

IOWA FIRE LOSSES HEAVY

Half Million Dollars' Worth of Property Burned in Two Months.

FOUR HUNDRED FIRES REPORTED

Two of These Are Incendiary and Fifteen Others Probably Are.

Bulletin on Prevention of Fires.

DES MOINES, Ia., Oct. 29.—(Special)—Over a half million dollars fire loss was reported to the state fire marshal from Iowa localities for the months of August and September. The exact estimate of loss was \$526,914, and this was caused by 427 separate fires that were reported. Of these fires the cause was unknown in 100 cases, but lightning alone caused 115 fires. Two were known to be incendiary and fifteen others probably so. State Fire Marshal Roy has just prepared and will soon send out to the teachers of the state a bulletin in regard to fire and its prevention detailed as a text book in the schools. It is issued under authority of law and at state expense for free distribution. The law also requires that the subject shall be presented to pupils in every school room of the state at least once each term, and the commissioner requests that it shall be presented to pupils often. The bulletin discusses every phase of the cause and prevention of fires. There are also instructions for fire drills in schools.

The state will on next Wednesday observe "fire prevention day" and make a special effort to show the need of care in prevention of fires. In this work the insurance companies are co-operating with the state officers and mayors of cities.

Change in Insurance Company.

A notable change will be made soon in the management of by far the largest insurance company in Iowa. This is the Bankers Life, which has been doing business as an assessment company here for many years and has upwards of 200,000 members. The company will continue as a mutual company but hereafter issue policies only with a clause providing for a reserve fund and payment on a level premium. In this way the company will in time establish big reserve fund. For many years the company has been notable as the one great example of a strictly mutual assessment company continuing to do business without changing its rates. The old business will be completed on the basis on which it was written, but the new business will be different. The company has members in almost every town of the middle states.

Discusses School Problems.

The State Teachers' association will have up for discussion this year some important matters. When the council of administration meets on November 8, it will take up for discussion the administration of local units, the township, town or county organization, and also the general administration of the state educational system. It is expected that the legislative committee will also present to the convention resolutions that will outline some radical reforms in regard to the state educational system. The program includes discussion of a great many heavy topics. The entertainment feature of the association meeting will be a great musical concert.

High Schools and Colleges.
P. E. McClellan, state inspector of secondary schools, after a tour of the state, finds that 153 of the accredited high schools of the state, out of a total of 272 accredited schools, have sent honor students to the three educational institutions under the control of the State Board of Education. The high school honor scholarship permits one student from each accredited school to take a complete college course free of charge at any of the three state institutions. He finds that of the 153 students thus far taking advantage of the offer, twenty-eight chose the State Teachers' college at Cedar Falls, thirty-eight the Agricultural college at Ames, and eighty-seven the State university at Iowa City.

State Taxable Property.
The official amount of the total adjusted taxable value of all property in Iowa was made public yesterday by State Auditor Bleakley. It is \$557,338,279 for the year 1911, or the highest it has ever been in the history of the state. This is one-fourth of the actual value. It is also nearly \$1,000,000 more than the adjusted taxable value for 1910, which was \$880,584,41. The taxable value is divided as follows:

Total tax value.....	\$557,338,279
Real estate.....	\$551,623,066
Personal property.....	134,625,882
Railroads.....	66,870,867
Sleeping cars.....	284,061
Telephone and telegraph.....	4,317,903
Express companies.....	207,398

Looking for Candidates.

Both republicans and democrats are looking for candidates for nomination for state offices. The republicans have candidates out now for each state office to be filled and in some cases two and three, but many of these candidates are independent and not beholden to any clique or faction and the desire is to get out factional candidates who will bring on a fight. There is but one candidate among the republicans for governor, Lieutenant Governor George W. Clarke, and some of the active politicians here are not

satisfied with him, and are looking around for other candidates, and it is expected that at least two will yet be brought into the field. The democrats have as yet no candidate for governor, but it is expected that Frank O'Connor, a member of the last legislature, will be a candidate; and it is now announced that F. G. Dunn of Mason City will also be a candidate. For other places on the democratic ticket it will be necessary to draft candidates.

In Polkette People Are Inactive.

It cannot be discovered that the La Polkette people are at all active in Iowa, nor are they doing anything to secure delegations from the state. There has been talk of a series of meetings, but unless the Wisconsin senator comes personally to Iowa it is probable nothing will be done. No headquarters will be opened here, so far as at present determined. The effort to secure a state primary for selection of delegates to the national convention has not made very much progress, but there is an increasing number of the newspapers favorable to the same. The outcome of a primary would be in doubt, and it is not at all certain what a convention would do. Thus far the political lines for next year have not been well drawn on national matters.

Council Bluffs**EVOLVE THEORY OF MURDER**

Bluffs Police Still Holding White in Failers Case.

ALLEGED TOLD HOW HE SHOT MAN

Two Had Several Differences—Witnes Lothrop Narrates Story of Shooting as Told to Him.

