

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

TO THE
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

OLE O. ROE
State Fire Marshal

DES MOINES
EMORY H. ENGLISH, STATE PRINTER
1912

First Annual Report

STATE OF IOWA,
Office of State Fire Marshal,
Des Moines, February 1, 1912.

Hon. B. F. Carroll,
Governor of Iowa.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of Section 14, Chapter 128, Acts of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, I have the honor to submit herewith my first annual report of my official acts and of the affairs of this office, covering the period beginning July 5, 1911, and ending December 31, 1911, both dates included.

As the office of State Fire Marshal is a new one in this state, having been created by an act of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, which act took effect July 4, 1911, it became incumbent upon me to organize the work, not only of the office but in the field. The greater portion of the month of July, 1911, was spent in preparing the books and blanks for reports of fires, and forwarding the same to the various officials who are required by law to report to this office.

In order to do this, it became necessary to get in touch with about 1,600 township clerks, more than 800 mayors of cities, towns and villages, and a number of chiefs of fire departments in the various cities where a fire department has been established.

REPORTS OF FIRES.

The law makes it the duty of the chief of the fire department of every city, town or village in which a fire department is established, and of the mayor of every incorporated town or village in which no fire department exists, and of the township clerk of every organized township outside the limits of any organized city, town or

village, to investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring within their several jurisdictions, and to forthwith notify the state fire marshal of the occurrence of such fire, and within one week of the occurrence, furnish a written report of the same upon blanks provided for that purpose.

The value of these reports for general statistical purposes is readily discernable, but their special value to this office depends upon how carefully the officer making the same has made his investigation and also upon how promptly they are filed in this office.

I am pleased to report that, while there are some exceptions, in the main, the chiefs of fire departments and the other officials charged with the performance of this duty, have responded and are responding with creditable promptness to this requirement of the law, and I believe that when the general purpose and scope of the law become better known and better understood and appreciated by the public in general, the responses upon the part of the officials will be even more prompt than they have been in the past.

While the law makes provision for a small fee to be paid out of the state treasury to the township clerks and also to chiefs of fire departments and mayors, who receive no compensation from the municipality they serve, for their services as chief or mayor, yet if the chief of the fire department or mayor receives a fee or compensation from the city, however small, he cannot under the law as it is at the present time, receive any compensation from the state for making these reports.

In my opinion, this provision of the law is not only unfair, but it fails to secure as prompt and full returns in the way of reports as the state ought to have. I would therefore respectfully recommend that every chief of a fire department where there is an organized fire department, and every mayor, in the absence of a fire department, be paid fifty cents for each report, provided said report is filled out to the satisfaction of the state fire marshal, and promptly filed in his office within the time provided by law.

I estimate that this change would increase the amount paid out for reports in the course of a year by at least \$1,000.00 or \$1,500, but the increased promptness and quality of service would, in my opinion, more than compensate for this additional outlay.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The most valuable, because the most enduring, work required by law to be done by this office is the promotion by educational means

of a knowledge of the causes, dangers and prevention of fires. To this end, the legislature very wisely made provision in Section 11 of the Act for instruction in this subject in all the public schools of the state, and the law also makes it obligatory upon the teachers of public and private schools in all buildings of more than one story to have at least one fire drill each month.

The same section also makes it my duty to prepare a bulletin upon the causes and dangers of fires and to publish and deliver the same to the public schools throughout the state.

I have the honor to report that this duty has been performed and that Bulletin No. 1, a copy of which has heretofore been submitted to you, was published and forwarded to the various public schools of the state through the county superintendent of each county during the early part of the month of November, 1911.

I am not advised how fully the requirements of the law relative to instruction in the causes and dangers of fires is complied with by the public school teachers, as I have assurances from only a comparatively small number of superintendents that the matter will be given attention, but I have faith to believe that the teachers of Iowa will do their whole duty in this work when the importance of the matter is once placed before them.

On the 5th day of October, 1911, you, as Governor of the state, issued the following proclamation:

"At this time, when public interest is justly aroused in the matter of the conservation of resources of the river, the mine, the forest and the field, it is proper that public attention be called to the enormous fire waste which annually takes place in our country and state.

"During the year 1910 the property loss by fire in the United States exceeded \$234,000,000. During the same time Iowa's contribution to this tremendous national ash heap exceeded \$5,000,000. Not only is the loss of property great, but the annual loss of life is considerable.

"While some fires are undoubtedly the result of criminal design, the large majority are caused by failure to exercise proper care. Carelessness in the construction of buildings, in lightning, in the manner of heating, in cooking, in storing inflammable articles or substances, in the handling of illuminating oils, and in the failure to keep every room free from paper, oily rags or other rubbish which may easily ignite, is the principal cause of fires.

"The electric wire, the gasoline can and the match, all products of our modern civilization, have become daily household necessities. Each possesses latent possibilities for destructive fires which demand of those using them the highest degree of care.

"We are approaching the season of the year when fires become more frequent. The first cold, stormy night of winter is usually one in which a number of destructive conflagrations occur.

"For the reasons herein set forth, I have deemed it proper to set apart a day to be devoted to the inspection of property and to making such pre-

parations and improvements as will best prevent the occurrence of fires and I therefore proclaim Wednesday, November 1, 1911, as State Fire Prevention Day, and I would earnestly recommend that upon that day the teachers in our public and private schools and educational institutions give special attention to the causes, prevention and dangers of fires; that school boards, school officers and others who are charged with the duty of looking after school buildings, give special attention to the safety of the children and youth who may attend school; that the mayors and councilmen of the various cities and towns give special attention to the matter of better building regulations, better fire protection and better fire prevention, and that they see to it that all public buildings which are not properly equipped with fire escapes and suitable exits, be so equipped, and that there be a general cleaning up of dilapidated buildings which are especially liable to fire; and that the owners of property give personal attention to the removal of all rubbish and debris from their premises and to the setting of their heating appliances and chimneys in proper condition for winter use."

The day thus set apart was observed in many of the cities and even in some of the smaller towns, not only in the public schools but also by a number of the commercial bodies, and much interest in the matter of fire prevention was aroused thereby.

