

# FIRE LOSS IS HUGE

### Cost of Thirteen Panama Canals Are Represented.

#### Young Hopefuls Are to Be Taught How to Confine Blaze to Room Where It Originates—Americans Too Easy Going.

Chicago.—The steady increase from year to year in the amount of property destroyed by fire in this country presents one of the most serious problems to our industrial scheme," said W. D. Matthews, superintendent of inspection of the Chicago Underwriters' association, in discussing fire waste statistics. "This destruction of millions of dollars worth of property every year, taking along with it a toll of hundreds of lives, has much to do with the high cost of living and of building materials and threatens our commercial credit as well as our claim to intelligence.

"Statistics show that the fire loss in the United States and Canada in the year 1877 was \$68,266,800; in 1910 it was \$234,470,650. The total loss for 34 years was \$4,947,008,175, an average of \$145,500,240 a year. These figures in effect are stunning. We can realize their real extent when we comprehend that with the 34 years' losses we could construct 13 Panama canals and have enough left to take care of Chicago's appropriations from the corporate purposes fund for three years.

"The devastations of fire have laid waste and destroyed property to such an extent that we wonder how long the resources of the country can stand the strain. We can never reproduce the metals or replace the forests we have so thoughtlessly contributed to the fire god.

"The reduction of the national fire waste becomes theoretically a simple problem. It is a problem, primarily, of educating the people to a fuller understanding of the common causes of fire and of the features of building construction which tend to confine fire to the room or floor in which it starts. If we are convinced that poor construction and poor protection tend to increase fire losses and that fire losses tend to increase insurance cost, we can with better grace frame ordinances with a view to eliminating the conditions which confront us.

"In pushing our educational campaign we must not neglect the children. Practically every man and boy that walks is, under certain conditions, a conflagration breeder. He must be limited to the use of the match, which forms a part of his pocket equipment, to the so-called safety matches; he must learn to refrain from lighting matches in rooms containing inflammable vapors, oils and air laden with dust. He must know absolutely that a match once lighted has been extinguished before he discards it.

"Out of 5,978 fires reported by the fire department insurance patrol in Chicago during the year 1910, 1,089 were caused by careless use of matches. Fifteen were due to incendiaries, 70 to supposed incendiaries, 25 to lightning and 1,921 to unknown causes. The remainder and probably the greater part of those due to unknown causes were the result of gross carelessness.

"Among the causes which are such carelessness as should be punished are these: Cigar stubs, 39; gas jets, 112; hot ashes, 29; oil stoves, 63; plumbers' torches, 18; steam pipes, 24; thawing water pipes, 134; overheated furnaces and stoves, 406; sparks from chimneys and locomotives, 293.

"Children must be restrained from lighting fires in alleys, yards, woods and other places where sparks may be blown or transmitted to insurable property. School children must receive as part of their regular course instruction relating to the cause and control of fires. Students of engineering must be taught the hazard, care and proper arrangement as well as the purpose and usefulness of furnaces, electrical devices and other generating apparatus. Students of architecture must learn to erect slow burning and non-burning buildings as well as beautiful ones and must be brought to understand that this must be accomplished, even if necessary, at the expense of beauty and sometimes at the cost of economical arrangement.

"Property owners must be brought to realize the duty they owe to their neighbors and the community and so construct their buildings and maintain their premises that the possibility of fire originating and spreading will be minimized. The American people are too easy going. We need a few of the old world regulations with respect to the responsibility of property owners in controlling their own and their neighbors' property."

#### French Baron Here.

New York.—Baron Paul d'Estourville de Constant, member of the French senate and one of the Nobel peace prize winners, arrived in New York the other day. He comes to lecture for the peace movement and will cover 20,000 miles in this country before he returns to France. The baron will meet President Taft during his stay.

#### Mule Eats Pay Check.

Shamokin, Pa.—Wallace Derk's pay check dropped into a feed bag at the Bear Valley colliery and a mule swallowed the precious paper, while a rat gnawed at a coat in a stable containing David Terremall's pay check and destroyed it. The men proved their losses and will be reimbursed.

