

*to fire Marshall*

STATE OF IOWA

1915

*Annual* REPORT OF THE

*Iowa* (STATE) FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE YEAR 1915

OLE O. ROE  
State Fire Marshal

DES MOINES  
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1916

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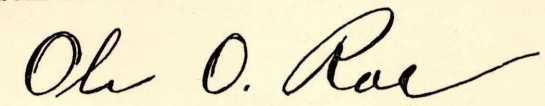
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

Des Moines, February 1, 1916.

Hon. George W. Clarke, Governor of Iowa.

SIR: In compliance with the provisions of Section 2468-n Supplement to the Code 1913, I have the honor to submit herewith my fifth annual report of my official acts and of the affairs of this office, covering the period beginning January 1, 1915, and ending December 31, 1915, both dates included.



State Fire Marshal.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Appointed by the Governor. Term, Four Years. Expires July 1, 1919.

Office	Name	Legal Residence	Birthplace
Fire Marshal -----	Ole O. Roe-----	Des Moines -----	Norway
Deputy -----	J. A. Tracy-----	Sioux City -----	Iowa
Assistant -----	E. J. Frowick-----	Des Moines -----	Iowa
Assistant -----	H. G. Zimmerman-----	Dows -----	Iowa
Chief Clerk and stenographer -----	Laura M. Pedersen-----	Des Moines -----	Illinois

Source unknown.



## Fifth Annual Report, State Fire Marshal

For the year 1915, 3,810 fires were reported to this office involving a loss of \$6,006,914. The property involved in these fires was valued at \$25,811,389. Of the loss thus reported, property to the value of \$4,611,166, was covered by insurance, leaving an excess of loss over insurance amounting to \$1,395,748, and involving 1,189 properties. Included in this excess are 444 properties involving a loss of \$170,473, upon which no insurance was carried.

The number of fires reported in 1915 was 486 less than in 1914, but the total fire loss during 1915 exceeded that of 1914 by \$147,929.

The fire loss of 1915 was less by \$285,731, than that of 1913. The average daily fire loss of the year amounted to \$16,457, and the average loss in each fire was \$1,576.

During the year six fires occurred in each of which the loss exceeded \$100,000, and three in each of which the loss was more than \$90,000, as follows:

January 15, Sioux City.....	\$ 97,593
January 25, Davenport.....	252,000
February 21, Des Moines.....	148,300
April 27, Dubuque.....	161,725
May 15, Logan.....	116,756
November 15, Fort Dodge.....	206,875
November 17, Clinton.....	235,300
December 20, Burlington.....	90,881
December 29, Davenport.....	99,043
Total .....	\$1,408,473

The loss sustained in these nine fires exceeds 23 per cent of the total fire loss of the state.

The number of dwellings burned was 1,811, and the loss on buildings was \$740,941, and on the contents \$282,461.

The sound value of these dwellings was reported at \$3,752,915, and that of their contents at \$1,295,712.

The number of barns burned was 495, and the loss on buildings was \$344,054, and on the contents \$235,736.

The sound value of the barns was reported at \$375,880, and that of their contents at \$285,008.



The number of stores burned was 358, and the loss on buildings was \$426,398, and on the contents \$1,562,356.

The sound value of the stores was reported at \$2,556,850, and that of their contents at \$4,794,741.

The number of factories burned was 41, and the loss on buildings was \$195,013, and on the contents \$345,750.

The sound value of the factories damaged was reported at \$699,825, and that of their contents at \$1,341,618.

One hundred six deaths were reported as the direct result of fire. Of this number 38 were women and 48 were children. In 34 cases fatal to life gasoline or coal oil was involved. Nine children were fatally burned as a result of playing with matches or fire, or being in close proximity to a bonfire.

Inspections of buildings and premises to the number of 420 were made in 101 different cities and towns in the state, upon the basis of which there were issued 83 orders to remove buildings, 136 clean-up orders, 37 repair orders, 104 orders to change, and 14 orders to clean and repair, or a total of 374 orders.

One hundred sixty-seven suspicious fires were investigated in 106 separate places in 63 different counties of the state.

In addition to a number of indictments pending from the previous year, mention of which was made in my last report, 32 arrests and prosecutions were had during 1915. Of the cases which came to trial, 4 resulted in convictions and sentences to the penitentiary or reformatory, 4 were paroled by the court after pleas of guilty, 6 were sentenced to the industrial school for boys, 3 were sent to the hospitals for the insane, 9 were acquitted, 2 cases were dismissed by the county attorney, in 3 cases no indictment was found, 1 was released by the local officers upon promise to leave the state, and 5 indictments are still pending. These totals include five cases disposed of on indictments secured the previous year.

Appended hereto as a part of this report are five tables which set out in detail the reports of the fires and the work of inspection and investigation done by this office.

Table I shows the number of fires reported, by counties, the value of the buildings and contents involved, the damage to buildings and contents, the total insurance on buildings and contents, the number of fires partially covered by insurance, the amount of excess of loss over insurance, the number of fires affecting property

without any insurance and the total loss upon property not covered by insurance.

Table II shows the nature and character of the buildings destroyed or damaged, the value of each, the amount of 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.

Table III contains 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.

Table IV contains a list of the cities and towns in which inspections of dilapidated buildings and inflammable conditions were made, the number of places inspected at each point and the number and kind of orders issued, based upon such inspections.

Table V gives a list of the places at which investigations of fires of suspicious origin were made and the date when such investigation was commenced.

#### FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION.

I have continued to urge upon superintendents and teachers in our public schools the value and importance of the educational work along fire prevention lines required by law.

To this end I caused to be published during the year 25,000 copies of a revised and improved edition of Bulletin No. I, prepared by me for use in the public schools of the state, and have distributed the same to the teachers through the various county and city superintendents.

I have reason to believe that the law is fairly well complied with in most of our schools, although I have had occasional complaints from localities that both fire drills and the giving of instruction in fire causes and fire dangers were neglected. In all such cases a request by me for compliance with the law has been invariably met by assurance that the same would be had.

#### FIRE PROTECTION.

While great advance has been made in the last four years in the matter of securing effective fire protection, the fire departments in many places are still far from being as efficient as they ought to be.

In too many localities the city authorities are unreasonably parsimonious in their dealings with the question of fire protection, and



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the chief is frequently unable to obtain either the apparatus or the men necessary to an efficient fire fighting force.

In all of our larger cities and in many of the smaller ones, the old and faithful fire team has been supplanted by the modern, swift-traveling automobile truck. This is a desirable improvement, for much valuable time is thus saved in reaching the place of the fire.

There is still need, especially in the smaller cities and towns where volunteer fire departments are maintained, of a better system of giving alarms, more frequent drills by the men who constitute the various fire departments, and the frequent testing of the hydrants. The greatest needs of the average fire department, are:

- (a) A water system with sufficient supply and pressure.
- (b) Good, modern apparatus and a system of signals and alarms that will operate promptly and effectively.
- (c) Efficiency and freedom from political favoritism in the make-up of the men who constitute the department.

The modern fire chief must not only fight the blaze but he ought to fight the conditions that produce it. The up-to-date fire chief must be an advocate of Fire Prevention as well as a leader in Fire Protection.

#### INSURANCE AND FIRE PREVENTION.

The amount of insurance carried by an individual oftentimes bears a very close relation to the care exercised by him in the matter of preventing fires.

The principal insurance hazards are carelessness and crime. These are moral, not physical hazards. They are greatly increased by over-insurance.

Over-insurance tempts the weak and encourages the careless. It places a badge of suspicion upon the honest man who meets with a legitimate loss, and causes his premium contributions to exceed the insurance value received.

The best way to make the careless man careful and the criminal less active is to absolutely prevent these and all others from securing insurance in excess of the value of the property insured.

To this end reform is necessary in our manner of writing insurance. Provision should be made for certain legal qualifications upon the part of the agent, and no risk should be assumed without previous personal inspection. If every property owner were com-

pelled by law to carry at least a small portion of the risk himself, and if every agent who permitted over-insurance were held to the same degree of liability as one who appropriates the money of his principal to his own use, a noticeable reduction in incendiary fires would take place.

As a further means of discouraging carelessness, I most heartily indorse the sentiment of a resolution unanimously adopted by the Tenth Annual Convention of the Fire Marshals' Association of North America in favor of state or municipal legislation designed to assess upon individuals, firms or corporations the cost of extinguishing or attempting to extinguish all fires occurring in the premises of the same, whenever such fires are the result of failure to comply with any law, ordinance, or lawful regulation or requirement of any state or municipal authority enacted or made for the prevention of fire.

#### ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

##### LEMARS, PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

On January 1, 1915, a fire took place at Le Mars destroying certain property owned by one Von Berg. One Wayne Huxtable confessed to Deputy Tracy that he set this fire. Huxtable was indicted by the grand jury of Plymouth County at its January session. When warrant was issued for him, he could not be found. The indictment is still pending.

##### CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY.

Elmer Shea, a boy sixteen years old, to whom reference was made in my last report was committed to the Industrial School for Boys at Eldora on January 26, 1915.

In January, 1915, Orla Clark was indicted by the grand jury of Linn County charged with setting fire to his barber shop. His case came to trial on June 1, 1915, and resulted in a directed verdict in favor of the defendant.

##### CENTERVILLE, APPANOOSE COUNTY.

On December 9, 1914, a fire occurred in a confectionery store at Centerville. This fire was thoroughly investigated by Assistant Zimmerman with the result that the evidence gathered by him was placed before the grand jury of Appanoose County, which body at its January, 1915, session indicted Allie Joseph. George Seid,



and Charley Albert charging them with the crime of burning to injure the insurer. On February 5, 1915, the trial of Albert and Seid was commenced and on February 14, 1915, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and each of the defendants was sentenced to serve ten years at the Fort Madison penitentiary. These cases are now pending on appeal in the supreme court.

On April 28, 1915, the case of Allie Joseph was brought to trial. At the conclusion of the evidence, the court directed a verdict for the defendant on the alleged ground that the indictment was defective.

#### KEOSAUQUA, VAN BUREN COUNTY.

In the month of January, 1915, the grand jury of Van Buren County returned an indictment against Jesse Parker of Keosauqua charging him with the crime of burning to injure the insurer. The case was brought to trial in the month of August, 1915, and resulted in the acquittal of the defendant.

#### ALBIA, MONROE COUNTY.

On February 24, 1915, Dr. C. G. Hoover was arrested charged with arson. Before a hearing was had on this charge, Dr. Hoover was taken before the commissioners of insanity and was by them adjudged insane, and on February 27, 1915, was committed to the hospital at Mt. Pleasant.

#### OELWEIN, FAYETTE COUNTY.

On or about March 1, 1915, J. H. Richards and wife were arrested and bound over to await the action of the grand jury, for setting fire to a building with intent to injure the insurer. Both parties were indicted by the grand jury of Fayette County. The trial of Mrs. Richards which was concluded on May 1, 1915, resulted in a verdict of not guilty. The case against Mr. Richards was subsequently dismissed by the county attorney.

#### DIKE, GRUNDY COUNTY.

On or about March 13, 1915, the grand jury of Grundy County indicted one M. E. Cowell charging him with the burning of a barn and contents occupied by S. E. Mulkins. After a trial lasting from September 6 to 11, 1915, a verdict of acquittal was returned by the jury.

#### AKRON, PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

On or about March 30, 1915, upon complaint of local officials one Fred Smith was arrested charged with burning an elevator at

Akron. Smith was bound over to the grand jury, but that body failed to return an indictment.

#### NODAWAY TOWNSHIP, PAGE COUNTY.

In April, 1915, the grand jury of Page County indicted one Clyde Hiser on the charge of arson. Hiser was a boy fourteen years of age who admitted in a confession made to Assistant Frowick, of this department, that he had set fire to a school house in the township for the purpose of "getting even with the teacher." When a bench warrant was issued and placed in the hands of the sheriff, it was discovered Hiser could not be found.

#### MARION TOWNSHIP, DAVIS COUNTY.

On April 7, 1915, a fire destroyed a dwelling in Marion Township, Davis County, owned by J. F. Hopkins. The evidence gathered pointed to one Walter Smith as the party probably guilty of setting this fire. Smith was subsequently indicted, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary.

Special credit for securing this conviction is due to the county attorney and the local officials of Davis County.

#### UNIONVILLE, APPANOOSE COUNTY.

On June 9, 1915, fire destroyed a school house in Udell Township, Union County. Upon complaint of local officials Mrs. Alice Gerlock was arrested charged with the crime of burning the same, and was bound over to await the action of the grand jury. That body, however, failed to find an indictment against her.

#### ARMSTRONG, EMMET COUNTY.

On or about July 5, 1915, one Godfrey Knight was arrested by the local officials of Armstrong charged with setting fire to the jail at that place. He was, however, released by the authorities there upon the alleged condition that he leave the state.

#### MAPLETON, MONONA COUNTY.

On August 3, 1915, John B. Folek made a confession to Deputy Tracy of having set seven fires during a period of several years at or near the place where he lived—about nine miles south of Mapleton, Monona County. Young Folek was arrested and bound over to await the action of the grand jury. Upon investigation it was found that his case was one of pyromania and he was committed to the Hospital for the Insane at Cherokee by the commissioners of Monona County.



## GREENFIELD, ADAIR COUNTY.

On August 12, 1915, Virgil Havens, a boy sixteen years old, made a confession to Assistant Frowick that he had set three fires in the town of Greenfield. The confession and other evidence gathered was placed in the hands of the county attorney of Adair County who placed the matter before the judge of the district court, with the result that young Havens was paroled to his father during good behavior.

## CRESTON, UNION COUNTY.

During the August term of the district court of Union County, Oscar Rosenow and C. L. Lindahl, two young men who had previously been arrested charged with complicity in several fires which had recently taken place in the C., B. & Q. R. R. yards of that city, pleaded guilty to the charge of attempting to set fires to buildings, and each was sentenced to serve three years at the reformatory at Anamosa. The sentences were, however, suspended by the court upon certain conditions.

## BOONE COUNTY.

At two o'clock a. m., August 2, 1915, a fire took place in the dwelling house of T. J. Smalley in Des Moines Township, Boone County, doing some damage to the building and contents. This fire was set by one Arthur Lumley, a nephew of Mr. Smalley, who had murdered his uncle and set the building on fire to cover up the crime. Later Lumley confessed to the authorities at Boone and on August 23, 1915, was sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

## COUNCIL BLUFFS, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

On September 3, 1915, John L. Price was indicted by the grand jury of Pottawattamie County charged with the crime of burning an inhabited dwelling in the night time. This indictment is still pending.

In the early part of September, 1915, a number of fires took place in the telephone exchange at Council Bluffs. Shortly thereafter Adolph Elgan, a boy fifteen years old, made confession that he set the fires in question. Elgan was arrested, pleaded guilty in juvenile court and was sentenced to the industrial school for boys at Eldora for six years, but was subsequently paroled to his father during good behavior.

Following an investigation made by Assistant Zimmerman of a fire which occurred at Council Bluffs, on or about November

20, 1915, G. W. Robinson and Mrs. G. W. Robinson were arrested charged with the crime of setting fire, and both were held to await the action of the grand jury, which body at its January, 1916, term returned an indictment against them. This indictment is still pending.

## OTTUMWA, WAPELLO COUNTY.

In the latter part of October, 1915, William Pickens and B. H. Hammersley were indicted by the grand jury of Wapello County charging Hammersley with the crime of burning, and Pickens with that of causing to be burned property with intent to injure the insurer. The case of Pickens came to trial on or about November 15, 1915, and resulted in a verdict of acquittal. A little while later Mr. Hammersley was placed on trial and after the evidence upon the part of the state had been introduced a verdict of acquittal was directed by the court.

## SIOUX CITY, WOODBURY COUNTY.

A number of fires took place in Sioux City during the summer and fall of 1914 and 1915, all of which appeared to originate in a similar manner and all having indications of incendiarism. An investigation of these fires was made in October, 1915, by Deputy J. A. Tracy with the result that he secured several confessions of complicity in the setting of at least six different fires. Arrests and prosecutions followed with the result that on December 30, 1915, Oscar D. Knudson, Bud Gath and Oscar Johnson were sent to the industrial school for boys at Eldora to there remain until they are twenty-one years of age; and on January 17, 1916, Eddie C. Thorngreen was committed to the same institution.

On the night of October 14, 1915, three barn fires took place in Sioux City. One William Tracy was suspected of setting these fires and was placed under arrest. He was afterwards taken before the commissioners of insanity by which body he was adjudged insane on October 18, 1915, and was committed to the hospital at Cherokee.

## IRA, JASPER COUNTY.

On or about December 9, 1915, William Schelker was indicted by the grand jury of Jasper County for setting fire to a barber shop in Ira. This indictment is still pending.

Reference was made in my last report to indictments pending against W. T. Layton of Sigourney, Keokuk County, and Charles Namur, of Des Moines, Polk County.



Layton was tried on February 23 to 25, 1915, and found not guilty by the jury.

The case against Charles Namur came to trial in the Polk County district court on April 1, 1915, and resulted in an acquittal of the defendant by direction of the court on April 5, 1915.

