

CITY FIRE CHIEF ASKS CITIZENS TO CO-OPERATE

Debates Coming Campaign to
Eliminate Shingle
Roofs.

LOCAL FIRE HISTORY

Editor The Times—I have read with considerable interest articles on "Shingle Roofs" in the newspapers recently.

I regret very much that any citizen of Indianapolis should have such a mistaken notion in reference to the coming campaign of shingle roof elimination, and am very much surprised at the tenor of his remarks in reference to the fire prevention program. It is my firm conviction that the fire prevention campaign carried on in Indianapolis last year was one of the most important campaigns ever inaugurated in our city, and I sincerely trust that there will be no let-up in the efforts until our city has achieved the results for which we are working, namely, a material reduction in our fire loss and a consequent reduction in our insurance premiums.

I desire to accept the opportunity presented by this letter, to set out some facts in reference to our fire prevention program, and to solicit the whole-hearted cooperation of every Indianapolis citizen, who has the welfare of his city at heart. I have been connected with the Indianapolis fire department for more than thirty years, and during the past several years have taken occasion to become familiar with the ever increasing fire loss in our city. In the year 1911, our city had a fire loss of somewhat over \$250,000 and a total of less than 1,700 fire alarms. This fire loss increased by leaps and bounds, year after year, until we reached a loss of more than \$1,800,000 in the year 1920, with a grand total of almost 5,500 fires. As this loss mounted higher and higher, the city added largely to its fire department until today we have a total of thirty-one fire houses, with an exceptionally high grade equipment and a staff of men second to none in the United States, with an annual expense of more than one million dollars in salaries, maintenance, interest charges, etc.

STORY OF PREVENTION CAMPAIGN.

In the early part of 1921 the citizens of Indianapolis decided to begin a campaign of fire prevention, but before the campaign was launched a considerable amount of time was spent in gathering information in regard to fire prevention campaigns in other cities, my predecessor, Mr. John C. Loucks and other city officials joining with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce in gathering this information. Some of the committees visited Cincinnati where a fire prevention campaign had been carried on for seven or eight years, being inaugurated in 1912 or 1913. It was found that the city of Cincinnati had a total of 3,572 fires during the year 1920, whereas our city had a total of 5,500. Cincinnati is much larger than Indianapolis and has a property value approximately twice the property value of Indianapolis, but the fire loss in Indianapolis for the year 1920 was almost double that of Cincinnati. The investigation showed that the city of Cincinnati had a total of only

fifty-six shingle roof fires for the year 1920, whereas Indianapolis had a total of approximately 1,400. Information was gathered from other cities, all of which proved conclusively that Indianapolis could make a tremendous saving by the practice of fire prevention. A committee was therefore organized through the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and it was my pleasure to serve on this committee and to know something of the tremendous amount of work done by the twelve or fifteen hundred citizens who gave freely of their time and money in carrying forward the campaign. I am well acquainted with the merchants in the downtown district and with a large number of people in the southeastern portion of the city and I can assure you that all of my acquaintances took a great interest in the campaign and cooperated in a fine way. The net result of the 1921 campaign was a reduction of \$500,000 in fire loss and a reduction of 330 fires. In past years we have had an average of thirteen deaths per year from fires, but since April we have had but one loss of life. This record is one of which the city can well feel proud. During the last two months we have had practically no snow and very little rain and our city has paid the penalty for having 50,000 or more shingle roofs. In the two months' time we have had 1,108 fires more than \$50 of which are directly chargeable to shingle roofs. There are only two cities in the United States which have had more fires in the last two months than the city of Indianapolis, these cities being New York and Chicago. Practically every important city in the United States has enacted ordinances prohibiting wooden shingles and our committee is inaugurating a campaign to bring about the elimination of the shingle roof with a consequent large reduction in the number of our fires.

Reference was made in the letter to the

cost of installing fire resistant roofs, but nothing was said in regard to the tremendous cost of which Indianapolis is put by reason of its shingle roofs. Prior to Cincinnati's fire prevention campaign, they had a total of fifty-two fire houses covering an area of seventy-six square miles, with a very high insurance rating. Through the instrumentality of the fire prevention program and certain changes in the building code, they now have thirty-two houses with one of the lowest insurance ratings in the United States. The city of Indianapolis, with an area of about forty-two square miles, has thirty-two houses, or just one less than Cincinnati. If the people of Indianapolis will cooperate in the fire prevention campaign, the city of Indianapolis can effect a decrease of one million dollars annually in its insurance premiums and also a very large saving in the cost of its fire department operation. We are mindful of the fact that many people do not have ready money to replace their shingle roof and an arrangement is being worked out under which a fire resistant roof will be installed at a reasonable price and on payments.

