

## Utah Wheat Growers Realize Small Fortunes This Year.

THE grain and flour trade in this city and state has passed through some remarkable experiences during the past year, experiences characterized by notable fluctuations. During the winter and early spring prices reached the highest, so local millers say, that have obtained in this state since the early day, when flour reached the altitudinous figure of \$16 per sack of 50 pounds. However, the high quotations of the current year were but part of the conditions obtaining all over the country. Grain was not to be had, east or west. So there was a general reaching out for the raw material of the staff of life from many directions, and Utah was drawn upon for as much as it would stand. The demand was such that the entire Utah output could have been sold and shipped out in short order had that demand been complied with. But the farmers would not let go, expecting that prices would go much higher, while the higher the figures went, the more the farmer held on, hoping for yet higher prices. This cupidity did good stead, in acting as a conservative force, preventing a general emptying of farm bins; and at the same time, the millers throughout the state, knowing well that if they let go all they had, it would only leave them in the open market as purchasers at very likely higher prices than what they might have sold out for, held back with supplies above the margin of safety, which one milling man estimates at 4,000,000 bushels. So enough was held in the state to keep the mills from danger of closing down. However, by the time the early fall harvest was in the bins of the country were practically empty. In speaking of this, millers call attention to the statement of James J. Hill that unless the wheat acreage of the country is increased the United States will soon cease to be an exporting nation, with all of its wheat consumed within its own limits.

### TOP PRICES THIS YEAR.

Wheat in the spring bounded from \$1.25 up to \$1.30 and \$1.35 to the general astonishment. However, about the

last of July, prices began to weaken and fall, this the new wheat came in. But, dealers say the coming year promises to be a repetition of this, although the wheat acreage in this state has been largely increased by the opening up of so many thousand acres of hitherto arid land for dry farming. The moist winters of the past few years have proven very favorable to successful dry farming, though the increase of the sugar beet acreage has infringed on the wheat acreage in the irrigated districts. But with the unprecedented development of the arid lands, where hitherto cultivation was thought to be impossible, this will not cut much of a figure. This increase of the wheat area is encouraged by the government state agricultural authorities, and the milling trade. The estimated output for the current year in Utah is between four and five million bushels, with the yield steadily becoming larger, corresponding with the growth in population. There has also been a notable enlargement in the wheat storage capacity, both in Utah and in southern Idaho now becoming more than ever tributary to Salt Lake.

### TWENTY GRAIN ELEVATORS.

The number of elevators given in Utah is 20, with a storage capacity of 1,000,000 bushels, while in Idaho, Denver, with Utah and Idaho capital, has been the means of erecting quite a number of elevators scattered through the southern section of a state. All of these will be filled with local grains; and while there is bound to be heavy exporting, millers say there will certainly be left enough to take care of the home consumer. As it is estimated that the annual consumption of wheat is seven to eight bushels per capita of the population, the amount required for any given section of the country may be figured out after ascertaining the population. And incidentally, millers say Idaho is blossoming out into an immense wheat state. Outside wheat, so it is claimed, is not shipped in here, that is, from east of the mountains, though plains country flour is imported quite freely. Two years ago it was found necessary to resort to Oregon to make up a local wheat shortage, but millers do not expect this to happen again, as there is no reason why Utah and southern Idaho should not depend entirely upon home grown wheat.

### OATS AND RYE.

The oat crop is estimated at about

50 per cent of the wheat production, barley about 40, and rye about 15 to 20. Idaho is producing more oats than Utah, and the output must be increased owing to the number of construction enterprises calling for the use of horses, as well as the enlarged area of agricultural cultivation which demands the further use of horses. Rye, used here for bread, is also shipped to California in considerable quantities. Barley is sold to the brewers, and to a small extent is made into bread. Prices of flour have increased considerably the current year. For high patent, quotations have soared from \$2.50 to \$3.75; for straight grade, 15 cents less, and for bakers' 25 cents less than high patent. These are retail prices, the wholesale figures averaging 30 cents less. There has always been and will continue to be some flour shipped in from the middle western states—from Kansas and Nebraska; particularly when the local supply runs short. But Manager Miller of the Intermountain Milling company claims that of all the flour consumed in this immediate territory, hardly over 3 per cent is shipped in from east of the mountains. Bakers use it freely, as it contains more moisture, making the dough weigh more.