RECORD OF ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS FOR ARSON SINCE  
THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S LAW WENT INTO  
EFFECT, JULY 4, 1911.

	Last 6 Months of 1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	Total
Persons sentenced to Penitentiary.....	3	3	5	6	4	21
Committed to Industrial School.....		1		2	6	9
Hospital for Inebriates.....		4				4
Committed to Hospitals for Insane.....	1		2	4	3	10
Sentenced to jail.....	1	1	1	2		5
Fined.....	1					1
Deported.....			1			1
Paroled by the court after sentence.....			1	2	4	7
Confessions on which grand jury failed to indict.....			2			2
Indicted, cases pending.....		1		2	5	8
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>68</b>
Tried and acquitted.....	2		1	1	9	13
Acquitted, defective indictments.....			1	1	1	3
Dismissed by county attorney.....	1	3	3	6	2	15
Died in jail before final action.....				1		1
Arrested, held to grand jury but no indictment returned .....			3		3	6
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total prosecutions</b> .....	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>106</b>

LAW REVISION AND ENFORCEMENT.

The laws of our state relating to the punishment of arson and other criminal burning should be carefully revised and the punishments provided for graded, so as to more adequately fit the crime or degree of crime than they do at the present time.

Juries not infrequently fail to convict of the crime of arson or of setting fire to injure the insurer, not because there is any real doubt in their minds as to the guilt of the defendant, but because if found guilty of the crime as charged, he might be sentenced to the penitentiary for a long term of years, and this some jurors undertake to prevent by letting the guilty escape altogether.

It should always be borne in mind in the enforcement of all criminal statutes that it is not the severity of the sentence or punishment, but the reasonable certainty of discovery and con-

viction that deters many an evil disposed fellow from committing crime.

We cannot, however, deny that in many localities in our country there exists a condition of helpless law enforcement. We do not punish; we do not correct—we only fume and fret and ask for more law.

Law is not self-enforcing. There must be a radical change in public sentiment touching all kinds of law enforcement. Until there is, America will continue to stand first among civilized nations in unpunished crime.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

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

TABLE I.

The footings of this table have been briefly set out in the introductory portions of this report. By months the fire losses and the number of fires reported to this office for the year 1915 were as follows:

Month	No. of Fires	Loss
January .....	416	\$ 972,930
February .....	246	460,426
March .....	436	442,031
April .....	407	593,144
May .....	258	436,682
June .....	243	236,395
July .....	239	287,429
August .....	269	420,763
September .....	224	312,341
October .....	314	346,568
November .....	346	808,080
December .....	412	690,125
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3810</b>	<b>\$6,006,914</b>

TABLE II.

Table II 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.

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



Kind of Structure	Number	Loss
Dwellings .....	1,811	\$1,023,402
Barns .....	495	579,790
Stores .....	358	1,988,754
Office buildings and offices.....	92	165,758
Restaurants and cafes.....	74	62,519
Shops .....	71	118,068
Garages .....	70	93,710
Automobiles .....	54	16,407
Sheds .....	48	4,090
Storage houses .....	47	110,768
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>\$4,163,266</b>

Comparing some of the figures in the above table with those pertaining to the same classes of property set out in the report for the year 1914, we note the following:

The number of dwellings destroyed or damaged is 69 less than in 1914, and the aggregate loss is \$85,358 less than in that year.

There was a most encouraging reduction in the barn fires as well as in the aggregate damage to this class of property. The reduction in the number of barns damaged or destroyed was 199, and the reduction in the loss \$322,392 as compared with the previous year.

This very marked improvement can be attributed to the unusually wet summer season, the absence of many severe electrical storms, and to the greater care exercised, especially by many of the farmers, in preventing barn fires.

The number of store buildings destroyed or damaged was 5 less than that of 1914, but the loss resulting therefrom in 1915 aggregates \$282,035 more than in the preceding year.

There was an increase of 9 in the number of automobile garages burned, and an increase of \$8,020 in the amount of damage to the same.

Fifty-four automobiles were reported as damaged or destroyed, entailing a loss of \$16,407. This does not include a much greater number which were burned while in the garages and whose loss is included in the contents of the latter.

TABLE III.

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

Cause	Number	Loss
Unknown .....	788	\$2,550,231
Sparks from flue.....	589	133,233
Adjoining fires .....	348	793,018
Defective flues .....	330	369,721
Lightning .....	201	257,130
Spontaneous combustion .....	139	296,038
Match carelessness .....	107	36,173
Incendiary and probably incendiary..	99	120,897
Children and matches.....	78	22,498
Defective electric wiring.....	73	229,307
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,752</b>	<b>\$4,808,246</b>

The fires reported as of incendiary or probably incendiary origin during the year 1915 numbered 99 or 2.6 per cent of the total number of fires reported, while the loss from said cause during the year aggregates \$120,897 or 2.01 per cent of the total fire loss of the state.

During the year 1914 the number of incendiary or probably incendiary fires amounted to 2.8 per cent of the total number of fires reported, while the loss from said cause aggregated 2.5 per cent of the total fire loss of the state.

Under the designation "incendiary or probably incendiary" fires are enumerated only those of which there is evidence of incendiarism.

Undoubtedly not a few of the fires whose origin is reported and classified as "unknown" are the result of design.

While the number of fires reported as of "unknown" origin is less by 181 than those that were so designated in last year's report the loss during the year 1915 exceeds that of 1914 by \$242,760.

There were 70 less "lightning" fires in 1915 than in 1914, and the loss incurred by reason of these fires was \$146,503 less than in 1914.

Compared with 1914, there is a decrease in the loss from fires caused by "sparks from flue," and a very slight decrease in the fire damage where "defective flues" is the cause. Both the number of these fires and the resulting damage is entirely too large and could be materially reduced by the exercise of greater care.

Defective electric wiring appears to be an ever increasing source of fire danger. The number of such fires reported in 1915 was larger than ever before, amounting to 73, and the resulting loss to \$229,307.



## RECOMMENDATIONS.

Based upon experience during the past four and one-half years in dealing with fire causes, I would respectfully suggest the need of legislation along the following lines:

1. Provision for inspection both state and local of electric wiring. This is made necessary by reason of the constantly increasing number of fires resulting from defective electric wiring.

2. The almost universal use of gasoline and the increasing menace both to property and to life resulting from such use necessitates the enactment of a gasoline storage law, or a law making it mandatory upon municipalities to make provision by ordinance for such storage.

3. Standardization of chimneys, flues and roofs in cities and towns.

4. A law regulating moving picture shows, specifying the construction of the booth, number of exits, width of aisles, seating, etc.

5. Provision for the inspection of gasoline and carbide lighting systems.

6. Inasmuch as fully 90 per cent of the fire alarms in all cities and towns are given by telephone, there is need of a law prescribing the duties and responsibilities of telephone companies and operators in the matter of receiving and promptly turning in fire alarms.

7. My deputy and assistants have rendered diligent and faithful service. Had I the means to employ more men, the work of inspection could be greatly enlarged and that of investigation be made more thorough and effective. To this end I would urge an additional appropriation for the support of the department by the next general assembly.

TABLE NO. I.

