

KNOWN DEATH LIST DWINDLES WITH LATE REPORTS

FIRES BURNING IN HILLS ALL DAY

DEATH LIST SAID TO BE 53 AS RESULT OF AWFUL BLAZE.

FEAR FOR THOSE MISSING

Stories of Horrible Conditions Continue to Come to Missoula—Many Hunters in the Hills Are Reported Lost—Latest Details From the Fire-Swept Districts.

Spokane, Aug. 23.—The known victims of the forest fires number 53 as follows: In and near Wallace, Idaho, 38. In and near Newport, Wash., 8. Near St. Joe, Idaho, 6 men; supposed to be forest rangers. At Saltese, Mont., 1.

Spokane, Aug. 23.—Light rain began to fall this afternoon in Wallace and other Coeur d'Alene mining towns that have been scorched or threatened by the forest fires and the weary fire-fighters took new hope. Nothing but a long and heavy downpour will quench the flames that are eating up the big trees of northern Idaho, north-west Montana and northeastern Washington, however. The Idaho militia and the United States troops are on their way to do battle with the red invader, but the soldiers can accomplish little more than protect the threatened towns. The United States forest supervisors in Idaho and Montana are unable to get into communication with 900 of their rangers, but it may be that many of them are unharmed. The most sensational rumors of loss of life continue to be circulated, but it is impossible to verify them, and it seems likely that, aside from losses among the national rangers, the number of dead in the three states will not exceed 100. Late this afternoon a list of known dead compiled in Spokane contained only 30 names.

Militiamen on the Way. The Idaho militiamen are on their way from the encampment at American lake, near Tacoma, to the Coeur d'Alene. President Taft notified Governor Brady today that he would send to Idaho all the troops available, but that United States soldiers could not be used for police duty. Governor Brady will go to the front tomorrow. None of the towns of Idaho is in immediate danger, it is believed. The fire is destroying much timber in the national forests of the great mountain chain whose crest forms the north-eastern boundary of Idaho and the chain is called the Bitter Root, Coeur d'Alene and Cabinet ranges, in its progress northwesterly from the continental divide of the Rocky mountains. These mountains and all the panhandle of Idaho are thickly clothed with pine, spruce, red fir and hemlock and most of the country burning has never before felt the breath of fire.

Uncle Sam Loses. The people of the United States, as owners of the national forests, are the principal losers of property. It will take decades to restore the devastated portions of forests. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, after his recent tour of the national forests, stated proudly that they were being conserved; that all the forest fires then burning were all among trees privately owned. The forests through which the fire has passed are killed, but the timber is merchantable if cut at once. Next to the United States big corporations, notably the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound railroad and the Coeur d'Alene lead and silver mines, which use much timber in their workings, are the chief sufferers. It is difficult to give figures on the timber losses, which may reach \$10,000,000. It is estimated that more than 1,500 settlers in Montana, Idaho and Washington have lost their homes and everything in them.

PEARSON ON HAND TO REBUILD ROAD

According to reports received here from W. R. Lanning of the Puget Sound last evening Avery is saved. The trip up to Avery was made by Mr. Lanning on foot and by hand-car. Everything west of Kyle is in good condition. From Kyle to Avery the track is all right. The conditions on the east side of Kyle are not in such good shape. Eleven bridges between St. Regis and Kyle are out of commission. Two of these are absolutely destroyed. The others are more or less seriously damaged. Some of them are only burned at the top, while the posts are out on others. Chief Engineer E. J. Pearson is at Kyle and will superintend operations from that side.

PEOPLE AT AVERY ARE ALL SAFE

TOWN REPORTED TO BE BURNED IS ALL RIGHT AND NOT DAMAGED.

Hopeful reports from every side were received by the forest service yesterday. With the cessation of the wind and the gradual remobilization of the fire-fighting forces the flames have come under control again. Men who were thought to have been lost have turned up again, and towns reported destroyed, have been found safe. The situation on every side shows a decided turn for the better.

Avery All Right. At 8 o'clock a telegram was received from Ranger Debbitt at Avery stating that the town and every one in it was saved. The reports to the effect that the terminal was destroyed are denied and there is apparently no further danger there. Mr. Debbitt reported that pack trains were to be sent out at once to all of the surrounding camps, in order that the men there may receive help and care as soon as possible. An army surgeon and two assistants are in the town and, while the supply of medicines is rather low, it is thought that all of the injured, if any are found, can be cared for.

