

State of Iowa

1927

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE YEAR 1926

J. A. TRACY
State Fire Marshal

Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Des Moines, Iowa, January 31, 1927.

HON. JOHN HAMMILL, *Governor of Iowa.*

SIR: In compliance with the provisions of law I have the honor to submit herewith the Sixteenth Annual Report of the affairs of this office covering the period beginning January 1, 1926, and ending December 31, 1926, both dates included.

J. A. TRACY,
State Fire Marshal.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Appointed by the Governor. Term, Four Years. Expires July 1, 1927.

Office	Name	Legal Residence	Birthplace
Fire Marshal.....	J. A. Tracy.....	Sioux City.....	Iowa
Deputy.....	E. J. Frowick.....	Des Moines.....	Iowa
Assistant Deputy.....	W. C. Rabbitt.....	Des Moines.....	Indiana
Assistant Deputy.....	G. G. Shanafelt.....	Sigourney.....	Iowa
Stenographer and Clerk.....	Jennie R. Gregg.....	Des Moines.....	Iowa

The entire expense of the State Fire Marshal's office is paid out of the general revenues of the state.

REPORT OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

NUMBER FIRES REPORTED, 5,665, TOTALING A LOSS OF \$7,984,007,
A REDUCTION OF 453 FIRES AND \$1,740,450 OVER THE YEAR 1925

In presenting this report for the year 1926, I wish to call your attention to some of the outstanding features which, to my mind, are worthy of consideration.

The remarkable reduction in number of fires and loss was, in my opinion, largely due to inspections, education, and liberal space in newspapers, giving knowledge to the public of the increase in loss which is a burden on the people in general. Newspapers give knowledge to their patrons that cannot be had in any other way. Too much publicity cannot be had in keeping before the public the necessity of daily fire prevention activities.

The Iowa State Fire Prevention Association has been very active in making inspections throughout the state and procuring speakers to address schools on fire prevention. This work has been most valuable in reducing the fire loss thousands of dollars. (See report of their actions on another page.)

I call your particular attention to the great number of fires that have occurred in the homes endangering the lives of both women and children, to say nothing of the tremendous loss of valuable property that is gone forever and can never be replaced.

Most all of these fires were caused by carelessness or lack of education, viz., defective heating plants, defective chimneys, defective pipes to heating plants, children playing with matches, women cleaning with gasoline or starting a sluggish fire with the aid of coal oil. The greatest number of causes are sparks on wooden shingles. The total number of fires in habitations in 1926 was 3,584, totaling a loss of \$2,635,136, being more than one-third of the total loss and more than three-fifths of the number of fires. It appears to me that husbands and fathers owe their families better protection.

Losses on the farm in 1926 were unusually large. There was 441 farm house fires, totaling a loss of \$1,316,166, and 267 farm barn fires, totaling a loss of \$847,936. The unrodded farm barns suffered a loss of 72 in number amounting to \$232,609. Spontaneous combustion in hay and straw was another heavy loss to farm property.

Careful reading of Tables 2 and 3, published in this report,

should convince any fair-minded person that at least 85 per cent of the fires and loss are preventable.

STRUCTURES IN WHICH THE MOST DISASTROUS FIRES OCCURRED

Stores, various kinds.....	1,297	\$1,326,672
Farm dwellings	441	1,315,166
Town dwellings	2,967	1,194,371
Farm barns	267	847,936
Elevators and seed houses.....	24	843,203
Mills	9	395,581
Factories, various kinds.....	37	308,146
Churches	21	183,295
Shops	11	133,813
Schools	38	129,513
Garages, public	49	118,963
Warehouses	55	119,910
Theatres	26	114,261
Garages, private	194	84,901
Town barns	119	84,231
Apartment houses	123	73,907
Restaurants	65	66,723
Lumber yards	8	64,435

CAUSES SHOWING THE GREATEST LOSS BY FIRES

Unknown	956	\$3,715,537
Sparks on roofs, wooden shingles.....	1,859	731,664
Defective flues	360	503,391
Defective electric wiring.....	173	339,715
Lightning, no rods.....	134	339,560
Friction	16	252,172
Defective and overheated heating plants.....	177	227,238
Spontaneous combustion, hay.....	38	154,050
Incendiary	91	120,770
Gasoline or volatile oil explosion.....	120	118,438
Spontaneous combustion, rags, rubbish.....	95	114,742
Defective oil and gasoline stoves.....	157	111,771
Fumigation	5	110,815

LARGEST FIRES OCCURRING DURING 1926, LOSS \$75,000 OR OVER

Council Bluffs—		
February		\$ 741,600
August		168,000
Davenport—		200,000
February		110,252
September		140,000
Anamosa—December		78,000
Iowa City—January		75,000
Nashua—March		75,000

DEATHS FROM FIRES

In 1926 there was 109 deaths reported to this office as a direct result of fire. Of this number 26 were men, 37 were women and 46 were children. In 78 cases fatal to life, gasoline, coal oil, matches, and bonfires were involved.

