

FIRE ON ALL SIDES

Whole Town in Minnesota Wiped Out by Flames.

OVER ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE CONSUMED

Acres of Forests Ablaze Extending Over Entire Counties.

TERRIBLE TALE OF THOSE WHO ESCAPED

Hundreds Lost While Fleeing Before the Advancing Demon of Destruction.

MANY TAKE REFUGE IN LAKES AND RIVERS

Trains Overtaken and Destroyed with All on Board.

RAILS WARPED BENEATH TURNING WHEELS

Courageous Engineer Rushes His Precious Hord to a Convenient Lake and All Are Saved by Taking to the Water.

ST. PAUL, Sept. 2.—Six towns wiped out and more than 500 dead is the record made by the forest fires in this state in the past twenty-four hours.

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around Hinckley on the hander suffered severely from burning. Their injuries, however, did not prove fatal. They tell many sad stories of what they saw. One woman had evidently tried to save her five children and was overtaken by the fierce flames and the whole family perished close to the railroad track.

Another case was where a mother, seeing her house in flames, ran to save her child, her husband following her, and the walls of the house caved in before they could get out.

The passenger train from Duluth, on which these men were, is in ashes, and the rest of the passengers have taken refuge in a marsh near Skunk lake, where they are surrounded by fire. The engineer was badly burned by the flames, but stuck to his post and got all of the passengers out of the fire safely. This engineer, James Root, is one of the best known and pluckiest of those in the employ of the St. Paul & Duluth. He tried to take his train through the fire to Hinckley, but when the cars caught fire from the flying embers he reversed his engine and backed at full speed to Skunk lake. It was so dark during the day yesterday that it was almost impossible for any one to see 100 feet away, and during the night the headlight on the engine was useless.

Engineer Root's injuries are quite serious, but it is hoped he will recover, although one report gives no hope.

HUNDREDS OF BODIES FOUND. The little town of Misconce, some little distance north of Hinckley, is also reported in ashes. Special trains were sent out, both from Duluth and St. Paul, today, with full medical forces, and all that is possible to be done will be done.

A private dispatch received this evening from the burned district states positively that 250 dead bodies have already been recovered, so the estimate made above may be considered as decidedly conservative.

The losses in the neighborhood of St. Cloud, which is on the western edge of the fires, are estimated at \$200,000, and from that point eastward, where the fire is burning furiously, the loss is estimated at \$1,000,000. The fires are raging in Becker and Aitkin counties, where many farm houses and much grain has been lost, as well as timber.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE. The walls of the school house, the iron fence about the town hall property, the bank vault and one absolutely uninjured outhouse is all that is left to mark the site of Hinckley, where yesterday stood a score of buildings and a dozen times as many dwelling houses.

The story of the catastrophe is a short one. The town was built of wood. The school house, erected last year at a cost of \$100,000, and one-half of the Duluth round house were the only brick structures in the city.

By one of those peculiar freaks for which there is no accounting, the Eastern Minnesota round house and water tank on the southwestern edge of the town, almost in the woods, escaped the flames, a circumstance the more remarkable from the fact that it stood directly in the path of the flames, which seem to have jumped it as clearly as if playing leap frog.

All yesterday evening the townspeople were apprehensive. The fire kept advancing, fanned by the wind, which was blowing a gale. About 11 o'clock the fire company got out their engine and laid an 800-foot line of hose to the northern outskirts of the town. The hose was too short for the measure of protection desired and a telegram was sent to Rush City for more. Five hundred feet were sent, but it never reached Hinckley.

CAME LIKE A CYCLONE. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon the fire literally jumped into the town. It did not eat its way along, devouring everything in its path, but came in huge leaps as if to overtake everything fleeing before it, and then burned back at its leisure. It appeared as if it were forced along by cyclones of its own generation. The intense heat would develop a veritable whirlwind of flame that carried huge blinding firebrands high in the air, and carrying them forward for forty to eighty rods, let them fall and begin the work of devastation anew.

The fire first struck Hinckley on the east side of the Duluth track and the brave fire fighters for the first time gave up the unequal battle and, already too late in many instances, turned their attention to their personal safety.