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, 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 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 con- tents	No. of fires partially covered by insurance	Excess of loss over insurance	No. of fires without insurance	Loss
Adair -----	31	79,390	48,538	48,445	18	14,860	1	800
Adams -----	8	43,450	22,355	28,100	4	5,805	1	1,005
Allamakee -----	20	46,600	17,171	25,291	7	3,494	2	1,510
Appanoose -----	70	185,091	110,937	123,265	41	28,141	9	2,300
Audubon -----	18	60,178	29,011	37,550	10	12,197	3	5,782
Benton -----	20	138,350	61,415	77,850	10	14,491	1	5
Black Hawk-- Waterloo -----	66	704,775	165,712	519,550	14	24,883	4	450
Bal. Black Hawk Co. -----	17	54,405	18,931	32,749	5	4,831	1	1,200
Boone--Boone -----	28	214,700	26,728	108,679	7	5,388	2	160
Bal. Boone Co.---	15	32,675	16,609	25,050	7	5,425	4	800
Bremer -----	12	147,300	19,557	71,401	5	9,491	1	142
Buchanan -----	16	43,605	22,624	28,986	10	5,185	2	125
Buena Vista -----	15	123,290	59,672	79,800	7	12,010	---	---
Butler -----	19	15,841	11,576	9,320	11	5,367	5	1,631
Calhoun -----	21	57,545	24,910	35,249	9	8,156	2	510
Carroll -----	20	79,345	49,998	45,047	10	17,733	4	1,675
Cass -----	51	300,871	115,866	167,920	17	37,265	5	985
Cedar -----	12	46,675	8,231	16,050	6	2,692	3	42
Cerro Gordo-- Mason City -----	57	497,525	68,119	312,815	7	1,655	3	95
Bal Cerro Gordo Co. -----	18	28,816	25,042	18,548	11	8,780	4	2,625
Cherokee -----	18	137,550	35,920	88,000	11	6,630	---	---
Chickasaw -----	13	32,115	10,754	23,175	6	3,965	2	375
Clarke -----	16	32,460	14,571	16,085	8	6,625	1	500
Clay -----	17	42,935	9,444	24,097	5	2,429	3	261
Clayton -----	23	52,835	30,785	22,199	15	12,311	2	225
Clinton--Clinton --	50	608,525	273,579	436,350	5	43,110	7	3,285
Bal. Clinton Co.---	11	32,880	18,688	18,975	6	8,495	1	30
Crawford -----	15	33,374	16,347	18,289	5	7,463	4	3,378
Dallas -----	34	214,448	152,423	115,500	18	65,199	5	2,875
Davis -----	22	47,810	24,249	26,874	12	9,680	2	450
Decatur -----	28	96,892	68,530	60,250	20	21,530	4	3,050
Delaware -----	19	55,540	30,765	26,825	16	13,425	---	---
Des Moines-- Burlington -----	58	485,644	129,591	358,990	13	4,779	8	875
Bal. Des Moines Co. -----	14	28,940	21,825	8,328	8	5,880	---	---
Dickinson -----	12	51,600	35,555	23,750	5	17,500	1	250
Dubuque--Dubuque.	59	2,179,799	220,520	1,597,520	11	19,550	3	11,030
Bal. Dubuque Co.---	12	44,905	20,671	17,143	8	9,362	1	250
Emmet -----	21	48,085	12,441	25,250	9	6,885	4	3,910
Fayette -----	43	284,335	88,585	150,875	11	9,739	8	5,420
Floyd -----	15	54,990	23,065	37,500	9	7,540	---	---
Franklin -----	12	22,850	17,980	9,270	8	9,210	3	1,410
Fremont -----	30	69,318	56,819	37,515	20	26,363	3	5,575
Greene -----	26	142,690	104,735	93,145	9	26,910	3	7,030
Grundy -----	7	16,950	8,693	12,700	2	3,000	---	---
Guthrie -----	21	39,345	33,854	22,270	14	13,095	1	25
Hamilton -----	36	270,250	57,846	120,750	10	30,780	5	24,160
Hancock -----	10	41,140	17,393	22,875	6	6,725	1	600



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
Hardin	28	105,705	51,425	50,065	16	22,705	1	25
Harrison	42	244,510	166,707	121,755	15	75,360	2	315
Henry	13	17,717	15,804	10,417	6	7,359	4	4,462
Howard	14	56,535	17,573	28,650	7	7,830	1	---
Humboldt	9	19,290	8,309	12,285	2	2,885	3	470
Ida	9	17,975	9,100	10,717	4	4,433	1	3,500
Iowa	10	23,535	8,931	11,750	1	5,875	4	3,375
Jackson	27	135,950	69,797	77,400	12	26,460	4	670
Jasper	48	256,935	78,669	91,284	19	35,160	4	74
Jefferson	15	32,475	12,134	20,535	6	2,650	1	50
Johnson								
Iowa City	19	83,050	13,215	49,300	5	1,100	1	50
Bal. Johnson Co.	16	45,945	29,807	29,603	12	9,867	1	---
Jones	16	27,270	13,920	13,650	9	5,670	1	200
Keokuk	24	48,615	19,160	22,257	9	10,033	5	2,340
Kossuth	24	81,470	28,380	41,255	17	10,755	1	575
Lee—Ft. Madison	25	170,360	36,291	117,506	5	746	3	206
Keokuk	60	820,960	53,195	578,000	7	6,571	5	1,646
Bal Lee Co.	14	25,848	23,073	18,375	8	5,648	2	700
Linn								
Cedar Rapids	122	862,065	187,388	576,933	5	27,594	17	1,719
Bal. Linn Co.	13	51,545	8,926	28,120	4	3,630	1	80
Louisa	20	63,380	37,530	27,345	11	17,275	4	625
Lucas	51	161,970	60,132	105,649	24	18,600	5	2,280
Lyon	14	23,657	8,792	13,400	5	4,852	5	2,492
Madison	19	43,525	13,915	27,700	9	3,485	1	35
Bal. Mahaska Co.	23	52,555						
Oskaloosa	32	154,850	40,697	105,675	4	2,615	3	160
Bal. Mahaska	23	52,555	42,625	25,225	15	18,890	5	1,355
Marion	48	137,508	39,586	86,450	14	14,917	6	1,955
Marshall								
Marshalltown	31	386,150	93,300	259,000	4	2,470	2	50
Bal. Marshall Co.	8	23,550	11,585	13,920	5	4,330	1	350
Mills	16	32,325	22,217	16,500	11	8,950	2	1,150
Mitchell	14	70,975	35,062	45,800	9	10,175	1	550
Monona	7	41,950	5,218	16,400	1	2,835	3	1,135
Monroe	46	366,454	63,279	189,775	12	9,335	4	2,450
Montgomery	41	136,375	59,785	73,375	17	24,555	9	5,570
Muscatine								
Muscatine	43	136,275	29,161	73,950	13	9,764	6	575
Co.	13	26,240	17,765	17,220	9	6,545	---	---
O'Brien	8	20,950	6,059	12,800	4	1,889	---	---
Osceola	3	13,842	1,867	5,500	1	642	---	---
Page	40	110,048	35,005	68,580	14	10,244	3	880
Palo Alto	25	75,610	14,005	46,700	8	5,940	7	1,615
Plymouth	31	108,136	48,923	75,260	12	12,361	5	259
Pocahontas	7	10,518	2,205	4,718	2	700	1	100
Polk—Des Moines	431	4,945,795	283,362	3,376,050	26	6,961	47	4,066
Bal. Polk Co.	43	122,898	51,138	70,433	18	11,175	1	200
Pottawattamie								
Council Bluffs	82	579,700	48,629	402,509	16	4,180	10	370
Bal. Pottawatamie Co.	21	71,835	26,972	52,928	8	6,211	6	1,960
Poweshiek	34	114,530	10,860	52,067	6	2,775	9	917
Ringgold	23	34,310	23,048	19,368	14	9,808	1	200
Sac	14	72,695	26,272	48,000	8	8,225	1	500
Scott—Davenport	174	1,224,425	428,275	698,105	7	1,414	22	767
Bal. Scott Co.	21	50,260	34,320	22,540	15	14,755	2	1,475
Shelby	16	29,350	17,104	16,724	7	4,795	3	550
Sioux	15	47,240	16,065	25,815	9	6,300	2	225
Story	29	85,092	33,845	41,960	16	15,620	3	188
Tama	20	115,550	28,255	68,900	7	12,125	6	1,225

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
Taylor	18	72,655	40,584	42,790	12	7,873	2	148
Union	43	157,222	48,533	110,362	16	13,630	2	615
Van Buren	15	40,739	29,156	20,760	9	13,714	1	850
Wapello—Ottumwa	57	458,813	35,816	285,375	5	340	1	75
Bal. Wapello Co.	21	28,965	24,195	21,790	13	6,465	4	790
Warren	22	45,409	21,933	24,675	11	10,254	1	120
Washington	28	81,760	23,743	44,245	8	5,452	7	2,292
Wayne	37	96,181	62,686	50,583	22	24,543	3	2,375
Webster								
Ft. Dodge	42	554,515	241,904	375,710	8	52,782	5	247
Bal. Webster Co.	20	55,075	26,310	26,420	13	10,705	2	50
Winnebago	19	130,740	67,100	82,090	6	21,195	4	1,085
Winneshiek	14	62,800	26,223	32,000	9	3,435	---	---
Woodbury								
Sioux City	229	2,951,852	260,928	2,265,997	14	5,984	26	3,756
Bal. Woodbury Co.	26	84,503	46,649	54,225	13	15,053	1	2,900
Worth	8	37,330	6,070	15,800	4	3,030	1	630
Wright	18	70,950	17,732	38,860	10	7,240	3	1,050
Totals	3,810	\$25,811,389	\$6,006,914	\$16,834,545	1,189	\$ 1,395,748	444	\$ 170,473



TABLE NO. II.