Realizing that during the holiday season, many destructive fires are very apt to occur, I prepared the following public warning especially addressed to the merchants and business men of the state:

"TO THE MERCHANT:

I know you are a busy man, yet I venture to speak a word of caution relative to fire dangers during this season of the year.

Look out for your show windows; see to it that they have at least some ventilation, and that no inflammable material comes in contact with open or even with enclosed lights.

Look carefully after your sales-rooms and basements where goods are packed and unpacked. These should be thoroughly cleaned up at the end of every business day. The effort will cost something, but it will pay you.

Watch the smoker and his cigar. See that fire extinguishers and other means of putting out fires are at hand and in condition for use.

No matter how great the rush: Care should be the motto of your clerks as well as yourself. Remember that every fire is the personal responsibility of the occupant of the building for the first five minutes of its life."

"TO THE PARENT:

Thousands of Christmas trees will again be displayed in churches, school houses and homes. The greatest care should, however, be exercised by all who are responsible for a Christmas tree, in preventing fires and the consequent loss of life and property.

Do not decorate your Christmas tree with paper, cotton or any other inflammable material. Use only metallic tinsel or other non-inflammable decorations, and set the tree securely so that the children cannot tip it over.

Do not use cotton to represent snow. If you must have snow use asbestos fiber. Do not permit children to light or re-light the candles. By so doing they frequently set fire to their clothing.

Do not permit a draft of air to sway the branches of the tree when the candles are lighted. Do not leave the lighted tree unwatched.

Do not fail to have a bucket of water or a fire extinguisher near the tree. Do not remove a thing from the tree until the candles on it are blown out.

During the holiday season, theaters and other places of amusement are usually crowded. It therefore becomes important that the managers of all places of amusement exercise extraordinary care at this time to prevent fires.

The Christmas season is and should be one of joy and gladness. It is a season when many of the cares that burden men and women should be forgotten." *Do not forget the fire care.*

This was published in nearly all of the daily and in many of the weekly papers of the State, and I have reason to believe that it accomplished some good, as the holiday season of 1911-12 was exceptionally free from any very serious fires.

In connection with and supplementing this work of public education, I have delivered addresses to fire prevention associations and commercial bodies in the following cities:

Des Moines, Burlington, Ottumwa, Davenport, Dubuque, Iowa City and Boone.

In nearly all these places I have found the greatest public interest in the cause of fire prevention, and I have every reason to believe that much good will result from this interest.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS.

The law makes the inspection of dilapidated buildings and contents a part of the duty of the state fire marshal or his deputy, as well as the duty of the local chief of the fire department. I am pleased to report that considerable interest has been manifested in many cities and towns of the state in regard to this matter. Upon request either of individuals interested or of chiefs of fire departments or mayors, we have visited and made inspections of dilapidated buildings in the following cities and towns:

Albia 6, Ainsworth 1, Boone 6, Cherokee 15, Council Bluffs 4, Centerville 8, Charles City 12, Cambridge 1, Davenport 1, Dubuque 12, Ft. Dodge 5, Knoxville 5, Leon 7, Lone Tree 11, Oskaloosa 4, Ottumwa 3, Pella 7, Red Oak 3, Sioux City 3. Total 104.

Some of the buildings inspected were ordered removed; others to be put in first-class repair, and in other cases the outside surroundings or the condition of the buildings on the inside were such that they presented inflammable conditions, which conditions were ordered to be remedied.

It affords me pleasure to report that with very few exceptions the requirements of this office, both in the matter of repairs and cleaning up and in the matter of removals have met with reasonably prompt compliance. I have, however, endeavored not to be unreasonable in my requirements, as it has been my aim to enforce this law in the spirit of reason and common sense.

I realize that very little can be accomplished along this line until public sentiment upon the question of cleaning up and keeping buildings in repair is so aroused that it amounts to a demand. To this end, I am very firmly of the opinion that every city of the first class ought to have one or more fire inspectors whose duty it should be to look after building conditions as the same are related to fire hazards, making a specialty of inspecting furnaces, heating apparatus, chimneys and conditions of buildings, both on the inside and on the outside.

The cause of very many of our fires, and the cause of very many of our diseases are the same—carelessness and dirt. When one observes how paper, excelsior, oily rags, boxes and inflammable matter of almost every description is permitted to accumulate in basements and other portions of many of our business buildings, it is a marvel that fires do not start more frequently.

An ordinance prohibiting such conditions and a competent and fearless inspector to enforce such an ordinance would, in my opinion, do much to diminish the fires originating from these causes.

Every city and incorporated town should pass an ordinance in harmony with Section 10 of the state fire marshal law, making it the duty of its local fire chief or someone else appointed for that purpose to enforce the same. The frequent inspection and testing of water hydrants, as well as a reliable system of fire alarms should be provided for in every city and town where a fire department and water system exist.

In this connection it is important that every city and incorporated town revise its building ordinances and also enforce to the letter such ordinances as it may have. These ordinances should provide for inspection of electric wiring, the building of chimneys and the installation of heating plants when the same are first built or installed.

INVESTIGATION OF SUSPICIOUS FIRES.

The law makes it the duty of the state fire marshal, when, in his opinion, further investigation than that made by the local officer

reporting to him is necessary, to make, by himself or his deputy, a personal investigation of such fire and to take or cause to be taken the testimony under oath of all persons supposed to have knowledge of any facts, or who have means of knowledge in relation to the matter in which an examination is required to be made.

In compliance with this provision of the law this office has, during the period covered by this report, investigated suspicious fires in the following places:

Buxton 1, Boone 1, Council Bluffs 3, Des Moines 7, Denison 1, Dubuque 1, Dumont 1, Delta 1, Ft. Dodge 2, Galt 1, Grundy Center 1, George 1, Iowa City 1, Matlock 1, near Maquoketa 1, Missouri Valley 1, Menlo 1, Moulton 1, Ottumwa 1, Patterson 1, Solon 1, Sioux City 2, Stuart 1, Griffinville 1, Crescent 1, Olds 1, Sidney 1, Davenport 1, Muscatine 1, Wesley 1. Total 40.

ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

DUBUQUE, DUBUQUE COUNTY.

