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WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, AUGUST 24, 1904.

R. F. IRVING
Editor and Proprietor.

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All ladies fine shoes at a big discount and some odds and ends in all kinds of shoes at half price. Summer cotton and wool fabrics at a great sacrifice. Lots of bargains for this month.

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HOT FOREST FIRES

OFFICERS PULL THEIR COATS AND LEAD THE PRIVATES.

Thirty-Five People Burned Out of Home and Lost Everything—Frank Cubit, Arson Suspect, Is Arrested and Gives Bail.

Vancouver, Wash., 19.—Twenty-three small children, 12 adults, and a badly singed cat (which is much better than it looks) are homeless on Fourth Plain, near Vancouver, Wash.—burned out by the fierce forest fire of the past week. Few of the unfortunate people had much in the way of worldly goods, but, as one remarked today:

"It seems a good deal when it's all you've got, and you lose it." The end is not yet as the fire is now threatening the hamlet of Orchard, about seven miles east of Vancouver.

Frank Cubit, who is charged with having maliciously started the fire last Wednesday, was arrested at the Vancouver ferry-clip by City Marshal Frank Vonnat, Thursday evening. He was released on \$500 bond today to appear for examination in the justice court at 10 a. m. tomorrow. Feeling against him is strong, though the evidence appears to be circumstantial.

Cubit, who lives at Woodlawn, has long been engaged in hauling wood from Vancouver and selling it in Portland. His strongest competitor is said to have been the Vancouver Fuel Company, who cut their wood and haul it from the same timber tract on Fourth Plain, where Cubit has been cutting and where the fire originated.

It is asserted that Cubit's rivals have been cutting prices lately. Furthermore, that Cubit was involved in a law suit whereby he feared his own cordwood might be attached; also that his wood was insured. These considerations are thought to have furnished the motive for incendiarism.

The Vancouver authorities say that Cubit, accompanied by his young son, drove to the tract in a cart by a circuitous route Wednesday; that the cart and horse left a plain trail along the byway to a point near where the first blaze started; that he left the cart and walked into the Blue-rock slashing near where the fuel company had about 450 cords of wood, symmetrically piled; that just as he was coming back he was met by a man who will appear as a witness tomorrow; that the man stopped him and "Cubit appeared very nervous, looking over his shoulder from time to time," in the direction whence a few moments later the fire appeared.

Cubit is alleged to have next proceeded to his own wood and fired it. The blaze was well under way when he was met by Clarence Baldwin, a woodcutter of the vicinity. Baldwin says that he urged Cubit to try to put out the fire and offered to help, but that Cubit replied:

"It's no use, let it go." But for the rather strong northerly and northeasterly winds which have prevailed all week, the blaze would doubtless have been controlled long before this.

The burned district covers an area approximately five miles long, north and south by three wide. It was burning fiercely last night in the western side of the strip, near Minnehaha, but through the heroic efforts of the Vancouver barracks regulars, aided by a favorable wind today, the flames are fairly under control on that side.

Now anxiety is felt chiefly for Orchard, in which vicinity are living about 100 people. The postoffice and houses close by will be sure to go if the blaze gets rampant in Paddock's slashing. These "slashings," being full of dry, dead timber and brush, are invariably the worst places the fighters have to deal with.

Colonel Huston last night ordered a battalion of about 125 men to the vicinity of Orchard. They are armed with gunny sacks, axes and other weapons for fire-fighting, and will remain all night in the effort to prevent the further destruction of homes.

Enthusiastic praise is giving the soldiers and officers from the barracks by the settlers of Fourth Plain. The barracks have at no time been in danger, but after the

Vancouver City and Clark county authorities had been appealed to for aid in vain, Colonel Huston began organizing companies of soldiers and sending them to help the struggling, exhausted and smoke-choked settlers. The men were relieved at intervals by fresh battalions, so that from 40 to 150 soldiers have been fighting fire practically ever since last Wednesday. That much more damage has not been done is undoubtedly due almost altogether to the efforts of the officers and soldiers.

"Uncle Sam's boys are all right," remarked a smoke-begrimed woodman to The Oregonian correspondent today. "I seen a lot of them fellows sweatin' and chokin' and most suffocated, and them officers pulled off their coats and holered, 'Come on boys,' and sailed right in, too."

A drive past the barracks and out along the country road eastward about five miles brings one close to the center of the burned district. In a field to the left, a vacant dwelling has been occupied by four of the unfortunate families, who have lost nearly all. Their few household effects saved in the bustle of escape from the woods a mile distant are scattered about the house and yard, enough bedding being mustered to accommodate the party by crowding the floor space.

