

BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE STEAM BOILER INSPECTOR

OF

COLORADO

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THE YEARS 1893 AND 1894.

F. H. HEGWER,
INSPECTOR.



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THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
1894

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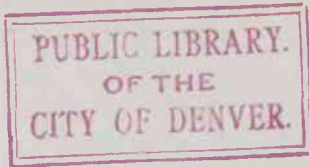
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COMPLIMENTS OF

F. H. HEGWER,

STATE STEAM BOILER INSPECTOR.

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B03
'94



REPORT.

To His Excellency,

DAVIS H. WAITE,

Governor of the State of Colorado:

Your state boiler inspector presents herewith his biennial report of operations for the years of 1893 and 1894, covering the period from May 4, 1893, to January 1, 1895.

I have spent my time in examining and testing the boilers in this state.

There has been but one accident from boiler explosion since I was appointed and this occurred before I had commenced my work.

This occurred at La Junta. The engineer was killed and a boy seriously injured. The electric light plant was destroyed by the explosion in which the boiler was located.

The La Junta explosion was the fifth in two years previous to my appointment. In these five explosions there were seven people killed and four seriously injured, with a loss of more than \$60,000.00 worth of property.

I am glad to report that there has not been a single explosion since I have assumed the duties of my office, hence no loss of life or property.

I have had the assistance of one deputy for four months.

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30897

Number of boilers inspected, 1,081.

Certificates issued, 915.

Number paid for but certificates not yet issued, 37.

Of the 1,081 boilers there were 371 which had to be visited the second time before hydrostatic pressure could be applied, and 59 of them had to be visited the third time.

Number of boilers condemned, 11.

My salary from May 4, 1893, to January 1, 1895, including expenses, amounts to	\$ 4,967.00
Due assistant	559.00

Total	\$5,526.00
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Collected for the inspection of 952 boilers, at \$5 each	\$ 4,760.00
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Due for inspecting 129 boilers, fees not yet paid	645.00
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	\$5,405.00
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Balance due from state	121.00
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Total	\$5,526.00
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The law makes it an imperative duty on the part of the executive of the state to appoint a boiler inspector.

The inspector may be fined or imprisoned for a failure to perform his duties.

The auditor refused to issue warrants for my salary; I endeavored to compel the auditor by mandamus to issue warrants for said salary, but as yet the matter has not been settled in the courts.

I have been advised by able counsel that my salary and expenses form a lien by statute and a legal offset against fees collected by this office for the inspection of boilers.

I would recommend that the salary of the boiler inspector be paid from fees collected by him and that the salary and expenses in no case shall exceed the amount collected for his work in fees.

I hope the legislature may make a sufficient appropriation from funds collected during the past two years as fees from inspection of boilers to meet the salary and expenses of the inspector and assistant.

There remains yet to be inspected about 500 boilers. It will require at least two assistants to do this work properly during the next three months.

The law relating to collection of fees should be more stringent and where a suit must be brought for the collection of a fee for the inspection of a boiler the fee of the attorney for the state should be paid by the defendant.

I find all cases of dangerous boilers and boiler explosions are the result of incompetent men and engineers.

The inspection of a boiler will not always prevent a disaster when an incompetent man is operating it.

I would recommend the appointment of a competent board of examiners, who shall issue a license or certificate to competent persons only, and that all who employ anyone who does not procure a certificate from said board be subject to a severe penalty.

With this provision, the boiler inspector would be unnecessary.

In some cases I have given a certificate without applying the hydrostatic test. This was done in cases where it was not possible to shut down the work without serious loss to the owner and where I was satisfied there was no danger.

I have done this, however, with the understanding that I should be notified when it would be convenient to apply the test.

In such case I have returned and made the necessary test whenever notice was given.

I found 376 boilers that would not hold cold water, hence no test could be applied without repairs

A boiler may hold steam when it will not hold cold water.

I have made, repaired and operated boilers for the past thirty years, and must say that I was surprised to find so many boilers in a dangerous condition.

I have endeavored to do my duty on all occasions without fear or favor.

Very respectfully submitted,

F. H. HEGWER,
State Steam Boiler Inspector.

