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DEAD LIST GROWS

Lives and Property Lost in the Fire.

UP LEWIS RIVER VALLEY

Ravages in Clark and Cowlitz Counties.

OVER ONE HUNDRED MISSING

Hundreds Are Destitute and in Distress—Reports From Scene of Devastation Are Still Incomplete—Quick Aid Needed.

Driven from their homes in the darkness of the night by a raging forest fire, which swept everything before it from Ariel, Cowlitz County, to the foot of Mount St. Helens, a distance of 25 miles, over 200 people have been left homeless, and many have not even clothes enough to cover them. A. J. Towner, W. E. Newhouse, John Polly, his brother and child, are known to have lost their lives in the fire. Four men who were working on a claim belonging to James Hawthorne have not been found, and it is thought that they are killed. Some 50 or 60 people were camped at the lake at the foot of Mount St. Helens, and they have not been heard from since the fire. It is not known whether they escaped or not.

The first news of the devastation was brought to this city by Milo M. Dimmick, who experienced many difficulties in making the trip out to send aid to the sufferers. Saturday he reached Woodland, Wash., from which place a relief party was sent to Portland, arriving here early yesterday morning. From his description, the suffering there is great, and the devastation is the most appalling of any that has been reported. For a stretch of 25 miles, he says, there are but two houses standing. The fine timber from which the people expected to realize fortunes has all been ruined. The fire came upon them in the night, and entirely unexpectedly. Dimmick was asleep, and was awakened by the barking of his dog. His sister, Mrs. M. D. Meserve, had come to Portland but the day before, and he says if she had been at home all would have perished.

"I had scarcely time to get to the river myself," said he, "when the flames were upon me, and if I had had to take time to save any one else we would not have gotten away."

While immersed in the river Mr. Dimmick saw one of the grandest but most appalling sights of his life. "Great balls of fire would roll up like cotton balls," said he, "and then burst with a mighty roar. I have never heard a noise to compare with it. A hundred engines thundering through a tunnel at once would not make half the noise."

As soon as the fire had passed over him he rushed to a neighbor's house and found that the family had been driven from home, but had escaped death.

When morning came he set out to bring relief. The bridges were all burned, the roads were obstructed by trees that had fallen across them, so that his progress was very slow, and he did not reach Woodland until Saturday morning. He will start back today, and if there are any that have news or relief to send to the sufferers he will receive it at 15 Tenth street before 3 o'clock. Among those who lost homes and property were the following: Mrs. M. D. Meserve, Milo M. Dimmick, L. R. Trone, son and daughter; Conrad Paulsenback, Alfred Fosom, Loraine Gray and wife, John and Joseph Polly, John Bevin, Mr. Graves and family, Harry Griffith, Mr. Murray, Mr. Godley, Mrs. Rice, Mr. Cressip, Gus B. Smith, James Hawthorne.

FIRE HAVOC ON LEWIS RIVER.

Five Persons Known to Have Perished—Heavy Property Loss.

KALAMA, Wash., Sept. 14.—News reached here late last night that the forest fire on Lewis River had wrought sad havoc—D. L. Wallace, wife and two children burned to death. They were camping in the woods when caught by the fire. Their wagon was found burned up and the charred bodies were lying near. A 12-year-old boy of Mr. Hestley's is also dead. Mrs. John Polly and baby and a brother, name not known, and Mr. Newhouse and Mrs. Graves are dead. Fifteen others were found without clothing except gunny-sacks.

Five logging camps are burned out completely. The following families have lost everything: Ell Street, O. S. Curtis, L. M. Chitty, Thomas Mathews, T. Wilkinson, H. E. Darr and Mr. Ellis and others.

The worst of the fire was on Lewis River, about 12 miles above Woodland. The country is well settled and there are doubtless other casualties not yet reported. During part of the day the sun could be seen as a dull disc, but during the afternoon it was hidden entirely.

Camp No. 2 is also burned out. Moreland's Camp is badly damaged. Seven donkey engines are reported ruined. Two men from Barr's Camp are reported missing; people are panic-stricken and many are almost crazed from grief over loss of property.

Cowlitz County thought it was going to escape until today, when disastrous reports came thick and fast, and the last are worse and worse. Five people are dead and two missing, with only partial reports from the burned district. The horrible news cast a gloom over the entire county that cannot be described in words. A courier has just arrived from Lewis River, who states that there are only two houses left standing on Lewis River from Strait's place to the head of the river, a distance of 30 miles, and not less than 15 persons have perished.

MANY FAMILIES BURNED OUT.

Devastation Wrought in Clark County, Washington.