SHOWING THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE BUILDINGS OR PROPERTIES 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. of fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings Affected							
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick	Cement or stone	Loss on Buildings		Loss on Contents		
									Total	Partial	Total	Partial	
Amphitheater	1	600	600			1			1				
Asphalt plants	3	6,800	800	147,000		3				3			
Automobiles	54	67,750	16,397	620	10	54			2	52			1
Auto storage	1	1,200	5	2,000		1				1			
Bakeries	14	94,000	8,650	60,178	17,292	6	8			14	2		10
Banks	11	52,800	12,180	24,375	5,763	4	7		3	7	3		8
Barns	495	375,880	344,054	285,008	235,736	492	2	1	383	108	327		100
Bath houses	2	5,000	360	2,000		2				2			
Boats	2	150	110	25	5	2			1	1			1
Bottling works	1	25,000	250	30,000	1,200		1			1			1
Brickyards, kilns and tile factories	3	23,000	10,660	23,500	10,500	2	1			3			2
Bridges	2	15,700	60			1	1			2			
Cars—Box cars	13	23,950	7,305	6,120	3,166	13	1		2	10	3		3
Bunk cars	3	500	400	255	215	3			2	1	2		1
Flat cars	2	1,600	620	30	30	2			1	1	1		
Fruit car	1	500	300	317	317	1			1	1	1		
Hay car	1	1,500	10	100	70	1			1	1			1
Refrigerator car	1	1,290	100	500	25	1			1	1			1
Stock car	1	600	150	800	150	1			1	1			1
Street cars	4	16,350	96			4			4	4			
Way cars	2	3,300	525			2			2	2			
Work car	1	2,000	10			1			1	1			
Car barn	1	15,000	10			1				1			
Camp and cook wagon	1	100	50	100	50	1	1			1			1
Carpet cleaning establishment	1	2,500	15	1,000		1				1			
Cement house	1	600	100			1	1			1			
Churches	20	155,900	78,223	26,950	14,429	15	4	1	8	12	4		9
City and township halls	4	4,150	2,625	820	57	4			1	3	1		1
Cleaning and dyeing establishments	13	151,550	2,716	20,875	3,195	4	9		1	11	1		10
Coal bins and storage	6	14,000	1,657	16,450	1,760	4			1	3			4
Coal office	1	300	200	450	314	1				1			1

Colleges and college dormitories	3	21,800	12,370	4,600	1,898	3			1	2			3
Concrete plant	1	35	25	200		1				1			
Court house	1	125,000	25	500		1	1		1	1			
Creameries	9	26,850	7,790	14,600	6,510	8	1		3	6	2		1
Dairy house	1	400	5			1				1			
Dance hall	1			600	175	1							1
Depots	7	11,513	3,473	5,411	61	6	1		1	6	1		1
Dredging machine	1	7,000	7,000			1			1				
Dry kiln for lumber	1	500		3,500	500	1							1
Elevators	14	113,700	83,370	57,075	39,164	14			8	6	5		6
Engine and boiler rooms	6	18,690	1,178	950	800	4	2		2	4	1		2
Express offices	2	24,000	10	150	50		2			1			1
Factories—Acetylene light factory	2	1,500	350	1,700	270	2			1	1	1		1
Awning factory	1	6,000		1,100	6								1
Basket factory	1	3,000	100	10	10	1				1	1		1
Broom factory	1	500	100	200	25	1							1
Brush factory	1	1,000	800	4,000	1,000	1				1			1
Button factories	3	3,225	960	11,650	7,475	2	1		2	1	1		2
Candy factories	4	20,800	10,050	33,000	15,761	1	3		1	2	1		3
Casket factory	1	80,000		74,000	315	1							1
Cement block factory	1	500	200	1,000		1				1			
Cigar factories	2	8,000	14	5,300	1,790		2			1			2
Collar factory	1	10,000	68	20,000	412		1			1			1
Cracker and macaroni factory	1	110,000	101,000	160,000	150,000		1			1			1
Engine factory	1	25,000	4	75,000	106		1			1			1
Fertilizer factory	1	1,000	500	2,000	500	1				1			1
Furniture factory	1			115,000	350		1			1			1
Harrow factory	1	500	500	4,500	4,000	1			1				1
Implement factories	2	1,100	510	5,500	3,000	2			1	1			1
Ink factories	1			5,000	200		1						1
Lubricating oil factories	2	18,500	5,817	30,000	9,621		2			2			1
Medicine factories	2	8,000	800	32,000	14,200	1	1			1			2
Muzzle factory	1	1,200	1,200	300	300	1			1		1		
Paint factory	1	8,000	8,000	15,000	15,000	1			1		1		
Plating works	1	3,500	90	1,000						1			
Pump factory	1	250,000	5,725	550,000	5,000		1			1			1
Shoe factory	1	7,500	6,000	19,000	18,300		1			1			1
Steel tank factory	1	29,000	27,000	22,000	21,000		1			1			1
Stock food factory	1	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	1			1		1		
Tool factory	1	10,000	25							1			
Vinegar and pickle factory	1	8,000	3,000	5,000	2,500		1			1			1
Washing machine factory	1	19,000	17,000	68,358	64,609		1			1			1
Wheel factory	1	60,000	200	70,000			1			1			
Fire station	1	10,000	50	3,500	50		1			1			1
Foundries	3	20,000	10,425	41,000	18,400	1	2		1	2			2
Freight houses	2	4,000	1,000	2,200	218				1		1		1
Garages	70	217,555	29,189	189,150	64,521	48	17	5	21	39	22		37
Gas plant	6	259,800	11,840	5,000	417	1	5			6			2



TABLE NO. II—CONTINUED.

	No. of fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings Affected						
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick	Cement or stone	Loss on Buildings		Loss on Contents	
									Total	Partial	Total	Partial
Granaries and corn cribs	13	4,865	3,865	4,582	2,924	13			12		8	4
Greenhouses	1	7,000	1,000	2,000	500	1				1		1
Hay, grain and straw stacks	15			1,774	1,624						12	3
Hen houses	10	3,495	2,585	935	935	10			8	2	6	1
Hog houses	8	2,185	1,660	720	527	8			6	1	4	1
Hide and fur house	1	20,000	250	7,500	150		1			1		1
Hospitals	5	58,000	6,150	12,700	2,850	2	3			3		4
Hotels	41	614,700	40,265	205,500	10,416	20	19	2	3	5	1	25
Houses—Apartment houses	19	122,300	5,575	17,100	5,399	9	10			13	1	12
Boarding houses	3	12,500	1,050	800	400	1	2					1
Boiler house	1			1,800	43		1					1
Dwellings	1,811	3,752,915	740,941	1,295,712	282,461	1,740	59	8	387	1,344	169	954
Flats	16	97,800	1,855	13,150	994	4	11	1				9
Rooming houses	23	131,000	4,329	20,700	1,624	15	8			21		14
Summer kitchens	10	4,300	2,735	1,710	1,520	10			5	5	4	3
Ice houses	5	3,300	3,065	1,500	1,500	5			3	2	1	2
Jails	6	17,600	2,750	1,800	210	3	2	1	1	4	1	2
Laboratory for serum experiments	1	4,100	1,800	10,000	3,000	1			1	1		1
Laundries	5	28,400	9,000	22,200	14,448	2	3			5		4
Livery and feed barns	18	45,450	22,105	39,165	10,812	16	2		9	9	2	9
Live stock	1			100	100						1	
Light and power plants	7	11,000	735	39,500	2,225	2	4	1	1	5		4
Lodge halls and club houses	18	73,100	24,093	19,375	9,592	10	7	1	8	7	8	4
Lumber yards	6	8,600	8,075	232,800	178,188	6			1	1	2	3
Lunch wagons	2	550	35	175	20	2				2		2
Machine and implement sheds	9	3,425	3,410	4,692	4,505	9			8	1	4	3
Military headquarters	1	8,000	150	3,000	4		1			1		1
Mills	6	167,000	31,199	68,500	22,006	3	3		2	3	2	3
Motion picture film exchange	2	60,000	162	200,500	45		2			1		2
Motion picture shows	14	191,800	2,889	23,750	4,895	3	11			10		11
Motoreycles	2	250	190						1	1		
New stand	3	16,000	160	16,100	1,240					1		
Nurse's home	1	2,000	1,000	1,200	1,000	1	3			1		3
Office buildings and offices	92	1,643,200	114,921	277,801	50,837	18	71	3	6	45	13	55
Oil houses	7	1,790	315	3,530	610	6	1		2	5	3	3

