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We have been assisted greatly in providing telephone service in these busy times by the cordial co-operation of the public, who have been quick to appreciate the extraordinary job we were doing under war conditions, and we are very grateful for this co-operation.



MASTERS SPOKE TO VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Widely Known Auburn Firemen Advanced New Ideas for Fire Departments

Harold S. Thomas, one of the four Thomas boys in the service of their country, is fortunate in being a member of the third army of occupation and in a letter to the editor Lloyd C. Thomas, this week tells of his trip and observations:

At the state convention of volunteer firemen at Fremont one of the most interesting speeches was by C. H. Masters of Auburn one of the best known firemen in the state.

His speech, given on Wednesday, January 22nd, was as follows:

"Mr. President and Brother Firemen—Without apologies for my efforts on this subject, I wish to state that in order to make myself clear and relieve the president of any responsibility, I was permitted to choose my own subject, and considering that efficiency for fire fighting has been so thoroughly discussed time and time again and that being our principle object the subject as was mentioned naturally presented itself, and I have endeavored to confine my remarks and suggestions more for the special advantage of the departments.

"How to advance the interests of Volunteer Firemen."

There is much that may be said in that regard, and it isn't necessary for me to explain that I don't mean the personal interests of any firemen but for the benefits of the firemen as an organization I will make my recommendations. I do not care to pose as authority, because all which I have to suggest might not work out practically, and would depend upon the personality of those who make up the organization. However, there is room for improvement in most departments.

First, let us figure out just why it is that some departments forge ahead and take the lead in their respective communities. They always have the confidence and respect of all; they merit and obtain the support, both morally, and financially of the business men and citizens generally, while the rest of us lag behind and don't seem to get anywhere, and if we attempt anything it "FALLS FLAT." No one cares if our promotions are a success or not. We never get any publicity locally or elsewhere, but plenty of criticism at the fires and contention at the meetings. Knockers in and out of the department, etc. Now there are reasons for these conditions. What are they and why do they exist? Of course, it is generally understood that the object of a volunteer fireman is not to advance his interest, politically, socially or financially; but these very things are absolutely necessary to the organization to obtain the results required in our premise, viz:

"The protection of property from loss by fire." Now if that statement is true, and I believe that it is, then the department that does not cater to one or all of them cannot thrive. We all admit that a little cash makes things more convenient and is sometimes the "tie" that "binds." Now the best proof for that in our case is the fact that each insurance company "voluntarily" donates five dollars each year for the maintenance of the local department, wherever they do a business, and why? And if the insurance companies' "bit" helps, then a big fat treasury will do wonders. Well, someone says: "What's the big idea of all this idle money?" We will come to that later but just HOW to possess a big fat treasury is the problem. There are numerous ways to realize revenue aside from the direct cash subscriptions.

In promoting athletic contests, fairs, literary societies, dinners, etc your organization gradually becomes prominent in the social life of your city, and while your resources are accumulating your popularity increases, and automatically the community look up to the firemen for recreation, amusement and entertainment. BE ACTIVE. START SOMETHING. A setting hen never gets fat. Every town needs an organization to take charge of municipal public occasions, and it is a good opportunity for the firemen. Be in co-operation with your Commercial Club, a sort of an auxiliary, and use your moral and financial support for anything that is for the betterment of your town. Stick together, and make your weight felt. Keep before the public an organization. Furnish your local newspapers with all items of news and interest to the public concerning the Department, and whenever it is practical attend gatherings in a body. Equip a "Gym" Organize a Basket Ball Team, Firemen's Quartet. Rent the movies for one night occasionally. Have special State Association & Mutual Aid. Be a "regular" Fire Department.

Of course we all know that the last year or two have been strenuous ones all on account of Kaiser, and we have all had to dig deep on every hand, but we have been gloriously rewarded. And while quite a number of our Brother Firemen went across and some are still over there, let us in our comfortable homes be planning on something for the boys when they return to the Home Department, which will prove to them that we have not let the Old Company die in their absence, and let them see that we are actually the liveliest bunch in the town and one they will be glad to return to and be proud to be a member of.

But remember boys, the Company or Department that obtain and maintain that standing in any community can not do so without the proper stuff in each and every man in that Company. They must be a Pushing bunch, composed of men who are unselfish, men who can and will vote for a competitor; men who will do their share, even though someone else originated the idea; men who can propose as well as oppose; men that don't loose their "Pep" when they are not made chairman of the

committee or made one of the officers. Now whenever an organization such as I have described and recommended are on a working basis, they are a credit to any city or community from any angle you may choose to view them. They will always have a "Waiting List" composed of responsible, influential and ambitious men to fill vacancies as fast as they occur, and they have made one big stride on the path of progress and advancement and they have a body of men such as are here today; Citizens, Business men, and Professionals of men who are tax payers and vitally interested in the City's welfare, and since the Fire Department are under the jurisdiction of the Mayor and City Council no one will dispute the policy of the Firemen being represented by one or two of their own men and they should be. I don't mean for a selfish purpose, but for protection and justice, and sometimes that is very necessary in the matter of purchasing equipment, making levies, etc. and helping to put the Fire Department up to standard in every respect with reference to equipment.

