

BLIND FOR FIRE

Incendiarism With Revenge as Motive, Charged by Medford Citizens.

7 RANGERS THOUGHT LOST

Conflagration Around Mount Pitt, Fanned to Roaring Furnace by Wind, Entirely Beyond Control—More Troops Asked.

(Continued From First Page.)

The fire in the lower part of the Mt. Pitt fire, which started in the cabin, and in the absence of all communication it is feared that their lives may be endangered.

The fire on Wagner divide, three miles out of Ashland, reported as under control, broke out again today with the strong south wind blowing.

FIGHTERS SEVERELY BURNED.

Fifty men are fighting this fire, and it is making progress at the average rate of four miles an hour and is assuming proportions which are alarming.

GAME BIRDS FLY INTO FIRE

Larch Mountain Blaze Under Control—Damage Is Heavy.

Over 1000 acres have been burned over, but this was dead timber. The green timber about the mountain, which is roughly estimated that the loss by the fire on Larch Mountain will approximate \$15,000.

BUTTE FALLS FIRE GROWING.

The forest-fire situation in the Butte Falls district continues to grow worse.

The two biggest fires, the Mosquito and Cat Hill fires, have spread to such an extent that they have become united in one great sea of flame seven miles long.

The only buildings in the path of the fire are those at the Forest Service Ranger Station, at Mosquito. The fire is within three-quarters of a mile of this place and a vigorous effort is being made to save the buildings.

The only cause of the fire is that Acting Supervisor Swenning received today was that the fire on the ridge of Butte Falls had already burned over a large scope of territory.

One of the fires originated on the John Higginbotham place. Five miles from Butte Falls, the fire has already burned over a large scope of territory.

The fire at Olsen's sawmill has covered 2500 acres all told and has crossed over the forest boundary and has burned 100 acres of Government timber.

No definite reports were received from the fire on Buck Creek, near the Gifford ranch, owing to the inaccessibility of the country. However, all reports from Butte Falls agree that this fire is a large one and is growing rapidly in size.

Reports of the Wagon Lumber Company are engaged in fighting it.

TROOPS RUSHED TO MEDFORD

Forest Fire Situation All Over State Worse Than Ever.

Five hundred additional troops were asked for last night by the Medford fire, and the flames which have spread over a much larger area of the Crater Lake National Forest.

Association District Forester George H. P. Mann, commanding the soldiers at American Lake, and 250 men will be entrained this morning.

They are going forward by special train from Medford to the fire, and it is feared that their property will be destroyed, as the fire was running before a high wind, the roar of the flames being heard for miles.

Eight new troops were yesterday reported from the Jackson County National Forest, where a large conflagration located near Buck Lake, some 25 miles east of Ashland.

There are a large number of settlers in that district and it is feared that their property will be destroyed, as the fire was running before a high wind, the roar of the flames being heard for miles.

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VALUABLE TIMBER DESTROYED.

Forest fire near Grants Pass Valley jumps 100 yards at time.

GRASS VALLEY, Cal., Aug. 19.—(Special.)—The forest fire that raged in the vicinity of Grants Pass, Oregon, which was supposed to be under control this morning, broke out worse than ever this afternoon and threatens the destruction of the Deer Creek power house of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

Every available man from the mines of Grass Valley, Nevada, City was sent to the scene this afternoon to aid the forest rangers and others engaged in fighting the fire, and the number on the scene is about 200. The blaze jumps 100 yards at a time and is devouring a large area of timber. The damage already done amounts to \$50,000 according to information received here.

FOREST FARMHOUSES BURNED

Fires Around Grants Pass Assume Serious Proportions.

GRANTS PASS, Or., Aug. 19.—(Special.)—Forest fires are raging to the southeast of this city in the Grants Pass valley, and the 130 soldiers now engaged in turning it will have accomplished their purpose.

The troops reached Butte Falls during the forenoon of yesterday and should have been on the fire line last night. The officers and men were in a cheerful frame of mind when passing through Portland, and expressed their eagerness to get into action.

Because of an unusually heavy wind in Eastern Oregon yesterday the great timber fire in the neighborhood of Medford Springs, Wallowa County, which was under control, has again become a conflagration since August 13, and which they had succeeded in controlling, again broke away.

The troops planned to fight the fire all night and hoped to have gained the mastery by this morning.

New Fire Shows on Snake.

A new fire broke out yesterday on the Snake River, in the Wallowa National Forest, and it is feared that it will spread over a much larger area of the forest.

of Estacada, which a few days ago threatened to destroy the power plant of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, was yesterday reported under control.

A patrol of six men is creeping the burned area to give warning should the embers revive.

Fifty additional troops were last night called for on the Wallowa to encounter a new fire which started late yesterday evening near Halfway.

Forester Cecil, who is in charge of the fire, is not able to secure them until late, General Mann being in doubt as to whether the men could be sent.

They will go in by way of Huntington and Robinson, if supplied.

Extra patrols were last night ordered out on the Cascade, Oregon, Skiskiyou, Umpqua, Rainier, Columbia and Crater National forests.

Five men will be employed for such work and placed at work today.

District Forester Cecil was on duty the greater part of last night and will continue to keep in touch with the fire situation.

He refused to discuss the dispatch from Medford to the effect that the Crater Lake fire may have been of incendiary origin.

He is not able to give any definite information regarding the chief objection raised by officers of the service to allowing the squatters to remain on the lands.

At 9:30 last night officers of the Crater National Forest, who are assisting in the remainder of the 500 troops originally ordered be immediately sent.

Associate Forester Cecil was unable to get into communication with General Mann by telephone or telegraph.

The withdrawal of the 500 troops and the additional men who will probably be called out today will seriously embarrass the remaining American Lake, if it is not caused to end.

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One of the fires originated on the John Higginbotham place. Five miles from Butte Falls, the fire has already burned over a large scope of territory.

The fire at Olsen's sawmill has covered 2500 acres all told and has crossed over the forest boundary and has burned 100 acres of Government timber.

No definite reports were received from the fire on Buck Creek, near the Gifford ranch, owing to the inaccessibility of the country.

Reports of the Wagon Lumber Company are engaged in fighting it.

The only buildings in the path of the fire are those at the Forest Service Ranger Station, at Mosquito.

The fire is within three-quarters of a mile of this place and a vigorous effort is being made to save the buildings.

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GEORGIA MINSTRELS. Fun and Music. Prices—\$1.00, 75c, 50c, 25c. MAIN 6 & 1029. MATINEE EVERY DAY. THEATRE 15-55-750. NIGHTS.

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