



DISASTROUS FOREST FIRES.

They Cause Destruction to Several Towns in Michigan.

IRON RIVER LIKELY TO BE ENTIRELY WIPED OUT.

Virginia and Mountain Iron Destroyed, and Two Thousand People Rendered Homeless and Without Food in the Former Village—It is Feared That the Fatalities Will be Numerous—Costly Blaze at Chicago.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

ASHLAND (Wis.), June 18.—Iron River, a thriving lumber town of over 2,000 population, twenty miles from Ashland, is in flames, and is likely to be entirely wiped out. The fire caught on the outskirts of the village from forest fires, destroying a new schoolhouse, the congregational and Catholic churches and Hesse & Hatton's big warehouse. At 6 o'clock the entire residence portion of the city was in flames. Help was sent from here, but the special jumpy track, causing several hours' delay.

Forest fires are raging all through Northern Wisconsin. To-day Washburn had a close shave, and the fire made a heavy sweep in and about White River. It will likely burn millions of feet of standing pine.

Only a year ago Iron River was entirely destroyed by fire. Several people were brought to Ashland to-night who were badly injured, narrowly escaping with their lives.

Latest advices from Iron River state that the town is gone. The wires on the Northern Pacific and Union Pacific all down, the poles being burned away by fires. A bad fire is raging in North York. A special was sent out this evening to help fight the flames, and save stables and bridges along the railroads.

There are many mining camps employing a large number of men in the neighborhood of Virginia, and they are undoubtedly burned. Among these were Mountain Iron, New England, Rouchelleau, Lone Jack and Poca mines. All these camps had large storehouses. It is feared some men may perish in the flames. It is difficult to estimate the total loss, but if reports be true as to the extent of the destruction at the various towns mentioned, it will amount to over \$1,000,000.

TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE HOMELESS.

DULUTH (Minn.), June 18.—The towns of Virginia and Mountain Iron, on the Duluth, Mesaba and Northern road, have been destroyed by forest fires. Mesaba and Biwabik, on the Duluth and Iron Range, were also visited by serious fires, and Tower had a like experience. There are 2,000 people homeless in Virginia, and without food or shelter, every provision depot and contents in the place being destroyed. Women and children are housed in box cars, but have nothing to eat, and no engine is there to move them. The situation at Mountain Iron is little better. As soon as the news of these facts reached Duluth arrangements were begun to send relief to the distressed. The Duluth, Mesaba and Northern is getting a special train together, to be started as soon as possible. All the restaurants and hotels are preparing food to be sent to the sufferers, and tents are being collected. It is feared the fatalities will be numerous.

FIRE AT CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, June 18.—A six-story building on Wabash avenue and Congress street was entirely destroyed by fire to-day. The structure was occupied by a number of firms, whose combined losses aggregate \$300,000. The heaviest losses are O. W. Richardson & Co., carpeters and curtains; Ginn Publishing Company; Vose Piano Company and Chase & Co., piano manufacturers; R. S. Paul & Co., publishers. The building was owned by John Quincy Adams of Wheaton, Ill. The fire started by the crossing of electric wires, and spread with such rapidity that the firemen were unable to check it, and confined their efforts to saving the adjoining buildings, notably the store of Seigel, Cooper & Co. By desperate efforts the flames were confined to the Adams building.

TO FIX THE BOUNDARY.

The Ownership of an Island and the Boundary of Alaska.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Professor T. C. Mendenhall, on the part of the United States, and Commissioner King, on the part of Great Britain, will shortly determine the vexed question as to the legal owner of Poffe's folly island, off the coast of Maine, near the international boundary. In view of Mendenhall's discovery that the island, according to the first chart of Great Britain, was conceded to the United States, he believes he will have no trouble in settling the question in favor of this country. When this is settled the only other important matter between the two countries is the determination of the boundary line between Alaska and the British possessions. A party which left here in March last was unable to accomplish much, and it is not believed that the boundary line will be marked for a year because of the unfavorable weather.

The Cowboy Race.

O'NEILL (Neb.), June 17.—Middleton Gillespie and Stephens, leaders of the cowboy race, arrived here at 1:28 o'clock to-day. They are in good shape and feeling well. Aldright is not with them. Douglas, Jones, Campbell and Berry registered at Lone Pine early this morning. Their horses are in good shape and have stood the work so far remarkably well.

IN SLENDING CONDITION.

WATSON (Neb.), June 18.—At 2:30 p. m. Gillespie arrived and registered, closely followed by Stevens and Doc Middleton, all arriving five minutes of each other. Both horses and riders showed no signs of fatigue, and all were in splendid condition. They remained in town about ten minutes to water their horses. The remainder will probably register during the night or early in the morning.

Tonawanda Under Martial Law.

TONAWANDA (N. Y.), June 18.—This village is now under martial law. At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon President George W. Stanley issued a proclamation calling upon everybody to abstain from

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Yorke, his company with a Greek, threw out his net near that of one Gregorio Aleck. The latter objected to the close proximity of Yorke's net and a row ensued, Aleck boarding Yorke's boat and beating him until insensibility with a tiller. Yorke's partner remonstrated with Aleck, when the latter choked him and threatened to beat him.

Yorke regained consciousness and he and his partner went ashore and Aleck made arrangements to come here to have Aleck arrested. His partner, fearing Aleck, refused to accompany him, so he induced Trimmer to start with him in his fishing boat. It is said that Aleck followed soon after.

On Wednesday Yorke's net and a portion of his boat were found in the straits near here, but neither he nor his friend Trimmer have been heard of since, and it is believed as if they met their death either through Aleck's treachery or by drowning.

Aleck passed through Benicia Tuesday on his way to San Francisco, and has not been heard of since. Constables Malone and Hyde went up to the cut-off yesterday to investigate the matter and brought the partners of Aleck and Yorke down. Fishermen at the cut-off are of the opinion that Aleck has made away with both Yorke and Trimmer.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OPINION.

Jute Bags Must Be Sold to Actual Consumers Only.

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He declares that the prison authorities cannot sell such goods except to actual consumers. The Act so states in every section of it, and the Attorney-General confines the sales to consumers directly. "The Warden, after June 15th, may fill orders for larger quantities to actual consumers."

"There must be an affidavit accompanying the orders to the effect that the goods are for individual and personal use of the applicant."

"In view of these provisions," the opinion reads, "it cannot be held that the provision that orders for wares shall take precedence over all others would authorize the sale of such goods to merchants or to anyone who was not an actual consumer. There is nothing in the Constitution prohibiting the Legislature from passing such a law."

The above opinion was rendered in compliance with the earnest request of the Warden, and the Attorney-General declines to pass the bill as to prevent persons other than actual consumers from dealing in the product of prison labor. The law is somewhat ambiguous in one or two instances. In every case, however, as the Attorney-General says, it refers explicitly to actual consumers, and that means the grain-producers or those who use jute bags for coal or for sand in the protection of property from overflow by water. At all events, it was aimed to prevent extortion from the dealers who combine to corner the market and put the cost of grain sacks above the price at which they might be purchased direct from the prison.

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At midnight a second fire occurred and destroyed J. A. Leichter's machine shop, his residence adjoining and McClure's blacksmith shop. The town water works engine was located in the machine shop and no water was available except what was carried in buckets. Leichter lost all his tools, etc., but saved his household goods. McClure lost everything in the blacksmith shop. Leichter's loss will be about \$1,000, with no insurance. The blacksmith shop and tools burned belonged to A. Bruhn, whose loss will be about \$1,000; also uninsured.

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