In the evening of July 30, 1911, a fire occurred in the city of Dubuque destroying the lumber yard of the Spahn-Rose Lumber Co. and damaging the plumbing establishment of the Kretchmer Co. and the canning factory of the Weinecke-Hoar Co. One John Dickson was arrested charged with setting this fire. He was given a preliminary hearing August 5th and bound over to the grand jury by which body he was indicted. He was tried in November, 1911, and acquitted.

AUGUSTA, DES MOINES COUNTY.

On August 6, 1911, the house of Frank Baumgardner of Augusta was partially destroyed by fire. Some \$560.00 in money known to be in the house before the fire was found to have disappeared. Irving Buxton and Fred Peterson, two young men of the town, were suspected of having stolen the money and then having set fire to the house to conceal the crime. They left town immediately after the fire but were later apprehended and in the latter part of August were indicted charged with larceny. Upon their trial on this charge they were convicted and are now confined in the reformatory at Anamosa. No charge of arson was lodged against them.

MATLOCK, SIOUX COUNTY.

On August 15, 1911, a fire destroyed the blacksmith shop of one Harm Lutterman of Matlock. An examination of the premises after

the fire led to the suspicion that the same was the result of design. An investigation was made by this department during which sufficient evidence was collected to secure the indictment of Lutterman. The trial which took place in November, 1911, resulted in the acquittal of the accused.

MOULTON, APPANOOSE COUNTY.

On the morning of August 18, 1911, a fire occurred at Moulton, which destroyed the elevator of the A. C. Croft Seed Co. There being evidence of incendiarism, an investigation was made by this department. The evidence obtained during said investigation was placed before the county attorney of Appanoose county, and resulted in the indictment, in the month of September, 1911, of A. C. Croft, president of the A. C. Croft Seed Co., James Hendon and William Hendon, the charge being that of setting fire with intent to injure the insurer. A second indictment for conspiracy to burn was returned against the same parties by the grand jury in the month of January, 1912. These cases are now pending.

Note.—Just as this report is going to press information is received to the effect that James and William Hendon, whose trial had been in progress for more than two weeks, filed pleas of guilty to the charge of conspiracy to burn, and each has been sentenced to the penitentiary at Ft. Madison for a term of three years. Later A. C. Croft also pleaded guilty to conspiracy and was given three years in the penitentiary.

DUMONT, BUTLER COUNTY.

About one o'clock in the morning of August 22, 1911, a fire broke out in a building in Dumont, owned by one Roy Boots and occupied by A. P. Pfeiffer and wife. The fire was put out before much damage was done. An inspection of the premises revealed a condition which indicated incendiarism. An investigation was made by this department and sufficient evidence was obtained to warrant the arrest of Pfeiffer and wife, who on September 18, 1911, were indicted by the grand jury of Butler county, charged with setting the fire with intent to injure the insurer. On September 20, 1911, they pleaded guilty to the charge and were fined \$500.00 each, in addition to which A. P. Pfeiffer was sentenced to six months in jail.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

At about 9 o'clock p. m., September 9, 1911, a hotel operated by Mrs. M. A. Gallagher at 1628 Third Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa,

was partially destroyed by fire. The circumstances connected with the burning being suspicious, an investigation was made by this department which led to the discovery of sufficient evidence to cause the indictment of Mrs. Gallagher on Oct. 3, 1911, charging her with setting fire to the property with intent to injure the insurer. This case is still pending.

IOWA CITY, JOHNSON COUNTY.

A fire broke out in the house occupied by E. J. Kennard of Iowa City in the early morning of September 29, 1911. Upon an investigation of said fire made by this department, evidence was found tending to show that the same was the result of design and said evidence was placed before the county attorney of Johnson county. In the meantime, upon complaint of Mrs. Kennard, E. J. Kennard was brought before the commissioners of insanity of Johnson county and by them adjudged to be insane and was sent to the hospital for the insane at Independence, Iowa, where he is now confined.

DES MOINES, POLK COUNTY.

A fire took place at 1130 West 7th St., Des Moines, October 13, 1911, which partially destroyed the barn of one Joe Schatz; the fire also damaged his buggy and so injured his horse that the animal had to be killed. The circumstances attending this fire indicating incendiarism, this department made an investigation of the same as a result of which Schatz was indicted for burning his property, on Oct. 27, 1911. On Jan. 17, 1912, he pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to serve one year in jail.

OLDS, HENRY COUNTY.

On the afternoon of November 2, 1911, a fire destroyed the barn and contents of C. A. Swanson, a farmer residing near Olds. An investigation was made by this department which resulted in the gathering of considerable evidence indicating that Ernest Sharp, or Ernest Swanson as he is also called, a fourteen-year-old grandson of C. A. Swanson had set this fire. On January 2, 1912, young Sharp confessed to a representative of this department that he was the guilty party. The case was submitted to the county attorney of Henry county with the result that Ernest Sharp was sent to the Industrial School for boys by the judge of the district court.

CRESCENT, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

November 14, 1911, a stack of hay belonging to D. L. Williams near Crescent was burned, and in each of six other stacks nearby

was found a box in which had been placed a burning candle, indicating that the fire was the work of an incendiary. This department made an investigation a short time afterwards and gathered considerable evidence. One Leo Moran was arrested charged with the burning, but at the preliminary hearing held some time later Moran was discharged, the evidence, in the opinion of the justice, not being sufficient to bind him over.

NEW HAMPTON, CHICKASAW COUNTY.

A fire damaged the school house at New Hampton on the night of November 21, 1911. The circumstances indicated incendiarism and suspicion was directed toward one Joe H. Wittenberg, a discharged janitor. A few evenings later Wittenberg was caught in the act of setting fire to a shed in the rear of a clothing store in the same town. He was arrested and confessed to having set fire to the school house in a spirit of revenge. To an information filed by the county attorney under the statute he pleaded guilty and was on the 5th day of December, 1911, sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary at Ft. Madison.

WESLEY, KOSSUTH COUNTY.

On the evening of December 5, 1911, a fire was started at or near the rear end of a building occupied as a restaurant and dwelling by C. W. Raitt at Wesley. Martin Ween and Melvin Powelson, two young men of the neighborhood, were suspected of setting the fire and were arrested and bound over to await the action of the grand jury. This department made an investigation of this fire on January 3, 1912, and gathered considerable evidence which has been submitted to the grand jury.

