

Lapham, Allan

Publication/Creation

Late-19th Century

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Lapham. Prof. L.A. Albert: to Chief
Signal Officer USA. 1st paper dated Oct/71
pub in June 2^d - Frouder Institute 1/2

The great fires of 1871 in the NW coast.

1871 a very dry year ^{also} Rantall at Milwaukee
Annual. - Maximum 1871 7.02 inches

Mean of 29 years 2.88. - minimum 1871 0.60 inches

Continued SW. winds bring excessive dryness
to the great prairie - their prevalence is shown
by the way the trees lean. The soil is desiccated - all
wood becomes dry & like tinder. The slightest cause
will then start a fire, which the violent winds
propagate. When it reaches a forest, ^{though} it does not
burn the roots of the prairie grass it does kill
the growth of all forest trees

Hence the true theory of the origin of the prairies
is that they are due to the dry climate & continued
fires - not to the effect of dryness ^{growth of the} in the trees
themselves. - Elsewhere the normal condition
of the soil is forest, as in Virginia or where lakes
are dried - The prairie land is well enough adapted
to the growth of trees & if they were preserved from
fire they would grow.

The northern boundary of the region of prairie
is variable, a continual succession of dry seasons
drives back the forest, of wet seasons encourages it
(over)

(Continued from over)

flv

a constant struggle is thus maintained between
forest & prairie - On the border line we find
scattered trees - The prairie gained on the
forest on the graded scale in 1871. Fires swept
all along the N. frontier - destroying houses too.
Hence ^{these} meteorological causes operate also against
building towns - all their sites have been reduced to
prairie - the great object is to prevent
a check fire - to If houses could be built of
other material than wood, it would be much better.
The pine forests of Michigan & Wisconsin will
not supply timber for temporary construction for
more than 50 years. Precautions chiefly
needed at the South West corner of cities



M^cFarlane
oct/13

p2r

Eraser
g



g is a complete specification
to analyze
Divide n by 2 adding a unit when the dividend is odd & repeat the process (9-1) times
Then for each odd quotient substitute factors - for each case, not here.
E.g. 3-5 5 3 2 7-5 5 3 2 1 1
f f m



p2✓



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