvin Vandewater. This fire was investigated by this department resulting in the indictment of Mr. Vandewater at the October term, 1918, charged with setting the fire to injure the insurance company. On February 20, 1919, Vandewater was tried by jury, found guilty, and sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of ten years. A motion for a new trial was overruled. The case was then appealed to the supreme court and this appeal is still pending.

### SIoux CITY, WOODBURY COUNTY.

On March 10, 1919, a fire broke out in a dwelling house owned by William Standish. Two boys, Clement Smother and Lewis Boyd, admitted they set the fire and were committed to the Training School for Boys at Eldora, the commitment being stayed during good behaviour.

### BOOMER TOWNSHIP, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

About midnight, May 24, 1919, a fire broke out in a barn owned by L. E. Thomas. A thorough investigation was made by this department resulting in the discovery of a plant made of paper cartons, excelsior, kindling, coal oil and a lighted candle. One Thomas McEvoy was arrested and charged with the setting of this fire. At the preliminary hearing McEvoy waived to the grand jury and was held on \$1,000 bonds in default of which he was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury. The grand jury failed to return an indictment.

### POWESHIEK TOWNSHIP, JASPER COUNTY.

About three A. M., May 24, 1919, a fire destroyed an old schoolhouse that had been purchased by John Gannon. Frank Nabb, a seventeen year old boy, was arrested and charged with the setting of the fire. Nabb made a confession to the county attorney and members of this department that he set the fire and that he did so for revenge. Upon the evidence gathered and the confession of the boy, the county attorney filed a true bill against Nabb, to which the boy plead guilty and was committed to the Training School for Boys at Eldora until he shall become of age.

### WEST BURLINGTON, DES MOINES COUNTY.

On the night of June 11, 1919, three fires broke out a few minutes apart within a short distance of each other. One J. J. Donahue was immediately arrested and hurried to Burlington to get him away from an enraged mob. These fires were thoroughly investigated by this department and Donahue was indicted charged with setting all three fires. He was tried by jury November 17, 1919 that body disagreeing. On December 3, 1919, Donahue

was again tried by the jury with the same result, a disagreement, after which the case was dismissed.

#### DES MOINES, POLK COUNTY.

About 3:03 P. M., July 24, 1919, a fire broke out in a store building used a part of the time by Johnston & Davis, grocers, for storage purposes. After a thorough investigation by this department, C. Y. Johnston, a member of the firm, was arrested and waived to the grand jury. Johnston was indicted, charged with setting the fire to injure the insurance company. The case coming on for trial the attorney for the defendant secured a continuance to the January term, 1920. This case has not as yet been tried.

#### NASSAU TOWNSHIP, SIOUX COUNTY.

On the night of August 2, 1919, a schoolhouse in Nassau Township was destroyed by fire. A thorough investigation was made by this department resulting in the indictment of Clarence Van Gronagan, Ed Koontz and Walter Ross charging them with the setting of the fire. The case came to trial November 5, 1919, but the witnesses who testified before the grand jury refused to give the same evidence before the court they had sworn to before the grand jury, and for this reason the case was dismissed on motion of the county attorney.

#### HOMER TOWNSHIP, BENTON COUNTY.

On the night of August 14, 1919, the Rogersville schoolhouse was set on fire. After a thorough investigation by this department Lester Lahue, William Peterson, Guy Fee and John Doe were indicted charged with the malicious destruction of public property, it being claimed the parties were smoking out a stand of bees in the side of the schoolhouse, and the fire may have been accidental rather than design.

On November 8, 1919, the case coming on for trial, Lester Lahue, William Peterson and Guy Fee all entered pleas of guilty and were each fined \$35.00 and the costs of the case by Judge Willett. John Doe is still at large.

#### SEYMOUR, WAYNE COUNTY.

About five A. M., October 19, 1919, a fire broke out in a restaurant owned by W. E. Jaster. Jaster was arrested and committed to the county jail on a charge of arson. A thorough investigation was made by this department and the evidence which seemed to warrant an indictment was ignored by the grand jury. This was the second fire Jaster had in the same place under most peculiar circumstances. He was heavily over-insured.

#### MASON CITY, CERRO GORDO COUNTY.

About 2:45 A. M., November 20, 1919, a fire broke out in a grocery store owned by James Banos. After an investigation by this department Banos was arrested charged with conspiracy to commit arson to injure the insurance company. A preliminary hearing was held before D. D. Fuller, Justice of the Peace, on December 27, 1919. At the close of the hearing the defendant was discharged. Heavy over-insurance was the motive charged for setting the fire.

#### JEFFERSON, GREENE COUNTY.

On December 20, 1919, a cream station owned by M. Mahoney was partially destroyed by fire. After an investigation by this department Mahoney was arrested charged with setting the fire to injure the insurance company.

A preliminary hearing was held before the mayor and the defendant was discharged. There being other charges against the defendant he was committed to jail pending the action of the grand jury which convened on January 26, 1920, at which time an indictment was returned against Mahoney charging him with setting the fire with intent to burn the building.

#### JASPER AND MAHASKA COUNTIES.

One of the most sensational and far-reaching cases of conspiracy to commit arson that has ever occurred in Iowa has recently been uncovered involving rich and well-to-do people living in the vicinity of New Sharon, Mahaska County, Iowa.

The first fire of the series to attract attention was the Christian Reformed Church and parochial school located at Peoria, Mahaska County, an inland town. This fire occurred at 12:30 A. M., June 14, 1918.

The feeling had been very bitter between the Americans and Hollanders living in that community and since the war broke out the trouble has multiplied. When the conscript registration came on it was claimed the Holland preacher took an active part in getting the Holland boys into deferred classifications. A meeting was called by some of the citizens in that community to lay plans for the lynching of certain persons charged with disloyalty. The Council of Defense was notified of the pending trouble and called on the government for help and one of the parties was taken out of the community. The parochial school was closed for about six weeks, then re-opened and a week later a fire occurred destroying both the school and the church valued at \$18,000.

The trouble kept on brewing causing great fear among the people of Sully, Jasper County, where an educational parochial institution known as the Christian School was located. Watchmen had guarded this school building every night for weeks and about five A. M., October 16, 1918, and about fifteen minutes after the guards had left the school, the school was broken into and set on fire with the aid of coal oil. Bloodhounds were used in this case but without success.

The next fire was in February, 1919, destroying a residence located near New Sharon which had been purchased a short time before by a Hollander. The owner made preparations to rebuild but was notified through the U. S. mail that if he rebuilt he would be burned out. Many letters of similar character were written to other Hollanders in the vicinity of New Sharon directing them to sell out and leave or they would be burned out.