BATTLE GROUND, Wash., Sept. 14.—(Special.)—Since the report of yesterday concerning forest fires in the vicinity of Mount Bell, the wind has calmed down and reports of loss and suffering are coming in slowly. Many families are burned out of home and everything. John Hartman lost all his belongings and everything in them. He had moved the household goods out in an open field, but these caught fire and burned there. Jacob Brooks, James McCann, A. C. Barnard, Daniel King and others lost all. Some even got the clothing worn on their bodies burned and are without shoes on their feet. Mr. A. A. Allworth, a prominent dairyman, lost his barn and feed and grain of horses. James McCann had his cows burned to death in the barn. Much stock has perished and fences are everywhere destroyed.

Report comes from Dole, east of Mount Bell, in Cowlitz County, that nearly every settler in there is burned out, and several lives lost. People from this neighborhood are in the field and are doing as much as possible to relieve the distress of the homeless families. The fire extended north as far as Amboy.

In the Eureka neighborhood, southeast from here, many settlers were burned out. Bridges, plank roads, schoolhouses, everything went. If the wind does not rise again probably the fire will not spread any farther. PETER ANDERSON.

FIRE RAVAGES MONTANA.

Smoke Obscures the Sun—Only Rain Can Avert Great Loss.

BUTTE, Mont., Sept. 14.—A special to the Miner from Basin, Mont., says that forest fires are raging in the mountains near Bernice and only a heavy rain will save an enormous amount of timber and stock. Campers are supposed to have started the fire.

North of Anaconda a fire is ravaging the timber districts with little prospect of abatement. Much timber has been destroyed, and it is feared the destruction will foot into the thousands.

In the timber districts of Northern Montana, according to advices from Cahoon, a fire is spreading with terrible rapidity, and the safety of the finest forests in the state is menaced. Agent Herd, of the State Department, is in the field with a large force of men, fighting the fire, but there is little hope of staying the advance of the flames without rain. A pall of smoke hangs over Montana yesterday and today that has obscured the sun. Yesterday the orb was a bright purple, varying to blue, and today for a long period the sun could not be seen.

DARK DAY AT SOUTH BEND.

But Fire Ravages Are Believed to Be Past.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., Sept. 14.—(Special.)—While the air has cleared perceptibly today, yet the mills were unable to run on account of the darkness and housekeepers kept their lamps burning till noon on account of the smoke. The Dennis shingle mill near Meko, lost about 300 cords of shingle boards by the forest fire, but otherwise there is no loss, except standing timber, which was ablaze in the vicinity of Lebanon. In the neighborhood of South Bend there are some fires, but not in valuable timber.

The weather is perceptibly cooler with some indications of rain.

At Frances back-fires were set in order to save the town, as fire got into a number of slashings near, but no green timber of any account was burned.

Smoke Darkens Baker City.

BAKER CITY, Sept. 14.—(Special.)—The smoke from the Western Oregon and Washington forest fires reached this part of the country yesterday afternoon. At first it was thought that there must be a big fire in the forests near this city, but careful inquiry at the surrounding mining camps failed to reveal the presence of forest fires of any magnitude in this part of the state.

Old-timers, who have observed the effect of big fires in the Western part of the state before, solved the problem by calling attention to the fact that the smoke was floating extremely high in the air, and that it seemed to come from the northwest, and was moving in a southeasterly direction. The sun and moon were under a cloudy sky yesterday. As the smoke moves farther toward the southeast it becomes more dense over the city.

A Hundred Families Homeless.

ELMA, Wash., Sept. 14.—(Special.)—A relief committee was formed today of the leading citizens of Elma to formulate plans to succor those in need of immediate help. About 100 families are homeless and without food. It is difficult to get provisions through to the people at Ray's mill. A large load was started late this afternoon. Quite a number of people are missing.

The great damage is past. Another dark day has been passed, but considerably lighter than Friday.

Idaho Watches Our Smoke.

BOISE, Idaho, Sept. 14.—The smoke from the forest fires of Western Washington and Oregon has been observed for three days. Today it settled down so thickly as to obscure the sun completely. During part of the day the sun could be seen as a dull disc, but during the afternoon it was hidden entirely.

Interest in Wells-Fargo Express.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 14.—The postponed annual meeting of the stockholders of Wells, Fargo & Co. will take place tomorrow afternoon, and there is a great deal of speculation as to whether or not E. H. Harriman will be chosen as president. In case he shall be made the head of the company it is thought by many that a merger of all express companies is on the tapis. Dudley Evans is the acting president, having been elected to that position about a year ago on the death of the late John J. Valentine. Harriman and the Southern Pacific Company are credited with owning one-fifth of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s stock.