A COMPARISON OF FIRE LOSSES BY MONTHS FOR 1925 AND 1926

	1925		1926	
	No. Fires	Loss	No. Fires	Loss
January	975	\$1,227,379	727	\$ 945,791
February	732	1,229,337	573	1,511,959
March	772	711,088	744	893,690
April	608	802,758	818	650,189
May	462	569,000	454	580,639
June	261	527,786	300	332,883
July	330	685,715	328	784,592
August	278	590,380	244	383,729
September	231	569,698	225	352,113
October	315	427,048	298	353,369
November	487	965,002	365	380,799
December	667	1,479,291	589	814,254
Total.....	6,118	\$9,724,482	5,665	\$7,984,007

A COMPARISON OF THE LOSSES IN NINETEEN LARGEST CITIES IN IOWA IN 1925 AND 1926

	1925		1926	
	No. Fires	Loss	No. Fires	Loss
Boone	49	\$ 57,882	24	\$ 48,007
Burlington	50	54,251	34	16,488
Cedar Rapids	211	406,111	187	141,804
Clinton	151	64,838	160	33,850
Council Bluffs	312	1,012,864	202	1,003,422
Davenport	212	175,561	221	476,443
Des Moines	707	637,079	670	387,597
Dubuque	118	98,949	120	55,744
Fort Madison	39	190,303	42	75,411
Fort Dodge	66	80,760	116	108,516
Iowa City	44	12,606	58	102,941
Keokuk	97	49,606	79	14,766
Marshalltown	116	17,238	120	24,201
Mason City	74	59,650	66	87,474
Muscatine	79	35,725	59	31,032
Oskaloosa	20	27,826	32	76,703
Ottumwa	148	291,984	156	84,419
Sloux City	508	164,948	451	172,774
Waterloo	219	128,826	223	120,881
Total.....	3,212	\$3,558,560	3,020	\$3,062,474

LETTER FROM "FIRE PREVENTION DEPARTMENT"

WESTERN ACTUARIAL BUREAU, RICHARD E. VERNOR, MGR., CHICAGO, ILL.

Dear Fire Preventionist: Here's the end to your doubt as to whether or not Fire Prevention pays in real money.

Following National Fire Prevention Week in October the National Board of Fire Underwriters sent a questionnaire to fire chiefs in all cities of 20,000 or more. Returns from 279 of these cities show that—

80 cities having an average weekly loss in 1925 of \$173,648 suffered no loss by fire whatever during Fire Prevention Week. (Automobiles on streets excluded.)

87 cities suffered no loss during the week following.

35 cities reported losses of not more than \$25.00.

22 cities reported losses of not more than \$60.00.

Educational work is just one of the important activities of your State Fire Prevention Association.

It isn't always good economics to strain for a \$15.00 premium instead of preventing a \$10,000 loss.

Won't you please help to make the next six months the best in the history of your Association? Yours for fire-safety,

RICHARD E. VERNOR.

DOES INSPECTION PAY? READ IOWA STATE FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION'S INSPECTION REPORT FOR 1926.

NOTE DEFECTS FOUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

Town	No. Inspec- tions	No. Defects	No. Recommen- dations	People Addressed
Maquoketa	170	157	884	925
Mason City	469	446	2,055	3,258
Storm Lake	132	120	494	1,160
Iowa City	445	438	2,540	5,310
Ottumwa	429	407	2,298	8,732
Waterloo	579	528	2,443	7,750
Charles City	169	165	1,011	2,992
Total	2,393	2,261	11,725	30,128
Fire Prevention Week				7,948
Grand total				38,076

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA, ON INSPECTIONS FOR ONE YEAR

As a result of inspections 200 new chimneys were built and over 350 more repaired. Loss for year was \$50,000, \$30,000 being from sparks on wooden shingles. The cost of inspection was eighty cents per policy.

THE MENACE OF WOODEN SHINGLES

The greatest number of fires in Iowa was caused by sparks on wooden shingles. What might have happened in Iowa has happened in other states. (See partial record set out below and accompanying illustrations of actual scenes after conflagration.)