Ranger Losses Crew. Haines said that he had heard nothing from his own crew, which he left fighting the flames near Iron Mountain. He says that since they had not moved camp after the fire became bad they must be safe.

Relief Train. Frank Bonner of Missoula, who led a relief train out of Missoula last night, telephoned in from Iron Mountain that at 5 o'clock a strong wind had sprung up and was fanning the old fire to life again. The shower that fell there this afternoon was light, he said, and of little real benefit.

No Lives Lost. The soldiers who, with a crew of fire-fighters, were reported lost at Borax are safe in Saltese, according to a report received yesterday afternoon. A man who gave his name as Edwards made his way into Iron Mountain from Borax and said that no lives were lost.

At 7:30, Ranger Clifford sent word that there was a bad fire north of St. Regis. It was being held at that time, however, despite the gale that was blowing, and the town was not in danger. Rainey creek valley was burned over, the fire sweeping it clean from one end to the other. It is planned to bring all of the men from Borax and Saltese to St. Regis at once and



WINDFALL GULCH, WHICH FIRE HAS REACHED.

BAFFLED BY FIERCE BLAZE AND HEADED OFF BY FIRES BRAVE WOMAN WINS AT LAST

The most thrilling story of escape from a fire that has made its way to Missoula is that of Mr. and Mrs. George Cook of Mullan.

George Cook and Gus Myers, two contractors, are working the Silver Cable mine in the mountains near Mullan. Some time ago Mrs. Cook went out to visit her husband. There were but three persons, the Cooks and Myers, within ten miles of the little camp. About the middle of the afternoon Sunday Mrs. Cook, who was at her cabin, discovered a fire on its way up a little gulch. She ran to the mine and warned the men. She and Mr. Cook made a get-away toward Mullan, leaving Myers, who said he would catch them, but never did. On the way out they came face to face with another fire and had to change their course. They walked all night, meeting fire after fire, and got to Thompson Falls at noon the next day. Mrs. Cook walked 30 miles before they found any way for her to ride. She had to cover her face several times to protect it. Myers has not been heard from.

Meet a Fire.

"We think that the fire we saw was the one that burned Wallace. We did not have time to get anything but a handbag and a piece of bread. By 4:10 we were going down the mountain, George in his wet mining

LINCOLN COUNTY IS A MASS OF FIRES

Whitefish, Aug. 23.—Forest fires in the northern part of Lincoln and Flat-head counties have assumed the most alarming situation yet during the past 24 hours and all efforts to get them under control seem to be in vain. The whole country is dotted with fires which, when the wind is not blowing, seem to be under control, but as soon as the wind starts up they are fanned into a fierce blaze that cannot be put out with all the regiments put together, as the burning embers are carried ahead, and everything being as dry as powder they set new fires wherever they alight.

Several companies of soldiers and all the civilians that the forestry department can get hold of, besides the volunteers from the forest-surrounded towns are working day and night and are able to make but feeble progress against the terrible ravages of the flames. The marshal rounded up 50 men yesterday and sent them west to Libby and to Troy. East of here, in the Glacier national park, the fires have burned down the telegraph poles and the Great Northern has great difficulty dispatching its trains.

Wind Fans Fires

Yesterday afternoon the wind fanned the fires with renewed vigor and they poured a dense column of smoke that hung over the whole valley and enveloped the city in complete darkness. At 4 p. m. the sun shining on the smoke-gave the sky a blood-red hue which presented a most terrible phenomenon. Ashes and soot fell like rain. There was no live fire that caused any serious alarm.

Three companies of the Fourteenth infantry arrived last night. Companies B and C were sent to Belton and company D, in command of Amos H. Harlin, are at Olney fighting the fire in Stillwater county.

clothes and I in a gingham dress, traveling the Copper mountain trail. Two and a half miles from camp we met the Mullan fire, coming roaring up the ridge, and had to turn and fly for safety. Then we climbed back to the top through the woods. On the summit he told me that we would go to Thompson Falls, which, he declared, was but four miles away. This is the first story—a justifiable one—he told me. I learned from experience that Thompson Falls was 25 miles from that point. Our first drop was to Copper creek, which we followed, going as fast as we could toward Thompson Falls, and we crawled under a bush, where I expected to die. A log within 20 feet of us was burning. The flames were passed on two sides of us. We lay perfectly still, with blades playing all about us until 2:30. The fire was so bright in the trees that George could see his watch. As soon as we could pick our way we went to the top of the ridge, where we could see in every direction, and the entire country seemed to be aflame. Then we descended to Copper creek, which we followed for two miles, dodging through the fire as we went.