"Not a life was lost except chickens and cats," said Mrs. F. N. Bordenman. "They went except our yellow tom there. He got awfully singed, poor dear, but is better'n he looks. See, he can just walk painlessly about on his burned feet. Our house was all a fire when he ran through it; then out and through the blazing mill and into the pond below. He got on a log in the middle of the pond some how and stayed there through it all. Our cattle we could not drive nor lead. We had to tie them behind the wagons and just drag them out. We women loaded the three wagons while the men were trying to save the mill. The mill cost us \$4,000, and timber was worth \$1,000 and our homes contained all else we had in the world. The four families of us got out a sewing machine each, one piano and two organs and a little other stuff, but not a bite in the way of provisions."

"We put a lot of crockery in a tub and stood it out in the pond; well, the fire burned that tub to the water's edge and melted the crockery right down into it. We buried some fruit and stuff in glass jars in the ground, but it all burst and was lost, too. We stayed until the men had to give up the mill and as we drove away the flames actually met over the road over our heads."

A mile further on through the smoking woods brought the correspondent to the ruins of the Homestead Lumber Company's mill, and a dozen dwellings and barns, belonging to the two Boardmans, W. L. Hahn, J. C. Carson, M. Iser, E. H. Hagan, Frank Auger, Allison Pettit and Louis Pettit.

Three dwellings just across the creek were almost miraculously saved though surrounded for hours by the fiercest fire. These were occupied by the families of William Staley, Louis Pettit and W. E. Snyder.

"We had an awful time of it," said Mr. Pettit. "The bridge was all ablaze and the other families, seeing that we couldn't get out, were sure for a time that we all had been destroyed. You can see how clean the fire took everything up to within a foot of my barn there. It got in through the windows and burned the bedding. There's the remnant of one straw mattress that I threw out blazing. It seemed as though I drew and carried from that well a thousand pails of water that day, but we stayed with it."

"There were 11 houses in this little place about the mill and we called the place Hobson. E. E. Hagan was the oldest inhabitant; he has been here 22 years; he lost everything—orchard, house and outbuildings—valued at about \$1,000."

"The soldier boys saved Bill Snyder's place up there after four hours of the most desperate fighting. These fellows are all right I tell you. A. J. Pettit, who was working at the Portland sanitarium as nurse, lost all he had except a shaving outfit. I lost three small buildings, one of which was used as a church. Four hundred dollars will cover my loss. No one was well off enough to be a heavy loser in a monetary sense, but it's pretty hard on the families that lost all they had."

A RAGING TORNADO

THAT SWEEPS THE CITY OF ST. PAUL AND SEVERAL ARE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Minneapolis Also Suffers—Losses Amount to Millions—Wire Service Is Utterly Demolished—The Storm Is of Short Duration.

St. Paul, Aug. 21.—Several persons were killed, a number are reported missing and 50 to 100 were injured, some fatally; business property and residences were damaged to the extent of perhaps \$1,000,000; The massive steel bridges across the Mississippi were wrecked and strained; shade trees were leveled and much other damage was done in St. Paul and Minneapolis by a tornado which broke over the two cities shortly after 9 o'clock last night.

Apparently, the storm was of a local character, for as far as can be learned no damage was done in the neighboring towns. The storm was particularly severe in the business districts of the two cities. Windows were blown in and roofs torn from immense wholesale warehouses and the flood of rain which accompanied the storm did immeasurable damage to stocks of goods. Dwelling houses, churches and schools also suffered greatly.

Railroad traffic between St. Paul and Minneapolis was completely cut off. The street-railway of both systems were prostrated. For hours after the storm had spent its fury it was impossible to get into communication with Minneapolis, the telephone wires being demoralized. Rumors of great loss of life were rife, but on being tracked to their sources were found to be incorrect. Practically every building on the north side of Third street is wrecked. The Habe-Hurst block, at Seventh and Wacota streets, was unroofed, and the Economy department store was damaged to the extent of \$20,000, at Minneapolis there was no one killed but many were wounded.

The storm was of short duration, lasting not more than 15 minutes. The devastation it wrought was terrific. The wind according to the government weather observer, blew 80 miles an hour, coming from the southwest. Buildings were unroofed and fronts blown in, the cellars being flooded by the rain which came in great waves along with the wind. Electric wires were prostrated and many persons were injured by contact with electric wires. An excursion steamer, towing a barge on the river below St. Paul, is reported to have been wrecked. Relief parties in steam launches have been dispatched to the rescue. It is said that many lives were lost there.