### FEATURE OF FLOUR TRADE.

The prices of flour have ascended in company with the rise in the raw product. In other lines when prices get too high, people can do without; but with flour, they have to buy, no matter what the price may be. A feature in the flour trade of late has been the inspection of flour packages by the state food commissioner who found the heaviest shortage in flour from Junction City, Kansas. As this mill had cut prices to get into this market, a cut in weight was made to correspond in price. But with the state officials here that don't go. With wheat in its present status, local millers do not see how flour can be any lower the coming year, though they hope it will go no higher. For quality Utah and Idaho flour holds its own, asking no odds of any eastern—even Pillsbury's best.

There are 75 flour mills in Utah, averaging nearly 10,000 barrels annually. It is claimed that no Colorado flour is used in this market. No effort whatever seems to have been made to introduce here the growth of buckwheat which makes such excellent flour, perhaps due to the fact that special machinery must be installed for milling it.

o'clock in the morning and could not be extinguished for 24 hours, at the plant of the Utah Oil Refining company, 94 north Fourth West street, though the loss was comparatively small, amounting to but \$5,414. The same plant also suffered by fire on Oct. 12.

The longest run was made Feb. 26, at 2:15 o'clock in the afternoon, when the whole department went up to Bountiful, a distance of about 10 miles, to put out a fire in the opera house which caused a loss of \$10,000.

### MORE EQUIPMENT NEEDED.

Chief Gloré states that at least three new full hose companies and stations to house them are needed, on account of new territory added to the city. Inasmuch as the council has agreed to take in Forest Dale and will also absorb Sugar House district, both on the south. This will make the city limits extend to Fourteenth South street eastward from Third East street, on the south, to a line about two blocks on the other side of the Fair grounds, on the west, to Beck's hot springs on the north, and to Utah university and Fort Douglas on the east. The addition of Federal Heights also has greatly increased the territory on the east for which the fire department is responsible. The total territory

amounts to 51.7 square miles, and the present equipment of the fire department is inadequate to protect the rapidly growing city. There are only four fire stations now, and the city needs four more. There are only 35 men on actual fire duty now, and this force should be increased, as the present complement is not sufficient to handle the apparatus. An automobile chemical fire engine, in order that small fires in remote sections may be extinguished before the arrival of the heavy apparatus, so

that such fires may be kept from spreading and doing big damage. If a "combined-four" is not purchased, the city should provide a heavy automobile, of high horsepower, which will carry 40-gallon chemical tank swiftly to far-distant fires. This would save the horses from being compelled to make long, killing runs to small fires. There are only 35 horses in the department now, and four of these are "out-casts" and should be replaced by strong, young horses. More horses are also needed. Three new full hose companies should be provided at once, in addition to the new No. 6 hose. Three new stations should be built, the proposed locations being at Sixth South and State streets, Tenth East and Second South streets, and Fourth North and Fifth West streets. The first station would equalize the long distances between No. 5, No. 6, and headquarters. The second station would equalize the distances between No. 5, No. 4, and headquarters. The third station would prevent blockades by railroad trains in case of fires on the west side of the tracks, where an immense territory is now covered, necessitating very long runs at present.

The department now has two good steamers, and an old steamer is being repaired, and will soon be in commission. But at certain times of the year, when long runs have to be made, it is dangerous to take the steamers from headquarters to fight fires in outside districts, thus leaving the business section of the city wholly unprotected, and for this reason another steamer should be provided.

### WATER TOWER NEEDED.

Chief Gloré states that a modern water-tower is absolutely necessary, as the department could not now handle a fire on the upper floors of the new skyscrapers. The present apparatus is handicapped under existing conditions by the lack of a water-tower. One instance illustrates its necessity: At the Atlas block fire, ladders were moved up on one another, making an improvised water-tower, in order to reach the upper floors of the burning building, and the ladders only reached as high as the third story, while the hose carried a pressure of 250 pounds. The ladders fell over on to wires in the middle of the street, with firemen on the bottom, and the only thing that saved them from being killed was the fact that they hooked themselves to the ladders with Pompey belts, which prevented them from being thrown off to the ground.

As a general summary, it is stated that the fire department, through lack of small full-paid force, subject to detrimental political influences; the financial support is insufficient; the method of appointment is unsatisfactory and members can be removed without stated causes. The companies are well manned, but insufficient in number. Engines are in good condition, and seldom needed, but their total capacity is somewhat deficient. Ladder protection is fair, but chemical and hose protection need strengthening. The apparatus is mainly in good condition, but minor equipment is deficient. A water tower and more appliances for handling large streams are needed. Discipline is only fair, and drills and training for new members insufficient. Response to alarms is weak and should be increased immediately. Fire methods are as good as the available apparatus permits.