Note.—Since the above was written I have been advised that Ween and Powelson have been indicted.

DEATH RECORD.

During the period covered by this report the following persons lost their lives by fire in this state:

Joseph A. Wilson, Denison, Crawford County.

Mr. Wilson roomed at the W. W. Dawes hotel at Denison. On July 20, 1911, at 3:30 a. m., the building caught fire from an unknown cause and when the fire was discovered the building was so far gone that it was impossible to rescue Wilson.

Mrs. L. L. Chapman, Mapleton, Monona County.

On July 27, 1911, at about 1:30 p. m., Mrs. L. L. Chapman's dress caught fire, the cause being the boiling over of a kettle of fruit on a gasoline stove, with the result that she was so badly burned that she died soon thereafter.

Chas. Jensen, Sioux City, Woodbury County.

On the morning of August 24, 1911, a building belonging to Chase Wise, Sioux City, and in part occupied by Geo. Smith as a jewelry repair shop was destroyed by fire. Jensen, who was boarding and rooming with Smith, was asleep in the building at the time and before he could get away was overwhelmed and burned to death.

M. McGregor, Floyd County, near Nashua.

On September 2, 1911, at 11:45 a. m., the barn of M. McGregor near Nashua, was destroyed by fire. A three-year-old boy was taken out of this fire and died as a result of his burns four hours later. While the precise cause of this fire is unknown, the supposition is that the child had been playing with matches and that thus the fire was started.

Sigfred Elmer Berg, near Estherville, Emmet County.

On the morning of September 23, 1911, while his father H. S. Berg was out doing his chores, Sigfred Elmer, a little four-year-old son, came out on the porch with his night dress on fire. The supposition is that it caught from the stove, the door of which had undoubtedly been opened by the child. Before the fire could be put out the child was so badly burned that he died on the same day.

Child of Wm. Vsetchka, near Calmar, Winneshiek County.

On October 9, 1911, at about 10:30 a. m., the barn of Wm. Vsetchka near Calmar was burned to the ground. The owner's little boy, three years of age, perished in this fire. The supposition is that the same was started by his playing with matches.

Ole Washington, Collins, Story County.

On November 13, 1911, a house occupied by Ole Washington who lived alone near Collins, was totally destroyed by fire, the origin of which is not known. It is supposed that the deceased attempted to start fire with gasoline and as a result an explosion occurred, causing the fire and death of the occupant, a young colored man.

The John Davis fire, Sergeant Bluff, Woodbury County.

The most disastrous fire reported to this office during the past year occurred at a farm house near Sergeant Bluff, Woodbury county, on the morning of November 9, 1911. The house was occupied by John Davis, his wife and their two children and also by Mrs. Davis's aunt, Mrs. Lucy Hodge, who was visiting the family. Mr. Davis rose early and went to the field to pick corn. Some time later one of the women, either Mrs. Davis or her aunt, got up and presumably undertook to start the fire in the heating stove by the use of coal oil. The fire which ensued in some manner caught the woman's dress and in her efforts to put it out the clothing of the other woman and of the two children also caught fire, and before help could reach them they were all so badly burned that death ensued; one of the children lingering a few days after the death of the others.

Mrs. B. Wing, Missouri Valley, Harrison County.

On December 12, 1911, the clothing of Mrs. Wing in some manner caught fire from the heating stove and before it could be extinguished she was so badly burned that death ensued.

Gust Christianson, Des Moines, Polk County.

On the night of December 24, 1911, the house occupied by Gust Christinason at Twenty-fifth and Easton Boulevard, Des Moines, caught fire and before Christianson, who was alone in the house, could escape he was burned to death.

Since the above was written the office is in receipt of a report of a terrible calamity which befell the families of Isaac N. Smith and P. Hickman, who reside in Collins Township, Story County. On the evening of February 9, 1912, the house occupied by these two families was totally destroyed by fire. The fire started with an explosion when Mr. and Mrs. Smith were a short distance from the house on their way to Colo, a neighboring town. They immediately returned to the house and found that the four children who had been left alone in the house were so badly burned that death resulted within a short time. Mr. Smith in endeavoring to rescue the children was also severely burned. While the exact cause of this fire is not known there are indications that go to show that it was the result of an explosion caused by the children's starting fire by the use of gasoline.

These sad chronicles point their own moral:

Never use kerosene or gasoline in kindling fires; and

Never leave small children alone where they can start fires or get matches.

It is particularly sad that these calamities have largely befallen women and children. Too great care cannot be exercised in the construction and location of stoves, ranges and other places wherein fire is used, to the end that the lives of our women who of necessity are compelled to spend a great portion of their time in the kitchen may be properly safeguarded.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

As a part of this report, I have appended hereto three tables as follows:

TABLE NO. 1.

This table contains the number of fires by counties reported to this office, the value of the buildings and contents involved in said fires, the damage to the buildings and contents, the total insurance upon the buildings and contents, the number of fires involving property that was only partially covered by insurance and the excess of the loss over the insurance, the number of fires where property was destroyed upon which there was no insurance, and the total amount of the loss not covered by any insurance.

In brief, this table shows that there were 1224 fires reported; that these fires involved property valued at \$8,129,006; that the total damage to such property was \$1,882,552. The table further shows that while in the aggregate the loss appeared to have been more than covered by insurance, the facts are that out of the number of fires reported, in the case of 338 fires, the property destroyed or damaged exceeded in value the amount of insurance thereon by \$486,729 and that in 190 of the fires reported no insurance was carried upon the property and the net loss as a result of these fires was \$141,232; and that thus a total of \$627,961 of property not covered by insurance was destroyed by fire.

TABLE NO. 2.

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 build-

ings destroyed or damaged. Classified by use, the 10 highest classes affected by fires come in the following order:

Dwellings	471
Barns	241
Stores	91
Grain and hay stacks.....	42
Hotels	17
Restaurants	16
Factories	14
Churches	12
Garages	10
School houses	10

TABLE NO. 3.

