

FATALITIES IN FIRE FEW

PRESENT YEAR WONDERFUL IMPROVEMENT OVER 1910.

One Fatality as Against Ninety—Finds End Danger of Fires.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 5.—With copious rains reported from all sections of western Oregon and Washington, and threatened rain in Idaho, officials of the Western Forestry and Conservation association and government forestry agents today united in expressing the opinion that the forest fire season has ended. A summary of the situation indicates that the fires this year have been of little consequence, comparatively speaking, and that the losses have been small.

Only one life was sacrificed this year to fire in the northwest as against 90, which was last year's toll. The usual number of fires were reported but owing to the splendid patrol systems of the government and private interests, the great majority were extinguished before much damage was done. Rain ended the remainder.

Summary Is Encouraging.
Portland, Sept. 5.—A summary of the forest fire situation at the beginning of September, issued today by the

Western Forestry & Conservation association upon the basis of bulletins received simultaneously from all parts of the Pacific northwest, shows comparatively little serious damage up to date, but one life lost, and reassuring conditions in Montana, Idaho and eastern Washington. In western Washington and Oregon the situation is extremely dangerous and will remain so until rain falls. So far the increase of protective effort over that of previous years has been notably effective, but extreme dryness and the overtaxing of all forces to control numerous fires now being fought threaten serious consequences in case of strong wind or the starting of new fires.

In Montana, frequent showers in August have made fires few and unimportant so far, the chief danger now lying in that the vegetation stimulated by these rains may be rendered inflammable by early frost and dry weather. In addition to the federal forces, over 200 wardens have been maintained by the state and the timber owners, but there has been almost no necessity of employing fire-fighting labor.

Idaho has had no bad fires and weather conditions are so favorable that the timber owners' associations, which have had heavy patrols since May, are rapidly reducing their forces. The Coeur d'Alene district, which suffered heavily in 1910, had about 50 small fires this August, but they were handled so promptly that only one, which was incendiary, was at all serious and this was practically confined to an old slashings. The forest service

has been equally fortunate in Idaho, but is still maintaining its full force.

Heavy private, state and federal patrols in Washington have so far stopped with small damage the fires set in green timber by lightning and campers. The greatest difficulty has been with fires in slashings and old burax which acquired headway almost instantaneously and threatened adjoining timber. One in an old burn west of Mt. St. Helen and one near Pe Ell which burned approximately a section of timber, were the most serious Washington fires in August, but all authorities agree that the recent dry winds have brought danger that can hardly be over estimated and that only rain or extreme care in the use of fire can prevent serious losses. Close watch is being kept for violations of the fire laws.

Oregon is also entering the worst season of the year. Fully 500 fires were reported in August. The worst situation at present is in the Santiam and Clackamas regions, where several hundred men are still required to hold two or three bad fires which have been fought for weeks. Fires engaging ten to 50 men are numerous throughout the western part of the state, but up to date are fairly well controlled and have done little serious damage. The forest service has about 300 men on patrol and as many more working on fires. The state and timber owners have over 400 patrolmen and are still increasing their forces. Carelessness with slashings and by hunters is reported the chief cause of fires and the state officials are making every effort

to stop further slash burning with or without permit.

The association emphasizes that while heavy expenditure and splendid co-operation by all protective agencies have so far prevented repetition of the distress of 1910, conditions are rapidly threatening to become beyond control and that every care by loggers, settlers, campers and hunters is necessary to insure against great loss of life and property.

STRANGE TRAMP LEAVES FORTUNE

SPOKANE MAN COMES IN FOR A SHARE OF BIG LEGACY.

Letter Courtship Proves Dissatisfactory to Spokane Woman.

