THE WESTERN FIRES.

TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

Immense Destruction of Property.

Cities, Villages and Towns Entirely Swept Away.

Full Details of the Disasters at Green Bay.

Great Suffering Among the Survivors.

THE AWFUL STORY OF PESHTIGO.

THE FIRES STILL RAGING.

WISCONSIN.

Villages Destroyed—Two Hundred and Fifty Persons Burned to Death and Seventy Fatally Injured.

A correspondent of the Toledo *Herald* writes as follows:—

MENOSHA, Wis., Oct. 11, 1871.

I have just returned from what was once Peshtigo, whither I went yesterday, that I might be able to give to the readers of the *Herald* a correct account of the destruction of that place. The village was situated on Peshtigo river, seven miles from Green Bay. It was a nice little town of about two thousand inhabitants, quite regularly laid out, had fine hotels, stores, churches, schools, &c., besides the large factory owned by the Peshtigo Manufacturing Company, a sash, door and blind factory and foundry also owned by the same company, who owned nearly every building in the town. The factory was devoted to the manufacture of pails, tubs, broom handles, &c., and gave employment to about seven hundred hands in the different branches.

The town is nearly surrounded by fine forests, the suburban portions being built "among the pines." The inhabitants have for the past ten days been fighting fire in the woods, trying to save the town, and had settled down into a feeling of comparative security since the woods on all sides had been more or less burned over.

On Sunday night they were awakened from this feeling of security by a noise like distant thunder, which increased in volume until the crash of falling trees and the roar of the wind and fire could be plainly heard. Soon after a tornado burst upon the town, unroofing a number of buildings, and quickly followed by a solid sheet of flame, extending the whole length of the village and far beyond each way. In an instant the whole exposed side of the place was in flames. Men, women and children rushed into the streets, and, surrounded by fire on all sides, were soon either smothered or burned to death. In the less exposed portions the people fled to the river, and, jumping in, many were drowned. Some saved their lives by keeping under water and once in a while putting their heads under as the heat became insufferable. Others took refuge in wells and cisterns and were saved. Quite a large portion of the inhabitants ran to a field to the leeward of the fire, and by lying on the ground were saved, although some of these were badly burned. There is but one house left standing, and that is isolated and lately built of green lumber.

As near as can at present be ascertained, 250 lives have been lost, mostly women and children. Although a good many men have perished there are seventy-five who are badly burned, many of whom will die, and nearly all are more or less burned. The destruction has been so complete that the streets cannot be traced, all being covered with sand which was swept in great clouds by the tornado. In some instances bodies have been found completely covered by sand.

I could fill columns with heartrending incidents of this conflagration, but will only give a few as illustrative of the rest. In one instance a man took his family and fled to the bridge spanning the river. The bridge was soon on fire, and the poor unfortunate family were nearly roasted alive, and then jumped into the river and were drowned. A woman on seeing the fire approaching put her little girl, a child of six years, in a well which was nearly dry, and ran to the river herself for security. The woman was saved, and, as soon as she could, found out the locality, and her joy was so great at finding the little one alive and well that she swooned, and on recovering clasped her child in her arms and ran off crying for joy.

Too few, alas, were so fortunate. In many cases whole families have perished. In other cases men have lost their families, they being, at the time of the fire, working to save the factories. In other instances men perished in their endeavor to save their families. In one case to which my attention was called, a little boy of seven years is the only surviving member of a numerous family.

As soon as the fire had sufficiently subsided all that were able went to the relief of the sufferers. Blackened, charred corpses were lying in every direction, with their clothing as a general thing, nearly or quite burned off. Many dead bodies were found in the river and many more have since been recovered. A number have died from their bruises, while others are crippled or fearfully disfigured.

The most imaginative mind cannot begin to realize this fearful calamity, much less my poor pen to describe it. The shrieks and groans of the dying and of those who had lost near and dear friends; the ghastly aspect of the blackened corpses; the shocking appearance of many who, badly burned and almost destitute of clothing, were running they knew not where; others, in the last agonies of death, made a picture too horrid for contemplation. The sufferers have all been taken to Green Bay and other towns, where they will be kindly cared for, as hospitality is one of the marked traits of the West.

The loss to the Peshtigo Company, who owned the factories and most of the town, besides large pine lands, is estimated at $3,000,000, besides the loss of their extensive warehouse in Chicago.

Menekaunee, a town of seven or eight hundred inhabitants, is all destroyed but three houses. Fortunately no lives were lost here.

Marinette is also nearly all destroyed.

Business in this section is partially suspended. All the saw mills and factories at Oshkosh, Fon du Lac and other neighboring towns are stopped by order of the authorities.

The Dead at Peshtigo.

The latest accounts from Peshtigo add to the horror of the disaster. The propeller St. Joseph arrived at Green Bay on Wednesday morning with about two hundred and eighty of the survivors, many of them half clad, barefooted and bareheaded, and several terribly burned.