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Oil mills	2	105,000	55	75,000	10		2			2		
Oil tank	1	1,900	1,900	3,000	3,000	1			1		1	
Orphanages	2	32,000	75	11,500	25	1	1			2		1
Outbuildings	4	115	95			4			3	1		
Packing house	1	250,000	50	200,000	50			1		1		1
Paint—box of	1			30	30						1	
Photograph galleries	6	22,700	3,050	7,100	2,550	3	3			5	1	5
Planing and saw mills	2	5,000	510	5,800	500	1	1			2		1
Pool halls and bowling alleys	16	52,800	15,541	28,670	12,262	10	6		5	9	3	7
Poorhouses	1	25,800	25,800	2,800	2,800	1	1			1		
Pop corn stands	2	4,100	200			2				2		
Post offices	5	4,950	1,775	1,050	300	4	1		3	2		2
Printing and publishig plants	15	211,900	41,105	315,400	148,690	4	11			14		12
Produce houses	4	14,000	1,616	12,400	1,225	3	1		1	3		2
Pump houses	3	5,300	765	2,500	500	2	1		1	2	1	
Restaurants and cafes	74	293,550	32,122	91,624	30,397	51	23		12	53	12	46
Saloons	2	18,500	35	1,000			2			2		
Sanitariums	2	16,500	1,253	4,500	500	1	1			2		1
Sand houses	2	175	45	75		2			1	1		
Sawdust house	1	150	25			1				1		
Scale house	1	100	50			1				1		
School houses	43	357,475	88,334	26,945	9,525	26	17		26	17	18	8
Seminaries	3	70,000	85	16,500	10	3				3		1
Sheds	48	6,505	2,810	3,760	1,280	48			20	27	12	9
Shops—Barber shops	20	24,525	11,595	9,439	5,103	19	1		7	11	4	11
Blacksmith shops	15	12,750	6,135	15,500	12,337	14	1		10	5	6	6
Carpenter shops	6	10,800	2,885	1,450	1,000	5	1		2	4	1	1
Cobbler's shops	4	4,200	371	700	125	3	1			4		2
Dressmaking shop	1			400	250		1					1
Harness shops	6	36,200	19,725	30,100	20,950	3	3		1	5		3
Junk shops	4	2,000	856	3,500	1,005	4			1	2	1	2
Plumbing shops	2	150		3,700	40	1	1					2
Railway car shops	2	5,400	5,400	25,250	17,770	2			2			2
Shoe shining shops	2	2,500	50	1,700	110	2				1		2
Sign shop	1	5,000	677	800	503	1				1		1
Tailor shops	5	3,000	1,000	14,050	6,431		5			1		5
Tin shop	1	300	35	2,000	100	1				1		1
Wagon shops	2	4,500	1,815	4,000	1,800	2				2		1
Skating rinks	3	8,000	2,725	1,400	1,400	3				3	1	
Slaughter house	1	200	200	50	50	1			1		1	
Smoke conveyor	1	750	750			1			1			
Smoke houses	8	940	875	1,240	1,195	7	1		6	2	6	2
Stock yards	1	300	150			1				1		
Storage houses	44	324,940	36,083	391,029	70,601	32	10	2	16	24	17	18
Hay storage	2	17,500	1,923	2,900	1,977	1				2		2
Flour storage	1			2,500	184		1					1
Stores—Art store	1			2,200	118		1					1
Auto salesrooms	8	66,500	1,254	161,250	929	1	7			6		8

STATE FIRE MARSHAL



TABLE NO. II—CONTINUED.

	No. of fires	Buildings		Contents		Character of Buildings Affected								
		Value	Damage	Value	Damage	Wood	Brick	Cement or stone	Loss on Buildings		Loss on Contents			
									Total	Partial	Total	Partial		
Auto supply stores	2			39,000	32,500		2						2	6
Candy stores	7	33,200	2,377	13,450	4,001	2	5				5			4
Candy, fruit and cigar stores	1	12,000	250	2,500	300		1				1			1
Cigar stores	5	52,300	461	8,200	3,310	3	2				3			4
Clothing stores	22	189,500	9,024	521,556	93,441		22				15			21
Drug stores	18	148,000	21,770	185,954	84,791	5	13		3		13	2		13
Dry goods stores	7	279,000	1,815	542,500	43,353		7							6
Decorator's supplies—wholesale	1	25,000	650	14,000	8,700		1				1			1
Electrical supply stores	3	3,000	615	9,250	2,750		3				2			2
Flour and feed stores	8	19,500	13,835	11,200	6,400	8			2		6	2		5
Fruit stores	3	7,700	115	8,000	50		1				3			1
Furniture stores	20	181,900	50,088	148,280	70,025	2	15				4	13	3	16
Furniture—wholesale	1	11,000	11,000	40,050	40,050	1					1			1
General Mdse. stores	80	555,550	135,419	1,024,140	506,720	46	34		37		38	28		35
Glass and mirror store	1	9,000	552	16,000	3,000		1				1			1
Grocery stores	57	242,050	16,553	183,650	34,088	36	21		7		45	6		45
Groceries—wholesale	5	95,000	57,386	1,045,000	262,657		5		2		2	2		3
Hardware stores	23	114,300	57,587	294,146	227,475	14	9		12		10	5		16
Hats—wholesale	1	20,000	2,060	21,000	13,838		1				1			1
Implement stores	11	27,150	10,165	29,600	20,800	9	2		8		2	4		6
Jewelry stores	8	12,300	3,850	48,200	5,611	2	6		1		4			8
Ladies furnishing	2	30,000	200	20,000	2,200		1	1			2			2
Leather goods stores	2	3,000	3,000	17,000	4,813		2		1					2
Marble and monument stores	2	2,500	5	5,000	20		1				1			1
Meat markets	16	66,050	4,992	23,355	4,825	9	7		3		11	1		11
Meats—wholesale	1	5,000	200	2,000	100		1				1			1
Millinery stores	9	29,700	3,032	17,900	5,886	6	3		2		6			8
Novelty stores	6	63,500	4,654	51,500	17,925		6				5			6
Piano stores	2	19,000	615	5,200	842		2				2			2
Poultry and egg house	2	4,500	502	4,000		2			1		1			2
Rug stores	2			25,000	7,000		2							2
Seed stores	2	12,500	236	16,000	400		2				1			2
Shoe stores	7	89,150	9,153	85,660	22,780	1	6				5			7
Shoes—wholesale	1	50,000	1,078	90,000	9,466		1				1			1
Tea stores	2	32,000	1,200	12,000	6,200		2				2			1
Ten cent stores	2	15,000	100	28,500	2,113		2				1			2
Tent and awning store	1			500	500	1					1			1
Trading stamp store	1	25,000	100	3,000	25		1				1			1
Vacant store buildings	2	1,500	510			2			1		1			1
Wall paper stores	3	4,500	5	19,000	12,354	2	1				1	1		1
Telegraph office	1	5,000	15	3,000			1				1			7
Telephone offices	8	103,850	2,557	111,600	920	3	5				8			2
Telephone and telegraph poles	2			609	100	2								1
Tents and awnings	3	640	530	340	150			canvas	2		1			2
Theaters	10	106,300	22,424	35,400	11,000	5	5		4		6	3		5
Threshing machine	1	1,300	1,300			1			1					3
Tool houses	4	575	300	900	150	4			1		3			3
Tower houses	1	3,000	3,000			1			1					4
Undertaking parlors	4	39,000	1,500	17,000	640	1	3				2			1
Vulcanizing plants	2	3,000	125	3,175	169	2					2			1
Waiting booth on street corner	1	40	40			1			1					8
Warehouses	19	33,270	8,342	29,800	15,175	18	1		9		9	5		8
Water tanks	2	1,000	160			2								1
Wire works	1	6,000	1,100	6,000	900		1				1			1
Y. M. C. A.	1	50,000	200	3,000	25		1				1			1
Totals	3,810	\$14,612,573	\$ 2,668,852	\$11,198,816	\$ 3,338,062	3,125	628	29	1,142	2,377	779	1,831		



TABLE NO. III.

CONTAINING A SUMMARY OF THE ORIGIN AND CAUSES OF THE VARIOUS FIRES REPORTED, THE NUMBER OF EACH, AND THE DAMAGE TO THE BUILDINGS AND CONTENTS SPECIFIED BY CAUSES.

