

# FLAMES IN FORESTS.

## SWEEPING FIRES THAT LEAVE WILD WASTES BEHIND.

Extraordinary Pecuniary Losses Incurred by the Unfettered Element that Rolls Onward in a Mad Torrent of Rapacious Billows and Defies Man.

A forest denuded by fire presents a woeful sight. The trees are not entirely consumed. The burned trunks of all larger ones stand straight and tall, dead, but not destroyed. Sometimes forest fires rage over such vast areas that their smoke is visible from any point in a State. Dr. J. T. Rothrock, Commissioner of Forestry for Pennsylvania, shows that the potential loss of

which occurred in 1894—one glimpse of which, at Phillips, has already been had. The unfortunate place was Hinckley, Minn., and the calamity occurred on Sept. 1 of that year. Owing to the long-protracted drought, as is pointed out in the report of the State commission for the relief of the forest fire sufferers, the fires had prevailed in different localities for several weeks, but on that day the wind became a tornado, and a small fire then burning spread with frightful rapidity, and was carried on the wings of the tornado over a district covering nearly 400 square miles. A furnace blast swept over the fated district, and left behind it complete devastation. Every building in Hinckley was destroyed. So sudden was the onset of the flames that the people could only run from their houses and seek a place of refuge, without even an effort to save their household effects. Four hundred and eighteen persons, about one-sixth of the population of the district, are known to have perished by a most frightful death in the flames.

### TAMED A WAR-HORSE.

#### Feat of Alexander the Great in the Days of His Boyhood.

One of the stories told by Alexander the Great is that of how, when a boy of 12, he tamed the war-horse Bucephalus. The following is the account given by Ptolemy in his life of Alexander: "Philonous of Thessaly had offered to sell Philip his horse Bucephalus for thirteen talents. So they all went down into the plain to try the animal. He proved, however, to be balky and utterly useless. He would let no one mount him, and none of the attendants of Philip could make him hear to him, but he violently resisted them all. Philip, in his disgust, ordered the horse led away as being utterly wild and untrained. Whereat, Alexander, who was present, said: 'That is too good a horse for those men to spoil that way, simply because they haven't the skill or the grit to handle him right.' At

seek thee a kingdom suited to thy powers; Macedonia is too straight for thee." Bucephalus became from this time the property and the inseparable companion of Alexander. He accompanied him on his campaigns "sharing many toils and dangers with him," and was generally the horse ridden by him in battle. No one else was ever allowed to mount him, as Arrian says, "because he deemed all other riders unworthy." He is reported to have been a magnificent black charger of extraordinary size, and to have been marked with a white spot on the forehead.

### CAPTURED CAT DEAD.

Famous Feline Rescued from the Spanish Battleship Cristobal Colon. The famous Spanish cat, Cristobal Colon, captured from the Spanish battleship on July 3, died at the United



SEÑOR CRISTOBAL COLON.

States government station at Benton Harbor, Mich. This cat was in the cat show in Chicago and was awarded



a special medal. Senor Cristobal Colon was a mascot on the Spanish man-of-war of that name.

**Early Writers on Smoking.** The fact has been discovered that Shakespeare never mentions smoking or makes the slightest allusion to the habit. This is the more curious, as most of his contemporaries, Ben Jonson, Decker and others discuss the then new fashion at length, and the humorist and satirist of the time lost no opportunity of deriding and making a game of the votaries of the weed.

The tobacco merchant was an important personage in the time of James I. The Elizabethan pipes were so small that when they are dug up in Ireland the poor call them "fairy pipes." King James himself was one of the most virulent opponents of the habit, and in his ludicrous "Counterblasts" calls it a vile and stinking custom, "borrowed from the beastly, slavish Indians—poor, wild, barbarous men—brought over from America, and not introduced by any worthy or virtuous or great personage."

He argues that tobacco is not dry and hot; that its smoke is humid, like all other smoke, and is therefore bad for the brain, which is naturally wet and cold. He denies that smoking purges the head or stomach, and declares that many have smoked themselves to death.—Medical Record.