The Eastern Minnesota train from the south had just come in and the people of the panic-stricken city fled to it for safety. A number of box cars were coupled on and filled and covered with men, women and children. Some were bareheaded, some were coatless, some few clutched a pitiful bundle of the more precious of their portable possessions. Families were separated. In all there was a motley crowd of about 450 or more people.

The train pulled out just ahead of the fire and succeeded in ultimately reaching Duluth. This circumstance, while fortunate in a degree that cannot be estimated, has made the confusion greater, for it is not known who escaped in this way and many people are reported dead who may be in safety. Had not this number of people, mostly women and children, left the doomed city when they did, the loss of life would have increased in a geometrical ratio, for their presence would have added immeasurably to the subsequent confusion.

WRECKED IN A GIANTIC FURNACE. About the same time the accommodation on the Hinckley & St. Cloud branch left for the latter place, with about twenty-five passengers. Its path lay directly across the path of the fire and the situation speedily became desperate. The ties were burning, the rails were warping, and the ties were sagging under the train. The smoke had increased so the engineer was helpless. He could not see the train behind him. Burning trees lay across the track and were being tossed aside by the engine. Suddenly the track gave way and the train toppled off to one side. No one was injured and they pressed on to Pockegama station, a few rods ahead. But a few feet in front of the engine was discovered a grotto sixty feet wide and forty feet deep, where the ties had been bed away. They succeeded in reaching the clearing about the station and escaped with a few burns and bruises. There were burned along the track, however, four or five people.

The people who were left in the city were in what seemed to be an almost hopeless condition. Egress by any means of transportation that could hope to distance the swiftly advancing flames was out of the question. The men had been fighting the fire for hours and the women and children were in a panic-stricken condition. Horses were harnessed to buggies and wagons. Women and children were hurriedly loaded.

Several of the male passengers, too terrified for self control, leaped headlong through broken windows and were swallowed up in the flames outside. Others, seeing this action, quickly followed, and altogether in the next ten minutes a dozen men leaped to death in the flames in a like manner. The women, whose terror had been pitiful a few moments before, now came heroically to the help of the men in endeavoring to soothe the frightened children.

SAVED BY A RELIEF TRAIN. Engineer Root saw there was no outlet apparently for his train ahead and concluded to turn back through the distance already burned over rather than encounter possibly greater perils before them. He backed at a fast speed to Skunk lake, five miles from Hinckley. The passengers deserted the train there and took refuge in a swamp, where they spent the night. This morning a relief train from the north was brought through Hinckley and on to this city. The relief train carried a supply of handcars, which were

used in picking up the bodies of the dead along the track.

Engineer Root lies at his home at White Bear, too badly injured to be interviewed. He was badly cut by broken glass, but his worst injuries were from inhaling the hot air and smoke.

WHEN THE DANGER WAS PASSED. As night closed in the people began to come out from their hiding places and made their way over the hot embers of their burned city. They were absolutely dazed by the catastrophe, and the night was spent in endeavoring to find relatives. The fire had spent its force, but the air was filled with smoke, through which gleamed the tall chimneys of the city, and the air was filled with the smell of scorched wood.

The fact that so many had escaped by train added to the grief of those whose friends and relatives were not to be found, while it furnished at the same time a basis for hope that they were in safety. When the morning broke a few energetic spirits began to organize the work of the recovery of the bodies. J. W. Sargent, a passenger conductor of the Duluth road, organized a volunteer crew, who manned two handcars, which were used to pick up the bodies of the dead.

The bodies were wrapped up in blankets and such cloth as could be obtained, and laid out by the side of the track where the depot had stood. Citizens volunteered and harnessed up the available vehicles saved in the wreck and went to the swamp across the Grindstone. They brought in eighty-six bodies, which were carried out to the desolate burying ground a mile east of town. There was neither time nor opportunity to observe the sacred formalities usually surrounding death. The excitement of the occasion, the horrible experience through which the living had passed, and the more horrible form in which death had come to the lost, had temporarily blunted the finer sensibilities, and the dead were heaped like on the wagons and laid in piles at the cemetery among the smoking embers and stumps that surrounded God's acre.

Coroner Cowin directed the digging of two huge pits, 24x12 feet, in which the interment will be made tomorrow.