From Charles Woodward, who kept the Peshtigo House, we learn further particulars. He estimates the loss of life at nearly four hundred. The loss in the "Sugar Bush" was much worse than in the village. They had no means of escape, while at the village the people saved themselves in the river.

The Sugar Bush was a thrifty farming settlement seven or eight miles long by four or five miles wide, and contained about three hundred families. It was estimated by competent judges on Tuesday that eight-tenths of its inhabitants were dead. But about eight buildings were left. Twenty teams went up there on Tuesday to bury the dead, and up to four P. M. Tuesday they had reported the following dead in the Sugar Bush:—

L. H. Hill, wife and boy, and forty-two bodies picked up in front of their house.
T. Kelly and one chirt (wife and two children saved).
Daughter, twelve years old, of Fred Bartels.
Four families of Newberry's all gone, but one boy.
John Church, wife and two grown children.
Wife and five children of Charles Lemok.
John Smith, wife and five children.
John Aisweiger, wife and six children.
Charles Lawrence, wife and three children.
N. May, wife and two children.
Wife of Peter Leech and two hired men.
Father, mother, wife and child of William Penry.
Charles Chapman, wife and one child.
Henry Hays, wife and two children.
John Pratt, wife and four children.
Widow Aymer and two grown up boys.

Mr. Woodward gives the following addition to the list of dead in Peshtigo village:—

John Tanner, wife and two children.
Oldest daughter of P. J. Marshall.
A. A. Pratt, wife and one child.
Wife and five children of Donald McDonald.

Burning of Holland City.

[From the Grand Haven Herald, Oct. 11.]

During Monday the city of Grand Haven was full of terrible rumors as to the fire in Holland City, but nothing definite or reliable could be learned until the arrival at two o'clock of a train from the north side of Black Lake, containing several passengers, among whom were Miss Jennie and Miss Clarie Fennoyer, two young ladies who have been engaged in teaching in the doomed city. The statement of these young ladies is nearly as follows:—The fire broke in upon the city from the woods about three P. M. Sunday, but no buildings of any consequence burned until dark in the evening. No one thought the city was in any special danger until ten or eleven o'clock, but at that time a strong wind setting in from the woods, the fire swept over the city with wonderful rapidity. The main part of the city was soon in flames. The house where the Misses Fennoyers were staying caught fire about three o'clock Monday morning. The ladies had packed their trunks, and, hastily dressing themselves in wrappers, just managed to escape. The Lake View House went next, and then the fine City Mills of Wakeman, Gerlings & Co. The ladies, after leaving the house, ran to a small mound near by, and soon found themselves surrounded by fire. Mr. George Howard, whose efforts were indefatigable, managed to assist them out of their precarious position.

The portion of the city where Professor Charles Scott resided was completely destroyed, and the Professor, not being found, it was generally feared that he had fallen a victim to the flames. Mr. Joslin, of the firm of Breynan & Joslin, another of the best citizens, was engaged in rescuing persons from the flames. He insisted on going once more to the rescue; friends advised him not to venture, but he would not be dissuaded, thinking there were still lives to be saved. He did not return, and is believed to have been suffocated and burned to death. The livery stables were emptied of the horses, which were taken to the public square, as the only place of safety. Thousands of people were collected there. Women and children were then running about the streets, wailing and crying, unable to find their husbands and fathers, brothers and sisters. Many females barely escaped with their night clothes. A child, ten years of age, was picked up on the street burned to death. It is impossible to tell how many lives are lost. Some nine or ten citizens are missing, but some may yet be found.

When the Misses Fennoyer left men were trying to keep the fire from the College buildings, but the succeeding train reported that these buildings, although of brick, were burning; also the Union School building and all the churches, except the "Seceders" or the "True Reformed Church." One woman in leaving her house tied her baby in a bundle, but in her hurry she took the wrong bundle, and to her dismay discovered her mistake when too late. Of seven children she could find only two. Fortunately, however, the bundle containing the live baby was picked up in the street, and it was believed that the other children were also found.

Mr. M. D. Howard, when he saw the fire rapidly approaching his residence, visited every room in the house for the last time. The house was elegantly furnished, and the fine piano, together with every article of furniture, was destroyed. Nothing was saved but a little personal clothing. The family took refuge on a tug and were taken toward the mouth of Black Lake to a place of safety. George Howard was very diligent in picking up children and women who were running frantically about in places of danger and removing them to a place of safety. In this way he saved numerous lives. He sometimes had to capture them by main force to save them from destruction.

The City Hotel at first was considered by Mr. Myers out of danger, but his most valuable articles he fortunately buried in the ground, and these were all that were saved of the best hotel in the city. The house was in flames when the family and boarders escaped. The other hotels all shared the same fate.

Mr. George Howard, at the very commencement of the fire, took fourteen spades and handed them each to Hollanders, who were standing around, and requested them to use them in throwing sand on the fire, so as to prevent it from spreading to the destruction of the city. They actually refused to work, giving as a reason that it was Sunday, and it would be wrong to do any work on that day. Had they gone to work like men this terrible conflagration and suffering might possibly have been prevented.

