

DECLARES MAJESTIC THEATER IS UNSAFE

Building Inspector Lund Says
This Playhouse Should Be
Closed by City.

"SAFE," SAYS AGENT

Declares Alterations Made in
Building at Request of
Inspector Approved.

With one exception, the theaters of Salt Lake are in fair shape as regards fire protection, according to a report submitted to the city commission yesterday by Emil Lund, building inspector.

The one exception is said to be the Majestic theater, at First South and State streets, which, according to the inspector, is unsafe and should be closed. Mr. Lund gives it as his opinion that the city should not allow a theater in the building that houses the Majestic, the general construction being such as to present grave danger in case of fire or panic.

The inspector's report is the result of an investigation made at the request of a committee representing certain women's clubs, which complained to the mayor against conditions said to exist in the city's theaters.

Others Could Improve.

"For the most part, the theaters are in fair condition, though there is hardly one but could make improvements that would add to their percentage of safety," said Mr. Lund yesterday. "I made some suggestions to the proprietors and received promises that certain improvements would be carried out."

The inspector's report probably will be considered by the city commission this morning.

In discussing the charge of insecurity made against the Majestic, Charles E. Taylor, agent of the Clayton Investment company, which owns the building, said last night:

When Mr. Lund went into office he called my attention to the construction of the theater, and specified alterations that he wanted made in the construction and interior arrangement of the building. These alterations were made at a cost of about \$750, directly under his supervision. He praised the work and stated at that time that there was no better constructed theater in the city for the safety of its patrons.

Plenty of Exits.

At the rear of the theater we have two eight-foot exits for the audience, one six-foot exit and one five-foot exit leading from the stage for use of the performers. In the front we have four exits, three of them six feet wide and one four feet wide. As the capacity of the house is 450 we believe that these exits are ample for any emergency. The aisles are about five feet wide, which more than complies with the city ordinance. Throughout the theater, the operating room, the stage and the dressing rooms are constructed of sheet iron, the stairs of cast iron. From the basement there is a movable door to the sidewalk, built according to Mr. Lund's specifications, for the exit of anyone in the basement at the time of fire. From the stage there is a steel wire, lath and cement covered flue leading through to the top of the building, creating a heavy draft which would cause any ordinary fire to be drawn out through the roof of the building. The intent is always to keep the building in a safe condition and the owners of the building have never been approached on the matter since these alterations and improvements were made at Mr. Lund's request.