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WAKE OF THE FIRE

Destitution and Suffering is Very Great.

FORTUNATELY NO LIVES LOST

Individual Losses are Suffered by Many People Near Springwater—Sufferers Being Relieved.

The extent of suffering throughout Clackamas county, the result of raging forest fires, which has been endured since our last issue can be better imagined than described, when it is known that in one neighborhood, that of Springwater, there are sixty people homeless and destitute. The scenes in the burnt district are almost indescribable. Fire swept over a district four miles wide and about fifteen miles long, laying waste everything in its path. The fire traveled so swiftly that people hadn't time to save anything but their lives, and the extent of destitution and suffering is very great. Thousands of tons of hay and great quantities of grain are destroyed and stock is suffering for food. So complete was the work of the flames that scarcely a stubble remains for stock to feed on.

The home of B. Tucker, who had resided at Springwater for 40 years, and had a most excellent farm, the work of a lifetime, had everything swept away in a few moments.

W. J. Lovelace, a merchant of Springwater, was in Oregon City last Saturday afternoon, giving the first authentic news of the fire at that place. It was reported that Mr. Lovelace's store had also been destroyed, but happily this proved to be an erroneous report, but about every one living in the vicinity of Springwater and Dodge suffered great loss.

The store of W. J. Lewellen is saved, as are the Macabee and Grange hall and the schoolhouse. These buildings were saved only because they were considerably distant from the dead timber, and that men constantly fought for their safety.

"The people of Springwater must have assistance, and that soon," said Mr. Lovelace. "They have absolutely nothing. As long as the contents of my store and Mr. Lewellen's store last the stricken inhabitants may come and help themselves, but our stocks are not large and will soon be exhausted. They have no money, no clothing, no place for their stock, no food and the winter is fast approaching. Our people make an appeal for early help, and must have it."

It was only about a month ago that Springwater was threatened by timber fires, and the recent fires are a result of the earlier trouble. The fires were only smoldering and were brought to life by a wind from the east which blew coals of fire and bark for half a mile.

First the flame struck Dodge, and while the people of Springwater were lending their aid in fighting the fire at that place they heard that the fire was approaching Springwater.

All of Thursday night and Friday morning the fire raged fiercely, following down the Clackamas river and Clear creek, crossing the Springwater ridge and stopping at the upper edge of Viola, which place and Logan were saved from a similar fate by the wind dying down.

In the Eagle Creek country the damage was also great. The bunkhouse, cookhouse, tents and toolhouse of the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company were consumed, out the new power station was saved. Every fence and building which could be reached by the fire was destroyed.

George Cunningham's loss was complete. He lost \$200 worth of fine hogs. Many cattle were burned, and carcasses were strewn everywhere. Several county bridges are burned out.

The following farmers suffered total losses: A. M. Shibley, Myers & Son's sawmill, William Smith, George Cunningham, Blanche Tucker, Harvey E. Cross, Mrs. Albright, Mr. Coin, Joseph Keller, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Goble, Mr. Bridenstine, Frank Busch, Ed Miller, and the Willis place.

Mrs. Cherry lost a barn and its contents; Robert Guttridge lost his barn and granary; E. J. Bowen's granary was consumed with 800 bushels of grain; James Guttridge lost his barn and out-buildings but saved his house; Carroll Howell lost everything but his house and granary; F. H. Whitehouse saved his house, but lost everything else; E. Ridgeway lost everything but his house; D. C. Howell lost his threshing machinery and everything but house; Frank Millard's barn was burned; Al Carey lost all but his granary; Phil Shannon saved only one barn, Mr. Cloener saved his house; Al Lacey lost everything but one drier; William Lewellen lost his barn with the crop; Mrs. Lewellen lost her house and contents; Commissioner John Lewellen lost one barn; M. C. Warnock has only his house left; Chas. Bard's granary and 2000 bushels of grain were burned; William Kandel lost everything on two places but one house; John Stormer, John Reed, William

Bard, Mrs. Charters, William Snyder, Marshallbank and Reed and T. Strite lost everything.

G. F. Strong was burned out at Harris' mill Friday, the mill itself having a narrow escape. The damage in the district surrounding Beaver Creek and Shubel and including the Moehke settlement will easily exceed \$20,000.

At least sixteen families have been burned out in the Beaver Creek district. The burnt portion is a fearful sight. The fire got in its work early in this locality, and swept over the stubble like a whirlwind. The burning brands would fly three-quarters of a mile and start everything with which they came in contact. Its progress was arrested to an extent by back-firing and plowing the stubble fields.