ROOSEVELT IS SURE

Indorsed by More States Than Needed to Nominate.

ADMINISTRATION MEN JUBILANT

Opposition of Morgan and Hill Doesn't Count, for They Are Democrats, Anyway—No Probability of Another Candidate.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Sept. 14.—The New York Republican managers, in deciding to indorse Roosevelt for the nomination in 1904, have made it comparatively easy for him to secure the nomination. The decision at this time means much—first, that Platt does not believe he could defeat Roosevelt, if he tried, and second, that the big trusts so potential in New York politics will not undertake to prevent the nomination of Roosevelt two years from now.

The most prominent men who have declared against Roosevelt because of his position on trusts are J. P. Morgan and James J. Hill. Both made their declarations some months ago, when Roosevelt first began the anti-trust campaign. Morgan made his displeasure felt by threatening to recall his acceptance to Roosevelt's dinner to Prince Henry, but was dissuaded by influential friends. Hill gave Minnesota Congressmen to understand that he did not want any more of Roosevelt, and some of them began at once to praise about President Roosevelt trying to bulldoze Congress on the Cuban reciprocity legislation.

It is an interesting fact that both Morgan and Hill are Democrats, of the Cleveland pattern instead of Bryan kind, however.

With New York 11 states with 324 delegates have declared for Roosevelt in 1904. They are New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Missouri, Texas, Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, Utah, California and Washington. Other states have indorsed his Administration in the most cordial terms and date who is likely to get a single vote in the Republican National Convention for President, unless some man with money should purchase some Southern delegates.

The entire Administration, which includes the office-holders here in Washington, are jubilant over the turn affairs have taken in New York. Others, who have more at heart than the mere desire to hold office, say that the President, indorsed as he is by his own state and assured of a re-nomination, can go forward and give the country the best possible administration.

For Greater Military Strength.

The result of the Army and Navy maneuvers will be giving recommendations to Army officers for more forts to guard important places and from Navy officers for still a larger increase in the Navy, especially in battle-ships. Congress was not disposed to increase the number of battle-ships at the last session, and there will be a strong fight against more battle-ships at the short session this Winter, even should the President strongly recommend them.

Sir Robert Bond, of Newfoundland, made his trip to Washington for nothing, as he found that the United States has become very tired of negotiating with Canadian officials, who have no authority. The United States prefers to do business with the diplomats of England who can perform what they agree to.

Alaska Boundary Again.

There is an understanding that the Alaskan boundary question is to be reopened with a view of reaching some sort of a settlement. Northwestern men have many objections to the present modus in unsatisfactory, and that a permanent settlement is necessary to the stability of conditions in Southern Alaska. Secretary Hay does not care to reopen the matter. He believed that the modus was so worded that it would stand for all time, but the President has different views and thinks that the modus should be supplanted by a final adjustment.

Fuel Situation Serious.

Everybody in the East is talking about coal. On the trains, street-cars, in the stores, shops, and in fact every place where men and women gather the discussion turns upon the fuel problem. Anthracite coal was a necessity and it cannot be procured now except in small lots at double the price of a year ago. Twelve dollars to \$15 a ton is being charged for these small amounts. People are becoming frightened at the prospect of Winter with the possibility of still higher prices, and perhaps even then without enough fuel to keep them warm. It has got too serious for a political condition, although the politicians are bending every effort toward a settlement. Republicans fear that suffering humanity may strike at the party in power and that the effect will reach far beyond Pennsylvania, to all states where the famine is felt.

Democrats are Looking for Congressional Gains in California and Minnesota.

They say the labor vote in California will be with them, and think the division in Republican ranks over Cuban reciprocity will lose a number of districts to that party in Minnesota. It is also said that the strong movement which some Minnesota Republicans are making for the revision of the tariff will cause antagonisms and splits which will result in Democratic gains.

ROOSEVELT POPULAR IN CUBA.

Sourest Paper Puts Him Above Heap of Yankee Politicians.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Sept. 14.—Recent advices from Havana are to the effect that the speeches of President Roosevelt on Cuba are daily adding to his already great popularity in the island. The Cuban people are manifesting a keen interest in his tours, and his ardent advocacy of reciprocity is widely discussed and applauded. The Cubans

feel grateful towards him for his deep interest in their welfare and his sincerity of purpose, which has led to a general hope that at the coming session of Congress some final action will be taken looking to establishing reciprocal relations between Cuba and the United States. The Havana newspapers are devoting more than ordinary attention and space to the utterances of the president, and are printing editorially unusually eulogistic and complimentary.