I feel that the attack on the fire prevention committee is entirely unwarranted and am appealing to every citizen for his sincere cooperation in the carrying forward of this big program. Yours very truly,

JOHN J. O'BRIEN,
Chief Fire Force.

WRITES TO WIFE HE KILLED.
DRESDEN, March 3.—It developed after Friedrich Schoenthal had confessed to murdering his wife that after the crime he went to another city and wrote several endearing letters addressed to the dead woman.

Marries Him After He Slits Her Ears

MEXICO CITY, March 3.—Juan Madero loved Maria Sandoz. All went well until the coy maiden refused to marry Juan. Juan was angry, for he had spent many pesos making her happy. So angry was he that he drew his sharp knife and

slit both of her ears. Then Maria repented her coldness and the two hurried to a priest who performed the marriage ceremony.

For Colds, Grip or Influenza.
and as a Preventive, take Laxative BROMO QUININE Tablets. The genuine bears the signature of E. W. Grove. (Be sure you get BROMO.) 30c.—Advertisement.

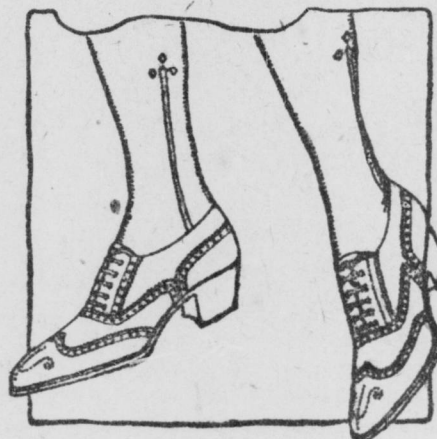
Signs of Decadence

ELYRIA, Ohio, March 3.—Decadence of the family was claimed by Rev. W. L. Burner, pastor of the Church of Christ. In support of his assertion Rev. Mr. Burner said 730 marriage licenses were issued in Lorain County during the past twelve months, during which time the courts considered 468 divorce cases, granting separation decrees in 239 of them.

MAROTT'S ECONOMY BASEMENT

SHOE VALUES THAT INVITE ATTENTION

Inspecting new arrivals in this department will prove decidedly interesting. A wide range of patterns, correct styles in the wanted materials are in stock in complete size ranges.



\$3.⁹⁵

\$3.⁹⁵

Women's
Oxfords

Conservative patterns, Brogues, ball straps and punched tips. Brown calf, brown kid and patent leather, at... \$3.95

Women's
Strap Effects

One and two-strap patterns; military and Cuban heels; brown kid and brown calfskin, at... \$3.95

BUY
SHOES AT
THE SHOE
SHOP

Marrott Shoe Shop

Established 1884

18-20 East Washington St.

EIGHT
FLOORS
of
SHOES

MOTHER! CLEAN CHILD'S BOWELS WITH "CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP"

Even Coss, Feverish, Sick Children Love its Fruity
Taste and it cannot Injure Little Stomachs.

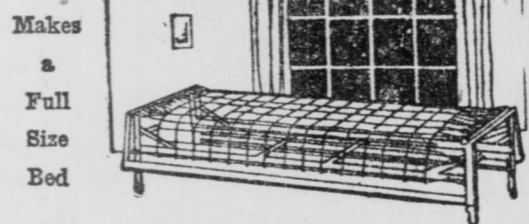


Don't let child stay
bilious, constipated.

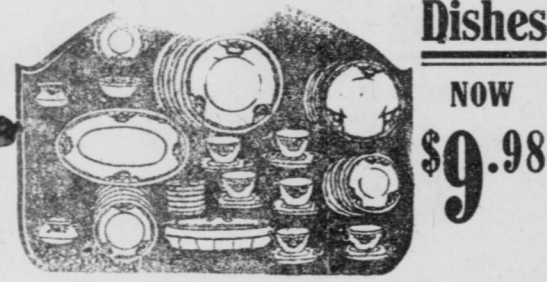
Hurry mother! A teaspoonful of "California Fig Syrup" today may prevent a sick child tomorrow. If your child is constipated, bilious, feverish, fretful, has cold, colic, or if stomach is sour, tongue coated, breath bad, remember a good "physic-laxative" is often all that is necessary. Genuine "California Fig Syrup" has directions for babies and children printed on the bottle. Say "California" or you may get an imitation fig syrup.—Advertisement.