The St. Anthony elevator in Minneapolis was leveled. One person is reported killed in one wing of the House of the Good Shepherd, which was blown down. A little girl was killed and ten or twenty women injured. As later reports come in, it is thought the list of the dead will be materially increased.

The Pioneer Press building, a 13-story steel and brick structure, was considerably damaged. The windows on the top floors were blown in and a number of printers at work in the composing-room were seriously cut by flying glass. The Western Union Telegraph office on the eleventh floor of the Pioneer Press building was flooded. An immense skylight was crushed to powder and the court in the center of the building was filled with debris. The work of getting out the Sunday edition was not interfered with.

About 100 residences in various parts of the city were damaged to more or less extent.

The tornado came as a climax of a day of humidity and warmth. Early in the evening there were indications of a heavy thunder storm with lightning flashing and the thunder rolling distantly. Shortly after 9 o'clock it began to rain and then to hail.

A strong draft of wind came from the northwest, filling the air with debris. Then there was a calm for a short space, the wind veered to the southwest and the tornado was on in all its fury. In down-town

districts heavy tin roofs were picked up and smashed against the sides of sky-scrapers, shattered plate-glass windows and tearing down electric wires. Pedestrians unfortunate to be caught without shelter were thrown violently to the pavement, and in many cases were struck by flying glass and timbers, suffering serious injury. The streets were rushing torrents of water, and the wind swept before it trees, wires, signs and debris of all kinds.

The anemometer of the St. Paul weather bureau recorded a velocity of 80 miles an hour, coming from the northwest, for one minute, and then broke. The rain gauge was demoralized early in the storm, so that the precipitation will never be known.

The center of the storm seemed to follow the Mississippi river from Fort Snelling to Boileau Square, where the greatest damage was done, and then to spread its force in the wholesale district on Dayton's Bluff and the northeast part of the city. Two spans of the high bridge were crumpled into a mass of debris. The Tivoli Concert Garden on Bridge Square was crushed as it it were an eggshell, killing two persons and more or less seriously injuring a score of others. The wharves along the river frontage were wrecked.

St. Louis, Aug. 20.—Magnificent Parisian gowns valued at \$500,000 are in a ruined condition in the Palace of Manufactures as the result of the heavy rain storm which swept over the World's Fair. The valuation is placed by Marcel and the acting commissioner-general of France, who has investigated the havoc wrought by the water.

The gowns were made by French dressmakers and were one of the most interesting features of the Manufactures building. They were displayed in glass showcases, but the rain was driven through crevices in the roof of the building and poured down upon the top and eventually soaking the garments.

New York, Aug. 20.—Margaret Dougherty, of Rochester, N. Y., who was almost scalped in an automobile accident, August 10, is recovering at a hospital here, after undergoing a remarkable operation—which resulted in the replacing of her scalp—which was torn from her head. The cuticle has already begun to unite, and the girl's hair shows such signs of vitality that the success of the operation is assured.

Mrs. Dougherty fell in dismounting from an automobile in Central Park. Her hair caught in the tail-end wheel, which had not been shut off, and the rapidly revolving shaft wound it up, tearing off part of the scalp seven inches from her ear and five from front to back. She was carried to the hospital unconscious and later a policeman arrived with the scalp.

The doctors quickly prepared the wound, replaced the severed portion, which fitted perfectly when sewed on. Upon removal of the bandage it has been found that the cuticle is healing and the surgeons are satisfied that the woman will show no effects of her terrible experience a month hence.

Tokio, Aug. 21.—After a severe engagement with the protected cruisers Chitose and Tsushima, the greyhounds of the Japanese navy, the fleet Russian cruiser Novik has been vanquished. The fight occurred today. After it, the Novik, in a sinking condition, was run ashore in Karsakov harbor, on the Island of Sakhalin.

The details of the sea fight are not known here, but it is evident that the Chitose and Tsushima caught up with the Novik yesterday and that a running fight ensued. The contest was resumed and terminated early this morning.

Captain Sukeichiro, who is in command of the Chitose, reports the engagement in a brief telegram, which reached the navy department here this afternoon. He says he first attacked the Russian cruiser Saturday afternoon, and that Sunday morning he inflicted heavy damage upon her. The Novik nearly sank, but she was beached at Korsakovsk.

A shell from the Novik struck the Tsushima in a bunker. Temporary repairs, however, rendered the Japanese cruiser seaworthy and she continued to fight. The Japanese suffered no casualties. The Imperial Prince Yorihito, of the House of Higashi Fushima, is second in command officer on board of the Chitose.

Captain Sento commanded the