

FIRE PREVENTION.

Address by Mr. T. V. Hartnett Before the Rotary Club Yesterday.

The weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club, held at the Hotel de Ville, was given by Mr. T. V. Hartnett, president of the club, and Mr. J. H. G. ...

...of the city in fire losses is not known, but it is interesting to learn that in five cities in the Eastern States, the purchase of automobile fire apparatus resulted in the extinguishment of fires in buildings which would have been thoroughly destroyed, and a fair estimate of the value and contents is far in excess of eight hundred thousand dollars. Attention is then given to the conspicuous fire hazards. Old buildings are rendered safe for occupancy, dilapidated buildings are removed. In the city of Boston 1124 of these buildings have been removed during the past few years, and a rigid inspection is made of all industrial plants, departmental stores and mercantile establishments.

Thus far I have considered only the financial losses, and have not referred to another and far less excusable kind of waste; I mean the waste of life. Fortunately in this city our fires have been attended with small losses of life, but it behoves us as good citizens to see that our schools, factories and mercantile establishments afford ample protection to their occupants. I can only touch on the activities of the committee in this field of service and briefly their recommendations might be summarized as follows:

- (a) Order and neatness, commonly called "good housekeeping."
- (b) Self-closing metal cans for oily waste, and other dangerous materials.
- (c) Metal receptacles with tight metal covers for the safe keeping of sweepings, rubbish, accumulation, ashes, etc., pending removal from premises.
- (d) Non-combustible or metal lined rooms, and tins for the storage of excelsior, straw, waste, paper, and other ready inflammable materials used for packing purposes, etc.
- (e) Installation of electric wiring, fuses, etc., strictly in accordance with the rules of the National electric code.
- (f) Proper safe guards for electrical apparatus, used for heating, etc.

The importance of fire drills for school children, and factory employees is considered a vital necessity. Installation of fire doors between departments and elevator shafts so that the fire may be confined to the smallest possible area, is also advised, and now that the holiday season is approaching, special emphasis is laid on the danger of using inflammable materials for decoration purposes. The committee strongly advocates the adoption of the automatic sprinkler system, and in this connection it is interesting to note that out of a total of 4577 fires in buildings protected by sprinkler systems, 1143 fires, or 25 per cent, were practically extinguished by the sprinklers, and 339 fires or 35 per cent, were held in check.

What can we do in St. John's? First of all it will require both individual and collective efforts. Individually, we can make start by developing in ourselves a fire consciousness. We can make carefulness with fire not only a habit, but an instinct. Let us correct those conditions in our premises, home or business which breed fire, such as the rubbish heap, the carelessly disposed match or cigarette, the electric iron thoughtlessly left burning on the defective chimney of fuel, the open fire left unattended.

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"Nero" Now Running at the Majestic

MAMMOTH PRODUCTION MADE IN ITALY BY FOX IS MAGNIFICENT HISTORICAL SPECTACLE.

The production may have been made abroad and have a group of local talent in the cast, but its inspiration was American and it was produced by an American, J. Gordon Edwards, who deserves the plaudits of the multitude. Edwards took a corps of technical assistants to Italy and one American actress, who, by the way, is one of the captivating features of the picture, and made "Nero" on what might be called his own ground. The result of his endeavours is a huge historical spectacle that is pictorially gratifying to an unusual extent and full of life and spirit, and real drama. It is not by any means just a series of beautiful or astounding scenes. It's got something behind it. And back of that, pushing everything forward, are the brains of the producer. The scenes of mobilization and attack of the rebellious Roman troops are some of the outstanding things in a production that has many features that might be singled out for separate praise. The excitement toward the close of the picture during the scene of Nero's final orgy and his ultimate fall is intense and built up with dramatic construction.

Household Notes. Serve curried cream fish with steamed rice. Most fruits are much more wholesome uncooked. Chicken fat makes an excellent cake shortening. Bake chopped beef and macaroni together in white sauce. Sweet-breads are delicious sautéed and served on fresh toast. Very delicious croquettes can be made with sweet potatoes. To use in chafin dish specialties. Sweeten rice pudding with honey, and add to it a few chopped dates. For a very light starch use water in which rice has been boiled. Serve sections of grapefruit in white grape juice as an appetizer. Your omelet will not be likely to stick if the pan is perfectly smooth. Can grapes ready for winter use in pie fillings, sauces and puddings. An attractive garnish for scrambled eggs in triangles of fried bread.

COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME--STAR MOVIE TO-ADY

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Tales of a Toastmaster

More Good Stories by Mr. Knight-Smith (The best-known toastmaster in the World.) Dealing with sudden emergencies sometimes leads one into making other quite amusing little blunders. A chairman, committee-man, secretary, or some other official, will rush up to me with the request that I will make some announcement or other, adding usually, "you know how to word it--I leave it to you." It often happens that in the hurry of the moment the poor toastmaster may not phrase the announcement in quite the happiest way. For instance, at a recent reception in London, I was asked to announce a change in the arrangement for the ushering out of the guests. The Prince of Wales had just arrived and I called out: "Your Royal Highness and guests at the top will please come this way. Gentlemen will go out of the other door." This announcement was greeted with loud laughter, in which the Prince joined heartily, but I think that everyone present realized how the mistake had arisen.

Amusing Mannerisms.

The mannerisms of various well known speakers are always interesting. The American Ambassador, Mr. Harvey, likes to moisten his lips with mineral waters every minute or two, and often gets through several bottles of this kind of refreshment in the course of a single speech. Earl Balfour is a speaker who requires plenty of room when "on his feet." He invariably steps backwards and forwards while speaking, and I always take the precaution of moving his chair when he rises, so as to allow him the freedom he needs.

Mixing Up Their Names.

For example, on one occasion, at a banquet at the Royal Automobile Club, in announcing Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, I inadvertently mixed up the famous soldier's name with that of Lord Charles Bessford, who was also present, with the result that I called out, "Field-Marshal Lord Charles Roberts!" The Field-Marshal went up to the great Admiral, and holding out his hand, said, with a merry twinkle in his eye, "Pleased to meet you, brother Charles."

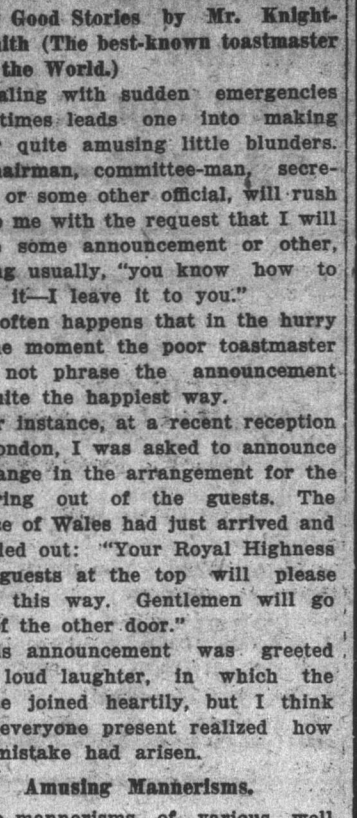
Called Haig an Admiral.

As it happened, the blank space was opposite the name of a famous admiral, and in due course I read out to the astonished company, as the famous soldier entered, "Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Haig!" As soon as the words had left my lips I realized the blunder I had made. Of course, I apologized, and immediately read the name again, this time correctly. Shortly after this I was present at another ceremony at which Earl Haig was a guest. Taking advantage of a moment when he was disengaged, I went up to him and asked to be pardoned for making such a foolish mistake. Earl Haig laughed as he recalled the incident, and then thanked me for thinking him worthy of being promoted, as he expressed it, "to the senior service!"

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