

Less Lightning Eased 1947 Fight On Forest Fires

By WILLIAM E. LOWELL.
AP Special Washington Service
WASHINGTON — (AP) — The weather was on the side of the Western forester during the past season.

There were fewer lightning fires on the nation's timberlands. This was offset to some extent by trouble in the drought-blanketed Southwest but the fire-fighting job in the Douglas fir area, where much of the lumber comes from, is described by a forest official as one of the easiest and best in recent years.

In a year when forest use for timber cutting and recreation is believed to have been greatest in history, there were only 11,203 fires.

That compares with 11,886 in 1946.

Man-caused fires in 1947 numbered 6,671, only eight more than the previous year.

Besides normal difficulties in controlling fire in the rugged forest country, manpower was unusually scarce.

The forest service met that emergency by resort to machines. Aircraft Use Big Help.

Chief Forester Lyle F. Watts tells about it this way in his annual report, just out:

"Unemployed labor was no longer freely available for fire fighting. Industrial labor had to be drawn on in emergencies. The high cost of such labor and lack of woods experience made it essential that as much of the work as possible be accomplished by mechanical means."

But difficulties are found even there. Increased mechanization, he says, has been slowed down by shortages and obsolescence of equipment.

Use of aircraft is credited with much of the success of fire control in the Western regions.

A highly trained force of 230 parachute fire fighters was stationed at strategic points.

After having proved themselves in the Northwest, a group of these "smoke jumpers" was sent to the Gila forest in New Mexico, which includes a huge primitive area, without roads and trails.

There also was further use of

'Shaker' Unloads Coal at Top Speed



Unloading a hopper car of frozen coal ordinarily takes a crew of eight to a dozen men, wielding picks, sledge-hammers and crow-bars, from 15 minutes to an hour. Two men, operating a new electrical vibrating device, can now do the job in two to five minutes. Called the Robbins Car Shaker-Out, the unit vibrates with over 1000 impulses a minute and literally shakes out car's contents. It is pictured above at recent demonstration at the Inland Steel Company's plant at East Chicago, Ill.

helicopters. Some of the forest officers are enthusiastic over the possibilities of this type of aircraft but say some improvements are needed to fit their needs.

The army cooperated again in the use of water bombs to break down the head of a fire. Use of the proximity fuse makes possible the explosion of a bomb at a point in mid-air where it will have the greatest effect on the flames and in aiding mop-up operations as the fire comes under control.

Radar probably will be the next war machine tried on the forests. A forest official said its use already had been discussed with the weather bureau.

"We would like to use it," he explained, "in predicting the course of lightning storms so we can anticipate the danger area. We also think it might be useful in determining the possibility of rain with the storm."

"That would give us a new weapon against our worst enemy."

Six Pay Fines or Forfeit Bail in Municipal Court

Six persons paid fines or forfeited bail in the municipal court today on charges of drunkenness or disorderly conduct.

Appearing before R. L. Whipple, acting municipal judge, were Larry Campbell, 48, Portland; Irving Raymond Miner, 36, Roseburg, and James B. Turney, 49, Gold Creek, Ore., who each paid \$20 fines on charges of drunkenness.

Gail Tallman, 40, Roseburg, forfeited \$30 bail posted on a charge of drunkenness, and C. Johnson, Grants Pass, forfeited \$20 bail on a similar charge.

William A. Fields, 24, Roseburg, paid a \$30 fine in the municipal court this morning, following his arrest at the Greyhound bus depot on a disorderly conduct charge.

The principal magnetic poles of the earth are about 1,200 miles from the geographic poles.

Spiritual Revival Ups Production Of Coal In Britain

By DeWITT MACKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Britain's coal production not only is the most important item in her economic crisis but it is vital to the recovery of Western Europe as a whole—facts which months ago impelled the harassed government to set a goal of 200,000,000 tons a year as essential.

The need for coal is so great that Foreign Secretary Bevin some time back declared in effect that if he were given 20,000,000 tons for export he could change the whole European picture. Well, it looks as though Mr. Bevin might get his wish, and thereby hangs a remarkable story which has been brought to me by a party of British coal miners—horny handed union officials who have spent much of their lives digging in the dark caverns of the earth for coal.

Our account fits in with the moral and spiritual rehabilitation which I have reported in this column as showing itself in many parts of Europe. The widespread recognition of its need is what inspired Sir Stafford Cripps, minister of economic affairs and chancellor of the exchequer, to declare that there would be no regeneration of British industry unless the nation took "fresh drafts of Christian truth."

Moral Resurgence

A couple of months or so ago a wave of moral rearmament swept into the pivotal coal pits of North Staffordshire and spread to neighboring coal fields. Since then the output of coal in this area has jumped something like forty-five per cent—and within sixty miles of North Staffordshire some 75 per cent of Britain's coal is produced. The position now is that if other coal fields should come up to the record of North Staffordshire, Britain not only would attain her goal of 200,000,000 tons but would have some 30,000,000 tons for export.