CONFLAGRATIONS DUE TO WOODEN SHINGLES

Location	Loss	Location	Loss
Jacksonville, Fla.	\$10,050,000	Paris, Texas	\$11,000,000
Yazee City, Miss.	2,000,000	Nashville, Tenn.	1,450,000
Chisholm, Minn.	1,700,000	Augusta, Ga.	4,500,000
Chelsea, Mass.	12,000,000	Atlanta, Ga.	5,500,000
Fort Worth, Texas.	800,000	Arverne, N. Y.	2,000,000
Wallace, Idaho	1,000,000	Berkeley, Calif.	10,000,000
Bangor, Maine	3,500,000	Newbern, N. C.	1,500,000
Houston, Texas	4,500,000	Shreveport, La.	1,000,000
Hot Springs, Ark.	2,225,000	Newport, Ark.	1,500,000
Salem, Mass.	13,000,000		

In the foregoing list nearly 89 million dollars' worth of property was destroyed yet takes no account of the innumerable shingle conflagrations practically wiping out small towns.

Why not pass and enforce city ordinances prohibiting wooden shingles?

SUGGESTED ORDINANCE

An Ordinance concerning the construction and repairing of roofs in the (city) (town) of.....
Be it ordained by the.....of the (city) (town) of.....:

Section 1. Every roof hereafter constructed in the (city) (town) of.....shall be covered with a fire-resistive roof covering approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories.

Sec. 2. Whenever a roof covering is hereafter replaced in whole or in part the new roof covering shall be of fire-resistive material approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories.

Sec. 3. Within ten years from the date of adoption of this ordinance, any and all roofs now covered with wooden shingles shall be replaced with fire-resistive roof covering approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories.

Sec. 4. Provision for enforcement and penalties consistent with similar provisions of other ordinances in force.

SPECIAL MENTION

Domestic oil burners. On account of the coal situation many oil burners of many different kinds are being installed. Competition is very keen, consequently in many cases the safety rules as to installation are being ignored. Cities are passing stringent ordinances governing the installation of oil burners and I quote but one as a sample.

"Cedar Rapids, Iowa, December 1, 1926.

Because of the increasing number of oil burner heater installations in this city the city council has adopted an ordinance requiring special permits for all heaters. Inspection of plants within forty-eight hours after their completion and strict compliance with the Underwriters' Laboratories and National Fire Protection Association specifications in equipment and installation."

A heavy fine is imposed for the violation of this ordinance.

Lightning. It is an established fact that well rodded buildings are practically immune from lightning. The loss from lightning in 1926 was 134 buildings, unrodded, amounting to \$339,560, against three buildings that were rodded in which the loss amounted to \$16,389. It is not known whether the rods on the three buildings were in good condition or not.

Electric wiring. Wiring should be done by a competent electrician. Cities should pass an ordinance requiring that wiring be done in harmony with the National Electrical Code.

INSPECTIONS

During the year 1926 the State Fire Marshal's office made inspections in 165 towns in 70 counties in the state. Most of these inspections were made in going to or returning from places where investigations of suspicious fires were made, with but little extra expense to the state. Hundreds of fire hazards were removed by reason of these inspections.

STATISTICAL WORK

The State Fire Marshal's office is the only office or agency in the state engaged in securing and publishing certain data pertaining to fire losses.

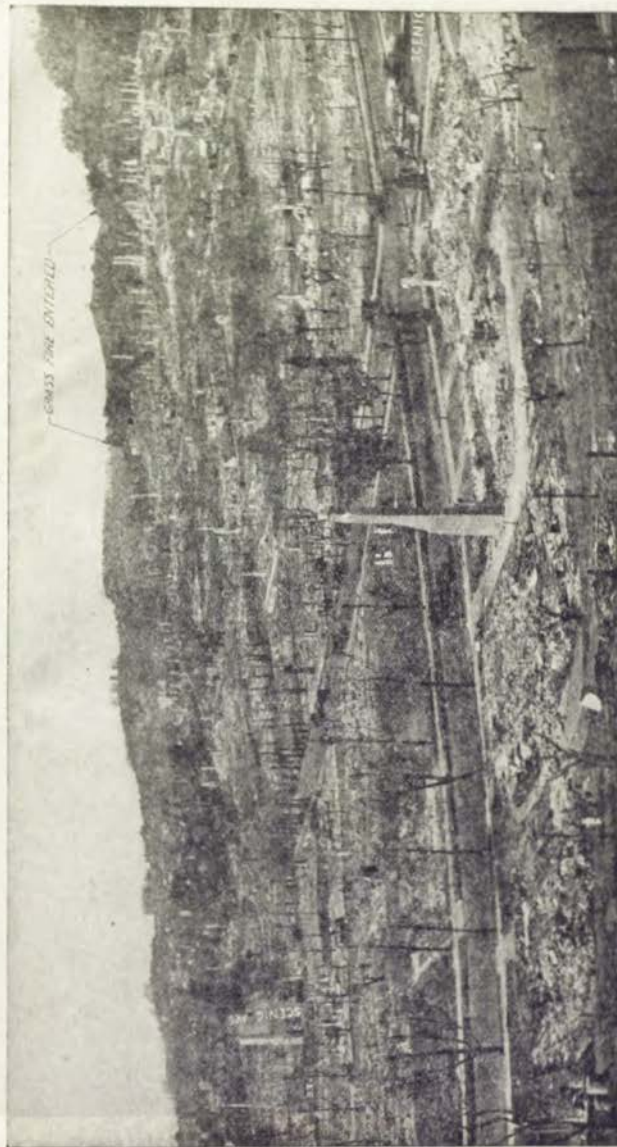
The state law requires that fire chiefs (mayors where there are no fire chiefs) and township clerks shall report all fires which occur in their jurisdiction to the State Fire Marshal, see Sections 1624, 1625 and 1626, Code of 1924. The fire chiefs or mayors report the fires which occur within the corporation and the township clerks report the rural fires which occur in the township for which they are clerk. A fee of fifty cents is allowed for each report and the township clerks are allowed an additional fee of ten cents per mile actually traveled in going to and returning from the scene of the fire. Fires of less than \$5 damage need not be reported.