The next fire was the Dutch Reformed Church in New Sharon. This church was set on fire at one A. M., February 27, 1919, and this fire together with the threatening letters being sent to various Hollanders in the community caused great fear and some of the Hollanders sold out and left the vicinity.

The latter part of May, 1919, several sticks of dynamite were found under the window of the Holland parsonage at New Sharon. This dynamite was found with fuse attached but for some reason the fuse did not burn up to the dynamite.

The next fire was the Gys Voss barn near New Sharon which burned at two A. M., September 27, 1919. Voss had previously received threatening letters to the effect that if he did not sell out and leave, he would be burned out.

There was no evidence of disloyalty among the Holland people at New Sharon.



All of these fires were investigated by this department as well as special agents and local authorities. A mass of evidence was taken by this department including specimen of handwritings for comparison with the threatening letters sent through the mails to Hollanders. This department being short of funds and men, all the information we had was turned over to special agents as they had plenty of funds and men, but not until the early part of November, 1919, did evidence come to light in such a way that a confession was made by Roy Eflin to the effect that he had been paid money to set the church, schoolhouse and barn on fire. The evidence gathered was presented to the Mahaska County grand jury December 4, 1919, resulting in the indictment of Roy Eflin, Thomas Davis, Charley Lundy, John Jarrard, Roy Steen, and L. A. Howell, all charged with conspiracy to commit arson, also indicted separately for the crime of arson. At the January term, 1920, Roy Eflin entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of ten years. Davis was put on trial January 20, 1920. After a hard fought battle lasting several days, Davis was acquitted. The other defendants have demanded separate trials.

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

TABLE I.

The footings of this table have been briefly set out in the introductory portion of this report. By months the fire losses and the number of fires reported to this office for the years 1919 and 1918 were as follows:

Months	1918		1919	
	No. of Fires	Loss	No. of Fires	Loss
January	688	\$ 617,324	517	\$ 760,712
February	370	394,659	357	463,956
March	621	736,311	468	571,597
April	462	573,676	331	334,432
May	358	671,259	348	2,807,266
June	229	309,412	175	310,249
July	273	529,838	348	448,577
August	338	690,976	396	435,456
September	367	607,045	392	619,649
October	277	491,641	275	567,892
November	398	476,664	317	645,422
December	341	348,624	433	504,425
Totals	4,306	\$6,440,771	3,967	\$8,819,835

TABLE II.

This table contains a list of the kinds of structures destroyed or damaged, the value of the buildings, the damage thereto, the value of the contents, the damage thereto, and the character of the buildings involved.

Classified by use, the ten highest classes of property affected by fires in 1918 and 1919 come in the following order:

Kind of Structure	1918		1919	
	Number	Loss	Number	Loss
Dwellings	3,069	\$1,289,113	1,586	\$1,455,408
Barns	1,117,154	447	1,059,979	
Stores	2,6	1,274,547	358	1,351,297
Garages	120	176,718	120	182,393
Automobiles	78	10,50	88	14,969
Shops	97	94,608	72	75,484
Restaurants and Cafes	62	77,829	57	86,989
Sheds	104	5,073	53	4,945
Factories	61	427,869	48	2,978,060
Offices and other buildings	58	35,357	47	41,284
Totals	3,927	\$4,698,306	3,176	\$6,718,248

TABLE III.

This table contains a summary of the causes of some of the fires reported, the number of properties destroyed or damaged from each cause, and the amount of damage to the buildings and contents. Classified in their order by number, the ten highest classes for 1918 and 1919 are as follows:

Cause	1918		1919	
	Number	Loss	Number	Loss
Sparks from Hue	850	278,919	863	294,079
Unknown	904	2,712,288	707	2,415,026
Adjoining Bns.	319	329,194	280	674,069
Defective Buses	309	408,722	277	379,875
Lightning	214	466,677	227	445,070
Spontaneous Combustion	144	367,285	105	319,898
Smoker's Carelessness	94	42,030	101	135,180
Children and Matches	80	36,437	95	90,292
Defective electric wiring	78	175,232	79	174,543
Incendiary and probably incendiary	79	162,254	69	164,662
Totals	3,991	\$6,409,510	2,803	\$5,294,518

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Provision should be made for state inspection of electric wiring, the inspector to be under the supervision of the state fire marshal.

2. The installation of non-freezing fire extinguishers in school buildings.

3. State regulation covering the handling and storing of gasoline.

4. A law providing that no shingle roofs shall be permitted hereafter upon buildings in cities of a certain class.

5. A law regulating theatres and motion picture shows, specifying the construction of the booth, the number of exits, width of aisles, etc.

6. Inasmuch as fully ninety (90) per cent of the fire alarms are given over the telephone, provision should be made to cover the responsibility of telephone companies in the matter of receiving and turning in fire alarms.

7. An increased annual appropriation for the state fire marshal's office sufficient to carry on a constant inspection campaign throughout the state which will no doubt eliminate thousands of fire hazards and have a tendency to cut down the fire waste as well as the insurance premiums.

## CONCLUSION.

To my entire office force whose loyal and faithful services to me and to the state have been rendered in a most competent and generous manner, I desire to make this public acknowledgement of appreciation.

Also to my worthy predecessor, Hon. Ole O. Roe, I desire to express my sincere gratitude for the kindness and confidence placed in me during the eight years of service as his deputy. No man could have done more toward the upbuilding of a well organized state department and to Mr. Roe great praise is justly due. He has been a leader in the Fire Marshals' Association of North America, and in the great work of conserving the resources of the state from the ravages of fire he is recognized as having exceptional ability.

TABLE NO. 1.

Showing Number of Fires Reported by Counties and Cities of More Than 10,000, Value of Buildings and Contents Involved, Damage to Buildings and Contents, Number of Fires Partially Covered by Insurance, Amount of Excess of Loss Over Insurance, Number of Fires Affecting Property Without Any Insurance and Total Loss Upon Property Not Covered by Insurance for the Year 1916.

