

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., October 15, 1926.

Nation's Fire Loss Runs Into Millions.

The nation's fire loss in 1925 was \$562,751,466, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the country's authority on the subject. This was an increase of \$13,689,432 over 1924. The increase in the annual fire loss since 1923 is \$403,759,969.

Who pays this tremendous annual tribute to destruction? Not only the owners of the property destroyed; not only the families of the 20,000 persons who die in fires every year. Every resident of the country pays his share for this loss, exceeding half a billion dollars annually, in what keeps insurance rates high. These destructive fires—one dwelling house burns in our country every four minutes day and night—are what make it necessary for the taxpayers to maintain fire departments. The national fire loss is a national problem, and for that reason President Coolidge has set apart the week of October 3 to 9 for public instruction as to the causes of fires and means of preventing them.

Just what this half-million dollar drain on our national wealth means may be visualized this way: Uncle Sam, in taxing the incomes of his people, allows an exemption of \$20 for every child. That is sufficient, presumably, because it is exempted to keep a child in school for a year. On this basis it appears that the money we waste by fires every year would keep more than 2,000,000 children in school.

Yet we go on wasting it, for it is waste, because it can be prevented. Insurance experts, fire department officials and engineers firmly state that 75 per cent. of the fires that cause this tremendous total loss are preventable.

How? By being careful with matches, cigars and cigarettes, and by keeping chimneys clean so that they do not throw burning embers upon roofs. But caution alone will not save our nation \$563,751,466. What is more needed is PREVENTION. The reason why buildings burn is that they are built so they will burn. The fundamental way to prevent their burning is to "build so it won't burn."

This does not necessarily mean that the average home-owner must adopt expensive masonry construction to substitute the traditional American wood frame house. It means to build wisely with wood, but protect it at its most vulnerable points.

This is the path to an appreciable reduction in our enormous annual fire loss and protection for yourself and your family. How much money have you to burn?—Exchange.

Paris Limits Number of Legionnaires to 30,000.

The National France convention committee of the American Legion announces that the French government has limited the number of American Legionnaires who can be cared for in Paris during the Legion convention in September, 1927, to 30,000, that total being as many as the housing accommodations will permit. There are no large hotels in Paris, as Americans know them in the large cities of the United States. No other conventions will be permitted in the French capital during the proposed Legion convention week, September 19-23, 1927.

Because of this limitation, an allotment of space on the 24 ocean liners that will carry the Legionnaires to France has been determined, based on Legion membership in each State, the booking of berths, beginning November 15, 1926, will be done in each State by the department France convention officers, until March 1, 1927, when those infirm who will be returned to John J. Wicker, Jr., national director of the committee, who will then fill them direct from his office from States whose allotments were not sufficient to care for the demand.

Country Going Backward in Cases of Drunkenness.

The United States as a whole has gone backward rather than forward with respect to liquor drinking and drunkenness as a result of the Volstead act, according to a survey of the public this week by the Moderation League, composed of scholars, jurists, industrialists and professional men. The survey covered a nation-wide study of liquor conditions during the past year.

In hundreds of the principal cities of the country the number of intoxicated persons has exceeded all previous records, and even surpassed prohibition figures, the report stated. The number of cases of drunken automobile drivers has run to new high levels, and liquor drinking by youths of both sexes has risen to such an extraordinary degree, it was announced, that it now constitutes one of the most alarming factors of the present situation. Considering all phases of the situation, conditions in the original dry States today are worse than were conditions in the so-called wet States in 1914, the report declares.

Cuts, Threshes, Plows 100 Acres in One Day.

Hutchinson, Kan.—What a few years ago would have been the wildest dreams of imagination are now becoming matter of fact, everyday stories in the Kansas wheat fields. For instance, there's the case of Irwin Brownlee, a young farmer near Zenith, west of here a few miles. He started in at daybreak one morning with a 50-horsepower tractor and a combine cutting a 20-foot swath. Hooked on behind were plows. As the wheat was cut and threshed the ground behind the harvester was immediately plowed. When night came Brownlee had cut, threshed and put in the bin 100 acres of wheat—some 3,000 bushels in all—and his land was plowed again. All in one day's work. And he and two men did it.

FARM NOTES.

—One animal on the farm that we ought always to keep on the right side of the horse.

—Build the self-feeders so they will be ready for the spring crop of live stock, say farm engineering workers.

Lift the house plants that have been plunged all summer; bring them in to a frame or to a cool part of the house to get ready for winter indoors.

Alfalfa is not bad for horses, but fine for them, unless too much is fed. They will eat too much if given a chance, and they then incline to soften and sweat easily.

Bull associations promote the rapid development of community breeding and increase the interest in better dairy cattle, say specialists at the Pennsylvania State College.

If you have never tried to keep a few sheep, just make the start. They are easy to take care of and return handsome profits. They also perform good service in eradicating weeds.

In the production of baby beef, the calves must be kept fat. Since calves grow more readily than they fatten, they must be fed more grain and less hay and forage than older steers. By feeding a mixture of grain they will eat more than if only one kind is fed.

Hogging off corn is an economical way of putting gains on hogs. It saves the labor of husking and cribbing corn and the work of feeding. Cost account records kept last year by a successful Pennsylvania farmer revealed that the returns from hogged off corn were three times the price of corn on the local markets.

