

THE AVOIDANCE OF FIRES

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The Avoidance of Fires by Arland D. Weeks

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ARLAND D. WEEKS

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OF FIRES**



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PART OF FIRE PREVENTION DAY PARADE, NEW YORK CITY, 1915

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BY

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PREFACE

THE conservation of resources is a worthy national ideal, and the reduction of fire waste is an important factor in such conservation. The abolition of poverty is brought one step nearer by the avoidance of the vast loss due to this cause. Public sentiment is becoming a force in dealing with fire prevention: thirty states now have the office of State Fire Marshal and seven states require that the public schools give instruction in the prevention of fires.

It is especially important that interest be aroused and maintained in the avoidance of fire waste. The citizen should become conscious of the elements of danger in the various situations in which fires originate; a more general consciousness of hazards would work great improvement over prevailing conditions. One cannot read the accounts of fires reported in the press, with their associated accidents and fatalities, without feeling strongly the obligation of the public schools to do all within their power to mitigate this record of waste and woe.

The purpose of a textbook on fire prevention should be to create a mental attitude as well as to impart information. The pupil should acquire a genuine

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interest in the avoidance of fire waste and fire dangers. It is hoped that the present volume may serve to create such an interest. The information presented, the exercises, problems, and questions, and the arrangement of subject matter have been governed by the desire to enlist the intelligent and spirited interest of pupils.

The book may be used in a great variety of classes. The lessons may be taken up weekly during the larger part of a year or used daily for a month. Fire prevention may properly be correlated with language, civics, arithmetic, elementary science, or physics; it deserves a place in courses of study intended to prepare the millions of public school pupils for economic and social relationships.

The bibliography appended to the text contains names of publications suitable for reference reading. These and other publications have been freely used in preparing the present manual, oft-repeated cautions necessarily being incorporated in the text. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Charles G. Carlson in assembling an amount of material on fire prevention.

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I

Why Teach Fire Prevention in School

THERE is much need of instruction in fire prevention, for the annual loss of life and property by fire is very large. And if there is a general need of teaching fire prevention, there is an especial need of teaching it in the schools. The schools exist to make a difference in the lives of people and in the ways of the world. Preventable fires cause great waste, and it is the duty of the schools to do whatever they can to prevent this loss.

Society is sure to reflect what is taught in the schools. Teach children about fire prevention and there will be fewer buildings burned. The service which the school may render in this matter is very great. If pupils all over the country were taught about fire prevention, and practiced what they learned, the saving in the wealth of the nation would go a long way toward supporting public education. The schools may thus render an important economic service.

Children should learn about fire prevention because children often start fires. If this subject were presented in the schools, we may be sure that there