# TRAPPING THE WARY BEASTS

### Caution of Martens and Foxes Is Taken Advantage of by Hunters in Northern Maine.

Olamon, Me.—A curious feature of trapping fur bearing animals in the woods of northern Maine is that in many cases the hunters are enabled to succeed by reason of the extreme caution of the animals themselves.

Along the swift waters of the upper Penobscot river the most valuable fur is that of the slim and alert fisher cat, or marten. The American fisher is one of the most cautious creatures of the forests and streams, and only a few Indians and white trappers have the secret of luring it to the vicinity of traps. The fisher will never negotiate anything but live fish for bait, and will never approach its food save from the shore side of a stream or lake.

As a rule when winter fishermen catch trout through the ice they pass on from hidden oodles to deep holes, chopping canals in the surface ice as they go, which when filled with water are used to hold the live trout until they return over the same stream later in the day. The trappers of fisher cats, finding half torpid trout squirming about in the icy water, make ready to carry out their plans. The flat trencher of a stout steel trap is baited with a live trout, which has become too weak to spring the mechanism, and a deeper water canal than usual is chopped far inshore, if possible under a limb of an overhanging tree.

The fisher never walks up or down the stream on the open ice, but clings close to the shore. At the sight of the living trout on top of the ice the fisher creeps out cautiously and having made sure the coast is clear leaps directly from the shore or the tree on top of the trout, only to be clutched in the jaws of the trap.

In most parts of New England foxes enter baited traps set in running water without great hesitation. Further north along the Allagash river not a fox will enter a trap save through strategy, although the bait may be scented with secret preparations costing much money to buy and use.

The best results are secured by sticking a limber spring pole upright in the ground or in a snowdrift in the center of a small clearing in the forest, the spring pole having a dead hare or the body of a hen or duck attached by the neck and lifted a foot or less above the level surface. Two or more steel traps are put out set but un baited from ten to fifteen feet from the spring pole.

When an old fox comes along and scents the flesh he sniffs the air for a long time, and begins slowly to circle the pole, keeping far away from the bait at first, but drawing nearer with every turn. The process is long and slow.

At some point along the course the fox, with ears and nostrils and eyes always intent upon the suspended bait, steps suddenly within the open jaws of the trap, which closes with a snap, and the fox is an active and regretful prisoner until the trapper comes along and removes the pelt.

# SEND \$214,000,000 TO ITALY

### Premier Luzzatti Tells What Country-men in United States Have Done in Three Years.

Rome.—Advantages derived by Italy from emigration were enumerated by Premier Luzzatti in an important debate in the chamber of deputies. He said that \$214,000,000 had been sent home by emigrants to the United States in the last three years and that the financial prosperity of the country was due mainly to this fact.

Emigration, said the premier, contributed to the development of the shipping and national industries and to the increase of imports, and hence the government was bound to encourage it. The special precautions taken during the cholera outbreak were justified, he maintained, because they were intended to prevent a decrease in emigration.

The premier expressed the hope that the time was near when Italian prosperity and industrial development would reach a stage where the country would not need the aid of emigration. Then, he concluded, steps would be taken to diminish the exodus of workers and Italy would export goods only and not men.

# PANS GOLD IN LARGE CITY

### Resident of Los Angeles Files Notice of Placer Location on Railroad Property.

Los Angeles, Cal.—That gold in paying quantities lies mixed in the dirt beneath the old Southern Pacific arcade depot, in the heart of the east side business district, is the belief of Mrs. Margaret Hunter, who filed a notice the other day of a placer location on the twenty acres of railroad terminal property. Mrs. Hunter, who is a recently arrived eastern tourist, claims to have panned much gold dust from the dirt in her back yard, which abuts upon the railroad yards. She proposes to work her mine and build sluices and riffles without reference to the convenience of the railroad.