"I shall never forget that trip. On either side on the mountains trees were burning from bottom to top. Far away on the very crests of the hills, we could see flames which were hardly distinguishable from stars.

"It was five when we got through. At two or more places I had to throw my apron over my face to protect my hair, eyes and mouth. Many hours prior to that I had discarded my hat and the grip.

Each time after we ran through the flames we had to go into the creek to catch our breath. We would have suffocated had not water been so close. The last rush George made he lost his six-shooter and a handful of silver that he had in his pocket. That is the kind of call we had. My apron saved me. George used a handkerchief. The closest rub we had was the very last fire. To escape we rushed into the creek, falling headlong over the bank. Recovering we found a road and followed it for four miles, when we found a farm house. How glad we were! I would not have known myself in a mirror. My dress was torn and my shoes skinned and misshapen.

"As we approached the buildings we heard horses moving in the barn. We waked the owner and asked him to take us to town, but a sorry thing he refused. He said he was going about 11, and could take me but not George. Not caring to wait so long we moved on. Two miles away we came to the Shamrock mine, where we were taken by the superintendent and treated royally, being fed and cheered in other

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SPRINKLE OF RAIN AND SOME SNOW

There was a sprinkle of rain in Missoula at midnight that felt good. On the hills east and west of the city the rain fell a bit more abundantly. Iron Mountain had a good rain and there was a heavy rain in Lincoln gulch in the upper Blackfoot. At Rossburg at midnight the thermometer showed 23 degrees above zero, and there was a rapid fall of snow. All over the western part of Montana there was a drop of many degrees in the temperature and the ashes and cinders ceased flying in Missoula for the first time in three days. There was no repetition of the sunset phenomenon which has started the superstitions for three nights, and conditions were more normal than they had been.

FIRE IN WINDFALL COMPELS MEN TO FLEE

FRANK D. BROWN TELLS OF TERRIBLE ADVANCE OF FLAMES OVER SUNRISE DIVIDE.

Frank D. Brown, well-known pioneer, came in Monday night from Quartz, where he was driven by the fires in the Windfall country, with his eyes red and his face covered with ashes and cinders. "I had the experience of my life," said he, telling of his flight from the Windfall section. "I tell you the absolute truth, gentlemen, when I say that I have never, in all my 45 years in Montana, seen anything to approach it. I am afraid to talk lest the people think that I have turned sensational. Last Saturday, in company with A. M. Stevens of this place, I set out for the Cedar creek region. From Quartz, a little railway station, we took the Windfall trail, which lies along the North Fork (the Clearwater) range, where most of the gulches head on a north and south line about 30 miles long. Trout creek is the center of one of these gulches, from Cedar creek on south along that divide the heads of many more lie. The Trout and its tributaries, the Windfall being one of them, belong to this series.

"The trail from Cedar creek intersects all of these gulches, and while there is a way down each to the Missoula river, the only one known to be open is the Windfall, with, possibly, the exception of the Quartz, which was surely cut off by the high winds of Saturday and Sunday and yesterday, continued. The Cedar creek fire had already cut off the Trout creek trail. Therefore, to get out the men in Deep gulch, and those on the way over from the Oregon flats, must go up the Windfall or come down the Meadow creek end.

Scented Danger.

"Windfall is about eleven miles from Quartz. When we crossed Sunrise divide about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon I realized that the fire might become serious for us, but we did not think that it was closer than Cedar creek. I asked Stevens what he thought of the outlook. He laughed at the suggestion of danger, but admitted that he thought there were fires on all sides of us.

"About five the wind began to blow, and it was so strong that night that no one could sleep. Talk about 75 miles an hour! That would not begin to do. Well, the next morning Stevens told the miners that they had better get the women and children out of there. He added that the men could escape when they got ready. But let me tell you, I did not see any place that I could go if the situation suddenly became dangerous.

"The smoke grew thicker hour by hour. The air was full of cinders and other flying things. You couldn't see a hundred feet from you, yet we saw

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FIRE-FIGHTERS RETURN IN SAFETY

MEN GIVEN UP AS LOST BY FOREST SERVICE REACH IRON MOUNTAIN.

TELL THRILLING STORY

Men Led by R. C. W. Friday Into Heart of Burning Forests in Clearwater Relate Hair-Raising Tales—Praise Leader in Unmeasured Terms—Back This Morning.

