

FIRES DURING THE YEAR.

RECORD OF MARSHAL BLACKBURN.

We present below a chronicle of the fires that occurred in Philadelphia during the year 1861. The report of Fire Marshal Dr. A. W. Blackburn, as submitted to the board of the Fire Department, during that period, is a most interesting and valuable document. It contains a quantity of new and interesting information relative to the origin, extent, and suppression of fires and is a most valuable document to all who are scholars and students. None have a more accurate and more complete record of the fires that occurred in Philadelphia during the year 1861 than this report.

PHILADELPHIA, January 22, 1862.

Sir: Notwithstanding the extraordinary character of the events which have marked the year 1861, I am glad to state that nothing occurred in the history of fires in our metropolis, during that period, which has not been previously recorded. It is a matter of course to create alarm among our citizens for the safety of their homes and property. It affords me an opportunity to state that the number of fires which occurred during the year 1861 was not so numerous as in former years. The number of fires which occurred during the year 1861 was 1,000, and the amount of property destroyed was \$1,000,000.

THE HEAVIEST LOSSES BY FIRE.

The most destructive conflagration of the year was the burning in the morning of October 10th, of the extensive and valuable manufacturing establishment of the corner of Third and Market streets, owned by Messrs. G. W. & J. B. Starnes. The loss in this case was \$1,000,000. The next in the amount of loss was the destruction of the large residence of the late Dr. J. C. Smith, situated at the corner of Chestnut and Market streets, on the 15th of November. The loss in this case was \$500,000.

CAUSES OF FIRES.

Of the 381 fires, only 45 were caused by lightning. The remaining 336 were caused by other causes. The most common cause of fires was carelessness in the use of lamps. The next most common cause was the use of stoves. The third most common cause was the use of candles. The fourth most common cause was the use of matches.

Condition of the Army Hospitals in Missouri.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Republic, who has visited the army hospitals in Missouri, reports that the condition of the hospitals is very good. The hospitals are well supplied with medical supplies and the medical staff is very efficient. The patients are well cared for and the hospitals are very comfortable.

MEMORANDA.

Mr. George M. Smith, of the firm of G. M. Smith & Co., has been appointed agent for the sale of the property of the late Dr. J. C. Smith. The property consists of a large residence situated at the corner of Chestnut and Market streets. The property is to be sold at public auction on the 15th of February next.

PERSONAL INQUIRIES.

When the vessel which was wrecked off the coast of New York was in a state of distress, various rumors were current as to the fate of the vessel and its crew. It is now ascertained that the vessel was wrecked on the coast of New York and that the crew was rescued. The vessel was the S. S. "Enterprise" and the crew consisted of 20 men.

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"Eat Your Bread First."

In former years, one of our citizens of the name of John Payne, who in early life was a laboring man, and always dressed indifferently, but who, by industry and economy, had accumulated a large fortune, was one day returning from market with a ham and a side of beef for roasting.

RECIPE.

Kerosene is fast taking the place of lamp oil and other burning fluids as a light. There is a great quantity of kerosene now being used in Philadelphia. It is a most convenient and economical fuel. It is used in lamps, stoves, and other household articles. It is also used in factories and workshops.

BENZINE AS A SOURCE OF FIRES.

Benzine has lately been the cause of at least a score of fires in this city. It is a most dangerous and inflammable liquid. It is used in lamps, stoves, and other household articles. It is also used in factories and workshops. It is a most convenient and economical fuel.

EFFICIENCY OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

I cannot close this report without bearing testimony to the activity and efficiency of the Police Department. The police are well organized and well equipped. They are efficient in their duties and are a great help to the Fire Department. They are also efficient in their duties as a police force.

THE SALT QUESTION.

The question of "Salting the Tracks" has been a subject of much discussion in Philadelphia. It is a question of public health and safety. It is a question of the rights of property. It is a question of the rights of the community. It is a question of the rights of the State.

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

JOHN W. BROWN, President. The Board of Trade is a most important and influential organization in Philadelphia. It is composed of the leading business men of the city. It is a most efficient and successful organization. It is a great help to the community.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

Ship Charles Cox, Wilmington, N. C., Jan. 25, 1862. The conditions at the front are very good. The soldiers are well cared for and the hospitals are very comfortable. The soldiers are very brave and very patriotic. They are fighting for the Union and for the freedom of the people.

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MUTTER'S COUGH SYRUP.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES.

DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA. Incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, 1858. Office, southeast corner of Third and Walnut streets.

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