#### Oddity of Twins.

Yuba City, Cal.—Twins were born to a resident of Yuba City. One was born in February and the other in March. Although when they were born there was only a few minutes' difference in their ages, next year, which is leap year, their birthdays will be two days apart.

# RUSHING FOR SEATS

### Persons Desiring to See Big Procession Must Hurry.

#### Growing Enthusiasm in Great Britain and King and Queen Gain in Popularity—Fairly Large Appearance in the West End.

London.—Persons desirous of obtaining places to view the coronation procession should act quickly, as seats are selling by the hundreds every day. The prices range from 1 to 1,000 guineas (\$5 to \$5,000). The greatest care is advisable, as some of the agents are doing their utmost to run the charges up to stunning amounts. Another thing to bear in mind is the location of seats. Those accessible only from the front will have to be occupied probably before seven o'clock in the morning. Whereas those reached from the rear may be occupied just before the passing of the procession.

That the crowds are to be unprecedented is explained largely by the fact that the day of coronation, June 22, has been declared a bank holiday, which will release tens of thousands of employees who otherwise would be kept away from the line of march. Special trains will run from all parts of the United Kingdom, and the colonies are expected to send 100,000 visitors. The number of those coming from America probably will reach record figures.

Every street in the crowded area will be planked on both sides, shutting off the shops, and dangerous nooks and corners will be closed. The intention is to convert the streets into safe channels for the floods of humanity.

On every hand a spirit of growing enthusiasm is manifested and the king and queen are gaining fresh popular laurels week by week. The work of preparing Westminster abbey for the coronation is being hurried, as great changes are to be made within and without. An annex is being built, externally indistinguishable from the gray, time worn abbey itself. Here the procession will be formed before the king and queen proceed to the place of crowning. The special coronation committee, the earl marshal of England and almost every governmental department are busy with some part of the coronation preparations.

For the decoration of the streets a special committee has been appointed, and an attempt will be made to give the West end the appearance of fairyland. The ceremonial service at the abbey will be extraordinarily rich and original.

People from every quarter of the globe are booking hotel rooms and visitors already are on the way to London from distant parts of the world, intending to make a holiday here during the brilliant season.

The performance of Bulwer Lytton's "Money" at Drury Lane in honor of the emperor and empress of Germany probably will be the most memorable theatrical event in the history of the metropolis. In the central part of the grand circle will be built up a magnificent box for the king and queen, the imperial guests and their suite and personages at court. There will not be a foot of vacant room in the great playhouse.

# TIMBER IN INLAND EMPIRE

### Sufficient Quantity in District to Build 17,000,000 Four or Five-Room Cottages.

Spokane, Wash.—Statistics compiled by A. W. Cooper, secretary of the Western Pine Manufacturers' association, show there is an available supply of standing timber in the Inland Empire to construct 17,000,000 four and five room cottages, or sufficient to house more than half the population of the United States and Canada.

Four hundred mills in the district having a total capacity of 3,000,000 feet, cut 1,463,000,000 feet, or 60,000 cars of lumber in 1910, as against 1,350,000,000 feet in 1909. The value of the product at the mill is estimated at \$21,000,000, of which amount \$14,000,000 was paid for labor. Six million dollars was paid to railroads for hauling the output. The value of the stumpage cut is placed at \$3,000,000.

The report shows there is about \$110,000,000 invested in the industry in this district, and that the working capital employed ranges from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000. One hundred thousand persons are directly supported by the industry and 20,000 men are employed on a basis of 300 days a year.

#### Aeroplane Flights Are Banned.

San Francisco.—A report has brought here by the steamer Mongolia from the orient that Aviator J. C. Math was prohibited by the British authorities from making flights at Hongkong. The British government has strict regulations against the use of aeroplanes within the sight of fortifications. Math, who left here in January, gave exhibitions in Honolulu. It is said that he planned ambitious work on the present tour.

#### To Secure Immigrants.

Helena, Mont.—Governors of several states will be asked to meet in Helena May 3 and 4 to form the Northwestern Development League for the purpose of securing co-operation among Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota in the matter of bringing desirable immigrants to this section of the country and of stopping the flood of emigration to Canada.