The woods along the line of the Michigan Lake Shore Railroad, between Holland and Pigeon River, were in flames. The miles of marsh were one sheet of flame, and it was with great difficulty the train came through. The heat inside the cars was intense.

A message from Mr. A. D. Howard was received by the train, stating that the people were in danger of starving, as all the stores were destroyed, and asking that a supply be immediately shipped. Mr. D. Cutler immediately called on the stores and ordered a supply of crackers, and all the cooked provisions that could be collected sent to the depot. The train did not get off till Tuesday morning, when rain came and subdued the flames along the line of the road.

Other Accounts.

[From the Green Bay Advocate, Oct. 12.]

We undertake this week the description of the devastation by fires in this region which have occurred since our last issue with the utmost care. The city being threatened itself has not only been excited and full of apprehension on its own account, but the wildest rumors have constantly been rife in regard to the fires progressing on every side of us. Night after night the horizon all around has been lighted up by the conflagrations, and by day the streets have been filled with smoke, shutting in everything from sight. From the country, too, it has been extremely difficult to gather connected accounts of what is going on. The settlers in every direction are closely occupied at home fighting the fire around their homesteads, and only those come in who are on hurried errands for help. But, considering the general tumult, we think we have collected such brief accounts as are reliable. The main fault will be found hereafter to be in their brevity and total inadequateness to the real facts. The area of the fire extends over all of Kewaunee county, part of Door, nearly the whole of Brown, that part of Oconto lying south of the Menominee and part of the Shawano and Outagamie.

Of the terrible destruction of Peshtigo and parts of Marinette, Menekaunee and Menominee detailed accounts will be found elsewhere.

The southerly wind which prevailed during Sunday afternoon reached the proportions of a gale in the evening, and during that night the destruction to houses, barns and other property in the country, with some instances of loss of life, was fearful. A belt of country extending from a point east of this city northward through Brown and Kewaunee and into Door, suffered most. The towns of Humboldt, Green Bay, Casco, Red River and Brussels were scathed with a whirlwind of flame, devouring the woods, leaping across clearings and lapping up everything inflammable in its track. Over three miles in length in the south part of the town of Red River is burned. The whole town of Brussels, in Door county, containing some two hundred families, is burned. In this town the wife and three children of Francois Wendricks were burned. In Rostere Moses Deivaux and Hypolite Ligot were burned. All of Rostere, including upwards of one hundred houses, is burned. It is said that only four buildings are saved. Rosiere is about five miles north of Robinsonville.

Peter Miller's place, about two miles east of Robinsonville, containing store, flouring mill and many dwelling houses and barns, is burned.

Scofield & Co.'s mill, near Red River, is reported burned. Also a new mill which they were building in the town of Brussels, which was nearly ready to run. They had a large boarding house, a store and blacksmith shop, &c., which are burned.

In the town of Green Bay the fire entered at the southeast corner and swept through to the northeast. Nothing could be done to arrest its forward progress, but the people labored with some effort to prevent it spreading laterally. The burning belt widened as it advanced. About half the town is burned. At Robinsonville the two churches, Duqueme's store and tavern and Ruben's tavern are reported as saved. The names of some of the farmers who have suffered in this vicinity are:—Gregoire Destione, Louis Delcorie, Joseph Liegois, John Benoit Darte, Jean Lacount, Alphonse Paque, John Colin, Romaine Moreaux, Gregoire Daguerre, Francois Nells, Peter Mueller (mill, store and other property), F. Hannon, Ferdinand Beevers, F. Vandenhonten, Felix Vandenhonten, Felix Bogean, John Benoit Hermann, Charles Last, Jacques Namur, Joseph Guisenbergh, F. Rousseau, Henry Chappelle, Remy Jacque, Alexander Jacquart and August Moreaux.

In the town of Brussels, Polite Fete, two children of Joseph Delvaux and the wife and three children of Francois Gato are reported burned. Detailed reports from that region will doubtless reveal much greater loss of life.

In Humboldt and vicinity, from eight to twelve miles northeast of this city, Prosper Gineuse lost house, barn and all outbuildings, oxen and cow. Mrs. Tasen, a widow, whose husband was killed in the late war, lost house, barn and all her farm products. Nicholas Lurguen lost his house; Thomas Wogelmans, barn, hay and grain; M. Cunnier, barn, hay and grain; Mr. Bierer, house, barn and all grain; Mr. Pison, barn, with all hay and grain; Mr. Muschat, house, barn and crops; Mr. Leroche, house; Mr. Goue, house, barn and all crops; Mrs. Mishott, Humboldt, house and stable; the Marches, father and son, lost their houses and barns; Cornelius Wagner, barn and stable.

A church was burned in Humboldt.

A small hamlet in the town of Red River named Thiry Deames is reported all burned.

We are indebted to Paul Lefavre, of this city, whose father's family suffered greatly; John B., Eugene and Theodore Rubens, for many particulars.