This table contains a summary of the cause of each fire, with the number destroyed or damaged from each cause and the amount of the damage to the buildings and contents.

Classified in their order by number, they are as follows:

Cause	Number	Damage to buildings and contents
Unknown	329	\$743,720
Lightning	150	229,888
Adjoining fires	90	246,039
Sparks from flue	70	37,368
Defective flue	68	46,257
Incendiary and probably incendiary	50	194,819
Spontaneous combustion	44	44,107
Sparks from locomotive	37	50,650
Gasoline	34	14,130
Children with matches	34	19,738
Carelessness with matches	25	25,663
Defective electric wiring and installation	16	8,335

While these figures speak for themselves a few words of comment may not be out of order. There are many reasons why the number of fires reported as "unknown" is exceedingly large. One of these reasons undoubtedly is the fact that the local officer making the investigation and the report has not the time, and in a few instances, not the disposition to make the necessary search for the real cause.

Unfortunately, there are a great many fires the exact origin of which it is impossible to determine, especially in case of a total loss of a building.

The building with one or more rooms full of inflammable material improperly protected; the promiscuous throwing around of matches; the careless smoker; the faulty installation of electric wiring; spontaneous combustion resulting from oily rags, are each

and all causes which contribute to swell the number of fires of unknown origin.

During the months of July and August there were several very severe electric storms in various parts of the state which proved exceedingly destructive to buildings, especially farm barns. The reports to this office of lightning losses show that, with one exception, none of the buildings thus struck were provided with lightning rods.

While the fires reported as incendiary or probably incendiary aggregate fifty or a trifle over four per cent of the total number of fires reported, the amount of loss from this cause aggregates \$194,819 or more than ten per cent of the total loss reported. This is an indication that the so-called "fire-bug" usually attacks property that is valuable and too often is wholly successful in destroying not only the property fired but much adjoining property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Inasmuch as the office of state fire marshal has been in existence only a little more than six months in this state, I deem it inopportune at this time to make many or extended recommendations, for I believe that all official recommendations should be the result of practical experience.

The office presents large opportunities for useful service to the state.

Owing, however, to the fact that the number of persons who may be employed to do effective field work is limited both by the provisions of law and by the appropriation made for the office, this service cannot be as prompt and efficient as it should, not only in the matter of the investigation of suspicious fires but more particularly as related to building inspections.

As the people of this country are beginning to live closer together, they must learn the lesson that the older civilized nations have long since learned; namely, to so build their homes and to so conduct their businesses that the fire hazard which threatens by day and by night, may be reduced to the minimum. This requires care and care can only be fostered by education and home training.

A careless and wasteful nation cannot be made careful and economical in a day or in a year.

Better building regulations must be adopted and enforced.

Present building conditions must be inspected and remedied where found to be faulty.

Civic pride must be appealed to in order that the worthless shack which is a disgrace to many of our cities and towns may be destroyed.

The law against crime and criminal carelessness in connection with fires must be rigidly enforced.

When the lives and the property of our people have been made more safe, then, indeed, will our state have entered upon her career as Greater Iowa.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

To my deputy, Mr. J. A. Tracy, and to my clerk and stenographer, Mr. C. Christopherson, whose fidelity and unselfish devotion to their duties in the field and in the office, respectively, have contributed so much to the successful beginning of the work, I desire to express my hearty appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,

OLE O. ROE.

State Fire Marshal.

TABLE I.

Showing number of fires reported by counties, value of buildings and contents involved, damage to buildings and contents, total insurance on 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.

Counties	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	7	\$ 6,210	\$ 4,928	\$ 3,059	3	\$ 1,478	3	\$ 960
Adams	2	850	500	350	1	50	1	100
Allamakee	6	3,800	3,770	2,252	3	1,717		
Appanoose	22	122,450	42,719	36,150	7	4,993	2	1,225
Audubon	5	9,000	7,948	5,125	3	1,925	1	800
Benton	27	81,768	69,428	34,479	20	21,859	6	17,800
Black Hawk	32	781,909	120,103	235,921	7	73,940	5	395
Boone	26	100,035	15,735	50,512	9	2,423	4	480
Bremer	4	2,755	1,368	1,416	1	95	2	68
Buchanan	7	5,425	4,542	2,825	6	1,617	1	100
Buena Vista	5	4,546	3,216	3,777	2	799	2	46
Butler	7	6,280	4,660	4,080	3	1,450	1	600
Calhoun	5	26,000	4,441	9,870	2	2,346		
Carroll	1	59	59	59			1	59
Cass	3	7,100	5,050	4,000	3	2,358	1	800
Cedar	4	8,000	4,972	5,238	3	2,112		
Cerro Gordo	24	340,320	107,238	161,796	7	22,490	4	10,880
Cherokee	13	20,975	9,157	10,230	3	1,932	2	410
Chickasaw	10	57,120	13,120	44,058	6	5,340		
Clarke	8	51,170	25,455	38,740	5	2,135		
Clay	2	5,900	5,900	3,975	2	1,925		
Clayton	7	4,286	1,959	1,350	1	425	1	1,000
Clinton	29	301,358	104,978	176,305	4	33,263	6	395
Crawford	7	33,241	32,496	8,704	3	3,826	2	5,916
Dallas	7	67,800	44,065	25,210	6	18,405	1	450
Davis	4	2,690	2,065	1,400	3	690	1	5
Decatur	11	6,974	4,904	2,795	3	749	4	2,330
Delaware	4	4,913	3,916	3,025	2	1,378		
Des Moines	18	77,260	14,485	40,234	5	3,750		
Dickinson	4	30,800	28,065	24,250	4	9,500		
Dubuque	33	414,684	151,954	284,703	9	24,880	7	312
Emmet	3	3,065	1,070	2,215	2	750		
Fayette	6	12,050	2,997	6,320	1	1,005	2	225
Floyd	10	68,825	7,820	38,550	5	3,225		
Franklin	3	3,730	2,130	3,300	1	628		
Fremont	6	10,465	6,480	5,540	3	1,075	1	300
Greene	3	5,350	2,680	2,950	1	1,400		
Grundy	7	20,690	8,962	10,000	3	6,755	2	442
Guthrie	11	69,875	17,435	35,488	6	6,087	1	100
Hamilton	14	36,977	19,514	20,780	8	8,172	2	255
Hancock	2	2,375	2,375	1,250	2	1,125		
Hardin	10	74,550	8,698	29,550			5	4,035
Harrison	16	31,201	14,925	15,695	3	1,180	4	4,535
Henry	13	19,735	14,320	9,479	7	5,685	2	1,420
Howard	5	11,750	3,950	7,200	2	416		
Humboldt	20	50,850	28,299	27,700	8	7,029	5	1,630
Ida	3	4,610	4,690				3	4,090
Iowa	4	50,900	34,722	45,300	2	600	1	1,000
Jackson	11	19,587	17,712	13,242	9	5,110		
Jasper	27	31,992	14,970	15,549	10	6,139		
Jefferson	5	4,650	2,669	1,875	2	1,450		