# IMPORTER OF ANIMAL SKINS

### United States Does Immense Business With South and Central American Hunters in Hides.

Los Angeles, Cal.—A large business is done between the South American countries and the United States in the line of skins, most of which are made use of in the manufacture of gloves.

The trade is particularly active in deerskins, which are gathered in Mexico and Central America and in the northern countries of South America, including Brazil. In these countries, where deer abound, there are many natives who make a living collecting deer hides, which they bring by muleback or foot to the various places where the importers' agents are found.

The supply is still large, but with continued killing the deer in these countries are less plentiful than they were. Deerskins are shipped dry in bundles of 100 each. They are tanned in this country and used here in the manufacture of light and medium weight gloves for men and women.

Boarskins come from Mexico, and the hide of the Mexican peccary, with fur or bristles of a pepper and salt mixture in color, the beast being a savage-looking animal alive. Like deerskins, boar hides are shipped dry. The boarskin makes a heavier leather than deerskin and is used for glove trimmings.

Goatskins in large number are imported from the various Latin American countries, including the West Indies, but the great source of the world's supply of goatskins are China, Russia and the East Indies, in the order named. From those countries there are imported into the United States annually millions of goatskins, which are made into leather, 90 per cent of which is used in the manufacture of shoes. Goatskins are shipped principally dry.

From the countries to the south of the United States are brought annually some thousands of alligator hides, mostly from Mexico and the United States of Colombia, with some from Ecuador.

Formerly some alligator leather was used for shoes and boots, but now it is used chiefly in the manufacture of handbags and suit cases.

Occasionally there are brought here a few manatee or sea cow hides, which come from Mexico. These hides are shipped wet salted. The manatee hide tans into a very thick leather, cheaper than walrus leather, but used like it for the making of buffing wheels for polishing purposes. From Mexico also come a few tiger cub skins, which are tanned and made up into rugs.

# HEN RESTORES A LOST COIN

### Intelligent White Leghorn, Owned by Tarrytown Man, Picks Up Nickel He Had Dropped.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—John Grohan of Glenville believes he owns the most intelligent hen in New York state. The hen, which is a white Leghorn, is a pet, and Grohan has taught it many tricks.

Grohan, who is employed in Tarrytown, has to take the trolley every morning. The hen follows him to the tracks, and when he goes aboard the hen turns around and goes home.

Grohan overslept once, and he was in such a hurry to catch the trolley that he forgot about the hen until he boarded the car. He heard a flapping of wings behind him, and turning, saw the hen looking up from the ground. It lighted on his shoulder, and as it did a coin fell to the floor. It was a nickel. In his hurry to get away Grohan had dropped the coin and the hen picked it up and ran after him.

# ITALY IS TRAINING AIRMEN

### School Located Near Milan Is Soon to Have Twelve Aeroplanes for Use of Pupils.

Rome.—Colonel Moris, the leading Italian expert on military aviation, who has been in charge of the dirigible balloons at Vigna della Valle, on the Lake of Broccione, states that the Italian government will have three of these machines ready for use in a couple of months, and that the Italian school for training aerial pilots at Centocelle, near Rome, will soon have twelve aeroplanes at its disposition for the use of its pupils when it is transferred to Gallarate, near Milan.

He considers that the frequent casualties among aviators prove the need of further study, especially for military purposes. Aviation, he says, must not be treated as a sport, but as a part of the art of war.

#### Two Honeymoons in Years.

Geneva.—A young couple of Zurich, Herr and Frau Horgen, each aged 19, have just set up a matrimonial record.

They were married when 18, and soon after the honeymoon the girl wife became homesick and ran away to her parents. A divorce followed, then a reconciliation, and a few days ago they were remarried in Zurich, and are now on their second honeymoon—all within a year.