County and City of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Value of buildings and contents	Damage to buildings and contents	Total insurance on buildings and contents	No. of fires partially covered by insurance	Excess of loss over insurance	No. of fires without insurance	Loss
Adair	17	\$ 39,730	19,885	21,741	9	5,414	2	300
Adams	19	52,255	73,789	56,700	14	19,887	1	30
Allamakee	17	38,287	27,405	20,829	11	14,059	1	30
Appanoose	32	269,751	61,977	131,985	17	25,695	12	7,565
Audubon	9	49,519	29,840	25,578	5	5,172	3	5,140
Benton	47	141,466	63,382	72,449	20	31,263	3	4,770
Black Hawk	93	1,427,543	61,629	1,978,952	7	4,655	16	1,388
Waterloo								
Bal. Black Hawk Co.	31	157,612	41,625	243,784	11	12,097	3	9,075
Boone-Boone	39	296,559	12,332	121,869	3	1,611	3	431
Bal. Boone Co.	17	71,573	28,237	48,087	9	12,588	-----	-----
Bremser	9	49,284	25,979	36,480	5	8,591	1	124
Buchanan	13	112,512	28,167	13,663	10	9,492	1	59
Buena Vista	10	56,115	39,375	29,093	5	2,245	-----	-----
Butler	17	53,025	19,870	22,600	10	8,329	2	65
Calhoun	17	37,419	39,229	24,875	10	15,995	3	829
Carroll	17	80,282	16,555	48,000	8	8,732	1	1,718
Cass	163	300,000	41,148	60,050	12	12,270	-----	-----
Cedar	21	89,465	62,373	42,935	16	26,899	2	300
Cerro Gordo	49	519,365	24,712	467,113	7	6,600	10	4,720
Mason City	4	26,215	14,846	12,000	8	9,296	3	4,400
Bal. Cerro Gordo Co.	11	29,095	18,000	15,420	4	9,015	4	665
Cherokee	12	47,945	17,885	21,633	6	11,548	4	2,847
Chickasaw	8	71,250	7,685	9,000	2	2,450	1	2,700
Clark	7	33,650	8,912	21,809	1	2,900	-----	-----
Clay	25	123,790	46,015	31,189	18	25,665	3	5,120
Clinton	26	1,081,925	31,528	841,560	10	22,191	17	13,525
Bal. Clinton Co.	20	614,656	33,078	444,118	10	16,770	11	7,000
Crawford	12	38,015	26,522	15,750	7	14,687	1	1,000
Dallas	25	46,739	26,338	23,875	10	12,669	6	1,904
Davis	14	41,695	39,017	15,725	6	16,662	6	8,067
Decatur	17	89,997	18,445	42,700	7	6,290	9	1,176
Delaware	27	82,139	64,063	2,493	17	35,997	3	2,850
Des Moines	40	1,267,630	46,574	1,217,915	8	740	-----	-----
Burlington								
Bal. Des Moines Co.	28	96,299	63,281	61,829	17	19,883	1	100
Dickinson	21	28,310	49,637	46,025	9	26,685	5	4,018
Dubuque	76	1,022,535	344,523	479,457	15	247,598	8	2,725
Bal. Dubuque Co.	14	45,466	36,956	16,800	7	26,596	6	7,860
Emmet	35	101,973	37,983	44,600	10	15,400	5	2,150
Fayette	38	213,382	67,549	101,917	16	28,096	4	578
Floyd	21	216,510	66,136	107,139	11	30,335	9	899
Franklin	19	130,999	79,711	40,305	11	49,820	2	575
Frederick	12	47,569	35,800	24,450	9	17,050	1	1,900
Fremont	13	77,190	48,030	41,200	5	15,600	1	80
Greene	16	80,850	37,768	43,549	8	10,285	1	200
Grundy	32	120,228	49,649	64,612	14	18,381	5	666
Guthrie	19	80,982	46,241	39,190	11	24,695	4	6,477
Hancock	37	154,132	70,054	69,548	13	28,344	3	6,240
Harrison	18	202,770	156,673	148,329	7	28,222	3	922
Hardin	35	194,985	49,298	67,185	12	18,373	5	7,785
Harrison	35	194,985	49,298	67,185	12	18,373	5	7,785
Harrison	35	194,985	49,298	67,185	12	18,373	5	7,785
Henry	34	133,692	68,680	41,306	17	46,810	9	23,470



TABLE NO. I. (Continued)

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of fires	Value of buildings and contents	Damage to buildings and contents	Total insurance on buildings and contents	No. of fires partially covered by insurance	Excess of loss over insurance	No. of fires without insurance	Loss
Howard	10	29,521	17,899	12,055	6	9,221	0	0
Humboldt	9	86,525	60,081	35,050	8	42,025	1	25
Ida	11	39,200	21,150	14,805	8	12,145	1	75
Iowa	15	42,556	26,801	18,786	7	14,135	1	625
Jackson	27	62,145	45,645	31,829	20	22,200	2	2,373
Jasper	48	188,785	116,915	73,353	23	71,925	8	17,300
Jefferson	21	249,375	170,214	107,829	17	94,115	1	421
Johnson								
Iowa City	24	250,000	12,415	126,500				
Bal. Johnson Co.	12	47,185	40,558	29,800	8	25,097	2	47
Jones	19	83,600	45,409	45,400	11	29,765	2	1,011
Keeokuk	16	41,725	17,800	23,500	7	7,975	1	325
Kossuth	22	102,800	45,624	48,250	12	15,025	3	967
Lee— Ft. Madison	42	425,173	148,668	371,565	5	3,016	6	2,031
Keeokuk	33	738,291	24,946	377,943	10	3,068	6	2,239
Bal. Lee Co.	11	21,808	18,648	9,941	8	9,097	2	1,020
Linn	115	4,865,709	2,020,029	3,675,386	1	1,667	1	1,582
Bal. Linn Co.	27	104,635	59,457	43,677	15	25,293	9	86
Louisa	18	42,806	23,159	18,628	10	12,582	1	1,600
Lucas	19	79,851	38,046	28,109	6	36,501	5	1,001
Lyon	12	46,675	25,841	24,889	7	9,460	2	880
Madison	29	51,059	24,348	22,159	15	11,299	1	1,900
Mahaska								
Oskaloosa	13	151,000	39,225	75,209	9	7,160		
Bal. Mahaska Co.	35	144,625	111,827	78,732	23	53,066	4	2,709
Marion	31	118,915	49,367	30,959	12	16,475	2	1,055
Marshall								
Marshalltown	83	656,115	56,274	324,640	9	8,238	21	867
Bal. Marshall Co.	18	174,085	28,365	21,473	11	14,159	3	89
Mills	12	83,900	20,600	20,025	7	9,605	2	2,550
Mitchell	18	37,709	14,460	20,111	9	3,027	1	100
Monona	15	49,550	25,925	25,900	6	12,175	5	6,850
Monroe	34	131,640	34,561	78,400	14	9,285	3	1,085
Montgomery	14	145,640	27,239	50,849	8	9,494	4	1,070
Muscatine								
Muscatine	61	227,064	25,097	159,797	14	7,118	12	1,259
Co.								
Bal. Muscatine Co.	16	31,485	19,902	16,550	10	5,848	8	470
O'Brien	23	118,814	56,320	69,814	13	27,720	8	1,009
Oseola	3	8,200	6,517	4,340	2	3,290		
Page	17	198,575	37,758	81,025	6	19,570	1	250
Palo Alto	19	27,940	27,225	29,715	6	15,925	2	2,230
Plymouth	21	68,270	40,671	29,530	8	27,221	7	4,581
Pocahontas	13	52,675	24,707	24,821	8	11,919	8	660
Polk—Des Moines	473	6,222,497	286,758	4,260,243	42	25,066	86	8,309
Bal. Polk Co.	34	196,530	125,256	120,975	12	46,000	1	1,460
Pottawattamie								
Council Bluffs	101	860,940	52,684	218,065	15	4,794	17	5,090
Bal. Pottawattamie Co.	23	116,325	71,190	66,176	12	26,229	4	1,255
Poweshiek	29	309,650	39,859	123,510	9	11,346	3	5,050
Ringgold	23	81,943	26,033	2	1	1		0
Sac	31	226,665	155,921	111,300	20	53,659	4	3,120
Scott—Davenport	297	1,464,200	42,654	1,099,059	10	7,549	26	3,509
Bal. Scott County	14	54,635	39,556	41,225	5	3,876	3	875
Sheldahl	23	71,206	46,224	37,070	12	22,972	4	3,100
Sioux	23	124,270	54,159	40,050	11	35,000	5	16,220
Story	62	341,150	181,755	156,775	16	79,169	18	55,721
Tama	23	55,605	28,448	39,917	10	16,500	3	1,432
Taylor	17	62,233	30,206	20,000	1	3		0
Union	35	328,085	47,347	237,000	13	12,225	1	1,390
Van Buren	13	28,180	25,570	12,750	11	18,415	1	10
Wapello								
Ottumwa	72	337,220	35,863	229,859	11	2,665	7	180