On the Big Suamico, T. A. Satchieder lost two the camps on Sunday, the 1st inst. John Cook saved his hotel last Sunday night by hard work. The flames drove clear over the roof. The goods were removed to Poitras' tavern. No buildings reported lost on the Big Suamico.

Much anxiety is felt for the safety of Conn's mill at Little Suamico. It was in danger from southerly winds, and must have had a hard trial in the southerly gale of Sunday night.

Hart & Snover's mill, between Oconto and Peshtigo, was burned on Sunday night. There were some fifteen or twenty men there, and everything was done to save it, without success. All but one building was burned, and the men had a narrow escape for their lives. Mr. Snover is reported considerably burned.

Near the "Lost Section," on the east side of the river, John Vandenbrech lost house and barn Sunday night. Another Hollander lost everything.

From the southern towns of this county we hear of little damage except of cord wood. The fight against the fire was a long and severe one, and had it not been for the rain of Monday night they could not have held out much longer. No houses or barns are reported burned, and no lives lost.

We learn from C. N. Nalon, who came in from Glenmore, that on Sunday night, between 10 and 11 o'clock, the three dwelling houses of the Bersey Brothers were entirely burned with their contents. The mill and three small dwelling houses were saved by great effort. Hubbard's mill, about forty rods from the Bersey mill, was entirely burned at the same time. Nothing saved. These mills were nine miles east of Depere. Fortunately no lives were lost at these fires.

The village of New Franken, about twelve miles a little north of east of this city, in the town of Green Bay, had heretofore escaped the general devastation from the forest fires, but on Sunday last a heavy wind sprang up, driving the fire and dense volumes of smoke from the southeast directly down upon the village. From the first it was evident that the doom of the entire settlement was sealed and no earthly power was of any avail. About all that could be done by the afflicted community was to save their own lives, and the remorseless flames swallowed up mill, logs, houses, barns, crops, furniture, clothing—everything but the bodies of the citizens. The fire struck the place at about eight o'clock in the evening and at one the next morning nothing was left but blackened ruins. Mr. G. W. Watson, who was present at the fire, gives us a list of the buildings he knows to be destroyed:—Willard Lamb's mill, with 300,000 feet of logs, on the railways, boarding house and furniture, store and goods, Mr. Lamb's residence, two large frame barns, full of hay and grain; three small barns, eleven tenant houses, occupied by fourteen families, who all lost everything. Mr. Lamb also lost all his logging sleds. The school house near the mill was burned.

In the town of Humboldt, on Sunday, the danger was imminent. The people had got all their household goods, provisions, &c., in the middle of their largest clearings.

We hear that in some towns the people have dug holes in the ground and buried their grain and provisions.

Porter Jones, fishing on the bay shore at Bay Settlement, twelve miles from here, informed us on Saturday that so far that shore had escaped. On the beach of the bay the evergreen leaves, fir, pine, &c., partly burned, were piled up from one to two feet high, washed up by the waves.

On the line of the Menominee extension of Chicago and Northwestern Railway, on the 4th inst., three camps—Nos. 10½, 11 and 13—were burned with nearly all their contents, and in some cases the men had a hard struggle for their lives. The contents of the camps would average in value $700 each, or $2,100 for the three. The total value of the goods saved was about $150. Camp 10½ was a mile and a half north of Little Suamico, and had been burned once previously. No. 11 was a half a mile farther north, and No. 13 two miles still further. At No. 11 some of the men escaped with difficulty. Mr. S. Messenger fainted with the heat and smoke, and was carried out by Andrew Thompson.

At Conn's mill, on the Little Suamico, a constant struggle against the fire has been kept up for more than two weeks. Mr. Conn has displayed the greatest energy throughout, and the saving of that valuable property is undoubtedly due to the herculean efforts made to that end. Trenches have been dug in long lines circling the village, and all loose timber and refuse cleared off. For a considerable area around the mill the ground has been covered with a coating of sand, making it proof against falling cinders and the underrunning fires. When we were there on Thursday of last week Mr. Conn and his force of men were much exhausted by long work, but undismayed and husbanding their strength for future work. The property was still in danger if southerly winds should spring up, which has since been the case; and we are fearful that, before this paper goes to press, we may hear of some disasters there.

The lowlands between the two Suamicos, which are a part of the alluvial grounds forming the west shore of the bay, and extending back from the water two or three miles to the high lands, seem to be utterly ruined—timber, soil and all. The fire has underrun the soil, uprooting the trees, making it a black, hideous desolation. With the first high wind the trees still standing must go over, and all that region, lately so beautiful with evergreen verdure and so valuable for posts, ties and wood, will be a barren waste.

Many interesting incidents of the fire are related. At Camp 10½ on the railway extension two men spent the night in a partially excavated well. Next day, after they were gone, the top of a burning tree near by fell and filled the well with its burning branches.

At Oak Orchard, between Oconto and Shawano, a man and his wife, Norwegians, named Glynn, were so badly burned in their house that the woman died soon after, and the man has since been reported as dead. They were trying to save some of their household effects, when they were caught in the flames. The appearance of the poor woman running from the fire with her clothes and body burning is described as horrible.

