

HEAVY TOLL TAKEN OF LIVES IN OHIO BY FIRES DURING YEAR

(By Associated Press.)

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 4.—Three hundred and twenty-four persons in Ohio lost their lives during the 11 months ending December 1, from fire, an increase of 85 over the same period in 1919, according to State Fire Marshal William J. Leonard. An increase of 114 in the number of persons injured by fire is also shown. The total injured for the 11 months was 401.

Total fires during October numbered 299, with a total loss of \$541,922. Carelessness figures in the majority of the fires, the report sets forth. Bad wiring was responsible for 23 fires, carelessness with matches caused 21 and children playing with matches, 18, the monthly report shows.

Sparks from chimneys were the most serious cause of fire during October, 27 blazes being traced to that cause. Fourteen were due to stoves and furnaces being too close to wood-work. Nine blazes were caused by kerosene stoves and lamps.

Leonard has issued a Christmas warning, under the head of "Be Merry But Careful." He cites the many causes of fires at Christmas time and gives timely suggestions to overcome the dangers.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 4.—County commissioners are not required to build walls embedded in earth to prevent runaways and wild drivers from going down embankments. Their duty ceases when they have seen that dangerous places are protected by guard rails to serve as a warning.

Such was the ruling of the Toledo district appellate court in a Wood county suit it reviewed here.

Edith Hahn, administratrix of the estate of Christian H. Hahn, sued the Wood county commissioners for the death of her husband, who was killed in February, 1916, when his team ran away and dragged the wagon over an embankment on the Dixie highway. It was alleged there was no guard rail at that point.

The court held that the cause of the accident was not the failure of the commissioners to place a guard there, but the runaway itself, and that the ordinary warning rail would not have prevented the fatality. The judgment was reversed.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 4.—Ohio has 250,000 foreign-born men scattered throughout the state, according to E. C. Vermillion, state Americanization director.

Cleveland with 80,000 foreign-born men leads the list of Ohio cities: Youngstown and East Youngstown has 40,000; Akron, 15,000; Toledo, 10,000; Dayton, 8,000; Columbus, 5,000; Cincinnati, 4,000; Lorain, 4,000; Barberton, 2,000. A total of 25,000 are scattered in coal fields and the balance are located in smaller cities throughout the state.

REV. E. D. OREN BEGINS
HIS REVIVAL SUNDAY
Rev. E. D. Oren will fill his regular appointment at Salomonia Christian church, Sunday. Rev. Oren will begin his revival Dec. 5, and will be assisted by Rev. Clark of Greenville, Ohio. Rev. Clark will have charge of the music.

STRICT CAMPAIGNS AGAINST VICE IS CARRIED ON IN OHIO CITIES

(By Associated Press.)

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 4.—Anti-vice or "clean-up" campaigns inaugurated in the larger cities of the state recently are being carried forward unrelentingly, and have resulted in many hundreds of offenders being prosecuted. So alert are the police departments and county officials charged with law enforcement that the large cities have become "unsafe" for law violators. Fines assessed during the last few weeks probably amount to several hundred thousand dollars.

Cleveland today probably is experiencing one of the most active anti-vice crusades in many years under direct orders of Mayor W. S. Fitzgerald. There are continuing at the rate of approximately one hundred per day with total arrests since the crusade started at near the 2,000 mark. Violations include infractions of the liquor laws in various forms, gambling and other statutory charges.

Municipal court records of the Ohio metropolis for one day recently showed fines of more than \$20,000 assessed in 294 cases. In 55 liquor cases alone, the fines aggregated \$11,000. Activities of local authorities have been supplemented by that of federal officers with the result that one day's activities in Federal Judge Westenhaver's court netted \$16,820 in fines and confiscation of 20 automobiles used to transport liquor.

Demand Cleaner City.
In Toledo, demand for a cleaner city on the part of citizens' organizations and clubs resulted in a shake-up of the police department. The safety director resigned, the inspector of the detective bureau was reduced in rank and although Chief of Police Herbert had been asked by Mayor Schroeder to retire on a pension "for the good of the department," he finally was retained by the new safety director George P. Greenhalgh, veteran officer of the world war. A grand jury which investigated conditions reported on November 23, that conditions in Toledo were no worse than in other large cities of the country.

Dayton's police force is under strict orders to apprehend on charges of loitering or suspicion every person unable to give a satisfactory account of himself. Many undesirable frightened from other cities where crusades are under way were suspected of having taken refuge in Dayton and to rid the city of those persons prompted action. Scores of arrests have been made.

Gum Shoe Campaign.
Youngstown within the last few days has started a "gum-shoe" campaign against crime under direct orders from Safety Director Scott. A number of uniformed men have been put into plain clothes and assigned to watch all incoming trains and the city in general for suspected criminals. No arrests will be made by these plain clothes men except in case of necessity in order to keep their identity secret. The uniformed men will make the arrests. Extra men are to be added to the police force.

Mayor Herman Witter, of Canton, has appealed to the city council for appropriation for two dozen more policemen and Safety Director Braucher has personally instructed the patrolmen to co-operate and put forth every effort to suppress crime in the city, which is said to be on the increase. Cincinnati police are waging a campaign against handbook gambling. Chief of Police Copelan has instructed

police lieutenants to use whatever methods seem expedient to discover and obtain evidence against handbook operators. Patrolmen have been appealed to by Safety Director Charles Tudor to make every effort to suppress vice in Cincinnati. Many loiterers have been arrested on suspicion. In police court they were ordered to secure employment or leave the city.