IDENTIFICATION ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. One of the saddest features of the calamity is the impossibility of identification in such a large proportion of the cases. The ninety-six bodies brought into this point were examined by many of the surviving residents of Hinckley, but but four could be identified—Charles Anderson, Axel Hanson, Dennis Riley and Mrs. Ginder. The remainder will have to be buried together. In the indefiniteness of the arrangements, and it seemed impossible to do otherwise under the circumstances, due regard was not paid to a proper separate preservation of articles found on the bodies, and the last chance of identification was lost.

Those who brought in the bodies from the swamp reported there were at least thirty-five other bodies out there which cannot be brought in until morning. Out on the government road to the east was found the Best family of six persons, father, mother and four children. Best was a prosperous farmer living just out of town. Here also were recovered the bodies of the three unfortunate creatures who lived at the Stockade.

Near Skunk lake were found the bodies of a family consisting of father, mother and seven children. Of another family in which there were five children, only the father escaped. There was a settlement of about thirty people on the lake and but two are known to be alive.

Marvelous escapes are numerous. Twelve-year-old Chris Anderson, after his father, mother and sister had been suffocated in the swamp, himself fell into a ditch and was too exhausted to move. He lay there until this morning, when he was able to make his way home. Many such remarkable escapes are recorded.

This afternoon the work train from St. Paul reached Hinckley with an undertaker and thirty-two caskets. By evening the thirty-one corpses that lay beside the track had been wrapped up, laid away in the cars and returned to Pine City. No attempt was made to bury the dead at the cemetery.

Governor Nelson, Mayor Smith of St. Paul and Mayor Eustis of Minneapolis have all issued proclamations calling on the people for help. Anything in the line of provisions, clothing or money will be very acceptable. All the churches in the city and relief societies have been throwing open their doors for contributions and several responses have been received.

HEARTRENDING SCENES. Refugees from the Afflicted Districts Pouring into Pine City. Pine City, Minn., Sept. 2.—Pine City has turned the skating rink and court house as well as many private houses, into hospitals, where fifty sufferers are receiving medical attention and careful nursing. Whichever way the eye turns heartrending scenes are witnessed. The hospitals and streets are thronged with people seeking their missing loved ones. As soon as each car comes in from the north there is a frenzied throng of inquirers. Few families are complete and the torture of anxiety and despair is driving some people out of their senses.

A man going insane, a patient groaning life away, a heap of children representing a human form—these are a few of the incidents of the great forest fire of 1894.

No trains are running west of Hinckley and it is impossible to get accurate information. Carleton, Rulledge, Shell Lake and other towns in the north are reported burned. West of Pine City a fearful fire is blazing and sweeping everything before it. In the afternoon this fire was at least twelve miles square, but as the wind has gone down considerably, it is hoped its course will be checked. There are fires north of Snake river also in a heavy timber section, which is sparsely settled.

As for loss of property, it is impossible to make even an approximation. The clean-out has been so complete that many people have no ambition to rebuild and will scatter to all parts of the country.

NOTES OF THE CALAMITY. In the woods north of town was found a team of gray horses, harnessed to the remains of a burned wagon. Under the wagon were the bodies of a woman and three children, but the horses were not harmed in the least and were brought back into town. The body of Jim Bean, the Hennan Lumber company foreman, was found in the swamp a stump and the team had broken away. There were only a few fragments of Bean's body unburned, but he was identified by some keys.

(Continued on Second Page.)

COULD NOT BROOK CRITICISM

Members of the Greek Army Demolish the Office of an Unfriendly Newspaper.

EDITOR OF ATHENS AKROPOLIS REBUKED

Mob of Officers and Privates Wreck His Establishment Completely and Attack His Private Residence—Journalist that Brought Its Reward.

ATHENS, Sept. 2.—Much excitement has been occasioned here by a summary act of vengeance against a newspaper published in this city. For some time past the Akropolis has been publishing a series of articles derogatory to the army. The articles excited much indignation in the army and the matter was heatedly discussed. Finally, it was decided to put a stop to further adverse criticism on the part of the Akropolis. One hundred and thirty officers and men of all arms proceeded to the newspaper office yesterday and wrecked the place. Nearly all the attacking party were armed with axes, with which the press and type and type cases were destroyed. The library was then attacked, the books being torn to pieces and everything of value hacked to bits. The editor was thrown into the street.