And now, gentle men with your social organization in full swing, your modern equipment and "Fat Treasury" you are on the last lap of efficiency as a Volunteer Fire Department and your success will be complete when you have joined the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association and Mutual Aid, and then your treasury comes handy in defraying expenses of your fireman, at the convention where we may come boldly before your legislative Committee and make our demands, and on this line I wish to make a few suggestions at this time, which I believe merit consideration.

First, I believe the present system is wrong which provided for the insurance rates without taking into consideration the efficiency of the Local Fire Department. For example in my home town, Auburn, the insurance rates were the same after we organized as they were before and they having never changed, notwithstanding our two motor trucks, chemical and hose combination fully equipped (of course that doesn't speak very flattering of our efficiency) but this is the condition, hence we have nothing to show for our efforts as firemen, or the city's expenditures for equipment. The insurance companies tell us that we have always had rates equal to the city with adequate fire protection. Now if that was the case we were lucky and had no need of a Volunteer Fire Department but it don't occur to me that the insurance companies do business that way, and if I am right our and 1917 we saved the insurance companies in our town the round sum of \$12,700.00 on buildings alone, not counting what might have burned without those two old man killers of hose carts (which we were so ashamed of when you were all down to our town) and our chiefs report this year shows with our modern equipment we have saved the insurance companies the sum of \$27,410.00. Of course the Insurance Companies might have lost money in our town at that, provided their losses exceeded the premiums, but that doesn't enter into question. The fact still remains that the well organized department saves insurance companies thousands of dollars each year.

Now what I am getting at is this—Why not the department receive some direct benefit for their efforts—some one says we do. What about the \$5.00 per company, occupation-tax. I'll tell you its an insult to the firemen, to think that the services of from fifty to one hundred men, including equipment and materials to fight fire for a year is only worth \$5.00 to an insurance company writing 100 of \$1,000 worth of premiums and it occurs to me that some direct legislation along this line is what we need. Its true each fireman is exempt from Pole Tax equal to \$2.50 which will just pay for the extra shoe shines necessitated. Then after five years service he is exempt from pole tax the rest of his life in Nebraska, but what is the inducement for a member to stay longer than five Just at the time when he becomes of most value, we tell him, "You can stick if you want to, but we must stop your pay. But the funny part of it is we all stick; but suppose we didn't, what would happen. Every five years 10,000 men will never pay poll taxes again in Nebraska, which would mean that the state of Nebraska would lose via poll tax \$175,000.00 dollars in 25 years of from the birth of this Nebraska State Volunteer Fire Association until now; that being the case, I believe our benefactors should be required to provide some substantial inducement to those who continue to serve after five years.

Now gentlemen I believe we should bring about these results. Requesting our State Fire Warden to make an "Efficiency rating" pertaining to fire departments all over the state, and that the insurance rate adjuster be governed accordingly in making rates; then the benefactor who ever it may be, Insurance Company, City or State be required to make concessions accordingly direct to the departments (you may observe that I am not very strong for this total volunteer stuff) but I believe that in the intense heat of excitement some one is setting our share of the melon—in other words we are half way to the Fire station when some one says, "That's Cerfaw" so lets turn off the water" and see if we are really doing any good, and if so, who is getting the benefit, then lets say as an association, "Come Across"

TRAILERS ARE NOW UNIVERSALLY USED

The motor trucks which are in general use by the farmers are not large trucks, but usually small ones with a nominal capacity of 1 to 2 tons. In quite a number of counties throughout the country the trucks used for hauling are made-over pas-

senger cars. In some cases light wagons are attached as trailers to ordinary passenger cars and produce is taken to market in that way. In California and North Dakota as well

as in Nebraska, tractors, each drawing several wagons, are used for hauling grain. Trailers are also used especially in our section of the west, with horse drawn wagons.

OLD AGE STARTS WITH YOUR KIDNEYS

Science says that old age begins with weakened kidneys and digestive organs. This being true, it is easy to believe that by keeping the kidneys and digestive organs cleansed and in proper working order old age can be deferred and life prolonged far beyond that enjoyed by the average person.

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swallow of water. The oil stimulates the kidney action and enables the organs to throw off the poisons which cause premature old age. New life and strength increase as you continue the treatment. When completely restored continue taking a capsule or two each day. GOLD MEDAL Haarlem Oil Capsules will keep you in health and vigor and prevent a return of the disease. Do not wait until old age or disease have settled down for good. Go to your drugist—and get a box of GOLD MEDAL Haarlem Oil Capsules. Money refunded if they do not help you. Three sizes. But remember to ask for the original imported GOLD MEDAL brand. In sealed packages.

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