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 5.—Charles H. Eccleston, a business man of Spokane, has received advices that his father, George W. Eccleston, who died at Longport, N. J., a month ago, supposedly penniless, left property in Nebraska and other states valued at \$1,000,000. One third of the estate was bequeathed to the Spokane man, the rest being shared equally by Miss Bessie Eccleston, who resides near North Yakima, Wash., and Mrs. Callie P. Plummer, founder of the Bide-a-Wee home at Longport, where the elder Eccleston passed his last days. Eccleston separated from his wife and children about 20 years ago and wandered about over the United States and Canada, until last fall when he made his home with his son for several months and leaving as mysteriously as he came. Nothing was known of his whereabouts by his children in this state until the announcement was made of his death. The elder Eccleston traveled thousands of miles on railroads all over the continent without paying a penny for transportation and was known among some of his cronies as "the millionaire tramp" and "the richest bum on the road."

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 5.—Mrs. Marshall E. Athey, who was formerly Mrs. Leah D. Shane of Kansas City, Mo., a post graduate of Cupida's correspondence school, is ready to relinquish her degree after 16 days of married life. This is evidenced by an action filed in the Spokane county superior court. Mrs. Athey declaring in her complaint that she is utterly disappointed in her newest husband, for the reason that he did not furnish her with the luxuries of life.

Mrs. Shane came to Spokane on August 14, accompanied by her 16 year old daughter and was met by Athey and his 17 year old daughter, following a courtship by correspondence extending over a period of four or five months. Mrs. Shane and Athey were married the same afternoon and lived together happily for a week, when the bride took an inventory of the community assets. Athey was a good provider for the necessities of life, she concluded, but not of the luxuries to which she was accustomed and suit for divorce followed.

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 5.—Manufacturers' organizations, commercial clubs, chambers of commerce and the residents of the western states will be invited by the Spokane Mining club to join in a movement to determine what rights the federal government has in the water powers of the commonwealths west of the Mississippi river. It is planned to carry the question to the highest court, if necessary, in an effort to gain control for the states of the water powers within their boundaries.

L. K. Armstrong, secretary of the Spokane Mining Men's club who presented the plan at the last meeting of that organization, announced today that the campaign will be launched in a short time with a view to bringing the matter to the attention of the country.

"We believe that in trying to maintain control of the water powers of the western commonwealths, the government is violating a specific provision of the constitution of the United States," he said. "Before the constitution was signed the various states zealously guarded their own right to control all waters and water powers, which were not distinctly outside of the domain of any one state, and

this right, we think the state still have.

"The water powers are an inexhaustible source of wealth to the various states and communities in which they are found and should be developed for the benefit of those districts. The oil which is used largely by the railroads in the western country is a decidedly exhaustible natural resource and so also will the coal supply one day run out; but water power will last forever, and if properly developed it will supply electrical energy to operate the railroads, mills, factories and mines of the entire west.

The Two Rhinos.

It transpired that on a hot and sultry day two Rhinos were approaching a certain water hole by paths that intersected, and as they met one said to the other:

"You wait here until I have drunk my fill."

"I shall do nothing of the kind," was the prompt reply. "If there is any waiting to be done, you can do it."

"But I was the original discoverer of the water hole."

"I don't believe it!"

"And the Rhino that says I can't drink first is going to have trouble on his hands!"

"Don't threaten me, old short legs, for I won't stand for it!"

"And don't you bristle up to me! I have seen bluffers before!"

"I tell you, I shall drink first!"

"Not if I know myself!"

Thereupon a fight ensued in which both were badly mangled. They were still at it when the Wild Ass came up from the water and said:

"Peace, gentlemen—peace. I have drained the hole to the last swallow!"

Moral.—Greediness often ends in want.

Remember This.

Some close observer declares that a young man's character can be judged by the way he shines or neglects the heels of his shoes.

Ye maidens fair of all degrees,
When ye have brought unto his knees
Some lovelorn wight, ah, ponder well
Before your budding love you tell!
You'll learn his habits, good and bad,
And who's his granther, who's his dad,
And if he ever rudely swears,
And what's his taste in things he wears,
You should know this ere you decide
To walk alone or be his bride.
But, wait, one thing you'll not forget,
Or it may bring a vain regret—
Observe the youth who for you sues,
And note the way he shines his shoes!
—Cleveland Tailor Dealer.

SECOND ANNUAL

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Wm. McMurray,
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Governor Woodrow Wilson is to speak at the Texas State Fair at the city of Dallas next month.

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