TABLE NO. 1—Continued

Counties	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
Johnson	14	69,120	18,426	41,628	5	4,592	2	90
Jones	4	6,140	6,110	3,720	2	1,820	1	570
Keokuk	9	9,300	6,210	8,800	6	1,700	1	1,500
Kossuth	8	16,250	15,384	6,575	3	2,115	3	6,500
Lee	30	215,442	23,861	141,505	5	3,593	5	3,764
Linn	20	142,127	16,292	78,577	12	1,363	1	2,000
Louisia	12	23,935	19,076	13,475	10	7,015		
Lucas	8	17,158	11,173	9,600	3	4,238	3	320
Lyon	4	5,900	2,310	3,200	2	400	1	10
Madison	23	52,231	34,679	29,694	6	4,084	3	600
Mahaska	9	18,815	12,690	6,065	9	6,635		
Marion	13	39,350	11,949	21,450	6	6,668	2	510
Marshall	13	38,490	950	30,965			5	435
Mills	4	3,525	3,450	1,175	4	2,375		
Mitchell	6	22,276	12,701	14,772	4	2,479		
Monona	6	9,750	2,702	9,100	1	700	2	802
Monroe	19	71,633	23,015	41,320	10	10,813	2	800
Montgomery	3	16,850	4,035	6,200	1	2,850		
Muscataine	12	477,300	11,640	258,900			1	700
O'Brien	2	5,570	4,570	2,918	2	1,662		
Osceola	6	8,550	7,025	1,350	1	1,100	4	5,675
Page	10	83,150	23,720	53,350	2	6,450	2	150
Palo Alto	2	2,601	2,515	2,250	1	465		
Plymouth	12	34,870	18,782	16,580	6	2,927	1	6,000
Pocahontas	4	29,050	1,231	22,700	3	821		
Polk	121	982,260	100,836	373,725	12	5,700	15	33,882
Pottawattamie	69	273,720	50,278	138,270	21	9,769	7	965
Poweshiek	12	23,315	18,115	17,850	8	7,450	3	515
Ringgold	11	16,555	6,392	10,600	6	3,080	1	30
Sac	3	7,650	6,300	5,300	2	1,200		
Scott	25	486,160	10,449	280,184	3	1,641	3	310
Shelby	3	17,650	2,600	5,140	2	1,510		
Sioux	7	7,975	7,040	4,225	4	3,415	1	525
Story	22	62,320	16,629	21,600	6	5,090	8	759
Tama	7	68,100	2,438	33,200	1	500	1	1,300
Taylor	10	22,990	19,340	10,240	6	6,960	3	2,590
Union	7	61,800	3,250	38,550	2	500		
Van Buren	7	10,375	6,493	4,225	2	1,750		
Wapello	22	161,140	100,667	139,980	9	10,527	1	5
Warren	5	10,900	1,536	6,700	1	600		
Washington	6	3,475	2,935	550	1	150	4	2,575
Wayne	7	8,100	4,399	2,699	4	1,400	1	800
Webster	20	499,167	93,278	259,925	5	2,170	4	507
Winnebago	4	12,420	1,170	6,025			2	410
Winnishiek	12	20,027	12,450	7,578	9	6,312	1	30
Woodbury	73	791,595	42,240	591,838	11	8,005	6	1,149
Worth	3	10,355	6,355	5,755	2	2,100		
Wright	11	30,099	12,892	12,322	3	6,277	5	1,350
Sum Total	1,224	\$8,129,006	\$1,882,552	\$4,178,566	338	\$ 486,729	190	\$ 141,232

TABLE II.

Showing the nature and character of the buildings destroyed or damaged, the value of each, the damage thereto, the value of the contents of each and the damage thereto, the kind of material of which each was constructed and whether the loss was total or partial.