**Women in Paris.** "I like the way the French take their amusements," writes Miss Lillian Bell in a letter from Paris. "At the theater they laugh and applaud the wit of the hero and hiss the villain. They shout their approval of a duel and weep aloud over the death of the aged mother. When they drive in the Bois they smile and have an air of enjoyment quite at variance with the bored expression of English and Americans who have enough money to own carriages. We drove in Hyde Park in London the day before we came to Paris, and nearly wept with sympathy for the unspoken grief in the faces of the unfortunate rich who were at such pains to enjoy themselves. I never saw such handsome men as I saw in London. I never see such beautiful women as I see in Paris. French men are insignificant as a rule, and English women are beefy and dress like rag-bags."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

### Was Afloat with Napoleon.

Two men living in St. Helena who were born respectively in 1798 and 1802 are not the only persons now living who have seen Napoleon the Great. Thomas De Moleyns, who was for many years county court judge of Kilkenny, who was called to the Irish bar in 1831, and appointed a Queen's counsel in 1855, served in his early boyhood in the royal navy. Mr. De Moleyns was a midshipman on board the Bellerophon when Napoleon on July 15, 1815, after "the hundred days," placed himself under the flag of his country and was received on board the Bellerophon.

"Maud says she is madly in love with her new wheel." "Huh! Another case where man is displaced by machinery."—Indianapolis Journal.



A BURNED FOREST.

the commonwealth from each fire or each series of fires that devastate the timber-producing areas in Pennsylvania is \$30,000,000. The fires occur chiefly from two causes. Railroad companies burn their old ties along the right of way, without taking any precaution to prevent the fire spreading to the woods, and the small farmers in clearing wood-lots for farming purposes burn the brush and fallen timber, without caring whether the fire spreads or not.

The illustrations are significant as showing the desert condition which a fire, or series of fires, produces. In many parts of the United States one may see such tracts, over which fires have swept almost every year, destroying the young forest growth and rendering the soil, after each succeeding



STREET IN PHILLIPS BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE.

conflagration more and more barren. The deterioration in the picturesqueness of the country, or the loss in money to the person or persons who may own these districts for lumbering purposes, may more easily be imagined than told. What could be more dreary than the country shown in the two photographs?

The year 1894 will long be remembered in Wisconsin and Minnesota for the terrible calamities which occurred in July and August of that year. Intense heat and little rain had made the forests almost like a kiln. All through the summer fire had been feared and looked for, and by the end of July it was said that not less than \$5,000 worth of pine had been destroyed. The fire extended over a stretch of nearly fifty miles wide, and all that experience gained by woodsmen and lumbermen in dealing with forest fires availed nothing against the sweeping flames, which were driven like an overwhelming flood by a strong wind, leaving death and destruction in their path. In the photographs presented herewith, which show a Wisconsin town named Phillips before and after the fire, one may see how completely the forest fire does his work. Phillips was burned July 27, and the loss of life would have been severe had not the inhabit-

first Phillip paid no attention to him, but as he kept insisting on being heard and seemed greatly disturbed about the matter, his father said to him: 'What do you mean by criticising your



THE TAMING OF BUCEPHALUS.

elders, as if you were wiser than they, or knew so much more about handling a horse than they do? 'Well, this horse, anyway, I would handle better than any one else, if they would give me a chance.' 'In case you don't succeed,' rejoined his father, 'what penalty are you willing to pay for your freshness?' 'I'll pay, by Jove, the price of the horse!' Laughter greeted this answer, but after some bantering with his father about the money arrangements, he went straight to the horse, took him by the bridle, and turned him around toward the sun. This he did on the theory that the horse's fright was due to seeing his own shadow dance up and down on the ground before him. He then ran along by his side awhile, patting and coaxing him, until, after awhile, seeing he was full of fire and spirit and impatient to go, he quietly threw off his coat, and swinging himself up, sat securely astride the horse. Then he guided him about for a while with the reins, without striking him or jerking at the bit. When now he saw that the horse was getting over his nervousness, and was eager to gallop ahead, he let him go, driving him on with a sterner voice and with kicks of his foot. In the group of onlookers about Phillip, there prevailed, from the first, the silence of intensely anxious concern. But when the boy turned the horse and came galloping up to them with pride and joy in his face, they all burst out into a cheer. His father, they say, shed tears for very joy, and, as he dismounted, kissed him on the head, and said: 'My



BURNED FOREST AFTER TWENTY YEARS. Ants escaped by taking trains to places of safety.

In October, 1871, one of the most terrible fires in America on record broke out at Peshtigo, Wis., and more than 700 persons were burned to death. But probably the saddest fire was that

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