How has this happened? Well, of course the government's urgent appeal to the miners has spurred their effort, but the startling advance of production in the North Staffordshire area has come since moral rearmament hit the area in the shape of a play, "The Forgotten Factor"—a story of moral rehabilitation beginning in the home and echoing in industry. It's a drama which inspires a spirit of teamwork, of mutual trust and cooperation, of good-fellowship, honesty, fair-play and unselfishness. In short, as described to me by the miners, it looks like horse-sense religion, based on the Golden Rule.

William (Bill) Yates, branch president of the National Union of Miners at the famous Victoria pit, North Staffordshire, was one of the group with whom I talked over the luncheon table. His pit has been far exceeding its target since the comparatively recent advent of "The Forgotten Factor." Bill is no hard as nails, and a man of few and blunt words. I asked him how production had risen and why. He replied:

Honesty Re-Born

"The wife and I used not to agree. We were on the edge of breaking up. And I took my unhappiness to the pit. So when the manager and I met, we used to do a good deal of banging the table. There was constant trouble. Then I went to see 'The Forgotten Factor.' We got things straight at home. I went to the manager and said: 'Let's run this pit the moral rearmament way.' He agreed—

Gift Gossip By MARGIE

Hello there, all you expectant people: Everyone looks forward to something, some important point in the future when a dream will be realized, a plan perfected, a hope fulfilled. Life would have little point were it not for expectancy. With nothing to look forward to, existence would be as uninteresting as a cold pancake. And it isn't always the most important things that stir up the greatest anticipation. Now take DOROTHY'S, down there at 115 S. Stephens St. One of her affectionately sentimental valentines may be just what that sweetie pie of yours is looking forward to receiving on the 14th of Feb. It may be the turning point of her entire life and yours too, incidentally. So choose well. Make no mistake. Go to DOROTHY'S.

There are valentines and valentines. Some are made of paper and printer's ink. Others—well, others come in gold and satin, perfume and crystal. Anything that will make her little heart go pitter-pat may be considered a valentine, and accepted as such. A fish may be a valentine, made of gold, with cut out scales and green gem eyes, all adding up to a nifty little pin. A golden squirrel with a willow tail, accompanied by two tiny squirrels, nutty but nice, may bear valentine greetings in the form of pin and earrings. A racing antelope, a frisky colt, a flamboyant cockatoo, all posing as brooches, may latch on to her affections and pin you to her aron strings. It's dangerous but gosh, ain't it wonderful!

Bracelets, necklaces, pearls, butterfly jewelry, rhinestones, acute accessories. St. Valentine has placed his over a storm of approval on all the exquisite ornaments on display at DOROTHY'S, home of heavenly heartbeats. Best of all, give her a ring: a circle of love without beginning or end, precious as the stone it holds, eternal as the gold that gives it form.

Don't disappoint her on Valentine's Day. Go to DOROTHY'S, Street of Stephens, where you will find the answer to many a maiden's prayer. Happy hunting, Margie.—(Paid Adv.)

and the men like it much better. We haven't had a single row or stoppage since then.

"The increased output is due to the new honesty and unselfishness produced by M. R. A."

There's a lot more to the story, but one striking point is this: The consultative committees, representing labor and management, of 150 pits from every coal field in Britain have asked for this moral rearmament play to be shown in their localities.

So the moral rehabilitation spreads, just as it also is doing on the European continent—a mighty lift to a troubled world.

Health Plan Draft Ordered by Truman

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman has ordered the Federal Security Agency to draw up a 10-year plan for making people healthier.

"Our people want good health and are willing to work to achieve it," Mr. Truman wrote Oscar R. Ewing, FSA administrator. "Notable progress has already been made. But I am convinced that we have scarcely scratched the surface and that, as a nation, we can make rapid progress in the immediate future."

Senator Murray (D-Mont.) said today a physicians' committee is spending millions of dollars to spread "untruths" about the administration's proposal for compulsory national health insurance.

Murray told a Senate labor subcommittee hearing the physicians' group is raising money by "taking up collections all over the country," including collection from "big drug houses."

Later, he explained to reporters the medical group was set up two years ago to oppose the health plan and is registered under the lobbying act.

The labor subcommittee is considering legislation to establish a health insurance system through payroll taxes. Murray and Senator Wagner (D-N. Y.) are authors of the measure.

Physicians under 45 years old have a much lower death rate than the general U. S. population of the same ages but later in life physicians have a higher death rate than the rest of the population of the same ages.

Drain Chamber Installs Officers

DRAIN — R. F. (Jack) Randall was installed as president, and Ernest A. Seaton as secretary of the Drain Chamber of Commerce last week, at a meeting in the Drain Community Hall. Randall succeeds Ed Canton as president of the chamber.

Curtis Everts, state sanitary engineer, addressed the meeting, stressing the "vital importance" of the state program to cut down the menace of stream and water pollution. He explained why the state was forced to "crack down" on some larger municipalities for failure to provide sewage disposal installations as required by law.

As much lenience as possible is shown the fast-growing small municipalities, such as Drain, he said, whose needs, created by growth, appear before increased valuation, also created by growth, is available for taxation to increase municipal funds.

In a natural state, tea plants grow into full sized trees, but in cultivation they are held to the size of bushes.

A Birmingham, England, library has what is believed to be the biggest Shakespearean collection in the world.

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