Loss to individuals has been estimated no doubt very correctly, as follows:

George Cunningham	200
Mrs. Cherry	200
Robert Guttridge	250
E. J. Bowen	100
James Guttridge	200
Carroll Howell	200
H. Whitensand	150
E. Ridgeway	100
D. C. Howell	500
Frank Millard	10
Al Carey	200
Phil Shannon	500
A. M. Shibley	2,000
Myers & Son's sawmill	500
B. Tucker	500
Harvey E. Cross	500
Mrs. Albright	500
Mrs. Coin	500
Joseph Keller	500
Mrs. Reed	500
Mrs. Gordon	500
Mrs. Goble	500
Bridenstine	500
Frank Busch	300
Ed Miller	500
Willis' place	500
Cloener	50
Al Lacey	300
Smith ranch, insured	200
William Lewellen	100
M. C. Warnock	500
Charles Bard	500
William Kandel	200
John Stormer	200
John Reed	200
William Bard	200
Mrs. Charters	200
William Snyder	200
Marshallbank	200
Reed	200
T. Strite	200
Damage in that vicinity to fences, stock, etc.	10,000
Damage to timber	40,000
Cordwood burnt	8,000
Total	\$72,000

Responses to the appeals for aid, which have come from the destitute of the fire district have been promptly and generously met by the good people of Oregon City and Clackamas county. In every quarter there is a high sense of duty manifested in this matter, and suffering is being relieved as rapidly as it is possible to get relief to the stricken people. Church and secret society people of this county have been very active during the week in soliciting and contributing aid.

Fortunately there was no loss of life as a result of the terrible calamity in this in this county to add to the other dire extremities.

Marion County's Assessor.

When Assessor Charles Lembeck stepped into office it was his determination to perform his full duty to the people so far as it was within his power and province, and he seems to be no disappointment to the just and fair minded. His latest step in making all taxable property, big as well as little, pay taxes, is commended by the farmers especially. The franchise and rights held thereunder in the Mill Creek property by the Salem Flouring Mills and Salem Water Company had escaped taxation, and while these corporations were resting in seeming security, causing no loss of sleep, Assessor Lembeck has notified them that they must pay tax on \$5,000. This is low for a starter, as it was claimed by those holding it that the franchise was worth \$320,000. The state printing office, owned by a private individual, is another concern that has enjoyed being ignored by the assessor, but Mr. Lembeck has listed it for \$3500. The timber claims in the county have also been assessed at an increased valuation, and that also is eminently correct. It is earnestly hoped that Assessor Lembeck will not be "bluffed" and will continue to look around.—Aurora Borealis.

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A BIG SENSATION

Elopement of Mary Waggoner at Chehalis.

CONVICT'S BROTHER GOES ALONG

Not Succeeding in Getting Reward for David Merrill, She Elopes with His Relative.

CHEHALIS, Wash., Sept. 17.—Chehalis has added another chapter to the famous Merrill-Tracy episode. As a closing chapter to the story of the finding of Dave Merrill's body near here a few weeks ago by Mrs. Mary Waggoner, of Navapine, this one comes as a stunner. Mrs. Waggoner and Ben Merrill, a brother of the dead outlaw, have eloped from Chehalis together and it is presumed are in Seattle together. They left here on the early morning train Saturday, purchasing tickets for Seattle. Night-watchman Townsend and others saw them off.

Ben Merrill has been working here at Highlander's livery barn since Merrill and Tracy invaded our fair land in early June. Although mixed up with Dave Merrill and Harry Tracy in the trouble at Portland, and being an important witness for the state in the case when both the men were sent to the Oregon prison, Ben Merrill's conduct while here was not such as to attract any particular interest to him. He behaved fairly well. Very few people suspected him to be a heart-crusher, but here the folks who passed him daily on the streets seem to have been taken unawares. The discovery of Dave Merrill's body by Mrs. Waggoner and her boy and the fact that the Oregon officials failed to pay the reward offered for the capture of Merrill, gave Mrs. Waggoner a good excuse to be often in Chehalis. That she has improved the opportunity for several weeks past was fully demonstrated by her presence here a few days every week.

Now it has leaked out that Mrs. Waggoner came here and helped Ben Merrill to punch all the holes into his meal ticket properly. Inquiry at the restaurant where the man boarded reveals the fact that for some time the two have met and eaten together there. A friend of Merrill's, who is also a hostler, says that Merrill went out to see Mrs. Waggoner and drove around the country with her every Sunday. Friday he went after her and they spent the evening here.

Mrs. Waggoner has a husband, David Waggoner, near Navapine, where he works in a logging camp. She also has three married daughters. The woman does not appear to be over forty years of age, but Merrill is younger, probably about 30. The effort to secure the reward for Mrs. Waggoner may possibly now be taken up in behalf of her boy, who was with her at the time, and who has done nothing in any way to forfeit the good will that the people have held toward him.

Late Literary News.

It is risking something to ask the public to place a piece of fiction alongside of Poe's best work. The editor of the Cosmopolitan ventures this in the following note, which appears in the September issue: "One does not often find a story which seems to come in the classification of Edgar Allan Poe's best work. Yet one might be tempted to ask such a place for 'The Canonic Curse' which Arthur E. McFarlane contributes to The Cosmopolitan for September."

A Boy's Wild Ride for Life.

With family around expecting him to die, and a son riding for life, 18 miles to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, W. H. Brown, of Leesville, Ind., endured death's agonies from asthma, but this wonderful medicine gave instant relief and soon cured him. He writes: "I now sleep soundly every night." Like marvelous cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds and Grip prove its matchless merit for all Throat and Lung troubles. Guaranteed bottles 50 cents and \$1. Trial bottles free at G. A. Harding's drug store.

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