The fire alarm system is a part of the fire department, but through lack of proper maintenance and appreciation of its importance is practically useless. The boxes are mainly of poor type, with brush break contacts, and not well mounted. The circuits are underground in important districts, but are of very small wire and in telephone cables. Elsewhere, the circuits are overhead, partly in telephone cables and partly in small No. 12 wire with triple b. i. weatherproof ventilation, poorly supported, and on poles with high tension wires. No house instruments are on box circuits, and one circuit is very heavy overhead. The fire alarm circuits to houses are used simply as call bell circuits. Batteries are not properly installed and are in unserviceable condition. No records or maps are kept on file. The fire department needs auxiliaries. At present there is no fire marshal, and no provision is made for prosecutions for arson.

The fire department, as a whole, is efficient, but weak. The fire alarm system is unreliable to such an extent as to form a menace to the safety of the city.

As far as structural conditions and hazards are concerned, the building laws are of little value, most subjects of importance in preventing fires being omitted. The inspection force is inadequate, both because of materials insufficiently extensive, and shingled roofs are permitted outside. Structural conditions are unsatisfactory, on account of poor building laws.

In regard to explosives and inflammables, the laws are few and inadequate. Enforcement is in the hands of the fire department, and inspections are made by its members, but the laws are not strictly enforced, and many unnecessary accumulations of inflammable rubbish are noted. There is neither municipal nor insurance control over the installation of inside electrical wiring. The old work is hazardous both because of materials in use and the method of installation. Serious fires are probable throughout the congested value district, which is mostly built of ordinary jointed brick, with practically no protection to vertical or lateral openings, with several excessive heights and a great number of excessive areas, generally hazardous electric wiring, little private fire protection, and a very unsatisfactory fire alarm system. North and west of the congested value district, several blocks of hazardous occupancy are liable to serious fires, and the fact that the residential sections are mainly occupied by houses with shingled roofs adds to the danger.

In conclusion, a re-organization is needed, as the best results can not be obtained while the chief and all employees are subject to removal for political reasons. The department should have approved civil service regulations governing the appointment and retention of employees. The present personnel of the working force in the department is good.

Month	Alarms	Statement of Operation	Minutes
		Travelling	Station
	Alarms	Travelling	Station
Jan.	16	324	4,109
Feb.	16	324	4,109
March	16	324	4,109
April	16	324	4,109
May	16	324	4,109
June	16	324	4,109
July	16	324	4,109
Aug.	16	324	4,109
Sept.	16	324	4,109
Oct.	16	324	4,109
Nov.	16	324	4,109
Total	160	3,240	41,090

Month	Expenses	Total
	Salaries	Total
January	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
February	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
March	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
April	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
May	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
June	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
July	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
August	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
September	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
October	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
November	\$5,625.25	\$4,432.60
Total	\$61,128.00	\$44,326.00

### RISKS AND LOSSES.

Month	Time of Alarm	Location	Occupancy	Loss
Jan. 1	6:31 a.m.	61 W. First South	Bennett Paint & Glass Co.	\$5,500
Feb. 23	3:15 p.m.	Bountiful	Opera House (outside city)	10,000
March 2	7:43 a.m.	194 S. 7th East	Residence	2,800
March 12	12:42 a.m.	244 S. 4th West	Residence	14,500
March 17	8:54 a.m.	244 S. 4th West	Macaroni factory	14,500
April 27	8:12 a.m.	40 S. Main	X. L. Lumber Co.	1,600
May 12	2:52 a.m.	54 Rio Grande Ave	American Tea company	1,600
Aug. 15	2:30 a.m.	11th E. & 12th S.	City and County building	1,600
Aug. 28	8:46 a.m.	434 J. St.	Residence	1,600
Sept. 19	1:45 p.m.	11th E. & 12th S.	Granite Lumber Co.	7,000
Sept. 29	1:35 p.m.	City Creek Canyon	Asphalt plant	2,500
Oct. 12	3:25 p.m.	6th N. & 4th W.	Utah Oil Refining Co.	1,000
Oct. 28	1:00 a.m.	S. Ten & 2nd W.	Sierra Nevada Lumber Co.	1,600
Nov. 8	4:26 a.m.	254 S. State	Baron Clothing Co.	3,419
Nov. 8	2:54 a.m.	1146 S. 9th E.	A. M. Cannon's bath	1,350
Nov. 9	12:15 a.m.	340 N. 4th W.	Utah Oil Refining Co.	5,114
Total				\$141,422.50