#### Roman Coins Well Preserved.

London.—The process of cleaning the coins found a few weeks ago in a Roman vase in a field upon a farm at Edwinstowe shows that they comprise 369 denarii dating from 69 to 193 A. D. Although these coins must have been buried for 17 centuries, they are in a perfect state of preservation.

# HOW TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

### Grade School Children of Des Moines to Be Taught the Art of Self-Preservation.

Des Moines, Iowa.—Des Moines grade school children will be taught how to prevent accidents to themselves while in the city streets, if the Greater Des Moines school board decides to adopt a plan which will soon be proposed by Dan Finch, claim agent for the Des Moines City Railway company. Mr. Finch stated that he expects to go before the board and suggest a course of study which he believes, if followed by the children, will cut down accidents to the people of Des Moines in the future.

The plan Mr. Finch has mapped out embodies numerous suggestions which, if told the children by their school teachers, will cause them to exercise much greater care while in the streets.

"Adults can not be taught to exercise care," said Mr. Finch. "They will continue to be careless and get hurt. There is no need, however, of allowing the children to grow up in the same rut their fathers and mothers have lived in. Teach the child that danger lurks in the crowded street and how to avoid it, and the death and injury rate will be cut down 90 per cent in a few years. Parents seldom give the child any more than a parting warning. The only sure way to impress on a child's mind that it should be careful in the streets is to have it taught in the schools.

"The children should be taught how to get on and off street cars. They should also be taught to stop, look and listen at crossings. When in the busiest streets they should have it deeply impressed on their minds that the utmost caution should be taken in crossing. Not only would such a plan save the children from injury, but the lessons learned in childhood are never forgotten. In Portland, Ore., and several other western cities, I am told, the study of self-preservation is one of the regular courses of study in the grade schools. Des Moines should keep abreast of the times, and I hope that the people and the board will become deeply interested in the movement."

# WOMEN TO DO HOUSEWORK

### Should Be Trained for Domestic Services Like Men for Army, Says German Feminist.

Berlin.—Compulsory domestic service for girls and women as an equivalent to the universal military service incumbent upon men is a novel proposal put forward by Fraulein Pauline Wornor, a German feminist.

Fraulein Wornor points out that compulsory military training has contributed enormously both to the mental and physical development of German manhood, and declares that similar benefits would be inevitable if the women subjects of the kaiser were compelled to undergo the training for which nature best fits them.

She explains that it could be enforced without burdening the national budget and that it is men who would benefit most from the system, because the state would thus assure them competent and experienced housewives. Fraulein Wornor thinks the marriage institution would also become more popular if men knew they could select wives who had done service with the "colors" in kitchen, laundry, nursery and sewing room.

# BANKERS AIM TO SAVE SOIL

### Every Farmer in Illinois to Be Reached by Copy of Dr. Hopkins' Printed Wisdom.

Chicago.—Illinois has become the center of a great movement for the advance of scientific farming. Experts of the University of Illinois, led by Dr. Cyril C. Hopkins, chief in agronomy, are advancing the campaign through the Bankers' association of Illinois. There are 1,480 banks behind the movement for preservation of the richness of the soil of Illinois.

Fifty thousand farmers are to be reached in the first move of the campaign. That is the number of the first edition of "Saving the Soil," a new booklet, by Dr. Hopkins, issued for distribution in every city and village in the state, and sent out today through the bankers' organization. Secretary Richard L. Crampton of the association announced the next issue, on another agricultural topic, will be 500,000 folders.

# Big Farm for Tramps.

Albany, N. Y.—The New York state board of charities in its annual report to the legislature recommends the establishment of a million-dollar farm colony for tramps and vagrants. It points out that these classes are now kept practically in idleness in the penitentiaries, jails and workhouses as an annual cost of \$2,000,000, whereas, following the example of a number of countries of Europe, they could be humanely maintained and cared for in farm colonies which could be made self-supporting through their labor.

# Discoveries of Tin.

London.—Considerable interest has been excited in the Tavistock district by the successful operations of a Glasgow syndicate, which has made important discoveries of tin in the Wheal Jewell part of the once famous Friendship mines. Part of the property investigated has not been worked previously for 100 years.

