

BRICK PLANT IS BURNED

CARSON BRICK CO. SUFFERS.

Disastrous Fire Which is Believed to Have Been of Incendiary Origin Discovered Early Yesterday Morning at the Plant of the Carson Brick Company on the Catawba River. Total Valuation of the Concern Was \$73,000 With a Loss of \$25,000—No Insurance Whatever—Several Deeds of Vandalism Lately Indicate That the Fire Started From Unnatural Source.

The well-equipped and granged plant of the Carson Brick Company, situated on the main line of the Southern on the Catawba river, was partly destroyed by fire which was discovered between 4 and 5 o'clock yesterday morning. The valuation of the plant is \$73,000 and the loss is estimated at one-third that amount, with no insurance whatever. The presumption is that the fire was of incendiary origin.

The night watchman at the plant states that he left the scene about 8 o'clock to go to his sick wife, but people living in that vicinity declare that the first discovery of the flames was at about that hour. There is every indication that the fire originated in the engine room in the rear of the concern, burning four buildings with their contents. The boiler, boiler, engine and machine rooms were all consumed and the machinery therein was literally ruined.

Mr. J. E. Carson, president and owner of the plant, states that the engines were fired Saturday in order to make ready for regular work which he expected to start up in about ten days. It was his intention to take a party of Charlotte gentlemen to the scene this week and had already made arrangements to have a special car attached to one of the Southern's trains for that purpose.

PROBABLE ORIGIN OF FIRE.

Mr. Carson has little doubt that the fire was of incendiary origin. No theory is so plausible to him and others as that it was fired by some culprit. The roofing of all the buildings was of such material that it is not likely at all that a spark from a passing engine started the ruinous flames. The superintendent of the plant states that he was on the grounds Sunday from 12 to 7 o'clock and there was then no trace of fire about the scene of operations. The night watchman declares that everything was in order when he left the plant at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. There is, however, considerable evidence that the flames had been at work before that hour. The progress the fire had made when it was discovered and reached by neighbors, coupled with the fact that a passing freight train at that hour, stopped and blew its whistle several times, goes to show that the buildings must have been in flames even before 4 o'clock.

VANDALISM ABOUT THE PLACE.

Mr. Carson has suffered within the last few weeks from several deeds of vandals about the place. A 10,000-gallon water tank on the third floor of the machine room had been emptied several times recently and this was undoubtedly the work of sinister motive on the part of some one around the place. Last year one of the large belts used in running the machinery was cut in a number of places, the guilty person being apprehended and made to pay heavily for his mean deed. Other little things like this, occurring far too frequently, makes Mr. Carson believe that his plant was fired by some vandal.

A COMPLETE PLANT.

Mr. Carson owned one of the complete brick plants in this part of the country. Its capacity was 50,000 brick a day, and the machinery was after the most modern type. All this was left by the flames one great mass of twisted iron, useless for further service. The current issue of The Manufacturers Record had the following about the plant: "The Carson Company is completing its new Youngren kiln, 12 chambers continuous system, 300 ft. long, with a capacity of 50,000 bricks daily. The Scott Manufacturing Company's system of handling and drying brick has been installed, and all clay will be moved by steam shovel. The steam plant consists of an Atlas water-tube boiler of 255 horse-power, a Hardie-Tynes Corliss engine 14x30 inches, an American Blower Company 220-inch fan, with coil exhaust, and a 140-inch fan for induced draft. In the construction of this kiln over 1,000,000 bricks of all kinds were required, and these 300,000 Killian fire-bricks were used in making all the cranks, which are a half circle, with a radius of 8 feet and 48 feet long. Fans are driven by separate engines. Plant is lighted by electricity generated by dynamo direct connected."

NEGROES AND THE SUN.

Force of Laborers on the Streets Outdo the Fierceness of the Day's Heat.

About the only people who were happy under the fierce heat of yesterday were the four score or more negro laborers for the Atlantic Bituminous Company who toiled unintermittently on South Tryon street from morning to night. Singing the songs peculiar to their race, they wielded pick and shovel upon the hard pavement without seeming notice of the oppressiveness of the sunshine. While ordinary citizens crouched around soda fountains or in other spots where electric fans were being used to bring comfort, these negroes kept digging and singing and singing. They not only seemed to be bearing the unpleasantness, but even seemed happy and altogether contented. Only one time during the day did they step from under the direct rays of the sun and that was at the noon hour when they sat down under the shade of awnings and took dinner. The heat only affected them in one way: it injected liveliness into their songs and speed into their picking.

THE LISTING OF TAXES.

Methods Used in Charlotte Are Antiquated and Ineffective, Declares Alderman Scott, and Improvements Should Be Made to Bring the City Up to Date.—The Property Owners Should Be Called Upon Instead of Being Forced to Visit Tax-Lister.—Some Interesting Suggestions Made.—Twenty-Five Per Cent. of Taxes Not Yet Listed.

Alderman G. G. Scott, in talking with an Observer man yesterday, declared that 25 per cent. of the people of Charlotte had not returned their taxes. He said that the methods used here are antiquated and not effective. Among other things Mr. Scott stated: "The attention of the public has been recently attracted to the unusual large number of taxpayers who failed to list their taxes as required by law during the month of June.