Drunkenness Prevalent.
In Columbus, despite the fact that police are armed with an anti-liquor traffic ordinance, drunkenness is becoming more prevalent, according to municipal court records. There were 88 persons arraigned in municipal court as "drunks" during November, as compared with 3 during the same period last year, records show.

A total of 447 cases of all classes were on the November docket, as compared with 222 during the same month last year. Fines collected last month amounted to \$4,269, against \$1,106.64 in November, 1919.

The increase in the number of arrests last month was said to be due to the activities of the police vice squad.

Akron has joined other cities of the state and country in a concentrated effort to rid the city of crime and criminals. More than 100 persons were arrested during the first two days of the crusade. Since then the number of arrests have dwindled.

Hit at Gambling.
Under the direction of Safety Director C. N. Sparks, efforts were first directed at illicit liquor traffic and gambling. Passage by council of an ordinance to curb liquor traffic in all forms is expected to increase the activity of the police in breaking up this form of law breaking.

The number of robberies reported, however, is said to show little or no decrease. Police lean on the theory that once "speak easies" and gambling houses are cleaned up, activities of the criminals will show a decrease.

Efforts of officials to stamp out a wave of bootlegging, gambling and vice in Portsmouth appear to be meeting with success. All gambling and card playing in soft drink parlors and numerous clubs has been ordered stopped. A number of stills have been destroyed and the makers of illicit beverages have been fined sums ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 and costs, under provisions of the Crabbe act.

In addition, Mayor W. N. Gableman has ordered the city closed tight on Sunday, and has succeeded in his effort. Not a confectionery, shoe shining parlor, cigar store or drug store is open and Portsmouth is getting a taste of Sunday blue laws.

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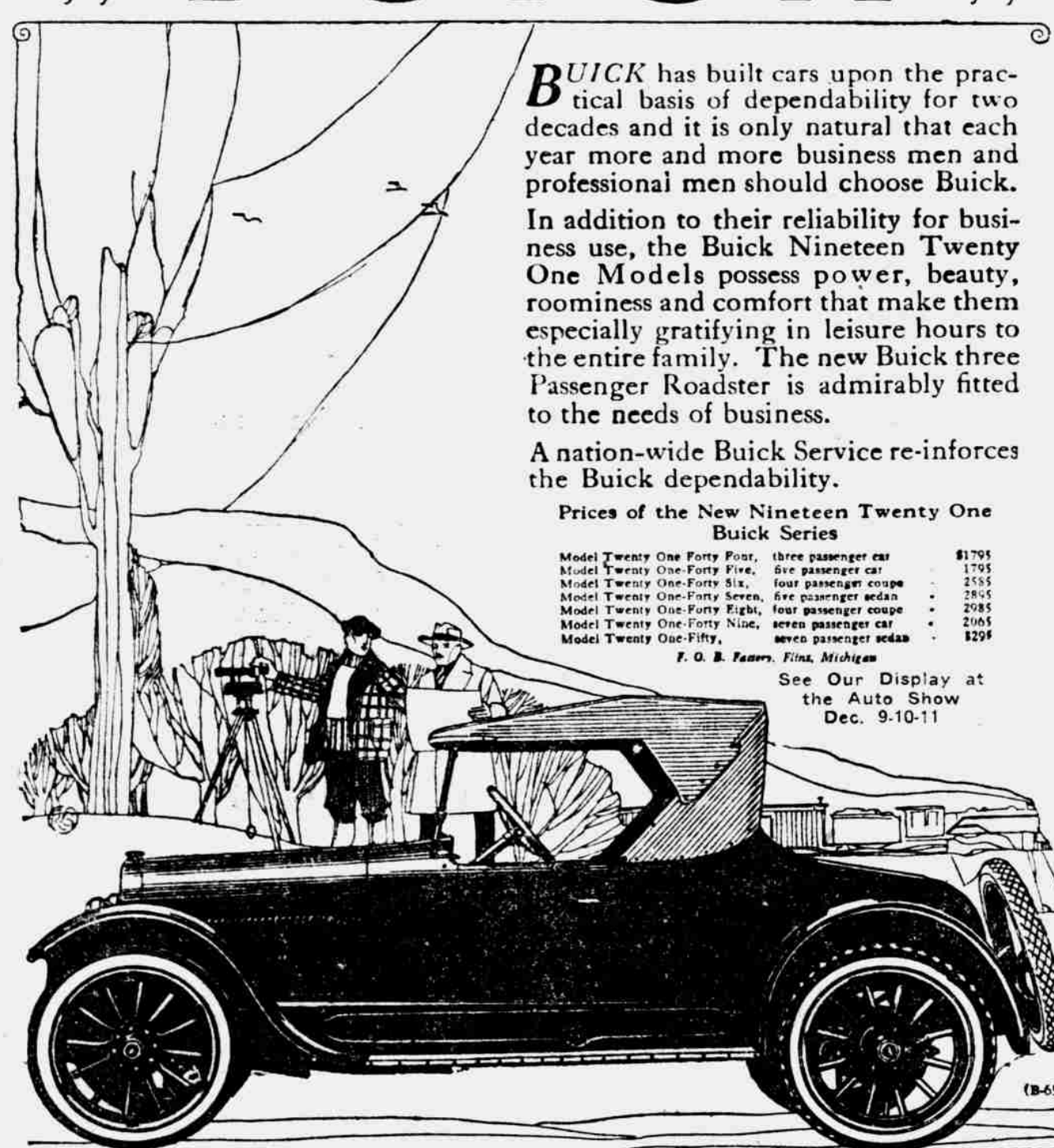
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