TABLE NO. I. (Continued)

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of fires	Value of buildings and contents	Damage to buildings and contents	Total insurance on buildings and contents	No. of fires partially covered by insurance	Excess of loss over insurance	No. of fires without insurance	Loss
Bal. Wapello Co.	11	28,000	23,685	12,475	8	12,600	1	1,200
Warren	21	44,328	21,587	23,200	9	8,848	7	1,795
Washington	17	76,226	50,600	36,946	11	23,620	2	1,505
Wayne	28	39,460	27,640	20,675	9	15,060	5	3,335
Webster								
Pt. Dodge	35	604,486	67,767	226,500	7	28,148	1	1,500
Bal. Webster Co.	12	41,342	36,705	14,700	6	25,442	3	18,342
Winnebago	4	27,015	7,020	12,015	8	5,000		
Winneshiek	20	261,571	70,546	159,947	7	10,680	2	2,900
Woodbury								
Sioux City	204	6,068,781	568,126	4,172,363	37	20,067	56	6,680
Bal. Woodbury Co.	18	65,060	40,311	26,520	12	22,270		
Worth	8	61,119	22,389	23,234	3	6,552	1	560
Wright	15	13,895	25,507	26,650	6	14,330	3	680
TOTALS	3,567	\$ 88,442,329	\$ 8,819,835	\$ 25,462,924	1,300	\$ 2,420,315	678	\$ 16,581

Showing the Nature and Character of the Buildings or Properties Destroyed or Damaged, the Value of Each, the Damage Thereof, the Value of the Contents of Each and the Nature and Character of the Damage Thereof, the Kind of Material of Which Each was Constructed and Whether the Loss was Total or Partial, for the year 1910.

	No. of Fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings			
		Value	Damaged	Value	Damaged	Material	Total Partial	Loss on Buildings	Loss on Contents
<b>Automobiles</b> .....	58	\$ 88,822	\$ 11,619	\$ 159	\$ 100	88	2	58	1
<b>Baby-sitters</b> .....	1	20	20	20	100	1	1	1	1
<b>Banks</b> .....	20	226,080	22,118	22,020	31,274	8	12	16	1
<b>Barbers</b> .....	9	5,413	5,413	34,000	27,228	9	0	9	0
<b>Barns-Farm</b> .....	112	528,741	627,581	21,300	60,535	311	1	309	2
<b>Barns-Town</b> .....	112	88,754	671,766	7,400	15	112	0	112	0
<b>Baths</b> .....	10	75	75	25	15	10	1	9	1
<b>Boat houses</b> .....	1	2,800	1,101	7,200	2,418	1	1	1	1
<b>Bottling Works</b> .....	1	90,500	2,668	14,500	2,975	1	1	1	1
<b>Brick yards, kilns and tile factories</b> .....	1	31,400	6,625	188,000	7,225	1	1	1	1
<b>CARP-Box</b> .....	10	21,250	2,420	\$ 771	6,441	10	1	9	1
Coal.....	1	5,400	1,550	1,376	120	1	1	1	1
Express.....	1	400	54	0	0	1	1	1	1
Furniture.....	1	2,000	500	15,000	6,000	1	1	1	1
Paint.....	1	8,000	6,275	10,403	6,872	8	1	7	1
Pump.....	1	300	15	0	0	1	1	1	1
Horse.....	1	1,500	600	0	0	1	1	1	1
Mail box.....	1	4,000	8,000	0	0	1	1	1	1
Machinery.....	1	10,000	150	0	0	1	1	1	1
Refrigerators.....	1	2,500	100	500	0	1	1	1	1
Street cars and trolleys.....	1	15,000	500	6	0	1	1	1	1
Tank line.....	1	51,000	500	0	0	1	1	1	1
Trunk line.....	1	5,000	22,200	21,000	125	1	1	1	1
<b>Cat barns and repair shops</b> .....	1	2,000	342	7,000	0	1	1	1	1