"The continuance of this antiquated method of requiring taxpayers to go to the office of county assessors to make their returns each year, deserves such criticism as may be heard from those who have given this matter any thought. "The method most successful in securing tax returns is that which the law requires the assessors to call on the taxpayers at their homes or places of business and procure their lists, and a limited time be given the assessors to complete tax returns, an in eventuality of their failure, proper punishment be administered.

"The best results are obtained by this method, not only in procuring all returns, but doing so promptly and accurately. "It is apparent that tax lists can be taken with far greater accuracy and satisfaction by the assessor calling on each taxpayer, than is now being done by the taxpayer calling at the busy office of list-takers, who in the rush accept returns that are often most carelessly made out. "It is obviously necessary that tax returns be made out in a very painstaking manner, and each return solemnly sworn to. Assessors are paid to obtain tax lists, and the trouble, time and annoyance of going to the office of list-takers should not be the taxpayers' burden. "Our present method places all responsibility of making returns on the citizen, instead of the assessor, which results in a large number of people in the city escaping the payment of any taxes at all on polls and personal property, by the failure of making returns, and affords an opportunity to file lists through agents, friends and employees, who are frequently ignorant of the amount and value of their personal effects which results in a large decrease in the returns of taxable personal property. "The public is ignorant of the annoyance and trouble the tax department experiences in the failure to have all returns promptly made in the closing of June. The books cannot be closed as they should be, and the county commissioners are forced to exercise their duty in imposing the fine of double taxation, which is not a very agreeable duty. "It is desired that our present method be discarded and hereafter tax returns be obtained in a manner above indicated, which is most satisfactory to all concerned—county commissioners, assessors and taxpayers."

"HOW COME" RUNAWAY BOYS.

The Roving Habit One to Which Charlotte Youngsters Seem to Be Peculiarly Addicted—Some Theories "It is almost a wonder that more boys run away from home from Charlotte than from any other town of equal size in the country," said a citizen resident. "It has always been bad and seems to be getting worse. Much of the trouble, in my opinion, is due to the fact that the parents are careless and do all in their power to keep their roving children at home, but there are others, usually of a lower class, who are careless in the way they care for their children as long as they are not in the way. Those in touch with the situation know of many a boy who has slept around in dark and unsanitary alleys, and who, when they are asked to care not whether he was living or dead, there is not the home discipline there should be." "A rather peculiar but nevertheless interesting case is mentioned here, advanced by some persons as an explanation for the growing tendency to run away on the part of Young America is that the cause lies in the moving picture shows. Here, they say, the youngsters see such beautiful and alluring views of scenery in the world which lies beyond their own more restricted and commonplace sphere that they are impelled to see the world for themselves. That is problematical, but is more or less far-fetched. The fact, whatever its explanation, at any rate remains and challenges consideration. There is practically nothing in the world which can be said in favor of the "roving" practice. Aside from the fact that by beating the law, one violates the law, and compromises character, there is danger of being arrested if not hurt in an accident. There is the bare possibility that in remote instances self-confidence and resourcefulness might be developed, but the odds are 1,000 to 1 that the boy will be coerced by the convict with the world in the capacity of a youthful adventurer. The problem is a serious one.

Concerning the Proposed Arch and Other Matters.

The plan for an archway across one of the principal streets is one which is meeting with general public favor. Practically everybody realizes the fact that the city, just like an individual, must dress up in order to make a good impression on strangers, and that folks are judged very largely by the clothes they wear. Since Charlotte is more and more taking unto herself the similitude and the characteristics of a city, her people are beginning to realize the importance of beauty secured by architectural and other devices. When the streets are completed and in good order it will be met that other things in keeping with them should be brought into being.

Little Typhoid Fever in Charlotte This Summer.

It is a fact remarked upon frequently that there is comparatively little typhoid fever in Charlotte this summer, as compared with that of a number of cases here last summer. There are very few cases of any particular seriousness and the general situation is reassuring to those who fear this disease. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy Would Have Saved Him \$100.00. "In 1907 I had a very severe attack of diarrhoea," says R. N. Farrar, of Cal Island, La. "For several weeks I was unable to do anything. On March 15, 1907, I had a similar attack and took Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy which gave me prompt relief. I consider it one of the best medicines of its kind in the world, and had I used it in 1906, believe me, I would not have saved me a hundred dollar doctor's bill." Sold by R. H. Jordan & Co.

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The Pineville Picnic Promising.

Under the auspices of the Farmers' Union the people of Pineville will give a basket picnic Thursday. A number of prominent local speakers will be on hand and address the crowd on various topics. The Pineville picnic has become an annual affair and is always looked forward to with interest by young and old alike. The grove, in which the people assemble, is one of the prettiest in the county. A thousand or more persons will take advantage of the coming event to enjoy an outing in the country.

Death of Lusgan Caudle.

Mr. L. Caudle received information of the death of Lusgan Caudle, the 2-year-old son of his brother, Mr. W. D. Caudle, in Chattanooga, Tenn. He died Sunday about noon after a prolonged illness.

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