The Council Bluffs police officers are proceeding with much confidence upon the theory that they have discovered in the person of L. C. White, an aged and decrepit old man, who has lived for many years with his aged wife and daughter in the little shanty in the woods south of the eastern approach to the street railway bridge, the murderer of Horace E. Failers, who is supposed to have been murdered and thrown into the river near the toll house where he was employed on the night of July 3. The accusation against White is based upon the story which he is alleged to have told about the murder, and in which he is said to have boasted that he had killed Failers for revenge after the latter had assaulted and beaten him several months before the night of the murder.

White Had Trouble.
For several months before the murder it was known that there had been trouble between White and Failers, and that on many occasions Failers had reprimanded White for using bad language at the toll house in the presence of men and women in passing vehicles.

On one occasion, prior to April 1, Failers lost his patience and checked the old man's abuse by a vigorous slap in the face. A few days after this a more serious altercation occurred when White crossed the bridge, when under the influence of liquor, and got into a dispute with Failers. It is known that Failers again used vigorous measures. One of the Council Bluffs officers in the operative department came over the bridge just after the trouble was over and met White going west about 200 feet from the toll house swearing loudly and telling about Failers striking him. The official walked on to the toll house and advised Failers not to use force with the old man and Failers admitted that he had lost his temper and slapped him pretty hard.

Many times during the spring and summer White referred to this and is reported to have made threats that he would get even. A few days ago White had some trouble with an old man named Conkling, residing at 3422 Seventh avenue, and threatened him. A. N. Lathrop, who lives at the Conkling place, met White soon after and heard him tell of his trouble with Conkling.

Alleged Told of Murder.

Lathrop says the old man probably became greatly excited and began to tell what he could do to the man, and then began to tell what he had done to Failers. He then began to tell, according to Lathrop, the full details of the murder. He is reported to have said that he became involved in a quarrel with Failers over a worn dime and then struck him a blow with his heavy cane, knocking him against the bridge railing, and hit him shot. Failers before he recovered consciousness. He said the first shot was in the neck ranging downward, and for fear it had not killed him he bent over the dying man and pressing the revolver against his head fired another shot into his brain. The old man, according to Lathrop's story, said he then lifted Failers' body and threw it over the railing into the river.

White, who is still locked up in the city jail, vehemently denies this story and declares that he never told anything of the kind, and that he never had a revolver. People who have known the old man for years say they doubt if he had the physical strength to lift the body of a man as heavy as Failers, nearly 200 pounds, over the high bridge railing. White will be held until after the return of County Attorney Capell.

Evidence that one or more shots were fired on the bridge that night can be secured. Two young men stated soon after the murder that after passing the toll house on the bridge at the time near when the murder must have been committed, they heard a shot and saw an automobile stop east of the toll house. A man named Anderson, living near the bridge, says he heard two shots fired that night. John Wilson, well known in the western part of the city, says White told him as long ago as April about having trouble with Failers.

A Shooting Scare.
With both parties wounded demands Bucklin's Arrows Salve. Heals wounds, sores, burns or injuries. 25¢. For sale by Beaton Drug Co.

AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Registration is Heavy, Total Estimated at Near Four Thousand.

ANNEXATIONISTS GETTING BUSIER

Publicity Campaign Started and Public Well Informed—Buy Bandits Make Confession of Deeds.

When the registration booths closed Saturday it was the general consensus that the voters had responded well to the call of the party leaders and, considering the previous light registration, this was a banner day in South Omaha.

In the early part of the day the registration was light, but toward noon and immediately after, the voters began to come in briskly. As the hour for the closing of the polls approached the work of the clerks became really heavy and party leaders expressed themselves as well pleased with the success of their efforts.

It was remarked that an exceptionally strong republican vote was gotten out. There, together with many democrats, talked Hoye for sheriff.

One of the features of the day was the outcropping of a feeling against McShane, the democratic candidate who has worked the packing house district persistently to win the labor element in South Omaha. It was said by some of the laboring men that McShane had overstepped the mark by trading on his lineage and good fellowship. These men claimed that Hoye had made considerable inroads on the democratic vote in the yards and packing houses by his familiar and unpretentious talks to them individually and collectively. Hoye's record as a working man and friend of labor has also done much for him and his ticket. It is confidently expected that he will poll a big majority on election day.

Among the Lithuanians and Slavs a big meeting is scheduled for this afternoon at the New Settlers' hall, Thirtieth and U streets. There will be a number of speakers present and the Slavonian leaders claim that their people will come out for the republican candidate who have gone about among them quietly making their acquaintance as man to man without any reserve or discrimination because of their foreign birth.

The democrats on the contrary have used the slogan of appealing to a few bosses, who claim that they can deliver the vote of these people for any cause and in any amount.

Approximate Figures.