At a lumbering shanty about eight miles above Oconto a man and wife named Bertelotte only escaped by spending the night in a newly excavated well. They protected themselves against the falling cinders by bed clothing kept wet with the water below them and held over their heads. They had a pair of oxen which were saved by lying on the fresh ground thrown out of the well.

At the Couliard bridge, some five miles above Oconto, a large number of the settlers—some sixty or seventy—were gathered one day last week, seeking refuge from the flames. They had been driven out from their houses and clearings in the country adjacent, and were panic stricken and tired out, fleeing before the smoke and flames to the nearest water. The prevailing idea of many of them was to reach the river and plunge into it for safety. Here one woman, exhausted by terror and travel, gave premature birth to a child. All these people had lost everything—not even saving their bedding. The roaring of the burning forests, the heavy pall of smoke which enveloped everything and shut out the sun, crash of trees and the terror which inspired all, are described as akin to pandemonium. Some of the more ignorant and panic stricken imagined that the end of the world was at hand.

Some of the railway hands on the railway extension dug a pit, which they roofed over with ties, covered thickly with earth, and in this sort of oven spent the night safely.

About two miles below Stiles lived a man named Buckley, an old resident of Oconto county. He was found in the morning dead and partly burned, lying across the doorway of his house, where he had doubtless been caught while trying to save his household effects. He had had assistance the previous day, in saving his barn, and it was supposed that his place was out of danger.

George Hart, of Oconto, is reported as having had a narrow escape for his life. He was on the road southward from that place, with a pair of horses and buggy, and, finding it impossible to go forward, turned back. In the meantime a burning tree had fallen across the road, and into this, in the smoke and darkness, he plunged at full speed. His horses tore loose from the buggy, but holding fast to the reins he was dragged through, considerably burned. He found his way to the house of Charles Windross, at Oak Orchard, where he was cared for.

Mr. Cole, of Oconto, gives us the following estimate of hay and other farming property burned on that river. Thomas Johnson, twenty miles up the river, thirty tons of hay—the whole crop of his farm; John Volk, eighteen miles up, twenty-five tons of hay, and all his oats and wheat; Anson Eldred, Stiles, lost a large barn, containing seventy tons of hay; John Lucia, on the road from Holmes' to Little River, fifteen tons of hay; Peter Rosecrans, barn, with twenty-five tons of hay, 300 bushels oats and other grain; Charles Ritter, barn and twenty tons of hay, with oats and other grain; John Traverse, barn, fifty tons of hay, with oats and wheat; Charles McDonald, house, barn and all his wheat and oats; two Delano families lost houses, barns, hay and all their grain; William Brunquest (before reported) lost upward of 120 tons of hay; Joseph Thomas, William Klass, Jos. Blanpain, Paul McDonald and others on the bay shore north of Oconto lost large lots of hay. It is estimated that the loss of hay on and adjacent to the Oconto river will reach upwards of 500 tons.

The Oconto *Lumberman* of the 27th gives a long account of the losses in that region. All the buildings and other property on the Pensaukee road between Redmond's and Holmes' mills are swept away. Oconto is not yet injured, though outside property has suffered to some extent. Barns, fences, and, in some instances, dwelling houses, in all directions, are reported burned. The sluice dam at Leigh's was on fire, but was saved. Upwards of twenty men were centred in the neighborhood of the mill, and saved those premises.

F. B. Gardner's mill and property, at Pensaukee, was reported as burned on Saturday. At the present time of writing we have no confirmation of this rumor, which we think is incorrect. If true it involves the loss of an extensive and valuable mill, hotel and dwelling house property—second to none, in completeness, on the bay.

In Door county the Sturgeon Bay *Advocate* says that the damage in the county is immense; a large quantity of the most valuable standing timber in the county has been burned down, large numbers of logs cut last winter and not hauled out entirely destroyed or spoiled, tan bark, cedar posts and other products swept away; miles upon miles of fencing burned up, and in many cases the cleared land and meadows burned over and spoiled. Among the losses specified Bradner, Charnley & Co. lost a large lot of logs; Mr. Cocagne lost a barn and lots of furniture placed in it for safety; B. J. Olson lost thirty-eight cords of bark, and others lost long lines of fences, cordwood, &c. The *Advocate* says that without rain to prevent the further spread of the flames the losses will continually swell in amount.

The Kewaunee *Enterprise* of the 6th says that seventy-eight buildings had been destroyed up to that time, and the fires were again spreading. Large fires were in progress near Barke's and Simon's, in the town of Pierce; in the western part of Annapee, on both sides of the river; in the eastern part of Lincoln, and on the Mishicott road, west of Taylor & Bach's, in Carlton. The loss and damage inflicted on the county up to that date was estimated at $200,000, of which not more than $10,000 was covered by insurance. The bulk of the loss is uninsurable property, such as posts, ties, hay, cordwood, &c., besides the standing timber. Five bridges are burned between Lincoln and Annepee. All the people of the county are worn out with constant watching and working, and are anxiously praying for rain, without which there is little prospect that the fire can be extinguished or prevented from spreading.