Origin	Number of fires	Damage to buildings and contents
Acetylene explosion	1	100
Adjoining fires	348	793,018
Alcohol lamp	1	6
Ashes against wood	16	5,718
Ashes in basement	1	25
Ashes in wooden receptacle	2	2,200
Automobile or motorcycle backfire	29	14,460
Baby carriage against stove	1	25
Blacksmith forge	1	12
Blow torch	10	4,378
Boiler too near wood	1	200
Bonfires	29	13,609
Burning brush and leaves	5	1,560
Burning insects in hen house	1	25
Burning meadows or grass	3	80
Burning rubbish	16	7,027
Candle carelessness	10	1,435
Candy boiling over	1	2,200
Chemical explosion	2	53
Child putting electric light in bed	1	25
Children and matches	78	22,498
Children playing with fire	6	1,420
Christmas trees and decorations	5	1,620
Clothing on hot air register	1	550
Clothing near gas or gasoline stove	3	1,175
Clothing or rags near stove or stovepipe	20	6,225
Coffee urn in restaurant	2	100
Cotton ignited by sun's rays through window	1	68
Curtains blowing into flame	10	9,643
Defective electric wiring	73	229,307
Defective fireplace	15	2,755
Defective flues	330	369,721
Defective furnace	15	60,641
Defective gas heater	3	355
Defective gas meter	1	2
Defective gasoline engine	3	120
Defective gasoline lighting system	12	33,738
Defective hot air pipes	2	230
Defective oil or gasoline stoves	26	3,667
Defective oven in bakery	5	2,271
Defective stove	14	5,226
Defective stovepipe	18	11,487
Electric iron carelessness	6	3,201
Explosion of alcohol	2	88
Explosion of electrical automatic photograph machine	1	13,000
Explosion of kerosene can	2	2,375
Explosion of mill dust	1	200
Explosion of roofing paint	1	100
Explosion of soldering pot	1	135
Explosion of traction engine	1	1,300
Filling lighted alcohol stove	1	21
Fireworks	13	2,936
Friction of machinery	2	400
Fumigation	2	600
Furnace explosion	1	1,350
Furnace or pipes too near wood	10	5,194
Fuse plug blow out in picture booth	1	450
Gas explosion	2	1,325
Gas or electric heater near woodwork	6	1,154

TABLE NO. III—CONTINUED.

Origin	Number of fires	Damage to buildings and contents
Gas or gasoline jet flame	9	5,068
Gas iron carelessness	2	420
Gas leak	6	457
Gas stove too near wood	1	14,800
Gas tank explosion	2	229
Gasoline carelessness	21	21,349
Gasoline cleaning with	9	1,162
Gasoline drain pipe in boiler room	1	20,000
Gasoline explosion	20	27,995
Gasoline iron explosion	2	1,100
Gasoline lamp explosion	2	55
Gasoline leak	6	291
Gasoline or oil stove carelessness	19	13,873
Gasoline or oil stove explosion	67	33,787
Gasoline torch	3	265
Grease on stove	7	491
Heating paint on stove	1	90
Heating linseed oil on stove	1	1,800
Hot iron against wood	1	45
Incendiary and probably incendiary	99	120,897
Incubator	10	5,208
Jack-o'-lantern	1	85
Kerosene near stove	1	15
Kindling or wood near stove or furnace	4	19,720
Lamp or lantern carelessness	9	11,415
Lamp or lantern explosion	29	22,388
Lamp or lantern upset	10	2,015
Lamp filled with gasoline	1	216
Leaky joint in automobile	4	1,450
Leak in paint mixer in paint factory	1	23,000
Lightning	201	257,130
Live coal carelessness	7	5,514
Live coals dropping from grate or stove	6	405
Looking for gasoline leak with light	1	15
Match carelessness	107	36,173
Metal in grain	1	6
Motion picture films	9	5,399
Oil heating stove carelessness	2	592
Oil mop in closet	1	200
Oily rag carelessness	9	9,430
Oil stove near wall or woodwork	5	1,070
Overflowing primer on auto	1	275
Overheated auto	2	1,430
Overheated bake oven in factory	1	251,000
Overheated boiler	1	20
Overheated candy furnace	1	1,025
Overheated conveyor	1	750
Overheated cupola	2	40
Overheated engine exhaust	2	207
Overheated feed cooker	2	237
Overheated foot warmer	1	15
Overheated flue	7	11,409
Overheated furnace	32	29,910
Overheated glue pot on fire	1	200
Overheated hot air pipes	13	3,689
Overheated kiln	1	20,000
Overheated lamp on rear of auto	1	100
Overheated steam pipe	2	261
Overheated stove	64	47,929
Overheated stove pipe	17	6,335
Overheated water heater	1	45



TABLE NO. III—CONTINUED.

Origin	Number of fires	Damage to buildings and contents
Paper or rags in flue hole	2	660
Papers on stove	1	150
Rubbish in basement	7	14,930
Rubbish near building	1	20
Salamander	1	40
Smoke house fires	13	7,223
Smoker's carelessness	67	209,156
Smoking out bees	4	680
Sparks from cupola	1	25
Sparks from electric motor	3	590
Sparks from fireplace	1	75
Sparks from flue	589	133,233
Sparks from flue hole in chimney	1	25
Sparks from gasoline engine	2	405
Sparks from kiln	1	10
Sparks from locomotive	28	20,837
Sparks from paint scraper	1	60
Sparks from stove	3	277
Sparks from traction engine	5	1,890
Sparks from type metal melter	1	275
Sparrow's nest near chimney	2	2,538
Spontaneous combustion	139	296,038
Starting fire with coal oil	10	5,464
Starting fire with gasoline instead of coal oil	3	6,360
Stove blow out	5	3,149
Stove polish	1	50
Stove too near unprotected wood	32	12,573
Stovepipe too near unprotected wood	4	595
Stove upset	1	6
Stovepipe through wall or roof	20	6,552
Supposed mice and matches	8	10,339
Tailor's iron carelessness	1	500
Tar kettle	1	600
Thawing frozen water pipes	10	6,304
Tornado overturning house	1	1,500
Tramps	16	25,735
Unknown	788	2,550,231
Varnish on or near stove	2	240
Vulcanizing machine	8	4,233
Total	3,810	\$ 6,006,914

TABLE NO. IV.

GIVING THE CITIES AND TOWNS IN WHICH INSPECTIONS OF DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS AND INFLAMMABLE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THE YEAR 1915, THE NUMBER OF PLACES INSPECTED AT EACH POINT AND THE NUMBER AND KIND OF ORDERS ISSUED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

City	Date	No. inspections	Remove	Repair	Change	Cleanup and repair	Cleanup
Afton	Oct. 8	1					
Akron	June 24	3			2		
Albia	Sept. 17	3			3		
Alden	Dec. 11	5		4			
Algona	March 16	5			3		1
Atlantic	Feb. 15	4					4
Atlantic	June 30	1	1				
Atlantic	Aug. 4	1					
Auburn	April 9	1			1		
Altoona	Jan. 30	1	1				
Baxter	April 20						1
Bedford	April 29		1				
Bedford	Dec. 7	2					
Blakesburg	March 10	3	3				
Bonaparte	October 7	3	2				
Boone	April 15	6	1	1	1		3
Boone	June 29	1			1		
Bridgewater	Nov. 9	13		3	3		7
Britt	Oct. 6	2					
Brooklyn	March 8	1			1		
Burlington	April 15	1					
Cantril	May 26	1	1				
Cantril	Nov. 12			1			
Cedar Falls	June 24	1		1			
Cedar Falls	Dec. 2		1	1			
Centerville	Jan. 7	3	3				
Centerville	April 28	3	3				
Central City	Feb. 26	8	1		2		1
Chariton	April 27	15					15
Charles City	June 22	3					1
Clarksville	Feb. 19	2			2		
Columbus Junction	Aug. 17	6		4			
Corydon	July 9	1					
Council Bluffs	April 7	1					1
Council Bluffs	June 25	23		1	8		9
Council Bluffs	Aug. 5	2	1	1			
Dallas	Feb. 9	1					1
Delmar	Dec. 24						1
Delmar Junction	May 22	2	2				
Denison	Oct. 14	8	2				5
Des Moines	Jan. 21	1					1
Des Moines	Jan. 29	1					
Des Moines	March 5	1			1		
Des Moines	March 5	1					1
Des Moines	April 6	2	2				
Des Moines	March 19	10	3	3			1
Des Moines	March 23	3	1		1		
Des Moines	March 26	1					
Des Moines	May 5	2			2		
Des Moines	May 22		1				
Des Moines	June 4	1			1		
Des Moines	July 23	1					
Des Moines	Aug. 2	1					1
Des Moines	Aug. 11	6			6		
Des Moines	Aug. 13	1		1			
Des Moines	Nov. 24	1					
Des Moines	Dec. 18	1					1
Dunlap	May 18	4	2	2			



TABLE NO. IV—CONTINUED.

