

CITY TO DEMAND NEW FIRE SURVEY

Insurance Reduction May Follow Improvements.

A movement to have fire insurance rates in Indianapolis reduced through the placing of the city in a higher classification in fire risks may be started by the board of public safety next summer if the motorization of the fire department program is as successful as is expected, Felix M. McWhirter, member of the board, stated today. The board is not in position to ask for any reclassification from the underwriters at present because the improvement program is incomplete, he said.

Indianapolis is now in the third class. This is not a low rating because there is no city in the country in the first class, so strict are the underwriters' standards. The city obtained that rating in 1910 upon the promise to make certain improvements. Many of these have not been made so far, so some rating the city might be considered to have fire risks of the fourth class, Mr. McWhirter said. The improvements in equipment, water mains and building restrictions, recently made and contemplated for completion soon, will put the city in position to demand a better classification than the third.

A representative of the national board of fire underwriters, who frequently visits the city, will return in a short time and is expected to confer with the board of safety.

Local insurance men are said to favor the raise in classification and consequent lowering of rates.

Fire Chief John Loucks said he believes the city should gain at least half a class when the improvements are made.

SPECIAL FUND NEARS 500 MARK

Other Reports Indicate Progress of Red Cross Drive.

Contributions to the special fund for providing Red Cross memberships for disabled soldiers, orphans and others reached the Red Cross membership campaign headquarters today from many sources and the day's mail was expected to yield approximately five hundred new memberships from this morning.

Louis G. Oliver forwarded his check, together with a note saying that he approves the idea of providing memberships for soldiers who were incapacitated in the war and expressed his willingness to contribute further if an additional sum is needed in order to make the soldiers members. Other contributors are L. C. Hensley, Indianapolis Lumber Company; Mrs. John C. New, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Cruse, the H. Lauter Company, A. Venegent, the Indianapolis Drop Forging Company, Mrs. Samuel Reid, the Pioneer Plant Food Company, John J. Appel, S. Appel, M. A. Potter, James W. Fesler, Sanborn Electric Company, Charles E. Carlson, Arthur B. Gloger, Mrs. A. B. Carlson.

The Link Belt Company's two plants will be 100 per cent Red Cross, Miss Edna Heaton, chairman of the Third Ward organization, reported. Miss Heaton and Mrs. Alfred Kauffman, wife of the vice-president of the company, directed the membership canvass in the plants. A special poster, written by George Moehlend, manager of the company, was placed in every department and was a big factor in the good showing made.

"Let's all who possibly can subscribe to the Red Cross," the poster said, in part. "If you feel that you cannot pay the \$1.11 in one payment the Link Belt will cooperate to the extent of advancing the money for you and take 25 cents a week out of your pay envelope for four weeks to balance the account."

Criticism of Fido's Funeral Brings \$621 to Newcastle Woman

Said She Could Use Dog's Burial Allowance in Acquiring Business Education.

Spurred by the Times, NEWCASTLE, Ind., Nov. 24.—Having the courage to express her convictions has won \$621 for Mrs. Edith Dakins Crane, widow, to complete her business education.

Some time ago Mrs. Crane read newspaper accounts of a wealthy New York woman spending \$25,000 on the funeral of a dog. She wrote the New York woman a letter, criticizing her in no uncertain terms for spending so much money on a dog's funeral, adding that she could use some of it to get a good education. In her reply the New York woman denied she had spent that sum and said the newspaper story was erroneous. Noting further came of it then.

Today Mrs. Crane received a letter from a firm of New York lawyers, advising her that their client—the woman of the \$25,000 dog funeral—had instructed them to allot her \$15.25 quarterly for one year to complete her education.

Mrs. Crane is going to Muncie for this purpose.

HICK VISITS WANDA'S TENT

Slippery Gulch Furnishes More Than Thrills.

By HICK.

Bang! Bang! When a blank revolver uttered those words at "Slippery Gulch" last night I decided right then and there it was no time for armchair talk, and the things for me to do was to enter the fortune telling tent of Madame Wanda.

When a "cow gentleman," even if he has been raised on paved streets, pointed a revolver at my face and said "Get into the tent," I obeyed. I entered the fortune telling establishment as the cowboy gave me a dirty cow look, maybe it was bull. Madame Wanda (Mrs. William H. Perkins, of 923 West Thirty-Fourth street), shook her red handkerchiefed beaded head at me, shook her earrings and said:

"Young man, split the cards, deal the pack in sevens, give me the seventh card."

I told Madame that I did not want her to tell me the truth as I was afraid it might be painful. Madame told me that fortune tellers, not being newspaper reporters, always told the truth.

Then she looked at the cards and said, "The first card you draw is the worst one in the pack. Pitiful!" I made an effort to leave the tent, but on seeing the cowboy standing guard I gave up the idea.

JUST ONE WOMAN.

Madame Wanda smiled and said: "Don't flirt with black-haired people; it's dangerous. You are going to have an unpleasant interview (where is the big boy going to send me now?); but it is going to end pleasantly. Ah, I see one woman in your life."

I told Madame that was more than I could see, but she was certain it was written in the cards.

Then the fortune teller sprang this one on me: "You are very generous."

I told her that I used to set 'em up to herself before 1914. Madame smiled and remarked that she had just given me a "beautiful 50-cent reading."

I slipped out under the side of the tent and I believe that the cowboy is still keeping guard. I do wonder who that dame is that Madame saw in the cards. If Madame Wanda was the real sort she would have given me that "one woman in your life."

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