All fires should be reported promptly, filling in all blank spaces in report blanks furnished by the State Fire Marshal's office, which will save unnecessary correspondence. When reports are delayed it interferes with the record work and co-operation is urged in securing the information the law requires.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

The State Fire Marshal's office is sending out bulletins on causes and dangers of fire, for use in both public and parochial schools. Fire prevention posters and annual reports are being sent out in large numbers. Addresses are also being made in schools, commercial clubs, farm gatherings, insurance meetings, fire departments, etc., on fire prevention.

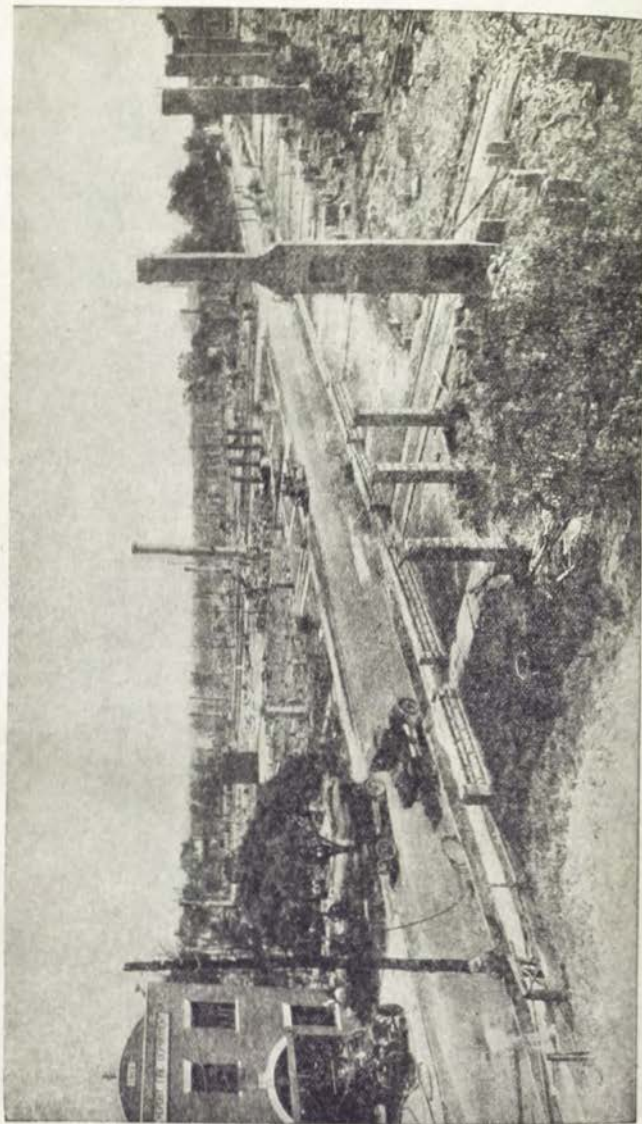
Motion pictures. There are two kinds of motion picture films. The nitro-cellulose or inflammable films cannot be used in any kind of a machine, no matter what kind or make, outside of a standard fire-proof booth. The slow-burning or acetate films can be used in any kind of a machine with safety, outside of a booth. Some agents will advise their machine is approved. *They are only approved for using the safety films outside of the standard fire-proof booth.*



Berkeley's anti-wooden shingle ordinance was passed because of these ruins—and revoked in spite of them.



A mute reminder of those days in June, 1914, when Salem, swept clean by a roof conflagration, was thrown upon the charity of the rest of the country.



A view of Shreveport, La., after the shingle roof conflagration of September, 1926. The fire started in one of the houses whose ruins are seen at the right, just across the street from the fire department.