<b>Dunehos</b> .....	32	\$ 386,000	\$ 146,811	\$ 32,750	\$ 20,310	20	11	1	10	22	1	12
<b>City and township halls</b> .....	1	2,000	100	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Cleaning and dyeing est.</b> .....	1	5,000	1,000	3,700	7,000	1	7	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Coal bins and storage</b> .....	1	27,000	8,405	11,070	5,240	7	1	2	2	5	3	3
<b>College</b> .....	1	27,000	612	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>County building</b> .....	1	15,000	15,000	15	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>County House</b> .....	11	30,100	7,405	7,200	2,540	8	2	1	5	6	1	1
<b>Crematories and cream stations</b> .....	1	500	250	1,170	1,120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Dairies or milk houses</b> .....	1	10,400	4,120	600	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Depots</b> .....	1	155,500	114,685	76,654	58,374	20	1	10	10	2	13	1
<b>Ditching machine</b> .....	1	700	25	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Elevators</b> .....	2	27,500	1,170	4,000	200	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Engine and boiler rooms</b> .....	1	60,000	1,500	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Factories-</b>												
Advertising specialties.....	1	27,500	1,170	4,000	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Asphalt Plant.....	1	60,000	1,500	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Auto tire.....	1	27,000	612	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Box and paper.....	1	7,200	2,300	22,000	10,200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Button.....	1	3,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chemical works.....	1	2,000	100	6,000	125	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Collar.....	1	2,000	200	10,000	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cracker.....	1	10,000	18	10,000	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cup.....	1	8,000	500	30,000	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dak.....	1	20,300	700	203,000	20,100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Distributor and scales.....	1	10,000	18	10,000	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Excelsior.....	1	20,000	3,000	15,000	5,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kerosene engine.....	1	3,000	70	10,000	36,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lawn mower.....	1	25,000	45	7,500	3,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mach.....	1	100,000	4,041	100,000	4,041	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Milk house.....	1	60,515	6,072	241,000	9,804	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Novelty.....	1	15,000	15	75,000	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nonferrous plants.....	1	15,000	15	75,000	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sash & door.....	1	15,000	100	15,000	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sausage.....	1	25,000	100	25,000	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Silo.....	1	3,035,008	1,250,880	2,035,207	1,296,488	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Starch.....	1	15,000	100	15,000	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1



TABLE NO. II. (Continued)

	No. of Fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings							
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Loss on Buildings		Loss on Contents					
						Wood	Brick or Cement or Stone	Total	Partial	Total	Partial		
Factories Continued—													
Stock food	1	4,000	100	500	50	1				1			1
Trunk	1			10,000	4,114	1	1			1			1
Twine	1	50,000	50		15,000		1						1
Vegetable oil products	1	1,500	4,000	25,000	15,000	1	1			1			1
Wagon tongue	1	3,000	3,000					1		1			1
Fair ground building	3	230	122			4				4			4
Flagman's or operator's station	4	500	41			1				1			1
Flume for steam pipe	1	500	90			1	5	1		6			6
Foundries	7	156,501	5,019	105,800	4,728	1				9			9
Freight houses		35,000	250	100,000	350								
Garages—Private	8	0	12,612	1,000	40,000	7	1		36	34			37
Public	40	49,415	46,881	449,786	87,730	8	23		9	25			7
Gas plants	6	23,315	11,2	80,000	6,900	1	3		1	5			5
Granaries & corn cribs	22	15,900	13,000	24,784	30,873	21	1	1		17			18
Greenhouses & nurseries	4	14,000	12,300	75,000	49,511	1	1		1	2			3
Hay, grain & straw stacks	41			9,945	9,121								38
Hay storage	3	5,000	3,0	6,300	6,380	3				3			3
Hen houses	22	2,105	1,5	800	797								1
Hog houses	4	2,540	2,639			3	1		2	1			4
Homes for Aged	1	8,000	60			1				1			1
Homes	1	4,000	70	1,500	10								1
Hospitals	41	2,337,716	46,437	208,200	20,911	11	37		6	29			24
Hotels	40	295,600	15,742	28,600	9,543	12	27	1	2	21			24
Houses—Apartments	40	1,800	150	400	25	1				1			1
Boarding	254	712,223	560,982	300,043	174,611	349	4	1	274	72			184
Dwellings—Farm	1,732	4,743,690	530,064	836,081	189,757	1,559	87	16	85	1,472			1,657
Dwellings—Town	1,377	202,500	3,300	10,600	1,780	6	11			15			17
Flats	10	98,200	9,389	15,600	3,414	18	9		20	20			20
Rooming	27	797	797	630	620	2			2				2
Section	1	50	15			1				1			1
Sleeping	1	11,500	11,200	4,400	4,400	3			3	3			3
Summer cottages	18	2,275	1,400	1,370	906	12			6	6			6
Summer kitchens													
Ice houses	15	100,775	18,233	13,510	5,941	10	5		5	16			17
Laundries	12	17,025	1,529	126,725	5,844	4	8		1	6			10
Libraries	1	14,000	135	5,000	20		1			1			1
Light & power plants	10	162,500	1,317	78,000	1,500		6		7	6			7
Livery & feed barns	1	11,000	13,550	6,300	4,150	7	1			7			7
Locomotives	1	5,000	50										
Lodge halls & club houses	19	146,000	16,912	60,200	48,300	7	12		3	19			11
Lumber yards	11	43,800	11,000	148,400	123,965	10	1		3	13			4
Machine sheds	13	15,300	5,30	17,050	16,638	13			13				10
Meadows, grass & pasture	2			50	80								2
Mills—Feed	1	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	1	1		1				2
Flaming and saw	2	23,000	6,250	118,000	8,770	1	1			9			11
Motion picture theatre	10	17,000	35,735	62,000	18,30	1	10	1	6	1			12
Offices and office buildings	7	1,248,800	4,546	348,100	31,738	7	39	1	1	26			31
Oil filling stations	6	6,250	3,50	3,850	2,700	2	2		3	1			3
Oil houses	7	1,600	308	327	497					4			4
Oil trucks	2	3,600	1,900	3,112	3,111	1				1			1
Oil warehouses	2	21,100	900	80,500	31,700		1	Steel	1	2			2
Orphanages	1	8,000	384	1,300	14	1	1			1			1
Orphanages	4	193	185	45	45	4			4				4
Packing plants	2	5,000	10	750,000	25	1	1			2			1
Photograph galleries	5	12,500	1,410	22,300	2,400		2		1	3			4
Pool halls and bowling alleys	19	17,200	17,200	22,000	19,942	15	6		1	21			7
Pop corn wagon	1	500	200							1			1
Post offices	0	173,250	7,475	19,300	310		2	1	3	3			5
Printing and Publishing plants	10	417,240	11,401	279,800	97,090	5	9	1	1	11			9
Pump houses	4	250	250	200	200					4			4
Pumping stations	6	48,000	3,500	8,000	1,75	1	3	1	1	11			9
Railroad ties—pile of	1			310	310								1
Railway yard office	1	4,200	35			2				2			2
Round houses	1	29,000	1,000	30,000	1,000								1
Restaurant and cafes	57	480,250	3,700	101,650	41,290	50	30	1	10	43			37
Schoolhouses	33	383,000	22,632	21,015	4,500	21	12		15	18			15
Sheds	3	20,000	3,475	2,980	820					3			3
Shops—Auto repair	33	25,800	215	15,000	1,750					1			1
Barber	19	50,100	10,150	8,250	3,613	11	5		6	17			11
Blacksmith	16	16,350	9,970	9,750	6,490	12			7	19			13
Bicycle repair	1			50	50					1			1
Carpenter	1	500	200	700	27	1				1			1
Carriage repair	1	3,500	3,500	2,000	1,000	1			1	1			1
Cobbler	7	4,000	630	5,000	330	6	1		1	6			4
Dressmaking	1			300	300		1			1			1