No. Fires	Value of Buildings	Damage to Buildings	Value of Contents	Damage to Contents	Character of Buildings Affected						
					Wood	Brick	Total loss on Rides.	Partial loss on Rides.	Total loss on Rides.	Partial loss on Rides.	Partial loss on Contents.
Apartment house	1	6,500	500	1,000	50	1	1	1	1	1	1
Apartment plant	3	25,750	541	13,000	269	1	1	2	1	2	1
Automobiles	7	8,900	3,600	4,175	139	7	1	3	1	6	1
Bakeries	7	21,700	2,857	26,800	4,108	3	5	1	8	1	1
Banks	7	100,100	11,010	121,300	4,173	3	4	1	5	1	1
Barber shops	5	5,850	4,245	3,100	1,357	9	2	300	4	2	2
Barns	241	238,250	221,321	163,963	110,231	229	1	2	5	37	184
Bath house	1	5,000	10	700	10	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blacksmith shop	7	5,400	4,701	4,400	3,350	7	6	1	2	4	1
Boarding house	4	15,500	2,449	5,900	1,950	2	2	1	3	1	2
Boiler room	1	5,000	1,400	10,000	700	1	1	1	1	1	1
Boiler works	1	2,500	10	1,500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bridge	1	150,000	75	100	15	1	1	1	1	1	1
Candy kitchen	1	300	100	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carpenter shop	2	2,600	90	600	60	2	1	2	1	1	1
Cars	8	10,000	7,207	155	51	8	2	6	3	3	1
Churches	12	79,100	12,035	6,100	3,573	8	4	3	8	3	4
Club house	2	3,300	2,650	1,250	1,150	2	1	1	1	1	1
Coal sheds	14	5,586	2,580	900	578	14	5	6	3	6	1
Coal station	1	12,000	15,000	1,000	1,000	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coffee & spice mill	1	60,000	15	110,000	400	1	1	1	1	1	1
Confessionary	1	325	375	150	150	1	1	1	1	1	1
Commission house	1	10,000	550	5,000	400	1	1	1	1	1	1
College	1	40,000	100	15,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Convents	1	5,000	10	1,000	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Corn crib	2	550	310	180	180	2	1	1	1	1	1
Court house	1	50,000	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Creamery	7	7,120	6,620	11,450	10,725	7	6	1	5	1	1
Depots	5	16,500	695	2,700	250	5	4	1	1	1	1
Dormitory	2	24,000	27	2,500	27	2	2	2	2	2	2
Dwellings	471	792,701	306,176	282,647	79,217	455	15	141	300	70	262
Elevator and office	8	36,200	28,580	22,600	1,270	8	5	2	2	1	1
Electric Lt. plant	1	1,300	1,200	8,600	8,600	1	1	1	1	1	1
Factories	14	231,275	75,415	463,213	117,029	1	7	4	8	1	6
Feed mill	1	1,200	400	5,000	100	1	1	1	1	1	1
Freight house	10	60,000	17,000	4,000	1,000	6	1	1	1	1	1
Garages	10	15,320	727	108,700	3,281	6	1	4	2	1	1
Gasoline Cln'g plant	1	100	25	300	150	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grain stacks	24	800	7	3,634	3,604	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grand stand	1	800	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Granaries	4	1,500	1,500	1,375	1,185	4	1	4	1	2	2
Green house	1	2,000	25	3,000	25	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hay car	1	500	50	50	50	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hay stacks	18	1,000	1,000	2,030	2,030	18	1	1	19	1	1
Hog houses	2	400	400	600	600	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hospitals	2	5,000	2,002	1,330	750	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hotels	17	271,200	11,021	66,100	7,170	9	7	2	14	1	6
Ice cream factory	1	4,000	150	1,500	25	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ice cream parlors	1	25,000	945	3,500	1,025	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ice houses	5	13,500	12,500	2,800	700	5	1	4	1	1	1
Imp. & auto storage	1	600,000	50	100,000	25	1	1	1	1	1	1
Imp. & machinery	8	10,165	2,140	90,432	6,947	8	4	4	2	4	1
Infermary	1	3,000	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Laboratory	1	12,000	3,000	15,000	3,000	1	1	1	1	1	1
Laundry	5	20,500	694	15,600	1,026	2	3	3	1	1	2
Light plant	1	1,500	86	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Livery barn	8	27,500	17,500	22,100	19,100	7	1	7	1	3	5
Lodge halls	8	73,200	5,885	4,700	6,220	5	3	2	6	2	4
Lumber yards	5	39,000	11,414	379,667	25,518	3	2	1	3	1	3
Machine shops	2	30,000	15,216	6,082	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Meat markets	7	8,850	6,475	8,700	2,700	7	3	4	1	5	1

TABLE No. II.—Continued

No. Fires	Value of Buildings	Damage to Buildings	Value of Contents	Damage to Contents	Character of Buildings Affected						
					Wood	Brick	Total loss on Rides.	Partial loss on Rides.	Total loss on Rides.	Partial loss on Rides.	Partial loss on Contents.
Mills	2	88,300	18,500	288,000	65,000	2	1	1	1	1	1
Moving picture show	2	17,000	200	1,800	500	2	2	2	2	2	2
Office buildings	4	1,900	4,900	17,300	5,800	4	4	4	4	4	4
Oil houses	4	1,500	700	10,800	10,650	4	4	4	4	4	4
Opera H. & theatres	5	65,000	34,210	18,500	5,750	1	4	1	4	2	3
Out house	1	35	35	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Packing plant	1	20,000	20,000	24,000	24,000	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pasture	4	210	210	210	210	4	4	4	4	4	4
Pile of tile	1	6,000	4,500	15,000	9,000	1	1	1	1	1	1
Planing mill	2	28,000	15,113	68,872	46,414	2	2	2	2	2	2
Plumbing Estab.	6	12,500	5,905	3,200	1,106	6	3	3	3	2	1
Pool halls	2	1,400	1,400	500	500	2	2	2	2	2	2
Post office	1	50	50	15	15	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poultry house	1	675	515	800	119	4	2	2	2	2	2
Pump house station	5	56,000	2,489	67,000	4,451	3	2	2	2	2	2
Printing offices	1	500	4	10,000	14	1	1	1	1	1	1
Railroad bridge	1	60,700	5,508	36,453	12,055	12	4	12	3	10	1
Repair shop	1	10,150	1,256	2,800	675	3	1	4	4	2	2
Restaurants	4	6,000	415	1,840	1,000	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rooming house	2	6,000	137	100	50	2	1	1	1	1	1
Saloons	1	4,500	25	6,000	25	1	1	1	1	1	1
Salv. Army Hdqrs.	1	6,000	137	100	50	2	1	1	1	1	1
Sand houses	2	300	275	100	50	2	1	1	1	1	1
Saw mill	1	1,000	25	6,000	25	1	1	1	1	1	1
School houses	10	65,975	7,350	3,150	1,000	7	3	5	6	5	2
Sheds	4	525	57	65	40	4	1	1	1	1	1
Shooting gallery	1	1,000	1,000	500	500	1	1	1	1	1	1
Soft drink parlor	1	4,000	570	3,000	2,175	1	1	1	1	1	1
Station house	1	10,000	700	1,500	1,100	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stock sheds	6	5,065	5,040	4,315	4,000	6	5	1	2	2	2
Stock yards	2	2,250	2,005	2,755	3,175	2	1	1	1	1	1
Storage houses	21	29,200	7,255	31,715	10,455	31	6	15	5	12	63
Stores	91	477,400	82,251	503,856	207,365	51	40	24	60	14	63
Summer kitchen	6	1,225	185	529	58	5	1	4	1	2	2
Tailor shop	1	20,000	2,000	875	875	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tenement house	1	3,000	75	1,000	1,814	1	1	1	1	1	1
Threshing machine	1	8,000	75	1,000	1,814	1	1	1	1	1	1
Telephone buildings	2	16,560	846	1,000	900	2	1	1	2	1	2
Tile & brick plant	1	50,000	30,000	3,500	1,650	1	1	1	1	1	1
Typewriter supplies	1	600	229	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Warehouses	1	450	450	50	50	1	1	1	1	1	1
Washhouse	1	200	300	50	50	1	1	1	1	1	1
Woodsheds	5	779	274	580	125	5	1	2	1	2	2
Total	1,224	\$4,365,659	\$78,570	\$3,863,347	\$900,981	1,028	142	492	606	369	537

TABLE 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 CON-
TENTS SPECIFIED BY CAUSES.