Inflamed with their success at the office, it was proposed to attack the residence of the editor of the paper. The proposal was instantly acted upon by the soldiers marching in a body to the objective point. Arriving at the house, the men burst in the doors and destroyed all the household effects. The outburst is everywhere denounced.

GIFTS NOT KINDLY RECEIVED. Donors out of Gladstone and Baron Tweedmouth Cause Unfavorable Comment.

DUBLIN, Sept. 2.—The Evening Herald writes, in addition to its statements, commenting on the donations of Mr. Gladstone and Baron Tweedmouth to the Irish parliamentary fund, that neither Keogh nor Sallid sold themselves so cheaply as the Parliament have done, says: "It is the price of treating the Irish as a conquered people, while the money represents £18 25 shillings purchase money for each of them."

LONDON, Sept. 2.—The Gladstone-Tweedmouth contribution of £100 each to the Irish parliamentary fund is causing a sensation in all political parties. Baron Tweedmouth is making his contribution from Scotland, writes Mr. Justin McCarthy, chairman of the Irish parliamentary fund, saying that he had received a note from Mr. Gladstone, offering to contribute £100 to be forwarded to the fund. The unionists are making much of the fact that none of the money which is said to be the property of Irish officers is being used to the benefit of the Irish.

The Globe this afternoon, commenting upon this contribution, says that a double effect will result from this subsidy. It will keep the Parliaments in good temper and the evicted tenants will become more exasperated than ever. The Globe also says: "If Mr. Gladstone and Baron Tweedmouth have taken this action without consulting the premier or Sir William Harcourt, it savors of springing a mine upon them."

WILL PROSECUTE THE WAR. Preparation Made Way in China for a Vigorous Campaign.

LONDON, Sept. 3.—The Standard's correspondent in Berlin telegraphs as follows: The war party, of which Prince Tching is the head, has, I learn, got the upper hand in China, which means that the struggle with Japan will be prosecuted with vigor. A large number of articles found on the bodies, and the last chance of identification was lost.

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(Continued on Second Page.)

MAJOR WHAM IS TO BE TRIED

Detail for the Court Martial has Been Given Out at Washington.

SPECIFIED CHARGES COVER MANY YEARS

Chief Allegation is a Failure to Settle an Arizona Judgment—The Accused Gives His Accusers an Energetic Going Over.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—A general court martial has been ordered at Vancouver Barracks, Wash., for September 11 for trial of general officers. The detail is: Brigadier General Elwell S. Otis, Colonel Thomas Anderson, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh A. Thacker, Fourteenth infantry; Lieutenant Colonel William D. Werten, deputy surgeon general; Lieutenant Colonel John M. Bacon, first cavalry; Major Frank M. Cox, paymaster; Major James C. Post, corps of engineers; Major Tully McCrea, Fifth artillery; Major William Nash, commissary of subsistence; Major James M. Marshall, quartermaster; Major John W. French, Fourteenth infantry; Major George S. Wilson, assistant adjutant general; Major Charles A. McQuay, Captain Charles McCallie, acting judge advocate; U. S. A., Judge advocate of the court. One of the principal duties of the court martial order is to assemble at Vancouver will be the trial of Paymaster Wham, who has been in trouble for some time and whose career has attracted considerable attention in army circles.

OTISLAND, Ore., Sept. 2.—Major J. W. Wham, paymaster U. S. A., who is to be tried by a military court at Vancouver Barracks September 11, said today in reference to the charges against him, that he had no recollection of the court martial order, and that he had at least twice the number of his escort, until every soldier but one remained with me and was wounded, and my old comrades of General Grant's army were scattered in thirteen battles and nearly five years service during the rebellion, and to ask my appointment as paymaster was a sublime error. A fighting record is made to feel very lonesome in the pay department, which is composed, particularly near the head of the list, of men who are responsible for it as a matter of course, and I am ready to assert, "did their fighting in safe and comfortable offices, far removed from the sound of battle."

"Of course, if the result of the forthcoming trial will be exactly similar, the second sick leave of absence ever obtained by me in a period of nearly thirty years' service will be well deserved. I am sure that a board of officers convened to determine whether it should be granted or not, and I was ordered back to my station, there to be held for three months, subject to a general espionage to determine my sanity. But Dr. Byrne, the medical director, having I presume, been humiliated by my humiliating duty, has unlawfully imposed on him, tried to terminate the unlawful, cruel and unjust action of Assistant Secretary of War, and to have a military court martial, which I would be fit the accidental killing of my mother, it having occurred through the unpardonable error of being so old."