Fire drills. The following is an editorial in the Des Moines Capital of January 11, 1927, which forcibly demonstrates the need of fire drills:

"Humanity faces no danger more deadly than that encountered when the fear of a crowd turns to panic. It was a heart-breaking tragedy which was reported from Montreal yesterday. The cry of 'fire' in a theatre resulted in a riotous crush which cost the lives of seventy-seven children. The panic alone was responsible for the deaths. The fire itself proved to be of slight proportions.

"All the world extends its sympathy at the time of such disasters, but it is unfortunate indeed that humanity at large fails to grasp the lesson which is so plainly written. Order means safety; panic means danger. Theatres in modern cities have safeguards in greater abundance than any other class of buildings. Bear that basic fact in mind if you ever have occasion to make use of this advice.

"The children in Montreal were probably the least to blame for the panic. The Capital does not know what systems of this nature prevail in the large Canadian cities, but we do know that school children in the cities of the United States are much better trained to meet fire emergencies than the average adult.

"*Fire drills in schools are of priceless value.*"

Gasoline as common hazard. The following is a report of the Missouri State Fire Prevention Association of December 1, 1926:

"In analyzing the 1926 home inspections through the 13 schools in the town the information developed that in 230 or 11.7 per cent of the homes gasoline is used for dry cleaning; in 210 or 10.7 per cent of homes kerosene is used for starting fires in stoves; in 132 or 6.7 per cent it is the common practice to keep oil mops in hidden places.

"Fires caused by these three hazards are often fatal to life, ordinarily taking the mother of the family."

The loss in Iowa from the same causes confirms the above statement.

IOWA FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND SHORT COURSE FOR FIREMEN AT AMES COLLEGE

The Iowa Firemen's Association and Short Course for Firemen by the Iowa State College at Ames are working in harmony for the good of the general public.

The coming Fiftieth Annual Convention of the Iowa Firemen's

Association will be held at Emmetsburg and every effort will be made for a splendid program and entertainment.

The Short Course for Firemen at Ames is no longer an experiment. Cities and towns should by all means send at least one of the aldermen and members of the fire department to both of these conventions as they both feature modern fire fighting and fire prevention methods.

ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS

AUDUBON COUNTY, NEAR HAMLIN

About 1:00 A. M., December 14, 1925, a farm house occupied by Max Langner was destroyed by fire. Langner was indicted December 21, 1925, charged with setting the fire to injure the insurance company. He was tried in February, 1926, and acquitted. Motive charged to collect heavy insurance.

BUENA VISTA COUNTY, NEAR STORM LAKE

On November 2, 1925, a fire occurred in a school house doing but little damage. On the night of November 9, 1925, the school house burned. Soon after a temporary building was erected and attempts were made to burn this building. During our investigation Miss Lottie Cole, the teacher, confessed to setting these various fires. Miss Cole was sent to the Psychopathic Hospital at Iowa City. Later she entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary and paroled from the bench.

FLOYD COUNTY, NEAR ROCKFORD

About 5:00 A. M. April 14, 1926, a fire destroyed a barn on the Hal Jones farm. One N. S. Krapp, a neighbor, was indicted, charged with setting the fire. A change of venue was granted and the defendant was tried at Osage in October, 1926. The jury was out ten hours and returned a verdict of not guilty.

GREENE COUNTY, JEFFERSON

On the night of August 28, 1926, a fire broke out in the dwelling occupied by H. F. Biggs. There were several fires in this house at the same time, started with the aid of coal oil. Holes were cut in the wall and well soaked with coal oil. It appears that Mr. Biggs was heavily in debt and had mortgages past due. Both building and contents were heavily insured. Biggs was indicted in the November term of court, 1926, and tried in January, 1927, the jury being out twenty hours and disagreed. He will be tried again in the March term.

HARDIN COUNTY, OWASA

On the night of February 12, 1926, about 11:30 P. M. fire destroyed a residence occupied by George Bailey. During the investigation Bailey confessed to setting the fire, plead guilty on March 4, 1926, and was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary at Fort Madison.

HENRY COUNTY, NEAR MT. PLEASANT

About midnight, February 11, 1926, a fire broke out in a house occupied by Walter A. Jones. During the investigation Jones made a confession that he set the fire to collect heavy insurance. Jones plead guilty and was sent to the penitentiary for a term of ten years.

IOWA COUNTY, NEAR WILLIAMSBURG

On the afternoon of September 9, 1925, a fire destroyed a large farm house owned by Mrs. Matilda Meesz of Iowa City and occupied by Theo Berwaayen. The building was insured for \$8,000, contents uninsured. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meesz were indicted, charged with setting the fire to injure the insurance company. The case was tried in the April term of court, 1926, at which time the indictment against John Meeze was dismissed. Mrs. Meesz was tried by a jury and after nine hours' deliberation was acquitted. During the trial two of the defendant's witnesses, Jack Smith and Glenn Porter, were arrested, charged with perjury and later indicted. The cases were finally dismissed.