Instances of a variation of from 18 to 30 cents in the price of eggs received by farmers often are noted at this time of year. Local market conditions and methods of selling frequently have an influence, but the quality of eggs produced is the chief cause of this difference in price. Small, dirty, old eggs will not command the price of large, clean fresh eggs.

If you have kept notes on the behavior of certain varieties of vegetables this year you will know which ones to plant next year. Also consider the quality of the seed you had this year. Did it germinate well under the prevailing soil and weather conditions? Profit by this year's experience and get seeds that will germinate well and produce vegetables of fine quality and flavor, and also early ones.

There have been some feeding trials with beef steers to determine the value of clover as compared to alfalfa. When steers were fed in Indiana on silage, corn, and cottonseed meal, clover hay was found to be fully equal to alfalfa hay, ton for ton. Doubtless these results may have been affected more or less by the fact that enough protein-rich concentrates were fed to balance the ration even though no legumes had been fed. This probably resulted in the loss of the advantage of alfalfa hay in its richer protein content. However, when fed in rations which are low in protein, alfalfa has been found to be worth more per ton than clover hay of equal quality.

The practice that some farmers follow of permitting their hogs to find shelter in straw stacks during cold weather is a very dangerous one for the reason that on cold nights hogs are inclined to burrow deep into these stacks, or perhaps to pile up closely together—and then when morning comes and when they crawl out of their nests they are frequently so warm from perspiration that they steam as they walk out into the cold air. Such a condition can very easily produce pneumonia and is therefore a very risky policy. The wiser course is to provide sheds of one kind or another that are dry under foot and so well ventilated that the animals cannot become excessively warm.

Farmers in Pennsylvania are buying each year from outside the State approximately 25,000 cattle for dairy and breeding purposes while they sell only 3000 from the State, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Most cattle owners appreciate the fact that unless they breed and raise healthy cattle it is practically impossible to dispose of them. In order to be a success, all live stock improvement programs must be built on the foundation of a healthy herd. Attention must likewise be given to the productive capacity of the cows because the buyers of the future will demand evidence of production as well as health. The breeder who can furnish both will find a ready market for surplus dairy animals, asserts E. P. Willis, Secretary of Agriculture.

With the number of cattle under supervision and the activity on the part of the owners to breed and raise better cattle, indications point to a time when a sufficient number of cattle will be raised to meet the needs in Pennsylvania, and later on the State will become a selling rather than a buying territory.

The opportunity to sell will continue to exist after this occurs for the reason that adjacent States such as New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut will always be buying States. The owners who desire cattle in these States at this time are going through Pennsylvania and are buying their cattle in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Pennsylvania has numerous sections where a large number of farmers are soon will be breeding high-producing pure-bred cattle because of the good pastures, low land values, remote markets for the more perishable products, and favorable health conditions. These sections will become a source of supply for other areas.

England has 88 women undertakers, and eight of these practice in London. The women undertakers in England specialize in arranging the funerals of children.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, SUBMITTED BY THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, FOR APPROVAL OR REJECTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

No. 1-A.
A JOINT RESOLUTION
Proposing an amendment to article nine, section four of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania be and the same is hereby proposed in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:

That section four of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repeal invasions, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiencies in revenue shall never exceed in the aggregate any one hundred million dollars; Provided, however, That the General Assembly, irrespective of any debt, may authorize the State to issue bonds to the amount of thirty-five millions of dollars for the purpose of compensation to certain persons from this State who served in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States, between the sixth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and the eighth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 1-A.
CLYDE L. KING,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

No. 2-A.
A JOINT RESOLUTION
Proposing an amendment to article nine, section four of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the State to issue bonds to the amount of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars for the purpose of the improvement of the highways of the Commonwealth.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania be and the same is hereby proposed in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:

That section four of article nine is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State except to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repeal invasions, suppress insurrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiencies in revenue shall never exceed in the aggregate, at any one time, one million dollars; Provided, however, That the General Assembly may authorize the State to issue bonds to the amount of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars for the purpose of improving and rebuilding the highways of the Commonwealth.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 2-A.
CLYDE L. KING,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

No. 3-A.
A JOINT RESOLUTION
Proposing an amendment to article nine of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by adding thereto an additional section.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania be and the same is hereby proposed in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:

That article nine of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be amended by adding thereto the following new section:

Section 16. The General Assembly may authorize the City of Philadelphia to levy special assessments against both abutting and non-abutting property, peculiarly benefited, for the payment of any public improvement, such as the construction, maintenance, drainage and sewerage systems, flood protective works, wharves, piers and quays, highways, tunnels and bridges, and undergound and overhead streets, supplementing original streets or street systems; to levy general and special taxes and special assessments therefor, either before or after the laying out and construction thereof; and to provide that all special taxes and special assessments so levied whether payable presently when so levied or in installments over a period of years shall be credits or offsets to indebtedness incurred by the City of Philadelphia for the debt of such city; to provide for the use and operation of any rapid transit system by private corporations organized for that purpose, as provided in pursuance hereof shall authorize the construction of any rapid transit railway system, flood protective works, wharves, piers and quays, highways, tunnels and bridges, and undergound and overhead streets, supplementing original streets or street systems; 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