Since that issue of the *Enterprise* we get the report here that the village of Casco, with its handsome hotel, store building, mills and dwelling houses, was burned on Sunday last. We greatly fear that it is correct, as a northerly gale was blowing on that day and the forests on that side were close to the village. This place was mainly owned by Mr. Edward Decker. It is located on the Green Bay and Kewaunee road, about twelve miles west of the latter place, and had a good hotel and store building, a sawmill, with steam machinery, a furniture factory, brewery, many dwelling houses, school houses, &c. The loss may range anywhere from $20,000 to $50,000.

The Shawano *Journal* of the 5th gives no particulars of the fires, except that considerable damage has occurred to fences, hay, pine timber, &c. The village and surrounding country were enveloped in a smoke so dense as to be greatly oppressive. Reports were rife of fires to the east, west, north and south.

The Wolf River pineries and the valuable cranberry marshes in that region are damaged to a vast extent.

Southward, in the region of Fond du Lac, terrible fires are raging in all directions. The Eldorado marsh, about fifty square miles in extent, has been burning for days and it is reported that 1,000 tons of hay are lost. Horicon marsh, much larger, is burning. In the town of Friendship extensive fires are raging in the woods, and several buildings have been burned. The air is filled with smoke and the sun not visible.

LATEST FROM ROSIERE.

We are informed that the exact number of houses in Rosiere was 130, of which there are but five left, in addition to the names of the dead first reported we get the name of Gabrielle Manfort.

The villages of Rosiere and Messiere form the town of Lincoln. Both are burned. At last accounts twenty-one persons were missing.

LATEST FROM DYCKESVILLE.

Among the dwellings burned at Dyckesville are those of Paul Fontaine, Pierre Ligot and Joseph Tonnard.

Burning of Williamsonville—From Fifty to Sixty Lives Lost.

By Guillaume Delaluzerne, from Union Town, we learn that the entire settlement at Williamson Brothers' mill, five miles from the shore of Little Sturgeon Bay, was burned on Sunday night. The proprietor, John Williamson, and his wife and two children—his entire family—are burned to death, and about fifty-three other persons in the same settlement perished. Scarce a soul is left to tell the tale.

Charles Kusterman, of Little Sturgeon, writes us further particulars. There were twelve families about the mill and fifty-two men in and about the mill. Of all these people but two were saved uninjured, and ten injured persons still living were found, and were sent on Monday by the tug Ozankee to Big Sturgeon Bay for medical treatment. Every other individual in the settlement is dead. Mr. Gardner sent twenty-five men to chop through the woods to this settlement, out correspondent being one of the number. They found the remains of six persons in one house, and piled the partly charred remains of fifty-five bodies of men, women and children in one pile. Three or four persons attempted to save themselves in a well containing three feet of water. One of them had his head badly burned and the others were burned to death!

One of the party sent out by F. B. Gardner called upon us on Wednesday. The party went from Little Sturgeon to the head of Little Sturgeon Bay by the tug Ozaukee, and thence chopped their way through the timber fallen across the road for four miles. The other mile they clambered over the timber. On the road they found three of the wounded trying to reach the shore. Others of the wounded got to Kent's place, four miles from Big Sturgeon, where they are living.

Reaching the site of Williamsonville they found no living creature but an ox. Twenty-nine human bodies lay on a spot about ten feet square—some with arms and legs burned off, and all with clothing gone. A few rods off, on every side, were others, and a man and child were found dead in a well. They found fifty-five dead bodies, and think the total number must be from sixty to seventy.

MICHIGAN.

Miles of Flame on the Lake Shores—Rescue of Villagers.

[From the Detroit Free Press, Oct. 13.]

A score or more of men, women and children arrived in this city yesterday by boat and rail from the up-country counties, and the statements made by them in regard to the woods fires are appalling. All of them have suffered the loss of every dollar of property, and some of them show scars and blisters to prove how closely they were pursued by the flames.

John Kent and wife were living about ten miles above Forestville and about five from the lake. He states, as do all the others, that fires have been running in the woods for months, but have travelled more rapidly and have created greater destruction within the last ten days than in all the time before. For weeks the smoke in Sanilac and Huron counties has been so dense that women and children have been made sick, and every human being has been half blind. Fowls were smothered as long as three weeks ago, and the effect on cattle and horses was to render them unfit for work. Although Kent had reason to apprehend danger to himself, wife and two children, he did as nearly every one else did, stood by his little property in the hope to preserve it. He had a considerable clearing around his house, and imagined that the flames would not reach him. He had plenty of water near his house, and filled barrels, tubs, crocks and everything which would hold water, and placed them where they would be of service in extinguishing sparks and cinders.