JASPER COUNTY, MINGO

On the night of September 29, 1926, a fire destroyed a dwelling occupied by Luis Cummings. During the investigation Cummings made a confession that he set the fire with candle and coal oil for the purpose of collecting heavy insurance. Cummings was indicted and will be tried at the February term of court, 1927.

KEOKUK COUNTY, NEAR KINROSS

On August 7, 1926, a boy sixteen years of age and living with a farmer near Kinross confessed to setting a barn on fire. Later the boy was sent to the Institution for Feeble-minded at Glenwood.

LINN COUNTY, NEAR MT. VERNON

On September 6, 1925, a large barn owned by Joseph Biederman was destroyed by fire. On September 16, 1925, a large farm house owned by George Smythe was also destroyed by fire. During the investigation one W. L. Walton gave evidence to show that the fires were set by certain parties living in that vicinity. Walton went so far as to state that he caused one of the men to set the Biederman fire. After making these statements Walton left the county but was brought back at our request and placed in jail and later made a clean-cut confession that he set both these fires. He plead guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years.

POLK COUNTY, DES MOINES

On the night of July 9, 1926, a fire destroyed a chicken house owned by J. W. Stallworth and while this fire was burning a boy called at the Stallworth residence advising them of the fire and while the Stallworths were at the scene of the fire the boy slipped upstairs and stole \$185 in currency. During the investigation evidence was obtained that one Frank Byers and Mark Smith were implicated in setting the fire. The boys had left for parts unknown and the evidence was turned over to the police

and on the return of the boys to Des Moines on August 9, 1926, they were arrested and confessed they set the fire and stole the money. Both boys were convicted on December 14, 1926, on the charge of breaking and entering and sentenced to jail for one year, each. The arson charge was not filed.

POLK COUNTY, DES MOINES

On the night of November 26, 1926, about 6:45 P. M. fire broke out in a dwelling occupied by J. H. Jett (colored). There were three separate fires in different parts of the house at one time. Early the next morning, during our investigation and interview with Mr. Jett, he admitted that no one other than himself and wife had been in the house for some time before the fires broke out. Later he admitted setting all of the fires, claiming he was badly in debt and had spent money belonging to the K. P. Lodge and on account of ill health decided to burn the place, collect the insurance and pay the debts. Later his sister filed information charging insanity and Jett was adjudged insane and paroled to his sister that he might be placed in a private asylum.

STORY COUNTY, McCALLSBURG

On November 18, 1925, about 1:00 A. M. fire destroyed four business houses at McCallsburg, this being the second attempt to destroy one of the buildings. During the investigation confessions were made by Lee Briggs, Homer Tornabane and Homer Beauchemin that they were hired by J. B. Baker, owner of the building, to set it on fire. All four of these persons were indicted. Briggs died while in jail. Beauchemin plead guilty and was sent to the penitentiary for ten years. Tornabane, being a state witness, plead guilty and case continued until after the Baker trial. At first trial Baker was acquitted. At second trial the judge directed a verdict, claiming the evidence used in the first trial could not be used again on the second indictment on account of jeopardy in the first trial. Tornabane was sentenced to ten years and paroled from the bench.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY, FOREST CITY

In the early part of January, 1926, a series of fires occurred at Forest City. During the investigation a fifteen year old boy confessed to setting five of these fires. He claimed he set them for excitement. The boy's name is not mentioned on account of age.

WOODBURY COUNTY, BRONSON

On the night of July 5, 1925, a fire destroyed a general store owned by Charles Abraham, a Syrian. During the investigation one Homer Milly confessed to setting the fire at the request of Abraham and Abe Kaled. It appears that Abraham was to buy the pool hall owned by Kaled if Kaled would set the fire. Kaled then got Milly to set the fire for \$85. Milly plead guilty and was sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years. Abraham was indicted, tried and acquitted. Kaled was also indicted and later the case was dismissed. The insurance company has sued Abraham for \$4,327, the amount paid him for loss. Suit pending.

WOODBURY COUNTY, SIOUX CITY

On December 13, 1925, a fire occurred in the dwelling owned by Joe Coverdale. During the investigation one Kenneth Hutchison confessed to setting the fire, claiming that Coverdale promised to pay him \$100. The police took finger prints from an ether can which led to Hutchison's arrest. Both Hutchison and Coverdale were indicted January 30, 1926. There appeared to be some question about Coverdale's sanity and the case was dismissed. Hutchison was sent to the penitentiary for a term of ten years.

In several of these cases the county and city law enforcing officers gave valuable assistance and without their help some of these convictions might not have been secured.

