

### THE SERIOUS CHARACTER OF THE SHINGLE HAZARD.

The three recent conflagrations at Paris, Texas, Augusta, Ga., and Nashville, Tenn., call attention forcibly once again to the serious character of the shingle hazard. At Paris, 1440 buildings were destroyed, of which 1,051 had combustible roofs. A report by the State fire marshal on this fire says that "Modern history does not contain a more perfect example of the conflagration hazard that is present in every city or town where the shingle roof is prevalent. The burning of the business district of Paris was not due to a lack of fire fighters; it was not due to a lack of water; it was not due to the construction of the business district itself, but was primarily attributable to the shingle roofs of the residence section of the city. The firemen were not able to hold the blaze to the first building being burned, for the reason that the brands carried by the high gale had set on fire buildings four, five, six and even ten blocks away and, in practically every turn, would send their burning brands on the wings of the wind to other buildings with shingle roofs until every dwelling on both the south and east sides of the business section was a seething, roaring mass of flames; and, notwithstanding the fact that the roofs of the business buildings had refused to take fire from the burning embers that had fallen upon them like a rain of hail for some time, when the half-circle of fire around the business district had closed in, the intense heat of the wind-driven flames and the flying brands and coals which were many inches deep in the streets, broke through the windows and doors, and when once an entrance was effected, the doom of the business section was sealed. Had the roofs of the dwellings in the path of the fire from its point of origin to the business district been of non-combustible material, it is believed the fire department of Paris alone could have easily held the blaze to at least the block in which it originated."

At Nashville, 648 buildings, covering an area of

64 acres, were destroyed. The fire was in two distinct zones, separated by about 1,800 feet of clear space, the second zone becoming ignited through burning brands alighting on shingle roofs. The Tennessee Inspection Bureau, in a report on the fire, records its conviction that "Light frame construction and especially shingle roofs were undoubtedly responsible for fire starting in the second zone. If the hazards of quick burning construction are to be minimized in cities and towns the power lies solely in the hands of those who have legislative control and public sentiment should stamp with everlasting approval the abolition of the shingle roof and encourage only that type of construction which resists fire as well as time."

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