Jack Cassidy, Joe Miller and Joe Kelly, three fire-fighters who had been out with Ranger R. C. W. Friday, came in from Elk Meadows, near Silver Lake, last night bringing news of devastation and tales of miraculous escapes. They walked 45 miles from 7 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. to get to Iron Mountain, where they took a train to Missoula. The party led by Friday had been given up as lost by the forest service. The men when they had last been heard of were heading for Chamberlain's Meadows in the Clearwater. When the fire broke out it was feared that they were lost, but the searching party sent out after them, met them at Iron Mountain yesterday. They were dirty and soiled and full of stories of their experiences.

"We came through 15 miles of fire today to get to Iron Mountain and left fifty square miles of fire behind us," said Kelly the spokesman of the party. "We never quit fighting the flames until ordered out to save our lives. Four forest guards were left in the mountains to search for four lost men. There were about 25 of us in Friday's squad, counting packmen and all. We went in the Elk Meadows country a week ago Monday. The first fire we fought was at Hunt's camp, where we realized that we were in danger of being burned. Our camp was surrounded by fire and Charlie Bingham and Jack Cassidy were inside the fire limits for three days, a portion of which time they had to lie in a river 18 hours out of the 24 to save their lives. They escaped at 4:30 Sunday afternoon. They got back to Elk Meadows Sunday night and met help on the way to their rescue. Dave Cochran rode three miles through the flames to get back to camp.

Sunday Bad. Sunday afternoon the wind was very high and by 2 o'clock the smoke was so thick that it was as dark as it should have been at nine. The whole mountain side was burning at once and the flames mounted from 150 to 200 feet in the air. We had to backfire and move camp to save our lives. The several fires were meeting close about us. We dropped into a little meadow—a two-acre patch—and fought it live. The men were all excited and one, Rumpke, tried to kill himself, and finally escaping ran away to Garrison's camp. Sleep was impossible. Friday and his brother lay in the creek bottom and tried to sleep, but could not. The wind was traveling at the rate of 50 to 60 miles an hour about 5 o'clock and produced a sort of suction.

"By coolness, courage and good judgment, Dick Friday saved many of our men. Only four men are missing and it is believed that they will turn up in the course of a day or two. One fellow started with us from the Meadows this morning, but we got away from him and do not know what became of him. He was a cook at Hunt's camp.

The three men despite their rather frazzled-out condition are in good shape and three husky, healthier-looking Irishmen are not to be found in the woods. They leave this morning for Iron Mountain where they will start out on a rescue trip.

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING

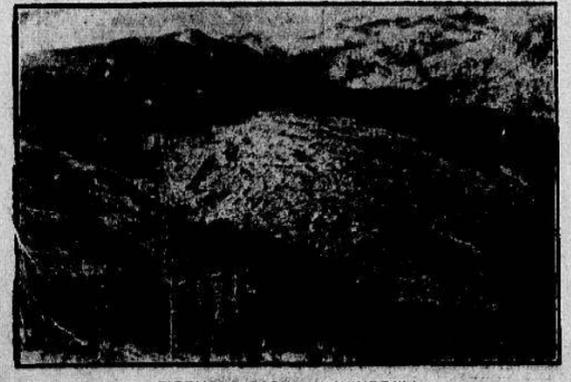
All in all, the situation this morning is more hopeful and encouraging than it has been at any time since the terrible news of last Saturday. The subsidence of the wind in the St. Regis country gave the fire-fighters a chance to make some impression with their campaign against the advance line. The burned-over district is cooling. Welcome showers fell last night in parts of the desolated section and in Missoula's immediate territory the situation is vastly improved. News from Lincoln county is not so reassuring. Sanders county, too, is not yet out of danger. But if there should be more rain today, there is no doubt that another 24 hours would find the blaze well under control. Comes now the saddest feature of the terrible experience of four days. The roll call of the fighters in the woods will, it is feared, show many vacant places in the ranks. But there should not be any jumping at conclusions as to the number of fatalities. Yesterday there were dispatches sent out which reported hundreds of rangers as dead; these stories are absurd; the hands of fire-fighters were scattered over wide areas and there has not been time to hear from all the districts. There were one or two instances yesterday which show that many of these missing men are likely to turn up; in one case 165 men reported dead, emerged from a tunnel where they had been sheltered since Sunday. There will be other cases of this kind. The death list will be long enough, but there is no occasion to pad it at this time. Locally and elsewhere the work among the refugees is progressing well, and their wants are being supplied. There is no occasion for alarmist reports and they should not be heeded. Be careful and helpful—that is the thing.



CEDAR CREEK TRAIL.

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FIREHOLE BASIN IN WINDFALL.