RECORD OF ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS

During the year we investigated 145 cases in 63 counties which resulted in

- 21 Confessions,
- 10 Other indictments, cases either dismissed or acquitted,
- 2 Indictments still pending for trial,
- 10 Other cases sent to County Attorney, still waiting action of grand jury.

—
43

- 6 were sent to the penitentiary for a period of 10 years,
- 1 was sent to the penitentiary for 5 years,
- 1 was sent to the Industrial School for 4 years,
- 2 were sent to jail for one year each,
- 1 was sentenced for 15 years and paroled,
- 1 was sentenced for 10 years and paroled,
- 1 died in jail pending sentence to the penitentiary,
- 3 awaiting sentence,
- 5 insane.

—
21

TABLE NO. I

Showing the Total Number of Fires Reported by Counties. Cities of more than 10,000 are set out separately. Damage to Buildings and Contents is combined.

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Loss
Adair	14	\$ 18,342
Adams	20	54,007
Allamakee	11	15,761
Appanoose	42	197,732
Audubon	12	41,071
Benton	38	48,531
Black Hawk—Waterloo	223	120,881
Bal. Black Hawk Co.	27	48,863
Boone—Boone	24	48,007
Bal. Boone Co.	25	53,472
Bremer	24	48,335
Buchanan	21	47,523
Buena Vista	19	24,848
Butler	28	20,597
Calhoun	27	74,282
Carroll	27	35,298
Cass	42	45,704
Cedar	19	31,482
Cerro Gordo—Mason City	66	87,474
Bal. Cerro Gordo Co.	9	14,815
Cherokee	22	17,509
Chickasaw	24	172,306
Clarke	10	89,012
Clay	35	101,517
Clayton	29	109,010
Clinton—Clinton	160	33,850
Bal. Clinton Co.	43	119,827
Crawford	28	63,091
Dallas	38	73,905
Davis	30	48,958
Decatur	25	42,258
Delaware	22	41,946
Des Moines—Burlington	34	16,488
Bal. Des Moines Co.	16	67,479
Dickinson	18	30,230
Dubuque—Dubuque	120	55,744
Bal. Dubuque Co.	20	51,995
Emmet	17	17,980
Fayette	47	80,520
Floyd	15	60,515
Franklin	29	20,676
Fremont	35	42,116
Greene	23	20,903
Grundy	50	84,113
Guthrie	33	64,274
Hamilton	30	29,530
Hancock	14	25,360
Hardin	46	53,937
Harrison	38	45,768
Henry	28	43,689
Howard	10	16,125
Humboldt	22	34,646
Ida	25	68,511
Iowa	23	70,666
Jackson	18	18,003

TABLE NO. I—(Continued)

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Loss
Jasper	68	69,338
Jefferson	34	17,872
Johnson—Iowa City	58	102,941
Bal. Johnson Co.	16	70,859
Jones	17	109,590
Keokuk	37	51,423
Kossuth	22	45,114
Lee—Ft. Madison	42	75,411
Keokuk	79	14,766
Bal. Lee Co.	17	47,615
Linn—Cedar Rapids	187	141,804
Bal. Linn Co.	15	61,125
Louisa	17	61,965
Lucas	33	43,067
Lyon	15	3,391
Madison	23	14,051
Mahaska—Oskaloosa	32	76,703
Bal. Mahaska Co.	31	72,141
Marion	47	72,837
Marshall—Marshalltown	120	24,201
Bal. Marshall Co.	19	41,689
Mills	14	10,376
Mitchell	14	24,005
Monona	23	20,747
Monroe	46	76,116
Montgomery	35	33,465
Muscatine—Muscatine	29	31,033
Bal. Muscatine Co.	55	43,639
O'Brien	28	33,542
Osceola	18	15,054
Page	52	15,168
Palo Alto	24	46,210
Plymouth	28	48,155
Pocahontas	31	54,198
Polk—Des Moines	670	387,597
Bal. Polk Co.	30	77,888
Pottawattamie—Council Bluffs	202	1,003,422
Bal. Pottawattamie Co.	27	76,749
Poweshiek	47	33,472
Ringgold	19	12,633
Scott—Davenport	221	476,443
Bal. Scott Co.	24	105,565
Sac	24	44,990
Shelby	25	40,027
Sioux	36	95,465
Story	82	78,825
Tama	31	16,897
Taylor	18	17,731
Union	49	50,890
Van Buren	20	83,762
Wapello—Ottumwa	156	84,419
Bal. Wapello Co.	25	54,094
Warren	22	66,207
Washington	14	25,376
Wayne	21	17,687
Webster—Ft. Dodge	116	108,516
Bal. Webster Co.	13	52,904
Winnebago	16	13,222
Winneshiek	28	59,961
Woodbury—Sioux City	451	172,774
Bal. Woodbury Co.	22	30,137

TABLE NO. I—(Continued)

Counties and Cities of 10,000 and Over	No. of Fires	Loss
Worth	10	3,156
Wright	25	14,105
Total	5,665	\$7,984,007

TABLE NO. II

Showing the Kind of Property Destroyed. Damage to Buildings and Contents Set Out Separately.

