

FIRE HAZARDS ON WATER FRONTS.**United States Attorney Gregory Calls on Government Fire Prevention Section to Note Conditions at Docks and Wharves.**

United States Attorney-General T. W. Gregory has sent a letter to the Fire Prevention Section of the War Industries Board pointing out the need of establishing a more adequate system of fire protection for our waterfronts and shipping facilities. His observations are particularly applicable to Boston, the letter being as follows:

"In the course of the enforcement of the Presidential regulations barring alien enemies from the portion of the waterfront engaged in shipping, my department has had occasion to observe the fire risk conditions at the docks, wharves and other shipping facilities.

"I have received the impression that no systematic effort has been made to bring about the installation in these facilities of high standards of fire prevention methods and devices, such as ought now to be required in view of the important part which these facilities play in the prosecution of the war. The army and navy have had their attention called to the fire hazards at munition plants and to those docks, wharves and the like, which are under the immediate control of the army and navy. But in the case of those waterfront facilities which remain under the control of their private owners or operators, the only safeguards are those voluntarily assumed by the owners and operators, or imposed by local fire prevention authorities.

"In view of this situation and the obvious importance of proper protection of the shipping facilities against fire, I feel warranted in bringing the subject to your attention. And I respectfully suggest that your bureau promptly institute a comprehensive survey of the fire hazard condition of those docks, wharves and other shipping facilities which are engaged in operations related to the prosecution of the war, with a view to having all reasonable precautions provided therefor."

BRITISH FIRE LOSSES DROP IN MAY.

The cost of the principal fire losses in the United Kingdom during May is estimated by the London "Times" at £310,000, which compares with losses of £344,100 in April and £365,000 in May last year. Only fires are taken into account in which the losses amounted to £1,000 or more. Among the chief fires in May were outbreaks at a wollen mill at Batley, causing a loss of £30,000; at a gramophone works at Wandsworth, resulting in a similar loss; at a mansion at Ayr, which cost £28,000; at a dye factory at Manchester, which cost £17,000, and at bleaching works in the same city, which resulted in a loss of £13,000.

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