

On this 17th day of September, 1918, Governor Eberhart duly issued and caused to be filed in the Executive Department of the State of Minnesota proclamation as follows:

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

In co-operation there is strength and efficiency. The people of Minnesota have already realized the results that may be attained by co-operation for the purpose of attaining any given end. Accordingly I am calling the attention of the people of this state to an important question which is given us to solve if all work together. The end in view is the prevention of fire losses so that each citizen of the state of Minnesota may be more prosperous at the close of the year than he was at the close of the previous year. Not only will proper co-operation along these lines result in the conservation of property but human life will be conserved as well. Money and property can be replaced but human life snuffed out is an irretrievable loss.

The fire waste in the United States is absolutely appalling. That it is a useless waste is shown conclusively by comparative statistics. The average per capita loss through fire to the citizens of this country is approximately \$2.50. In European countries the average per capita loss is 33¢. During the past fifteen years it is estimated that two billion dollars and twenty thousand lives have been offered up as a sacrifice to the fire scourge. Shall we admit that Europe can teach us a primary lesson in conservation? Surely we shall not do so. As America has led and blazed the trail in the most difficult lines of human endeavor, so in this question of

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conservation involving the prevention of loss of property and life by fire America must lead, but before assuming the position of leadership, America must learn the lesson which Europe is teaching.

In Minnesota a strenuous struggle has been waged against fire losses through the establishment of the office of the State Fire Marshal. Because of the efforts of the State Forester and through the interest taken in this subject by the State Insurance Commissioner, Minnesota has gone far towards solving the problem. Their efforts are to be commended but much remains to be attained and this can be accomplished only through the thorough co-operation of the people of the state.

A year ago the first national fire prevention congress was called at my instance and was held in the City of St. Paul. At that congress different methods of fire prevention were discussed and the influence of the gathering has been nation-wide. The different states have taken up the matter and everywhere a titanic struggle is being waged against the useless waste of fire. Having set the pace along this line, Minnesota should not be a laggard in carrying on the war. Co-operation is the key to the situation. This co-operation can be attained only through the active influence of those agencies that can bring co-operation to you. These agencies are especially, the churches, the schools, the commercial and municipal organizations and private business concerns. A large percentage of the fire losses occur through criminal activity or carelessness. The influence of these agencies for harm can be reduced to a minimum by the active interest of our people. The police power of the state with the assistance of all good citizens will be directed against the crime of arson. The crime of carelessness is one that can be prevented only through the activity of all good citizens. Relentless war can be waged against the careless use of matches. Inflammable rubbish in factories and elsewhere must not be permitted. Hallways and alleys that are noisome

and dangerous should be cleaned up. Oily waste, a dangerously inflammable material, must be eliminated. Lumber yards, packing houses or factories must be carefully guarded and kept clean. Greater care must be exercised in the homes.

Accordingly for the purpose of calling particular attention to this campaign against the waste by fire, I hereby proclaim Thursday, October 9th, as

FIRE PREVENTION DAY

in Minnesota. I urge that it be so recognized in all the departments of the state, in all the public and private institutions of learning, and by all social, religious, educational and commercial organizations, and by individuals interested in the social and economic benefit of our people. The press as the greatest agent of economic betterment in this state is especially urged to take up this matter and to impress upon our people its importance and the benefits to be attained. It is hoped that the chief executives of every city and village in the state will interest themselves in the movement and urge a general fire prevention and clean-up day in their communities so that the fire waste in Minnesota may be reduced to a minimum.

(GREAT SEAL)

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and the Great Seal of Minnesota, at the Capitol, in the City of St. Paul, this 17th day of September, A. D. 1913.

Adolph O. Eberhart,
Governor.

Attest: Julius A. Solmahl,
Secretary of State.

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A. H. Hayes,
Executive Clerk.