	No. of Fires	Damage to Buildings	Damage to Contents
Auto top and tire shops.....	10	\$ 24,599	\$ 43,919
Autos and trucks.....	190	25,392	0
Bakeries	19	4,882	5,445
Banks	10	11,419	9,475
Barns—Farm	267	578,817	269,119
Town	119	62,875	21,356
Battery stations	7	4,105	1,285
Railway box cars, etc.....	12	1,366	2,310
Chicken brooders and poultry houses...	68	14,996	14,057
Churches	21	134,610	48,685
Cleaning and dyeing	23	24,222	7,210
Corn cribs and granaries	19	21,059	15,540
Dance halls	4	10,833	3,900
Depots and freight houses.....	11	31,243	10,630
Dwellings—Farm	441	1,020,573	295,603
Town	2,967	888,532	305,839
Elevators and seed houses.....	24	405,611	437,592
Engine and boiler rooms.....	12	16,588	1,840
Factories, various kinds.....	37	100,562	207,584
Filling stations and oil storage.....	11	911	685
Foundries	7	2,041	756
Funeral homes	5	2,959	2,560
Garages—Private	194	38,917	45,984
Public	49	43,890	75,073
Hoghouses	10	3,200	1,131
Hospitals	4	6,985	3,350
Hotels	45	23,599	4,594
Houses, apartment	123	49,054	24,853
Ice houses	8	11,880	3,640
Junk yards	9	4,598	5,248
Laundries	10	1,849	954
Lodge halls	16	10,975	5,154
Lumber yards	8	22,870	41,565
Mills, feed, flour, planing, etc.....	9	231,481	164,100
Old peoples' homes	4	10,174	2,010
Office and office buildings.....	55	23,033	22,555
Packing plants and stock yards.....	7	3,483	5,601
Pool halls	21	29,261	10,570
Post offices	6	2,930	505
Printing plants	16	2,480	2,580
Restaurants	65	40,800	25,923
Schools	38	112,130	17,383
Sheds—Coal and wood.....	76	8,661	5,108
Machine	11	3,040	3,570
Shops, various kinds	111	46,463	87,170
Stores	297	436,833	889,839
Summer kitchens	14	1,886	1,946
Theatres	26	92,738	21,523

TABLE NO. II—(Continued)

	No. of Fires	Damage to Building	Damage to Contents
Warehouses and storage.....	55	67,513	51,397
Miscellaneous	91	23,246	13,657
Total	5,665	\$4,741,664	\$3,242,343
Grand total			4,741,664
			\$7,984,007

TABLE NO. III

Containing a Summary of the Origin of the Various Fires Reported, the Number of Each, and the Damage to the Buildings and Contents, for the year 1926.

Causes	No. of Fires	Loss
Adjoining	202	\$ 252,259
Ashes and coals against wood.....	37	7,910
Automobile backfire	54	24,434
Blow and oil torches.....	36	9,445
Bonfires and rubbish.....	143	70,455
Brooder lamps and stoves.....	40	29,070
Candle, lamp and lantern carelessness.....	48	59,420
Children playing with matches.....	86	29,286
Clothing and bedding near stoves and pipes.....	22	4,793
Defective auto wiring	124	32,816
Defective electric wiring	173	339,715
Defective electric appliances	31	35,856
Defective fireplaces	33	11,528
Defective flues	360	503,391
Defective and overheated heating plants.....	177	227,238
Defective oil burners (domestic).....	28	46,433
Defective oil and gasoline stoves.....	157	111,771
Defective pipes to stoves	129	74,134
Electric iron with current left on.....	50	31,811
Films	6	1,649
Fireworks	13	2,336
Friction	16	252,172
Fumigation	5	110,815
Gasoline and volatile oil explosion.....	120	118,438
Grease, paint, tar, boiling over.....	35	66,825
Incendiary	91	120,770
Lightning, no rods	134	339,560
Lightning, rodged	3	16,389
Lightning running in on radio wires.....	9	3,001
Match carelessness	66	26,592
Smokers' carelessness	172	53,133
Smoking meat	10	1,607
Sparks from engines and locomotives.....	33	18,637
Sparks from flues on wooden shingles.....	1,859	731,664
Spontaneous combustion:		
Coal, dust, etc.....	18	53,009
Hay and Straw	38	154,050
Rags and rubbish	95	114,742
Shavings and sawdust.....	6	33,545
Static electricity	10	8,050
Unknown	956	3,715,537
Miscellaneous	40	139,721
Total	5,665	\$7,984,007