The following table gives a list of the fires during the last year in which the loss was \$500 or over:

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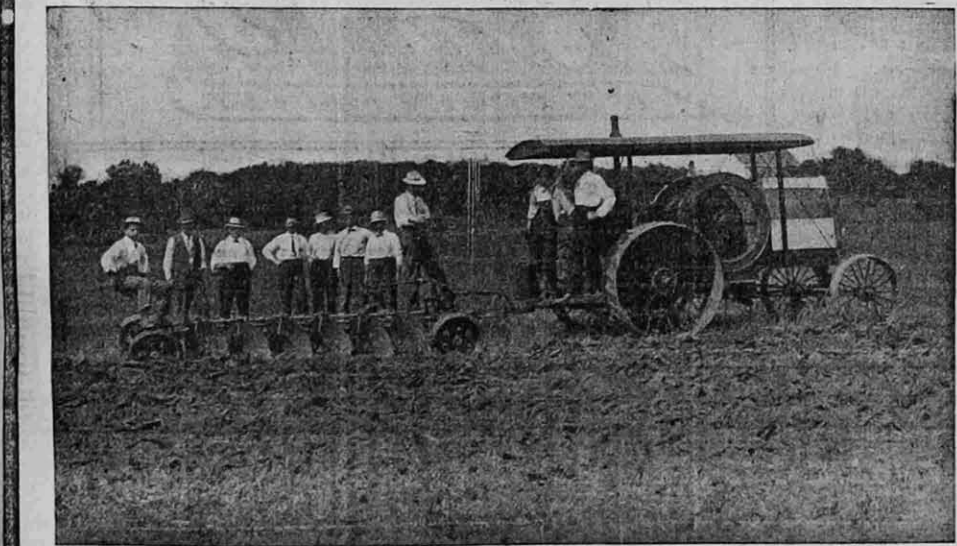
## Chief Gloré Makes Urgent Recommendations

Fire Chief William H. Gloré makes urgent recommendations, in his annual report for 1909, that numerous necessary improvements be made. During the last year, up to Dec. 1, he says there have been 345 fires, the apparatus has traveled 320 miles in service, 65,000 feet of hose was laid, 1,763 gallons of chemicals were used, 1,909 feet of ladders have been raised, and the department has been 317 hours and 45 minutes in actual fire service. Property involved in fires was valued at \$3,842,669; the insurance losses involved amounted to \$1,462,558; of this, the insurance companies paid fire losses of \$126,890; the actual fire loss totaled \$135,632; and the total losses by fire over insurance amounted to \$8,741. Chief Gloré gives the total expenditures on the fire department for the

year as \$75,832.15, of which \$61,196.30 was spent for salaries, and \$14,635.85 was used for operating expenses. The worst fire of the year, in which the greatest money loss was sustained, occurred March 17, about 8:30 o'clock in the morning, when the I. X. L. Furniture company's store at 41 to 51 east Third South street, was burned. Another disastrous fire was that which occurred Sept. 19, at 1:43 o'clock in the afternoon, when \$75,000 worth of lumber was burned in the yards of the Granite Lumber company, at Eleventh East and Twelfth South streets. The next largest loss was sustained by the Sierra Nevada Lumber company, when \$31,456 worth of lumber burned in its yards at South Temple and Second West streets, Oct. 25, at 1 o'clock in the morning. The most spectacular fire of the year occurred Nov. 9, when a large number of oil tanks started to burn at 12:15

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For the season of 1910, we will carry a full and up to date line of farm machinery, wagons, buggies, harness, steel grain bins, etc., which can be supplied at a very low figure. The company has a great future in sight and is well equipped for business, having an especially strong organization with the following officers:

President, A. W. Ivins; Vice President, W. G. Danielsen, Secy. and Treasurer, Thos. E. Towler; General Manager, Samuel Peterson. Directors: A. W. Ivins, W. G. Danielsen, George Albert Smith, O. L. P. Miller, S. O. Bennion, Jesse Knight, and George C. Rigby.

The stockholders in this company are all local people. Everybody should boost for the Danielsen Plow Company, as it is practically a home institution.

