

**LESSONS ON FIRE
PREVENTION:
PART II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649396726

Lessons on Fire Prevention: Part II by Mamie Muldoon

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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MAMIE MULDOON

**LESSONS ON FIRE
PREVENTION:
PART II**

LESSONS ON FIRE PREVENTION

FOR USE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PART TWO

By MISS MAMIE MULDOON
Secretary of Nebraska State Fire Commission

1913

APPROVED AND ISSUED BY
W. S. RIDGELL, Deputy State Fire Commissioner

Jan 2, 1919
**Harvard University
Bureau for Research
in
Municipal Government**

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JACOB NORTH & CO.,
LINCOLN NEB.

PREFACE

It can easily be proven that over one-half the enormous annual fire losses of the United States are due to carelessness and neglect and therefore can be avoided. Because this is true, legislators who have studied the situation have enacted laws in their different states for the purpose of reducing this terrific destruction of life and property by fire. Nearly two-thirds of the states of the Union have now passed laws providing that the subject of fire prevention shall be taught in their schools. The subject is a most commendable and interesting one and the necessity of a text-book covering every phase of the subject has long been felt.

I am placing this book in the schools trusting it will be conducive of great good and firmly believing that if the rules and instructions are applied the next generation will not witness the extravagant fire losses in this country that the past generation has experienced.

It has been my purpose to cover the subject of fire prevention most thoroughly. If repetitions of the same cautions and advice have been frequently made it has been done intentionally with a view of impressing that particular danger or precaution upon the mind of the student.

As the principle of fire prevention and the business of fire insurance are so closely allied several lessons have been written for the higher grades explaining fire insurance. A great deal of time and thought has been spent on each lesson and the explanations and instructions have been written in language thought most suitable for the different grades.

It is my earnest desire that this book will meet with the approval of educators throughout the country and that the Conservation of Life and Property from destruction by fire will appeal to every student as a branch of study worthy of their most earnest consideration.

MAMIE MULDOON.

Since the State Fire Marshal Law was enacted in 1909, the fire losses of Nebraska have gradually decreased. Fire marshal laws are now in effect in twenty-nine states of the Union and Fire Prevention Societies have not only been organized in the twenty-nine states but in a number of the larger cities of the country and they are doing effective work in reducing the fire waste in their respective localities.

This book compiled by Miss Muldoon, Secretary of the State Fire Commission Department, is for the purpose of teaching, not only the school children but every citizen of the state of their individual responsibility in reducing the fire losses of Nebraska.

While the annual fire losses of the United States are about \$2.50 per capita, the fire losses in European countries are only about \$0.30 per capita. Probably the difference in fire losses between this country and Europe is due to the fact that European countries have more stringent laws than we have, but American citizenship should voluntarily organize in their respective communities for the purpose of reducing the great, unnecessary and preventable fire waste that we are annually paying.

I would suggest that the school children of the state organize Fire Prevention Societies as outlined in this book, elect their own officers and communicate with the Fire Marshal's office at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Miss Muldoon, who has been connected, as Secretary, with the Fire Commissioner's office for over four years, has spent much time in compiling this book and I believe it covers the subject more thoroughly than any other book on fire prevention that has ever been published.

If the teachers of the State of Nebraska would take an interest in teaching this important subject to their pupils they would find at the end of the school year that the fire waste would be materially decreased in their respective cities and towns.

Very truly yours,

W. S. RIDGELL,
Chief Deputy Fire Commissioner.

INTRODUCTION

To School Boards and Teachers of Nebraska:

At the thirty-second session of the Legislature of Nebraska a law was enacted establishing a "Fire Day," and provisions were made for its observance. The Chief Deputy Fire Commissioner has approved this book of instruction on the subject of "Fire Dangers," compiled by Miss Mamie Muldoon.

The loss of life and property has been so great the past few years that many states have made laws regulating the use of inflammable substances which tend to lessen the disasters caused by fire. Nebraska has awakened to the fact that to reach the highest efficiency in any undertaking the children of the state must be aroused to see the need of the movement contemplated.

The law requires that thirty minutes be devoted to the subject of fire dangers each month. The plan of this text-book is such that every school may be teaching a similar subject at the same time, thus making a uniform crusade against "Fire Dangers."

The "State Fire Day" as fixed by law is the first Friday in November, and there shall be appropriate exercises for the day on the subject. Fire drills are recommended as a part of the special day program.

We suggest that the program be arranged to arouse an interest in the law and in its enforcement. Each teacher should select appropriate songs and recitations suitable for the day. Have compositions written on some of the fire dangers.

Teachers should have pupils clip from papers all notices about fires and classify them according to the different lectures in the text-book. A report should be made on the clippings for the information of pupils and parents.

We trust school boards, teachers, parents, and pupils will so interest themselves in the study of "Fire Dangers" and in the "Special Fire Day" program that excellent reports may be made on the results of the combined efforts to lessen fire disasters.

JAMES E. DELZELL,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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HIGH SCHOOL

If you would be a friend in need,
Assist now by your word and deed

To stay the demon fire in its flight,
For ours is a cause most just and right.

We are trying in this book by story and song
To wage our war against fire along.

We burn up homes and buildings grand
By matches placed in children's hands,

And careless fires from matches in the hands of people grown
If they could be brought together would make the nation mourn.

Matches left around for rats and mice to take
Some of our great fires and conflagrations make.

We destroy property of value untold
By defective flues and chimney holes.

We lose every year an irrecoverable loss
Because hot ashes against buildings we toss.

By the careless use of gasoline and oil
We wealth, property, and lives despoil.

By burning trash and with bonfires, too,
We burn up homes and buildings not a few.

By lamps, both oil and gasoline
Blocks are laid in ruins by the bad fire fiend.

Gasoline stoves and oil ones as well
Burn up homes and people too numerous to tell.

Gasoline, when used for cleaning clothes
Is one of our most dangerous and deadly foes.

Stoves overheated or too close to the wall
Burn up untold wealth beyond recall.
