

ney," which was due to the burning of soot in unclean chimneys.

Examination of the report of the State Fire Commissioner of Texas, dated February 14th, 1917, indicates that had the chimneys been properly constructed and cleaned, and buildings properly fire-stopped, the 1568 "Unpreventable Fires" attributed to "Sparks on Roofs" would have been reduced to a minimum.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters in their statement of fire losses in the United States for 1917 place the total at \$231,628,040 and in 1918, \$283,103,101, or a total loss in two years of \$514,785,141, with a total of fires caused by sparks on roofs of only \$13,682,423 for two years, or a percentage of 2.66 per cent, which could not at least all be attributed to wooden shingles.

Some of the worst conflagrations and heaviest losses have been in the fireproof districts, as the National Fire Protective Association says in one of its publications "It is the frequent conflagration in a

business district where the commercial values are greater which make the fire tax in the United States so enormous," and in these congested districts wooden shingles are seldom found, and never recommended for such use. Take the much talked Atlanta, Ga., conflagration. This fire started in the business district, burned out to the residence district, and was stopped in a shingle roofed frame constructed house.

When an overwhelming majority of all large cities in the United States and Canada permit the use of wooden shingles within their corporate limits, outside of the congested districts, it is proof that the advantages of the wooden shingle roof in residence districts are still recognized. It is also proof that the general public desire an opportunity to make their own choice of the roofing material they shall use, for there are many who advertised forms of roofing, claimed to be "fire-proof or "fire-resistant." To the public the words are generally synonymous—that is combustible.

HYDRAULIC TURBINES

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