The Diario de la Marina, the leading organ of the Spaniards, and probably the most conservative paper in Washington, it seems to us that behind the train which carries the President, a number of Cubans of weight—if North Americans all the better—changed with riveting the mails which he places in public opinion for securing Cuban concessions, should take a trip, to show by figures and graphic and well-reasoned statements, those points which might seem obscure to the people in the Presidential speeches.

It will be of little importance that Mr. Roosevelt makes the furrows in the earth if he do not do the work which has to be done. Let us do some work; let us aid the President somewhat. There is statistical information, notably in opinions given by the Economic Commission, which represents us in Washington, which have not been published yet, and this was the occasion to give them publicly by the hundreds of thousands in order to overcome the enemy.

El Mundo, which has long been regarded as unfriendly to the United States and Americans prints the following editorial: We must not view with indifference the fine work of the President of the United States. We, less than any one. Because we, more than any one, protested against the attitude assumed by the Executive at Washington, beginning with the First law. And we cannot nor do we wish to have it believed that our anti-Americanism is the child of ingratitude, a mere fancy that does not flourish on our soil, but that it came solely and comes from the blows of the past and the fears for the future. Therefore, putting the personality of President Roosevelt above the help of Yankee politicians, with the majesty with which he appears to our eyes; seeing him as he towers on the political stage of his country, renovating it, purifying it, and giving it a new and magnificent position, especially in what concerns Cuba, our sentiment of gratitude, which always overflows, causes us to impulsively applaud him, and we give him this tribute with all the frankness with which we have conceived the littleness of soul of the Senator from Connecticut and his kind.

WAR FORCES FOR ISTHMUS

Auxiliary Cruiser Panther Harried Forward With Men and Arms.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 14.—In response to hurry orders from Washington the auxiliary cruiser Panther, in command of Captain Wilson, left the League Island Navy yard at 6:15 o'clock tonight for Colón. On board the Panther is a battalion of marines, numbering 329 men, who are in command of Lieutenant-Colonel Russell. The cruiser took along a field battery of four Colt's rapid-fire guns, two field pieces and ample ammunition.

Belligerent Forces Gathering.

PANAMA, Sept. 14.—Advices from Brancqua say the government cruiser Cartagena is at that port awaiting the arrival of troops down the Magdalena River from Honda. The Cartagena may reach Colón tomorrow. Advices from the Minister of War from Bogotá say that General Perdomo and his army are coming to reinforce the isthmus troops as quickly as possible; the war minister orders General Salazar to employ all the means in his power to resist the insurgents pending the arrival of General Perdomo.

The insurgent General, Herrera, is reported to be strengthening his position at Belicón and Chiriquí, who has been in certain quarters that he may have resolved to attack Panama or Colón, having heard how well these ports are defended.

Havana Leprosy Cases.

HAVANA, Sept. 14.—The medical board reports very favorable progress in the 10 cases of leprosy now in the hospital here, which are under the special treatment of Doctors Deque and Moreno, who have recently been allotted \$250 a month by the House of Representatives to continue their investigation for a cure of the disease which was begun under the military government. The medicine employed by the Cuban doctors is an extract from mangrove and is used as a salve and tonic.

CONTENTS OF TODAY'S PAPER.

- The Forest Fires. Collections are taken in churches for Springwater sufferers. Page 1.
- Citizen gives \$1000 for aid of Palmer refugees. Page 1.
- Family of Joseph Dolowback burned out near Killgaver. Page 1.
- McIntyre settlement was destroyed by careless neighbor setting brush fire. Page 1.
- Ten persons are known to have perished in the Lewis River Valley of Washington, and many others are missing. Page 1.
- A hundred families are homeless in Chehalis County. Page 1.
- Flames are doing great damage in Northwest Montana. Page 1.
- Smoke from Oregon and Washington fires obscures sun at Boise, Idaho. Page 1.
- Domestic. President Roosevelt is already indorsed by enough states to insure his nomination for re-election. Page 2.
- Rush orders have been given for dispatch of auxiliary cruiser Panther to Colón with men and arms. Page 1.
- Strike-breaker was beaten to death in the streets of Omaha. Page 2.
- Frederick at Oyster Bay eulogizes McKinley, and also discusses Roosevelt and the trusts; general memorial services for dead President. Page 2.
- Pacific Coast. Active preparations are under way for irrigation congress to be held at Colorado Springs October 6-9. Page 3.
- Oregon State Fair will open a six days' season at Salem today. Page 4.
- Commercial and Marine. Great Britain sends five times as much to the United States to Africa. Page 10.
- German and English stock markets have their eyes on New York. Page 10.
- New Atlantic shipping combine is proposed. Page 10.
- Sport. Portland defeats Seattle, 6-5. Page 5.
- Butte wins two games from Spokane, 9-6 and 4-1. Page 5.
- Helena wins two games from Tacoma, 2-0 and 3-2. Page 5.
- Kentucky to take legal steps to prevent McGovern-Corbett fight. Page 5.
- Portland and Vicinity. Churches hold services in memory of President McKinley. Page 10.
- Levis and Clark directors will next outline scope of Exposition. Page 12.
- Real estate market here up and building operations are active. Page 8.
- Portland schools will open today. Page 12.
- Portland bankers approve action of Secretary of Treasury in guarding against stringency in money market. Page 7.
- Marine engineers charge employers with importing Eastern employees at greater pay than demanded by strikers. Page 12.