TABLE NO. III.

Containing a Summary of the Origin and Cause of the Various Fires Reported, the Number of Each, and the Damage to the Buildings and Contents Specified by Causes for the years 1918 and 1919.

Causes	1918		1919	
	Number Fires	Loss	Number Fires	Loss
Adjoining fire	219	\$ 825,194	280	\$ 674,659
Alcohol explosion	1	1,149	1	?
Alcohol in auto radiator	2	4,944	2	174
Alcohol lamp	1	1,973	6	2,599
Ashes against wood	33	1,973	6	19,959
Ashes in basement	1	509	7	5,181
Ashes in wooden receptacle	1	82,858	1	?
Ashes near oil house	1	4,819	31	8,773
Automobile or motorcycle backfire	27	1,764		
Automobile wreck	2			
Bed too near stove	2	465		
Blaze furnace or forge	10	10,940	4	2,641
Blow torch	3	79	11	10,064
Boiler explosion	40	16,922	29	2,599
Bonfire	0	6,844	1	15
Burning brush and leaves	0	2,068	1	45
Burning corn stalks and stubble	1	75	2	65
Burning insects in den house	1	9,090	0	2,075
Burning meadows or grass	1	25		
Burning out carbon in auto cylinder	55	22,478	6	6,227
Burning rubbish	2	1,280		
Burning tree stumps	2			
Candle carelessness	4	1,518	0	30
Canvas under hood of engine	1	29		
Charcoal fire	1	880		
Charging electric car	80	2,527	2	22,281
Children and matches	5	3,100	2	20
Children playing with fire	1	968		
Children tampering with oil burner furnace	1	146	5	619
Christmas trees and decorations	1	160	2	148
Clothing near steam pipe or register	26	5,419	23	3,225
Clothing near gas or gasoline stove				
Clothing, rags or bedding near stove or stovepipe				
Clothing taken from rubbish fire and placed in closet			1	125
Coal used to heat out bonfire bung in barn			1	350
Coal against furnace	6	4,184	4	569
Coffee urn in restaurant	14	24,695	1	1,506
Collapse of building	1	1,700		
Current left on electric auto	1	1,704	6	645
Curtain blowing into flame				
Defective electric wiring	78	176,223	79	174,333
Defective electric wiring in street car	6	115	2	245
Defective fireplace	369	16,700	16	6,480
Defective flues	189	498,722	277	379,875
Defective fire stop	1	187	4	2,579
Defective furnace	5	1,727	10	22,241
Defective gas heater	1	941	5	19,179
Defective gasoline lighting system	2	667	8	4,025
Defective hot air pipes	3	666	2	2,365
Defective oil heater	25	9,025	32	6,023
Defective oil or gasoline stove	6	2,382	1	1,435
Defective oven in bakery	1	30		
Defective Prest-O-Lite tank	3	445	7	4,225
Defective stove	9	7,450	5	4,000
Defective stovepipe				
Electric fan carelessness	1	500		
Electric heater carelessness	1	314	3	1,139
Electric iron carelessness	22	41,317	17	1,882
Electric washer carelessness	1	20		

TABLE NO. III. (Continued)

Causes	1918		1919	
	Number Fires	Loss	Number Fires	Loss
Explosion of clothes dryer	1	1,500		
Explosion of dust in mill	1	75	1	2,412,172
Explosion of fire pot	1	130	1	1,514
Explosion of gas heater	1	130		
Explosion of gas stove	1	287		
Explosion of gasoline engine			2	4,590
Explosion of gasoline lamp	1	500	2	4,575
Explosion of gasoline stove	14	5,890	13	29,490
Explosion of kerosene oil stove	13	2,737	19	47,807
Explosion of oil heater	13	8,241	16	9,547
Feed cooker	5	7,350	2	725
Filling auto gasoline tank with motor running	1	292	1	?
Fireless cooker set fire to floor			1	70
Fireworks	13	1,764	9	3,066
Forest fires	12	8,235		
Friction of machinery	2	500	3	11,172
Fumigation	3	1,225	4	687
Furnace explosion or blow out	1	65	7	31,291
Furnace or pipes too near wood	19	7,822	8	1,187
Gas Explosion	9	29	3	8,240
Gas or gasoline jet flame	4	185	8	485
Gas or gasoline from carelessness	1	475	1	485
Gas leak	1	375	2	210
Gas stove carelessness	1	60	7	2,594
Gasoline carelessness	3	2,514	5	475
Gasoline-cleaning with	0	136	0	1,598
Gasoline engine backfire	1	13,635	4	9,365
Gasoline explosion	7	8,633	9	50,200
Gasoline and flame:				
Drawing gasoline by lamp or lantern light			10	13,000
Filling auto gasoline tank by lantern light	5	4,483	3	373
Lighted match, torch or lantern near gasoline	11	35,317	92	18,513
Sparks from pipe or cigarette lighting			2	400
gasoline	1	637	2	400
Gasoline leak	1	206	1	25
Gasoline or oil stove carelessness	42	53,549	22	11,890
Grease in ventilator	1	1,900	3	781
Grease on stove	1	150	9	2,992
Halloween prank			1	15
Heating coal oil on stove	1	79		
Heating kerosene oil on fire	1	522		
Heating kerosene oil on stove	3	3,518		
High voltage wires	0	8,250		
Hot irons in bed	1	44		
Hot iron holder in clothes basket			1	217
Hot steel in oil tempering tank			1	15
Incendary and probably incendiary	79	102,251	99	161,000
Inchbator	11	10,195	18	6,531
Jack-o'-lantern	1	500		
Kerosene spilled near furnace			1	27,000
Knifing or wood near stove or furnace	11	4,108	13	6,434
Lamp or lantern carelessness	7	6,692	2	3,890
Lamp or lantern explosion	11	5,898	8	1,999
Lamp or lantern upset	4	3,794	5	16,198
Leaky gas tank in auto	4	845	2	330
Lighting:	214	405,077	9	28,999
Buildings rodded			23	411,073
Buildings not rodded			9	5,020
Lightning running in on wiring	6	335	1	223
Lime slaking	1	8		
Live coal carelessness	7	2,739	3	240
Live coals dropping from grate or stove	1			

