

SF Bk 1 English letter 389 transcribed (typed)

1st July (18)96
The Secretary
Petroleum Association
Bishopsgate Street E.C.

Dear Sir;-

I shall feel obliged if you will kindly inform the Clerk of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Petroleum that I have obtained some figures of the official German Statistical Office, which will no doubt prove that it is not correct to assume that there are fewer accidents from Petroleum Lamps in Germany than in this country. I enclose a rough translation which appeared in the June 6th 1896 in the amtliche?? (*illegible*)corresponding No.21/XX11 which is the latest issued.

I beg to mention that the German Statistical office is very much in arrears & the figures for 1888 to 1890 are their latest

Yours truly
S Falk

“During the years 1888/90/91 the following fires, caused by petroleum, occurred in Berlin.
409 through explosions of Petroleum (almost solely in lamps)
2 by Petroleum in Lamps catching fire
10 by lighting fires with Petroleum
35 through careless handling of lamps
29 through careless handling of Petroleum Cookers
616 through upsetting of Table Lamp or falling down of Hanging Lamps
1332 through carelessness in lighting fires with burning Petroleum Lamps & through other causes.
Total 2433 fires in Berlin or 23.5% of the total fires from all causes in Berlin during 3 years.
The total fires in the other large towns in Germany during the same period were 3513 (or 21.8% of the total fires) caused through Petroleum & in small towns 580 fires or 7.9% of the total fires.
The percentage in villages only 1.9% (422 cases) but it must be considered that there may have been many small fires with insignificant damage which were not reported. It is believe that the population in villages and small towns are more careful with lamps than people in large cities where they rely on the Fire Brigade.”