Friday last he could hear the roaring of the flames and the falling of trees from his house. At night the heavens were rendered so light that he needed no lamp in the house. His dog left him early Friday morning, and the house cat disappeared two days before, the animals seeming to have a better knowledge of the danger than the man. Toward noon the flames appeared on the outskirts of Kent's farm. His children, two little girls, the youngest not a year old, were left in the house, and husband and wife repaired to the fire to try to beat it back. With anything which would strike or smother they fought the advancing flames, and for a distance of twenty rods kept them in check. But, while busy here, the flames crept over the dry ground from other directions, unheeded and neglected. Fighting with all their strength, father and mother gave no heed to anything but the fire before them, until they were at last startled by a scream from the house. Instinctively they felt that the flames had seized it, and they started to the rescue of the children. But the smoke had settled down so thick that they ran in all directions without finding the house, and knew not its locality until the fall and crash of the roof told them that the little ones had met an awful fate. "I tell you, mister," said Kent to our reporter yesterday, "it made us crazy. The fire was all around us except to the west, house gone, barn burning, hay and everything destroyed. There was only one thing to do—I got hold of Mary and plunged through the fire and smoke until we got out into the lake road, and then we had hard work to keep ahead of the fire before reaching the water. It was awful, sir, to hear that screaming from those burning children, and it was dreadful to go away and leave them roasting there."

Many of the others had almost as bad experiences. While some of the farmers left the woods ten or twelve days ago, seeing that nothing could prevent the progress of the flames, others, like Kent, hoped for a rain and trusted that the fire would not advance over the cleared lands. There was a family named Cross, a man living about a mile back of Kent's, and as he did not see them come out, and knew them to be at home at the time his house burned, he is certain that every one, five in all, were roasted in the flames.

A Detroiter named J. P. Parker returned to the city yesterday after an absence of ten days in the counties on fire. He states that no one can form an idea of the desolate scene unless he was a spectator. For several days Parker was right on the borders of the fire, being driven back six or seven miles some days, and meeting with scores of people who were driven out of their burning houses. He states that one day, while he was making a great effort to get through the woods to see about the fate of a sawmill, he encountered an Indian and his squaw, the latter having a pappoose strapped to her back. Parker tried to halt them for a moment to make inquiries, but they passed him on the keen run, the Indian yelling out, "No more wigwam!"

The only avenue of escape was the lake. Many of the settlers along the shore packed their goods on rafts and anchored them out in the lake, some being thus afloat for many hours before being taken off by steamers. Others who were fleeing for their lives, and had no time to build rafts or hunt for boats, had no other resource but to plunge into the water and wait for the fire to burn itself out.

All the telegrams and letters received from the lake shore region confirm the statements of these people. There is reason to apprehend that very little property lying anywhere near the great fire belt will escape, and that the fire will constantly increase and travel in new directions. There is already a piteous appeal for help, and the cry will continue for weeks to come. Every effort of our citizens and of the people throughout the State must now be directed towards raising money, food and clothing for our unfortunate sufferers. Detroit has already raised a considerable sum, and more is being raised every hour, while large collections of clothing are being made in various quarters of the city. If any citizen has a shilling in money, a pair of boots, cast-off clothing, a blanket, or anything else that will cover and comfort the poor victim, it is hoped that he will call at the City Clerk's office and leave it.

[From the Detroit Post, Oct. 13.]

The steamer Marine City arrived in Detroit about seven last evening, and from Captain Robertson we obtain some further particulars about the fires on the shore. In the counties of Alpena, Alcona and Iosco the people had, up to the time the Marine City passed, succeeded in keeping the fire out of the villages, though in some cases the struggle was for a long time a doubtful one.

In Alcona on Monday the furniture and other movables were taken out of some houses, in the fear that the efforts to keep out the fire would not be successful, but the houses were final ly saved.

In Harrisonville the fire approached uncomfortably near to the dwellings, but the people had thus far succeeded in keeping it off.

Between Au Sable and Tawas there was a great deal of fire in the woods, but the villages had not yet suffered.

At Alpena there was a report that there was fire above Devil River, and that it was working its way toward the village.

In all of the villages mentioned the inhabitants felt reasonably secure in case there should be no high wind, but in the event of a gale, without rain, they considered the danger very great that they would suffer the same fate as other villages further down. They had a slight rain on Tuesday, but not enough to afford much security against the spread of fire. All along this coast there was such a dense smoke that it was impossible to see more than a few feet, and the eyes suffered severely from its effects. At Alpena it was necessary to light the lamps in the cabin, as the smoke caused a darkness as great as that of early evening.

At Forrester, where the Marine City stopped, one of the sufferers from the interior came on board in order to go as far as Lexington and procure provisions for his friends in the country. He had walked down to Forrester from a place six miles back of Richmondville, where there were twenty-five families in one house, with only two days' provisions on hand, and he was the only man in the whole number who felt able to get as far as Forrester. The rest of the men were suffering from fire blindness, burns or exhaustion. The house in and about which they had gathered was the only one saved in that vicinity, and the two days' rations which they then had were all that they had been able to save from the fire. An effort will be made to bring them away as soon as possible, but the means of transporting them down to the shore are very scanty. According to the latest news that the Marine City could obtain there have been nine villages burned on the coast, viz:—New River, Huron City, Port Hope, Sand Beach, Center Harbor, Rock Falls, White Rock, Elm Creek and Forrestville, while nothing is known of many of the villages back from the coast. The only dock left between Richmondville and Point Aux Barques is that at White Rock.