Great Reductions in Housefurnishings During This Early Spring Sale

SANITARY
COUCH at—\$5.²⁵



42 Piece Set of
Artistically Decorated
Dishes



NOW
\$9.⁹⁸

Guaranteed Cook
and Bake RANGE



This Range has a big firebox and large oven, finest of steel and cast iron, now offered at less than factory cost for this sale... \$49.⁷⁵
\$1.00 Week

9x12 Axminster Rug \$39.⁷⁵

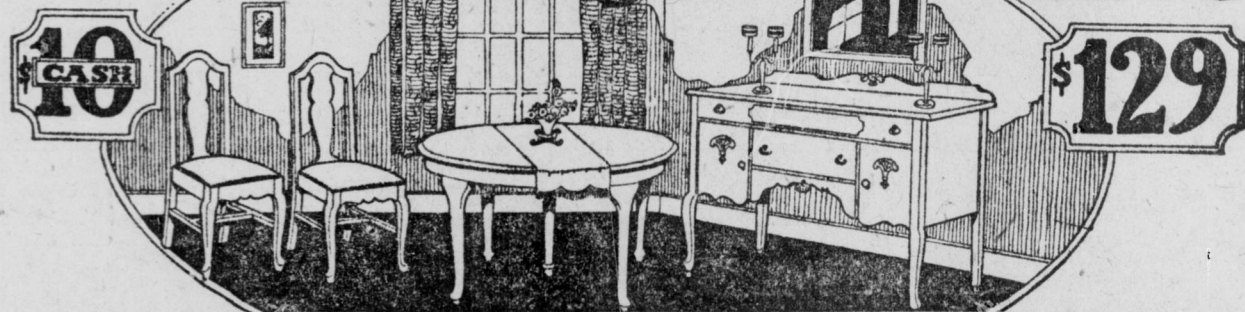


Just a few Bargains from our overstocked
Rug Section:

9x12 BRUSSELS RUG	\$19.75
9x12 VELVET RUG	\$29.75
9x12 EXTRA HEAVY AXMINSTER RUG	\$39.75
9x12 WILTON VELVET RUG	\$59.75
27-INCH RAG RUG	79¢
27-INCH VELVET RUG	\$2.75
27-INCH AXMINSTER RUG	\$3.75
6x9 CONGOLEUM RUG	\$7.75
6x9 WOOL AND FIBER RUG	\$8.75
6x9 BRUSSELS RUG	\$12.75



Sale of Dining Room Suites



NOTICE

See the greatest three
rooms furnished out-
fit for—

\$169.⁷⁵

This is a Monster Value



IDEAL
FURNITURE CO.

141 W. WASHINGTON ST.



8 Piece
JACOBAN
PERIOD
SUITE

6-Ft. Extension Dining Table,
6 Leather Seat Chairs and
Buffet, complete.

NOTICE

42-Piece Dinner Set.
Good quality dishes
and decorated—

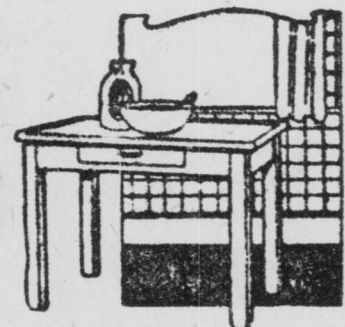
\$9.⁹⁸

\$1.00 Week

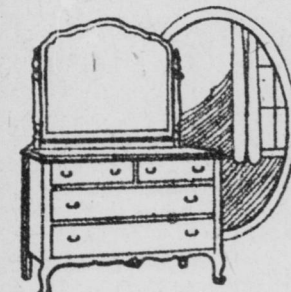
EXTRA! KITCHEN TABLE

Porcelain top,
white enameled
kitchen
table. For this
sale—

\$7.⁹⁸



Artistic Period Dressers

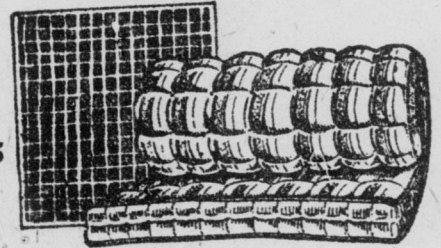


\$29.⁷⁵

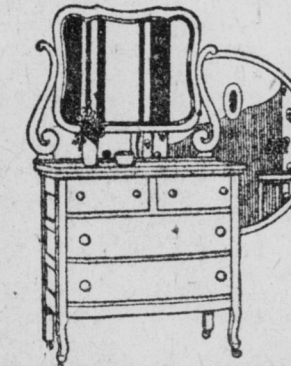
Now offered in this
Challenge Sale at
this remarkable
Sale price \$29.⁷⁵
\$1.00 Week

45 Lb. PURE NEW COTTON MATTRESS

For
this
Sale,
\$9.⁸⁵



Solid Oak Dressers



Odd dressers,
solid oak, at a
big saving,
priced as low as

\$17.⁸⁵