At a late hour last night comparative results of the day's registration justified the expectations of the workers on both sides. The following is an approximation by wards:

	Today	Grand Total			
Rep.	Dem.	Misc.			
First ward.....	106	84	10	210	
Second.....	106	67	39	182	400
Third.....	24	52	29	116	268
Fourth.....	27	15	8	120	210
Fifth.....	53	112	24	181	369
Sixth.....	45	70	5	121	218
Seventh.....	161	119	18	268	506
Eighth.....	69	89	11	189	351
Ninth.....	66	45	2	113	211
Tenth.....	108	65	12	185	328
Eleventh.....	96	41	2	109	211
Twelfth.....	118	249	—	—	358
Thirteenth.....	62	132	7	—	231
Total.....	942	942	942	942	942

About 3,942 voters have registered to date, not counting the missing precincts. With these added the vote will approximate 4,500 by election day.

Assault on Hydock.

Because he received an insult to a young woman, Tony Hydock, an employee of the Union Stock Yards company, residing at 4221 J street, was set upon and beaten over the head with a shovel in the hands of John Hall, a fellow workman, at Thirtieth and L streets yesterday afternoon. While Hydock lay on the ground as a result of the blow Hall is alleged to have followed up his first attack by slashing the fallen man with a knife.

Dr. R. E. Schindel was called and after treating the injured man sent him to his home. Hall escaped.

New Company Takes Charge.

At noon yesterday, fire hall No. 4, situated at Thirtieth and K streets, was turned over to Captain John Donahue and his new company, consisting of Dave Duncan, Charles Sutherland and John Beister.

The occasion was made an opportunity for congratulation both among the city officials and the fire board, who were delighted that additional fire protection had been assured the city, and among the citizens of the west end, who were glad to welcome the newly appointed captain and his company.

The festivities were altogether informal. Messrs. Trainor, Ryan and Pivona called at the house with Fire Chief John McKale and offered their felicitations to the new company. It was planned to have a little reception at the hall last night, but Captain Donahue late in the afternoon decided to postpone the affair until next week, at which time the company will entertain the men of the department who can conveniently attend.

Captain John Donahue resides with his parents at Forty-second and S streets. His father is one of the oldest and most respected employees of the Union Stock Yards company, with which he has been connected for the last twenty years. Captain Donahue is only 23 years of age and has been a member of the fire department for the last three years.

Officer's Sister Dead.

Acting Chief of Police Henry Eisfelder received word yesterday that his sister, Mrs. Sarah Teel, had died Monday in Liberty, O.

This is the second time within a period of a few weeks that Captain Eisfelder has received word of the death of a near relative. Some weeks ago he was notified that his brother, William Eisfelder, had died suddenly in Arkansas. The captain did not learn of his brother's death for some days after the funeral.

Yesterday the news of his sister's death and burial came as a shock and Captain Eisfelder was nearly prostrated by the blow. Mrs. Teel was 59 years of age.

Annexationists Get Busy.

Gene Mayfield, one of the best known newspaper men in the state, yesterday took charge of the publicity end of the annexation campaign.

Following Mr. Mayfield's appointment there was a general strengthening along the lines of the annexationists, who for some days past were unable to cope with the campaign conducted by the anti-annexationists.

A. H. Murdock, in a statement yesterday declared that the annexationists would publish answers to every argument advanced against the annexation movement. He argued that figures would prove that the value of South Omaha property, far from depreciating, would increase as a result of the merger of the two cities.

Both Mayfield and Murdock declared that the measure would carry on election day.

They claim that the anti-annexationists have lost ground in the west and southern portions of the town. The northern section of the city, which is admittedly for annexation, turned out in force at the registration booths yesterday. This is taken as a good augury by the annexationists.

In the opposing camp the work has become heroic. Every member of the anti-annexation organization is out rounding up the recalcitrants and discontents. They report that the merger measure will be beaten easily by a three to one vote.

Buy Bandits Confess.

Following the arrest of three boy bandits yesterday the police obtained confessions from them that indicate a spirit of lawlessness and depravity rampant among the street boys of this city.

The three boys arrested were Toney Zager, aged 14 of Thirty-first and Monroe streets; Joe Brady, aged 12, of 200 Jefferson street, and John Rubin, aged 15, of Twenty-seventh and Polk streets.

Friday night, after a series of deprivations, the three boys went to the vicinity of Twenty-sixth and N streets, where they had planned to rob the jewelry store of L. Altman.

Burial of Mr. Bakner.

Gustave Bakner, who was killed at Second and Pierce streets, Omaha, yesterday morning by a Burlington car, will be buried Tuesday morning from the home of his sister, Mrs. Emil Vermeersch, 1016 North Twenty-sixth street.

The funeral service will be held at St. Bridget's church and burial will be made in St. Mary's cemetery.

Bakaert was 22 years of age.

Magie City Group.
By your coal, South Omaha ice Co. Clearing sales on hats at Miss Lyon's Monday and Tuesday. 53 North Twenty-fourth.

The boys confessed to the robbery of Collins & Smallridge's grocery at 210 Q street. They told the police that after helping themselves to the cash in the store they had coolly sat down and enjoyed a lunch in the looted store.

On the night following the robbery of the grocery store they broke into and robbed the store of Muskovites at Thirtieth and U streets. Following this they went to the saloon of Toney Zager at Thirtieth and Q streets, where the sound of a bell on the front door deterred them from entering. The saloon is owned by an uncle of the Zager boy.

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