In Huron City there is one public house, that of R. Winterbottom, standing, while the remainder of the village is burned.

Port Hope is all burned, except the fine residence of Mr. Stafford, his store, and the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Gunning, living back of Cato, is burned out, and it is feared that the same fate has befallen the Ludington settlement back of Sand Beach.

On Monday Port Austin was all right and supposed to be secure. We get by the way of Saginaw a rumor that it has since been burned, but the rumor comes in such shape as to lead to the belief that it is incorrect.

The tug Frank Moffat arrived at Port Huron Wednesday night with forty passengers from Sand Beach, five of whom were badly injured. She reports that Verona was entirely, and New River partly destroyed. It was reported that many lives were lost, and also that there was a large destruction of cattle, hogs and horses. R. H. Hubbard & Co., of Huron City, owners of large numbers of choice imported stock, shot the animals down to prevent them from burning. The steamer Huron, which left Port Huron Tuesday night, returned to that place last evening with another load of rescued villagers, the second that she had brought down. She starts up the shore again this morning to continue the work of mercy which she has carried forward so efficiently, and will be devoted by her owners to this duty as long as there is any apparent need of her services.

Two-thirds of the City of Manistee in Ashes—Village of Glen Haven Burned.

[From the Milwaukee Wisconsin, Oct. 12.]

The propeller Messenger, which arrived here at nine o'clock last evening, brought intelligence of a terrible conflagration in Manistee on Sunday evening which laid fully two-thirds of the city in ashes. An extra from the *Times* office gives full particulars of the fire, with a large, but, we are informed, incorrect list of the losses, from which we extract liberally. It says:—"The wind blew a heavy gale on Sunday from the south, and the fire that had been burning in the woods for several days spread with great rapidity. The fire company was out all day with the engine, near Gifford & Ruddock's mill, and succeeded in checking the flames. In the evening a fire broke out, near Canfield's mill, and the fire company promptly repaired to the scene of action, but the wind blew the smoke and sand at such a fearful rate that they were almost blinded, and could not check the headway of the flames. About ten o'clock the engine gave out, and during the balance of the scene was powerless to assist. In a short time the mill and about twenty small dwellings, the boarding house, lighthouse, piers, lumber piles and Mr. Horton's house were in flames. Tyson & Robinson's three barges and the tug Bismarck were in the stream between the fires, but escaped by almost a miracle. A scow loaded with slabs and a pile driver were cut loose and floated down the river. The pile driver was on fire, but fortunately it did no harm. The barge Frankfort and several other vessels were near the mill, but went up the river to a place of safety. While this was calling the attention of the citizens, a light was seen reflecting on the sky, in the rear of the city, near Maple street. In an exceedingly short space of time a number of buildings were in flames. Everything was swept clean, not a vestige of consumable matter being left.

The districts burned over were, first, about twenty acres west of and including Canfield's mill. Second, a strip commencing on Maple street from J. G. Ramsdell's residence, and widening as it advanced, and when it reached the river it extended from Oak street (Buckley's store) to Tyson & Robinson's little mill, a distance of a half mile, and through the principal business part of the town, thence across the river, burning the bridge and the schooner Seneca Chief, and destroying every building on the north side (nineteen in all), except the fourth ward schoolhouse, George Thorp's house and the Catholic church. Third, Black Bird Island was literally burned up.

From the captain of the propeller City of Toledo, which also arrived here last evening, we learn that the village of Glen Haven, in Grand Traverse Bay, was entirely destroyed by fire on Sunday evening, together with between four and five thousand cords of wood belonging to the Northern Transportation Company. About forty families are left homeless and destitute by the calamity.

THE PRAIRIE FIRES.

Vivid Descriptions of the Conflagration.

[From the La Crosse Republican.]

From a party lately arrived in this city from Dakota, who travelled some days through and along the burning district of Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota, we glean the following. We use the language of our informant:—

For some days previous to leaving Cheyenne River, in Dakota, at a point seventy-five miles west of the crossing of the Northern Pacific Railroad at Red River, a dense smoky atmosphere prevailed, which each day grew more dense, warning us that immense "prairie fires" were approaching our quarters rapidly, and our party deemed it prudent to move eastward as fast as possible. We made immediate preparations, but found that we were in the saddle none to soon. The intense heat and weight of smoke affected us very much, and soon after starting we were forced to ride as rapidly as it was possible for our beasts to carry us. All through that long day we toiled along, our eyes nearly blinded; with parched throat and cracked lips and intense thirst we rode on and on, till at nightfall we came in sight of