Origin	Number	Damage to build- ings and contents
Acetylene explosion	1	\$ 2,500.00
Adjoining fires	90	246,039.00
Alcohol lamp explosion	2	635.00
Ashes against wood	3	122.00
Asphalt kettle	2	360.00
Automobile back fire	1	10.00
Bonfire	4	610.00
Burning grass	2	233.00
Burning off paint	2	271.00
Burning rubbish	8	1,450.00
Candle carelessness	7	9,698.00
Carelessness of section hands	1	50.00
Celluloid against gas jet	1	61.00
Christmas candle	1	150.00
Chimney burning out	5	4,264.00
Chemical explosion	2	4,850.00
Children playing with fire	2	380.00
Chimney against woodwork	1	25.00
Clinders near building	1	25.00
Clinkers from engine	1	750.00
Clothing against gas jet	1	15.00
Clothing against stove or stovepipe	13	2,723.00
Clothing near fire	3	220.00
Coals from stove	1	210.00
Curtains against lamp	1	230.00
Defective gas meter	2	15.00
Defective oven	1	75.00
Defective gasoline light plant	1	200.00
Defective furnace	8	14,963.00
Defective flue	68	46,257.00
Defective electric wiring	13	7,977.00
Defective gas pipe	1	150.00
Defective furnace pipe	1	1,000.00
Defective gasoline tank on auto	1	8.00
Defective gas stove	1	575.00
Defective stove or range	4	1,866.00
Defective electric meter	1	35.00
Defective gasoline stove	4	2,391.00
Defective stove pipe	12	8,533.00
Defective heating plant	1	2,750.00
Defective blowpot	1	3,100.00
Defective oil stove	4	4,335.00
Defective floor register	1	15.00
Defective gasoline can	1	75.00
Defective fire place	9	3,960.00
Electric wire falling	1	298.00
Electric spark	1	25.00
Engine near wall	1	2,500.00
Fire works	6	5,347.00
Firewood, carelessness with	1	40.00
Frying pan, grease	1	3,673.00

TABLE No. III—Continued

Origin	Number	Damage to build- ings and contents
Furnace near woodwork	1	20.00
Furnace improperly installed	1	102.00
Gas explosion	1	1,000.00
Gas jet near wall	1	450.00
Gasoline sad iron	1	45.00
Gasoline, cleaning with	4	4,090.00
Gasoline, filling burning stove	2	30.00
Gasoline light, improper generation	1	5.00
Gasoline engine exhaust	1	501.00
Gasoline hose bursting	1	86.00
Gasoline mistaken for coal oil	2	1,110.00
Gasoline stove explosion	10	3,445.00
Gasoline explosion	12	4,848.00
Grease on oil stove	1	30.00
Hay in blacksmith shop	1	2,800.00
Incendiary	6	22,115.00
Kerosene jar broken	1	24.00
Lamp upset	6	4,312.00
Lamp, carelessness with	1	23.00
Lamp explosion	8	3,593.00
Lantern, carelessness with	4	2,750.00
Lantern explosion	2	2,040.00
Leaves near house	1	100.00
Lightning	150	229,888.00
Lineman's torch	1	1,200.00
Live coals, carelessness with	1	60.00
Live wire breaking	1	9,500.00
Matches, mouse or rat	4	1,551.00
Matches, carelessness with	25	25,663.00
Matches, children with	34	19,738.00
Moving picture film	4	3,025.00
Oil explosion	1	10,100.00
Oily rags, carelessness with	4	1,318.00
Oil stove against curtains	1	49.00
Oil stove explosion	2	1,030.00
Oil, carelessness with	1	2,100.00
Oil, starting fire with	3	328.00
Overheated furnace	6	10,101.00
Overheated stove	12	9,446.00
Overheated electric iron	1	529.00
Overheated stove pipe	7	1,078.00
Overheated kettle	1	125.00
Overheated gas stove	1	750.00
Overheated oil stove	1	1,050.00
Overheated ventilator	1	50.00
Overheated boiler	1	623.00
Overheated motor	1	750.00
Paper against stove	1	275.00
Paper over stovepipe hole	1	800.00
Probably incendiary	44	172,704.00
Rubbish in basement	2	76.00
Rubbish in woodshed	1	350.00
Sawdust near engine	1	25.00
Smoker's carelessness	12	14,582.00
Smoke house	1	600.00
Spark from traction engine	9	14,750.00

TABLE NO. III—Continued

Origin	Number	Damage to build- ings and contents
Spark from locomotive	37	50,650.00
Spark from gas engine	1	4,500.00
Spark from flue	70	37,368.00
Spark from stationary engine	8	6,105.00
Spark from nail	1	415.00
Spontaneous combustion	44	44,107.00
Steam pipe against woodwork	2	60.00
Stove near woodwork	7	14,689.00
Stovepipe near woodwork	2	28.00
Stove explosion	2	2,370.00
Tar heated on gas stove	1	1,000.00
Thawing out water pipes	4	351.00
Thawing out gasoline engine	1	75.00
Torch carelessness	1	700.00
Tramps	6	2,500.00
Unknown	329	743,720.00
Wood in cellar	1	137.00
	<hr/> 1224	<hr/> \$ 1,882,552.00

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF IOWA

OLE O. ROE
State Fire Marshal

DES MOINES
ROBERT HENDERSON, STATE PRINTER
1913