TABLE NO. III. (Continued)

Causes	1918		1919	
	Number Fires	Loss	Number Fires	Loss
Live coals dropping from locomotive			1	55
Live wire	3	9,000	1	1.0
Looking for gas leak with matches or torch	4	1,216	2	95
Match carelessness	64	37,641	49	40,016
Motion picture films	12	10,040	12	4,775
Oil heating stove carelessness	25	5,500	24	17,535
Oil rag or mop carelessness	9	2,426	3	160
Oil stove near wall or woodwork	4	815	8	1,198
Overheated boiler in steamer auto			1	10
Overheated cupola	2	4,078		
Overheated clothes dryer	1	96	2	564
Overheated dry kiln	1	1,050	2	323
Overheated electric motor or dynamo	9	456	10	1,712
Overheated exhaust	4	2,201	3	588
Overheated fire	21	15,803	9	2,779
Overheated furnace or boiler	56	52,279	39	61,407
Overheated gas generator			2	400
Overheated hot air pipes	5	22,002	10	4,068
Overheated journal			3	19,575
Overheated machine bearings	1	250		
Overheated oven in foundry	1	27		
Overheated oven in novelty factory			4	15,687
Overheated pulleys	2	16,465		
Overheated radiators and steam pipes	1	517	4	865
Overheated sterilizer	1	50	50	
Overheated stove	45	37,875	59	93,547
Overheated stovepipe	12	2,679	12	9,181
Overheated tanning compound in press room	1	62		
Paper covered fire hole	3	83	4	340
Papers on or near stove or stove pipe	4	769	2	40
"Peace" celebration	1	275		
Photographic flashlight			1	150
Rubber covering over auto engine	1	74		
Rubbish in basement	5	3,293	11	17,004
Rubbish in or near building	7	1,254	3	62
Rubbish near stove or furnace	1	4,789	11	19,663
Salamander			3	11,530
Short circuit in auto wiring	17	1,529	42	17,654
Smoker's carelessness	04	45,920	101	188,185
Smokestack against wood	1	200	5	315
Smoking meat	29	31,448	8	1,333
Smoking out bees	1	568		
Smoking out ground hog, skunk and rabbits	1	165	1	195
Soldering gasoline tank	1		3	5,352
Sparks from cupola	1	20	1	5
Sparks from drive chain	1	25		
Sparks from electric fan in empty gasoline tank			1	8,000
Sparks from electric motor	1	24,000	2	4,700
Sparks from fire place	2	1,375	2	502
Sparks from flue	850	278,910	863	294,979
Sparks from flue hole	4	208	7	2,542
Sparks from gasoline engine	4	5,135	3	4,115
Sparks from hoisting engine			6	745
Sparks from locomotive	68	45,501	25	25,454
Sparks from metal nozzle of hose in filling gasoline tank			1	290
Sparks from nail in shoe when boy jumped on steel tank	1	2,600		
Sparks from storage battery	1	10		
Sparks from stove or furnace	0	80,219	17	16,328
Sparks from traction engine	29	21,455	15	18,945
Sparks' nest near chimney	1	45		
Spontaneous combustion:				
Burlap and feathers			1	100,000
Cobs on damp saw dust	1	5,500		
Coal	53	69,276	17	38,742
Corn fodder	2	4,600		

TABLE NO. III. (Continued)

Causes	1918		1919	
	Number Fires	Loss	Number Fires	Loss
Cotton waste			1	175
Clothes chute	1	15,000		
Damp clothes			2	229
Drum	2	5.0	1	14,000
Excelsior around water pipe	1	800		
Hay	25	66,702	32	168,063
Hot ironing board in closet			1	115
Kindling in damp basement	1	500		
Line in hog house	1	125		
Manure	2	2,642	1	600
Nursery packing			1	15,500
Oil and paint	2	565	1	325
Oil rags and clothing	27	42,545	18	8,412
Retarder factory	1	200		
Rubbish and rags	19	15,791	25	34,155
Sawdust	2	2,319	2	315
Seed house	1	13,500	1	119,300
Starch works	1	25		
Sweeping compound	2	11,550	1	7
Starting fire with coal oil	10	4,565	7	10,202
Starting fire with gasoline instead of coal oil	3	355	2	290
Static electricity	5	1,100	2	100
Stove explosion or blow out	7	22,000	4	4,950
Stove or stovepipe too near unprotected wood or wall	55	16,282	40	16,473
Stove in barn			1	5,000
Stove upset	3	46	1	15
Stovepipe through wall or roof	45	28,432	41	54,432
Sun's rays through window	3	475	1	500
Supposed mice and matches	10	7,095	10	10,510
Tank heater			2	7,054
Tar kettle boiling over	1	25	6	1,471
Thawing frozen barrel	1	65		
Thawing frozen water pipes	24	1,719	20	16,750
Thieves stealing brass fixture	1	200		
Torch carelessness	4	770	3	25
Tornado	1	1,600		
Train wreck	2	9,200	5	69,655
Tramps	1	460	8	11,475
Unknown	924	2,719,588	707	2,415,425
Volcanizing machine	1	29	4	28,250
Warming auto engine with electric light			1	325
Warming gasoline engine with fire	2	55	2	146
TOTALS	4,530	86,440,771	3,367	88,819,872



TABLE NO. IV.

Giving The Cities and Towns in Which 897 Inspections of Dilapidated Buildings and Inflammable Conditions Have Been Made During The Year 1919.