Major Wham was appointed paymaster by President Grant, in whose regiment he served. The charges against Major Wham are many, and are of a serious nature. It is understood that the principal charge against him is the failure to meet a legal judgment against him for several thousand dollars, and that he has been in the irrigation of Arizona lands many years ago.

SOME RECENT DETAILS. Some Officers Given New Assignments and Some Given Leaves. WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—(Special Telegram to The Bee.) The following changes in stationing and duties of members of the medical department are ordered: Major W. H. Gardner, surgeon, will be relieved as attending surgeon and examiner or recruits headquarters, Department of Dakota and will report to commanding officer, Fort Custer, Mont.; Major Henry McEldeery, surgeon, will be relieved as attending surgeon and examiner of recruits headquarters, Department of the Platte, and will report to commanding officer, Fort Robinson, Neb., to relieve Major George W. Adair, surgeon, Major Adair, who is being relieved by Major McDerry, will report to commanding officer, Washington barracks, District of Columbia, to relieve Major Joseph K. Carson, surgeon, Major Carson, being relieved by Major Adair, will report to commanding officer, Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo.

Twenty-four months' leave granted by absence until further orders on account of disability, to date from expiration of extension ordinary leave granted him. First Lieutenant Frederick T. Van Liew, Ninth infantry, is transferred to the Third infantry, company K.

Leave of absence for six months is granted to Lieutenant Daniel W. Ketcham, Second artillery.

Leave of absence is granted for seven days to Captain Charles G. Ayres, Tenth cavalry, recruiting officer.

The leave of absence granted Captain George P. Scriven, signal corps, U. S. A., is extended five months to September 1, 1894.

Captain William W. Gibson, ordnance department, will make not exceeding three visits from Watertown Arsenal, Massachusetts, to the works of the makers of the foundry, Providence, R. I., on official business pertaining to the inspection of mortar carriages.

The following transfers in Seventeenth infantry are ordered: Second Lieutenant William B. Dashiell, company B, to company C; Second Lieutenant Fred S. Will, company K, to company H; Second Lieutenant Ben F. Harway, company H, to company K; Second Lieutenant Verling K. Hart, company I, to company B; Second Lieutenant Henry A. Pipes of Seventh infantry will proceed to his home.

So much of special orders as directs Captain Thomas M. Woodruff, Fifth infantry, to proceed to Tampa, Fla., and attend encampment of Fifth battalion, Florida state troops, at that place, commencing September 6, 1894.

First Lieutenant Hunter Liggett, adjutant, Fifth infantry, will proceed to Tampa, Fla., and attend the encampment of the Fifth battalion, Florida state troops, at that place, commencing September 6, 1894.

Captain Thomas H. Barry, First infantry, is detailed to represent the War department as a member of the board of managers of the exhibit by the government to be made at the Cotton States and International Exposition, to be held at Atlanta, Ga., in 1895.

First Lieutenant Frederick T. Van Liew, Second infantry, will proceed to Monticello, Ia., for duty as assistant at encampment of First Regiment, Iowa National Guards, from September 1 to 1894.

Leave of absence for one month, with permission to leave limits of the United States, is granted First Lieutenant Lansing H. Beach, corps of engineers.

Leave of absence granted First Lieutenant D. J. Hubough, Third artillery, is extended one month.

First Lieutenant James M. Kennedy, assistant surgeon, will be relieved at Fort Custer.

FOUND THE LIFEBOAT TOO STRONG

LONDON, Sept. 2.—A special dispatch to the Times from Shanghai states that the Chinese report that on Thursday last the Japanese troops made a reconnaissance in force on Port Arthur. They found the landward defenses too strong and retired without an attack.

RUSSIAN SQUADRON ENROUTE TO COREA. ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 2.—The Russian squadron destined for Corea under orders to proceed with the utmost expedition. It is officially stated the dispatch of the fleet does not imply Russian military intervention in the Chinese-Japanese dispute, but is merely intended to protect Russian trade.

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