City	Date	No. inspections	Remove	Repair	Change	Cleanup and repair	Cleanup
Eldora	July 16	1					
Emmetsburg	May 12	6			3		1
Everly	May 19	2			1		
Forest City	June 22	4					4
Fort Dodge	March 17	2	1		1		
Fort Dodge	July 15	5		1			
Fort Dodge	July 20				1		
Guthrie Center	April 22				1		1
Guthrie Center	April 27						1
Hawkeye	May 20	4			2		
Hedrick	Sept. 22	9	2		1		5
Hudson	March 8	1			1		
Humboldt	Nov. 24	6		1	2		1
Iowa Falls	Aug. 26	2					
Iowa Falls	Nov. 1	1			1		
Jefferson	July 14	1					
Knoxville	Jan. 6	5	3				
Knoxville	June 8	5	2			3	
LaPorte City	Aug. 18	4	2				
Lidderdale	April 27				1		
Lone Tree	July 6						9
Linden	Feb. 10	2	1			1	
McCallsburg	Dec. 13	1					
Madrid	Sept. 24	2		1	1		
Mapleton	Feb. 5	1					
Mapleton	Aug. 3	1					
Marion	July 2	1	1				
Marshalltown	May 25						1
Marshalltown	Nov. 4	1	1				
Marysville	Dec. 16		1				
Mechanicsville	March 31	1					1
Melcher	Feb. 9	1			1		
Menlo	Oct. 23	4		1	1		2
Meriden	May 20	4	1		1		2
Meservey	Oct. 7	4	1			1	
Modale	April 17	1	1				
Moravia	March 11	1			1		
New Sharon	Oct. 19	4	4				
Newton	May 15	11	1	1	4		5
Newton	June 3	8		1		2	5
Odebolt	April 9	1					
Osceola	April 20	19	1		9		9
Osceola	June 3	11	2		3	1	5
Osceola	Oct. 9	9	1	1	3	1	3
Ossian	May 19	1			1		
Oskaloosa	July 2	3	2			1	
Oto	June 24	2	2				
Ottumwa	Jan. 22	1	1				
Ottumwa	Oct. 6	1			1		
Paton	June 25	2		1			1
Persia	Nov. 23	3			1		1
Pleasant Plain	Nov. 6	1					
Postville	Sept. 23	7	1			1	4
Prairie City	Aug. 17	2			1		
Red Oak	May 16	16	1	2	5	1	5
Royal	Aug. 2	1			1		
Ryan	Aug. 18	1					

TABLE NO. IV—CONTINUED.

City	Date	No. inspections	Remove	Repair	Change	Cleanup and repair	Cleanup
Sac City	Sept. 28	1					1
Sergeant Bluff	June 23	2	1		1		
Sheldahl	May 20	5					2
Shell Rock	Feb. 19	2			2		
Sigourney	Feb. 26	1	1				
Sigourney	July 5	1		1			
Sioux City	June 23	1	1				
Sioux City	Aug. 4	2	1	1			
Slater	May 20	1			1		
Spencer	May 19	2					
Storm Lake	Jan. 13	2			1		
Strawberry Point	May 20	3			2		
Struble	Jan. 14	3		1	1		1
Sutherland	Oct. 12	7	3				4
Tama	Dec. 29	4	1	1	2		
Thayer	Nov. 5		1				
Tipton	Oct. 14	1	1				
Valley Junction	March 1	6			2		4
Valley Junction	Oct. 19	1			1		
Wall Lake	Sept. 9	1					1
Washington	Nov. 8	4	3				1
Waterloo	May 19	2	2				
Waterloo	June 23	3	2				1
Waterloo	Nov. 1	1					1
Waverly	Feb. 19	1					
Waverly	March 18	1		1			
Webster City	Nov. 22						1
Winterset	Sept. 23	3	1		2		
Totals		420	83	37	104	14	136



TABLE NO. V.

GIVING PLACES AT WHICH INVESTIGATIONS OF FIRES OF SUSPICIOUS ORIGIN HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THE YEAR 1915, AND THE DATE WHEN SUCH INVESTIGATION BEGAN.

County	Place	Date Commencing Investigation
Adair	Greenfield	August 11
	Bridgewater	November 9
Appanoose	Centerville	January 7
	Near Unionville	June 10
	Cincinnati	July 8
	Plano	July 20
	Darbyville	August 23
	Centerville	September 16
Audubon	Numa	December 17
	Exira	September 30
Benton	Blairstown	April 14
	Blairstown	October 14
Black Hawk	Waterloo	February 12
	Cedar Falls	February 24
	Waterloo	April 30
	Waterloo	September 23
Boone	Boone	April 23
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	January 13
	Storm Lake	January 17
	Alta	March 17
Cass	Washington Township	February 15
	Atlantic	May 6
	Atlantic	June 30
Cerro Gordo	Mason City	January 6
	Mason City	May 7
	Mason City	August 26
	Lime Creek Township	November 3 & 4
	Cartersville	November 11
Chickasaw	Alta Vista	October 5
Clarke	Murray	March 9
	Osceola	November 19 & 20
Crawford	Manilla	February 4
	Deloit	September 8
Dallas	Granger	January 27
	Bouton	December 16
Davis	Bloomfield	July 13
	Floris	December 6 & 7
Decatur	Van Wert	February 27
	Leon	April 12
	Grand River	June 3
	Leon	December 6, 7, 8
Delaware	Oneida	September 9
Des Moines	Burlington	April 21
	West Burlington	August 26
Dickinson	Milford	August 4
Dubuque	Dubuque	February 25
	Dubuque	April 26
	Luxemburg	November 2
Fayette	Oelwein	February 18
Franklin	Hansell	April 5

TABLE NO. V—CONTINUED.

County	Place	Date Commencing Investigation
Fremont	Sidney	March 3
	Farragut	April 14
Grundy	Near Stout	March 9
Guthrie	Bayard—2 fires	May 13
Hamilton	Webster City	March 23
Hardin	Alden	December 11
Harrison	Missouri Valley	April 6
Henry	Wayland	February 11
	Hillsboro	October 27
	Winfield	November 9
Humboldt	Pioneer	December 10
Iowa	Marengo	December 3
Jasper	Ira	December 22
Johnson	Iowa City	November 19
Keokuk	What Cheer—2 fires	June 8
	Lotts Creek Township	May 5
Kossuth	Swea City	September 1
	Montrose	February 9
Lee	Fort Madison	May 24
	Springville	January 13
Linn	Walker	March 20
	Cedar Rapids	April 22
	Cedar Rapids—4 fires	May 1
	Cedar Rapids	May 31
	Cedar Rapids	October 4
	Cedar Rapids	October 30
Louisa	Columbus Junction	August 16
Lucas	Chariton	January 22
Madison	Macksburg	September 22
Mahaska	Oskaloosa	March 10
	Oskaloosa	August 16
	Rose Hill	October 20
Marion	Dallas	February 9
	Hamilton	March 4
	Knoxville	June 15
	Hamilton	July 14
Marshall	Marshalltown	February 12
Monona	Near Mapleton	August 3
Monroe	Albia	January 6
	Buxton	May 15
	Albia	July 21
	Buxton	September 17
	Melrose	October 8
Montgomery	Grant—10 fires	November 2 & 3
Muscatine	Muscatine	May 1
Page	Norwich	March 4
Palo Alto	Emmetsburg	June 19
Plymouth	Le Mars	January 14
	Akron	March 3
	Akron	June 21



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TABLE NO. V—CONTINUED.

County	Place	Date Commencing Investigation
Polk	Walnut Township	January 29
	Des Moines	February 2
	Des Moines	February 17
	Des Moines	April 19
	Des Moines	May 5
	Des Moines	May 11
	Des Moines	May 12
	Des Moines	May 16
	Des Moines	May 18
	Des Moines	May 21
	Des Moines	July 20
	Des Moines	July 23
	Des Moines	September 25
	Des Moines	November 1
	Des Moines	December 10
Des Moines	December 17	
Pottawattamie	Council Bluffs	April 7
	Council Bluffs	August 18
	Council Bluffs	September 7
	Boomer Township	November 23
Sac	Council Bluffs	November 24
	Schaller	September 15
Sac	Sac City	September 28
	Scott	Davenport—2 fires
Davenport		April 13
Davenport		July 7
Bettendorf		September 1
Shelby	Greeley Township	April 1
	Portsmouth	November 12 & 17
Tama	Tama	December 29
Taylor	Blockton	November 1
	Gravity—2 fires	December 8
	Sharpsburg	December 8
	Maloy	December 10
Union	Creston	March 30
Van Buren	Bentonsport	June 9
Wapello	Ottumwa	January 21
	Ottumwa	October 4
	Near Ottumwa	October 6
	Kirkville	December 8
Washington	Near Washington	April 14
	Riverside	November 8
Wayne	Humeston	September 14
Winnebago	Forest City	December 27
Woodbury	Sioux City	January 15
	Sioux City—2 fires	August 5
	Sioux City—3 fires	October 12
	Sioux City	October 20