Albia.	Gilman.	Ossian.
Alcoa.	Grand Junction.	Ottosen.
Andrew.	Grimmek.	Oxford Junction.
Ankeny.	Hamburg.	Parkersburg.
Arion.	Hampton.	Paulina.
Arthur.	Hurian.	Plainfield.
Aurelia.	Hartford.	Pocahontas.
	Hubbard.	Protivin.
	Huxley.	Randolph.
Baxter.		Ramsen.
Beaver.	Iowa City.	Riverton.
Bedford.	Iowa Falls.	Rock Rapids.
Bearsburg.		Rock Valley.
Boone.	Jefferson.	Rofo.
Boyden.		Russell.
Brighton.	Keokuk.	Scranton.
Burlington.		Sharpsburg.
		Sheldon.
Cedar Falls.	Lacona.	Sbenandoah.
Cedar Rapids.	Lake Mills.	Sigourney.
Centerville.	Lamon.	Sioux City.
Chariton.	LaPorte City.	Smithland.
Charles City.	Livermore.	Spencer.
Cherokee.	Logan.	Spirit Lake.
Clarion.	Lyons.	Stanhope.
Clinton.		Story City.
Correctionville.	Maentine.	Swea City.
Corwith.	Macedonia.	Tama.
Corydon.	Malvern.	Ferril.
Council Bluffs.	Marcus.	Vaill.
Creston.	Marshalltown.	Van Meter.
	Mason City.	Vilusa.
Davenport.	Matlock.	Winton.
Decorah.	Middletown.	Washington.
Denison.	Milton.	Waterloo.
Des Moines.	Missouri Valley.	Waukegan.
Dike.	Mondamin.	Websterburg.
	Mount Avr.	Welton.
East Pleasant Plain.	Murray.	West Point.
Eddyville.	Muscantine.	West Union.
Eldon.	Mystic.	Wheatland.
Elgin.		Whittemore.
Elkader.	Nevada.	Zearing.
Emmetsburg.	New Hampton.	
	New Sharon.	
Fairfeld.	Nichols.	
Farmington.	Norway.	
Farragut.		
Ft. Madison.	Oelwein.	
Garner.	Oceola.	
	Oskaloosa.	

TABLE NO. V.

Giving Places at Which Investigations of Fires of Suspicious Origin Have Been Made During the Year 1919, and the Date When Such Investigations Began.

COUNTY	PLACE	DATE COMMENCING INVESTIGATION
Allamakee	Luana (near)	March 18.
	New Albia (near)	December 18.
Appanoose	Bellair Township	June 14.
	Johns Township	October 20.
	Mystic	April 7.
Wenton	Bruce Township	October 10.
	Florence Township	August 21.
	Homer Township	September 2.
	Newhall (near)	October 29.
	Taylor Township	October 2.
Black Hawk	Waterloo (3 fires)	May 20.
	Waterloo (near)	September 25.
	Waterloo	October 10.
	Waterloo	October 20.
Boone	Angus (near)	August 6.
Buchanan	Washington Twp. (2 fires)	September 17.
Calhoun	Rockwell City	October 20.
Cass	Elliott (near)	February 14.
Cedar	Cass Township	October 28.
	Cass Township	December 16.
Cerro Gordo	Mason City	November 24.
Chickasaw	Utes Township	September 3.
Clarke	Oceola	October 23.
Clay	Spencer (near)	February 5.
	Herdland Township	January 18.
Clayton	Lodonnillo Township	September 25.
	Strawberry Point	September 26.
	Strawberry Point	September 26.
Clinton	Lincoln Township (5 fires)	February 12.
Crawford	Arion	April 16.
Des Moines	West Burlington (3 fires)	June 23.
Dubuque	Dubuque	October 24.
Emmet	Iowa Lake Township	February 6.
	Wallingford (near)	July 10.
Fremont	Sidney Township	July 17.
Greene	Jefferson	December 26.
	Scranton	September 1.
Hamilton	Webster City	April 7.
	Webster City	May 5.
	Williams	October 21.
Hancock	Concord Township	September 27.
	Goodell (2 fires)	December 20.
	Miller	April 23.
Hardin	Ackley	November 25.
Harrison	Mondamin	June 16.
Jackson	Monmouth	October 25.
Jasper	Powahlek Township	June 4.
Jones	Cass Township	May 22.
	Fairview Township	May 22.

TABLE NO. IV. (Continued)

COUNTY	PLACE	DATE COMMENCING INVESTIGATION
Kossuth	Algona	October 27.
Lee	Kookuk (2 fires)	February 18.
	West Point Township	February 7.
Madison	St. Charles	July 16.
Mahaska	Lincoln City	February 10.
	New Sharon	March 2.
	New Sharon	July 22.
	New Sharon (near)	October 7.
Marion	Otter	September
	Pella	April 5.
Marshall	Gilman (2 fires)	October 22.
	Jefferson Township	October 7.
	Laurel	October 9.
Mills	Malvern	April 25.
Monona	Malvern	November 11.
	Mapleton	August 72.
Monroe	Albia	July 25.
	Wayne Township (2 fires)	January 28.
	Wayne Township	May 13.
O'Brien	Doonina	April 2.
	Primghar	July 8.
Page	Norwich (near)	March 19.
Pocahontas	Varina	May 9.
Polk	Des Moines	January 20.
	Des Moines	March 21.
	Des Moines	July 10.
	Des Moines	July 29.
	Des Moines (2 fires)	August 5.
	Des Moines (2 fires)	October 15.
	Des Moines	October 21.
	Des Moines	December 20.
	Waukegan City (Camp Dodge)	January 27.
South Ft. Des Moines	April 28.	
Pottawattamie	Boomer Township	May 27.
	Council Bluffs	June 6.
	Council Bluffs	October 14.
Ringgold	Beaconsfield	March 3.
Sioux	Boydin	October 4.
	Boncomb Township	February 4.
	Nassau Township	August 19.
Story	Colo	June 26.
	Slater	August 27.
Tama	Tama	June 27.
Union	Creston	January 70.
	Lorimor (near)	October 24.
Van Buren	Wesauqua (near)	September 10.
	Liek Creek Township	January 7.
Wapello	Eldon (near)	April 22.
Washington	Crawfordsville	October 9.
	Noble	January 9.

TABLE NO. V. (Continued)

COUNTY	PLACE	DATE COMMENCING INVESTIGATION
Wayne	Seymour	July 22.
	Seymour	October 21.
Webster	Fort Dodge	April 7.
	Fort Dodge (near)	April 16.
	Fort Dodge	July 10.
	Giowrie	April 14.
Winnebuck	Decorah	October 31.
Woodbury	Correctionville	April 15.
	Sioux City	January 23.
	Sioux City	January 21.
	Sioux City	January 22.
	Sioux City	August 18.
	Sioux City (2 fires)	August 22.
Wright	Galt	February 3.