# PREDICT BIG CROPS

### Reports From North, West and South Indicate Good Year.

#### Soil Conditions Are Excellent and While Individual Crops May Be Smaller Than Last Year, They Are Diversified.

St. Louis.—Reports on agricultural indications from all the great producing states of the middle west, the north, the northwest, the west, the southwest, the south and the southeast are exceptionally propitious. Weather conditions have put the soil into the best of shape and everything is favorable for large and good crops.

Interpretation of the reports, obtained from authentic and reliable sources, leads to the conclusion that, while the crops may not be as large, individually, as last year, the production will be more diversified and the total output will be enormous.

Should this understanding of the reports materialize, the tendency would be toward comparatively high prices. At the same time the volume of the general agricultural production should afford employment to a vast army of laborers and cause such a distribution of the revenue as to vitalize trade.

Taking the producing territories in their entirety, the soil conditions are better than ordinary and the crop prospects are excellent. There is one locality in the southwest and one in the northwest which declares weather and soil conditions to be discouraging and Montana fears that a too rapid thawing of the mountain snows might result in another dry season. Other wise the reports are more than gratifying.

All the crops, without exception, are said to be at least as good as a year ago, with better soil conditions. In fact, it would not be surprising if the grain production should exceed the forecast, in which case prices would not be so high.

But the communications appear to show at present that while individual crops will not be extraordinary, the total production will be enormous. In any event, the farmers look forward to a very prosperous year, and this, of course, means heavy wholesale and retail trade.

The fruit crop has not been damaged much. Most of the reports indicate rather a large and qualitative fruit crop. The same inference holds regarding early vegetables.

Probably the most significant feature of the communications is the expansion of farming in southeastern and southern states. Diversification steadily is becoming a more vital factor in American production. The collective reports seem to indicate large and diversified crops, with work for many laborers and the probability of comparatively high prices.

They assure a prosperous year to the farmer, the merchant and the workman, provided the turns of the seasons are favorable to the crops and normal weather promises favorable conditions.

# JUDGE GIVEN BIG SURPRISE

### "First Person I Ever Saw Smile at Charge of Murder," Court Tells Woman at Bar.

Chicago.—Municipal Judge Newcomer expressed surprise at the attitude of Mrs. Stella Putter Schmieder, who was arraigned before him the other day pending extradition papers to remove her to Argentina, Ark., to stand trial on the charge of murdering her husband. She smiled continually and the smiles finally moved the court to say he couldn't see anything to laugh about.

Detective W. A. Jones of Argentina, who arrested her, told the judge that Mrs. Schmieder had agreed to go back without extradition papers. Judge Newcomer said to the woman: "Are you aware of the nature of the charge against you?"

"Yes," said Mrs. Schmieder, smiling. "You know it is murder," continued the judge.

"Yes," said Mrs. Schmieder, still smiling.

"Do you know the penalty may be death?"

"Yes," she said, smiling.

"Well, you are the first person I ever saw smile at a similar charge," commented the judge.

"There is no use in crying over it," returned the smiling woman.

# Mrs. Harriman Pays Big Tax.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—State officials have forwarded to New York for collection a check for \$798,546.85 signed by Mary W. Harriman. The check was given in payment of the 5 per cent inheritance tax on \$5,000 shares of common and 51,900 shares of preferred stock in the Union Pacific railroad worth \$15,980,937, belonging to the estate of the late E. H. Harriman. Utah was entitled to the tax, as the Union Pacific is incorporated in this state.

# Queue-Cutting Parties Rage.

Shanghai.—Since the edict abolishing queues has become popular in Shanghai and other Chinese cities, known as "queue-cutting parties." There are regular queue-cutting societies organized, and the members hold public meetings in the tea houses, inviting the Chinese to step up and have their queues cut off, much as a preacher exhorts the sinner to come up and be saved at a revival.