AID FOR NEEDY

Relief Comes for the Fire Refugees.

CHURCHES TAKE THE LEAD

Citizen Gives \$1000 for the Palmer Sufferers.

DESTITUTE TO BE COMFORTED.

Collection Is Taken in Presbyterian Churches for Homeless Springwater-Relief Wagon Will Start Out Today.

Destitute and homeless, suffering for the want of the immediate necessities of life, many hundreds of the people who have lost their homes and property in the forest fires that have been raging through the state during the past few days are now calling for help from their more fortunate brethren of the cities. The people of Portland are making a generous response to this call, and the reports from other communities are that they are willing to do all that they can to relieve the sufferers. Among the church people yesterday the general topic of discussion was concerning the best way to get relief to those who most need it. Business men also are taking an interest in the movement.

Edward Shields, proprietor of Shields' Park, has announced that he will prepare a special programme for one night this week and give the entire gate receipts to this worthy cause. He was greeted with hearty applause as he made the announcement last night, and this will probably result in a large contribution if the people turn out on that night. One man, who will not make his name known, has placed \$1000 in the hands of J. S. Bradley, of the Bridal Veil Lumbering Company, to use as he sees fit for the relief of the sufferers at Palmer, a short distance from Bridal Veil, where the company's mill was destroyed.

Rev. Mr. Hatch, of Springwater, has appealed to the churches here for aid for the homeless of his community, and yesterday morning the First Presbyterian Church raised \$200 in cash to be used for this purpose. It was also decided to accept contributions of clothing or other articles that might be needed, and a wagon will leave today for the scene of the disaster. Any who have contributions to make are asked to bring them to the church at Twelfth and Alder streets before noon today. At the Calvary Presbyterian Church some money was raised, and an effort will be made to send contributions to both Bridal Veil and Springwater. The First Christian Church has also joined the movement and will receive contributions at the church on Park and Columbia streets today and tomorrow between 2 and 5 o'clock. The North Pacific Board of Missions will meet tomorrow, and Mrs. W. J. Honeyman, who has charge of the box work, will present the matter of relieving the homeless and suffering, and this board will probably render what aid it can. Members and pastors of the other churches have expressed a willingness to do all in their power to help the cause. The church women are also coming to the front, and last night the following notice was sent to the Oregonian:

"Owing to the fact that many persons have been rendered homeless by the recent disastrous fires in the vicinity of Portland, the ladies of the First Presbyterian Church will make up boxes of provisions and other necessities for the sufferers. All who can aid in this matter will please assemble at the church, corner of Twelfth and Alder streets, this morning at 10 o'clock. Other communities reports of movements to assist the sufferers are coming in. In Oregon City the churches and fraternal societies are taking the matter in hand.

No definite arrangements have yet been made for the distribution of the funds, but the people are assured that what they send will be wisely used. Bridal Veil and Springwater are perhaps the two communities that stand in the greatest immediate need. J. S. Bradley, of Bridal Veil, says that it is his plan to have a committee of well known men appointed, and for the supplies and funds to be sent to them and to be distributed as they think best.

"I have accepted the offer of \$1000," said he, "and feel that it is a Godsend. I will put it in the hands of the committee, and tell it to use it as it sees fit. We may not need all of it, or we may need more. We will use just what we need, and see that the rest is returned."

Mr. Bradley relates a very deplorable condition at Bridal Veil, and says that there is no doubt but that the people will need help.

"There were at least 15 families left homeless and practically without a thing in the world, except what they had on their backs," said he, "besides the large number of single men who were working there, that had everything burned."

At Springwater Rev. T. Hatch, pastor of the Presbyterian Church there, says that, with the assistance of one or two of the business men, he will attend to the distribution.

"I will get in a buggy," said he, "and drive over the community and see for myself what the people have lost, and how much they are in need of help.

Concluded on Second Page.