

teachers' convention, I was requested to issue a circular answering the following questions for the information of many school district trustees. I take pleasure in complying with the request:

1.—At the election for school trustees in the several districts of each county of the State on the second Monday in July, 1896, what will be the essential qualifications of a voter?

Answer: A voter at such election must be a citizen of the United States, native born or naturalized; of the age of twenty-one years or over; shall have been a resident of the State or Territory of Utah for one year, of the county for four months, and of the school district for sixty days, each period so named to be that next preceding the day of said election.

2.—Will women be entitled to vote at this election the same as men?

Answer: Yes.

3.—Will women be eligible to the office of school trustee at this election the same as men?

Answer: Yes.

4.—Will it be necessary for one to have registered in order to vote at this election?

Answer: No.

5.—Will the trustees as judges of election also be judges of the qualifications of voters?

Answer: Yes.

JOHN R. PARK,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

COAL AND GAS.

SALT LAKE CITY,
June 23rd, 1896.

I noticed an article on Natural Gas in yesterday's issue of the Herald, in which the writer reviewed the subject and directed attention to some facts not generally known. He pointed out certain conditions that were unfavorable to the gas consumer, tending to the discouragement or the use of gas under the existing regime.

Appropos to this subject is an article which appeared in the New York World for June 7th. The author gives an interesting account of the organization of a strong rival to the gigantic gas trust—that octopus which has stretched out its tentacles until it enjoys a monopoly of the gas business of that city.

Economy is the watchword of this new company and if the plans formulated will be carried out, it will effect a radical change in the use of coal in that populous city. For the information of your readers I will give a few brief extracts from the article here referred to.

"Its purpose in a nutshell is to supply fuel gas to the consumer at the phenomenally low cost of 40 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. This means the saving of more than two-thirds in the monthly gas bill of those using gas for cooking. * * * Gas it is acknowledged, is far cheaper fuel than coal. Everyone of the countless families who now use gas stoves during the summer months recognizes this fact, even with the present high price of gas. With a reduction of two-thirds in the cost of fuel gas, to the consumer which this new company promises it can be readily seen what an enormous reduction will be

made in coal bills. * * * But it is on the grounds of economy that the company makes its strongest plea to the small consumer. Gas at 40 cents per 1,000 cubic feet is an offer almost beyond belief. But in taking the obligation on itself, at supplying fuel gas at this phenomenally low figure, the company feels confident of its ability to satisfy each and every one of its customers without reservation.

"More liberal still, this novel concern contracts to supply gas stoves to customers at cost. Besides it will pipe the house for its gas in every instance. * * *

To large consumers gas will be sold for 25 cents per 1,000 feet. It can be seen on the face of it that this means an enormous saving to the manufacturer. Furthermore, every municipal department will be the gainer by the new system. Gas will be furnished to the city for heating all the public buildings at 25 cents per 1,000 cubic feet."

From the above extracts it will appear that gas stands pre-eminently superior to coal from every point of view. And this it must be borne in mind is manufactured and not natural gas. This gas is obtained from coal which costs the company about \$3.00 per ton, besides the immense outlay of capital required to erect a gas plant on so extensive a plant as is contemplated, and in addition to that, the laying of 1,000 miles of main and the piping of the buildings of the consumers. If manufactured gas can be supplied at the rates above quoted what ought natural gas to cost per 1,000 cubic feet, when the expense of conducting it from the bowels of the earth where nature has made it is almost incomparably less than the cost of producing a fuel gas by mechanical and chemical methods? The population of Salt Lake City would hail the advent of as favorable tenders to them as are offered to our commercial seaboard metropolis.

SUBSCRIBER.

A BIG MERCUR FIRE.

MERCUR, June 24.—Utah's celebrated gold mining camp has again been visited by a disastrous blaze. That it was not wiped from the face of the earth is due entirely to the heroism and hard work of some of our citizens.

The fire started at 4 o'clock this morning in Senior Bros.' restaurant from a coal oil stove. The building, like all the rest in the city, was a frame one, and soon the flames, fanned by a stiff canyon breeze, were eating their way east and west. The residents rilled from their beds and gathered in the streets in the greatest excitement—many being too excited to lend assistance. But cool headed men went to work with a determination to save the city. They were led by James Hogan, James Hickman and Charles Berry, and as they climbed on to burning buildings to get positions of vantage, they on several occasions, with others were on the point of losing their lives. As it was, the hair, beard and eyebrows of a number were singed while their faces and hands were badly burned.

The fire swept from the Senior restaurant to the Vienna bakery, Silver Club saloon, New York restaurant, Mullin's tailor shop, Woodruff Bros.

store and a number of other buildings. Some of these were partially covered by insurance, while others were without protection. The loss is about \$8,000.

About 5 o'clock this morning a fire occurred at Mercur, which would have wiped out the town but for the excellence of the new fire service and department. As it was the loss is heavy but fortunately nearly all covered by insurance.

The fire started in Senior Bros. restaurant and burned each way to the Mercur Drug company's store on the north and the Mercur Mercury on the south. An approximate estimate of the loss and insurance is as follows:

Thos. Carter, general merchandise, loss about \$2,000; insurance \$2,500 in the Phoenix of Hartford, Svaa of Gothenburg, American of Philadelphia and British America.

L. E. Hornbuckle, who owned the building in which Carter was located, sustains a loss of about \$500, fully covered by insurance in the Home of New York and the Phoenix of Brooklyn.

J. W. Yates, who was next door south and who owned the building and contents of the Sideboard saloon, had a loss of about \$500, covered by a \$500 policy in the American Central.

Judge E. B. Shesbridge, who owned the adjoining building, which was worth about \$350, had insurance to the amount of \$250 in the Orient of Hartford. The tenants, Wiggles and company, who conducted the Silver Club saloon, had no insurance and lost about \$500 in stock and furniture.

Senior Brothers' restaurant, in which the fire originated, lost about \$800, with a \$350 policy in the American Central of St. Louis.

Charles Seyboit, who occupied the balance of the building, which was owned by W. I. Higgins, lost about \$500, with insurance of \$300 in the Aschen & Munich. The New York restaurant (Chinese) was uninsured as was a small tailor shop adjoining.

Woodruff Bros., who own the building in which the owners conducted a general book and stationery business, lost about \$200 on building and contents—insured in the Svaa, Magdeburg and Prussian National. Nearly all of the insurance was carried by the firm of Windsor and Hudson, who have a branch office in the town.

Mr. Windsor leaves in the morning to look after the interests of their companies. The people of Mercur are to be congratulated that the fire stopped where it did and that they had the good sense some little time since to put in hydrants and hose by private subscription. Had it not been for this protection the entire town would undoubtedly have gone up in flames.

IDAHO WEATHER REPORT.

The weather of the week ending Monday, June 22, was generally clear and exceedingly warm, with hot drying winds which have taken much moisture from the soil and rendered irrigation necessary, in most cases for the first time this season; in some places crops still have ample moisture and irrigation will not be needed for some time. Rainfall was reported at only a few scattered stations and was very light and insufficient. Several nights