

LOSS TO LUMBER IS EXAGGERATED

Forest Fires Are Not as Costly
as Supposed, Say Heads
of Large Concerns.

ONE-TENTH OF 1 PER CENT

Statistics for Three Years Show That
Fact—Men Who Direct Timber-
Owning Concerns Give Results
of Their Experience.

That reports of heavy losses from destruction of standing timber by forest fires, which are widely published every year, are largely fictitious is the conclusion of the Mississippi Valley Lumberman, of Minneapolis, which has completed a symposium of the heads of a large number of the most important timber owning concerns in the United States. This symposium has been embodied in a pamphlet by R. J. Menz, a Seattle timberman, who is personally circulating it.

In the letters sent out by the Mississippi Valley Lumberman, the following questions were asked:

For how many years have you owned timber?
In what sections of the country have your timber investments been made?
What percentage of the total value of your timber investments have you lost by fire?
What measures would you suggest as the most effective in reducing the timber fire hazard?

Answers were received from about 50 and in scarcely any case was more than a trifling loss admitted. This result accords with a statement issued by the Forest Service a short time ago, to the effect that the actual fire loss on the reserves for a period covering three years, had been only one-tenth of one per cent. While only a few of the timber owners to whom the questions were sent stated in figures the percentage of their loss by timber fire, the letters indicate that in most cases the loss was so small as not to have been worth estimating in the carrying charge. In discussing the answers, the Lumberman said:

The largest loss mentioned by any one of those who have replied to the letter was a possible 2 per cent in 3 years, or one-tenth of 1 per cent per year. One company that has held timber for 32 years estimates the total loss in that time at 1 per cent. Another company that has held timber for 40 years estimates the loss at the same amount, or one-sixtieth of 1 per cent per year. One company that has held timber in Northern Minnesota for 40 years reports its loss as very small excepting in the Huckleberry fire, when its loss was considerable. It is probable, however, that the actual loss as a result of that fire was larger than the large area was burned over that the company could not get the burned timber out within two years. If it could all have been logged before the worms got into it the salvage would have been much greater.

The timber holdings of these various concerns are in all parts of the country, and the letters received are representative. One point worthy of mention is that no part of the country appears to have suffered much more than any other. It can be practically said that fire is absolutely no menace to Southern pine and cypress timber. One writer says that no precautions are taken against fire in the Southern timber. They are allowed to run freely through the timber and cause no damage. The greatest of the timber fire has been in the woods of the upper Mississippi Valley and, in recent years, in the Inland Empire. But even in these localities the loss has been negligible.

Where fires have been as severe as during the past summer in the Inland Empire, it is necessary to cut the burned timber within a few years, because much of it is fire-killed and must be cut out save it is damaged very little for lumber purposes and the amount that must be cut this cause has never been so large as to cause an over supply of lumber.

It is only within recent years that the timber owners of the country have organized for the purpose of preventing timber fire loss. In the past, the timber owners have been better organized than elsewhere. The replies from timber owners in the Inland Empire were the most numerous and the most recent fire has been so small as to be classed as practically nothing. A fact overlooked by the public is that in nearly every instance of fire in the forest, the timber is not materially injured unless it is left standing for a number of years. The most severe timber fire kills the trees, but does not kill them, result in practically no damage to the timber. The trees are killed by the most severe forest fire can be saved almost in their entirety if the timber is logged within a reasonable time. This time varies with the kind of timber. The white pine and hemlock of the upper Mississippi Valley and the Douglas fir of the Pacific Northwest can be saved if it is cut within four years of the time it has been killed by fire. When it comes to the red cedar of the Pacific West there appears no necessity of setting a time limit. In burned-over areas of this district red cedar is none being logged that was burned more than 50 years ago, and is still proving good shingle timber, only the outer, or sap ring, having deteriorated.

The symposium is epitomized in the following tabular account of the replies:

Upper Mississippi Valley.	
Timber, owner, total loss—	years.
Chippewa Lumber Co., small—	22
C. C. Yawkey, practically none—	22
Burlington Lumber Co., 1 per cent—	60
Backus-Brooks Co., no loss—	22
Marshall H. Goodridge, practically nothing—	24
Gibbs Lumber Co., no loss—	11
John Schroeder Lumber Co., practically—	22
nothing—	22
Thief River Falls Lumber Co., practically—	12
nothing—	12
Ing in the Huckleberry fire—	40
Brooks & Brooks Lumber Co., very small—	40
A. R. Turnbull, less than 1 per cent—	50
Northwestern Lumber Co., fraction of 1—	37
Medford Lumber Co., 2 per cent—	10
Forest-Lumber Co., 1 per cent—	10
Stearns Salt & Lumber Co., no loss—	30
Brooks-Brooks Lumber Co., no loss—	20
and west, no loss—	20
Red River Lumber Co., practically none—	30
Inland Empire.	
Panhandle Lumber Co., practically none—	4
MacGill & Gibbs Co., none—	3
McIntosh Lumber Co., no loss—	3
Potlatch Lumber Co., Minnesota and Inland—	25
Empire, not with mentioning—	25
Washington and British Columbia.	
Merrill & Ring Lumber Co., one-fifth of—	22
per cent—	22
Forest-Brooks Co., no loss—	22
St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Co., nothing—	22
amount to anything—	22
Alta Lumber & Shingle Co., practically—	20
nothing—	20
White River Lumber Co., nothing—	22
Grays Harbor Commercial Co., no loss—	22
Menz Lumber Co., none—	20
Banker Bros., 15,000,000 feet—	20
Rogers Lumber Co., practically none—	11
Pendleton & Gillies, less than one-tenth—	1
of 1 per cent—	1
A. L. Lewisling, one-half of 1 per cent—	5
Wash. Forest Fire Assn., one-fifth—	1
of 1 per cent—	1
Clear Lake Lumber Co., scarcely anything—	10
Edwards Lumber Co., no loss—	10
Parker-Bell Lumber Co., practically none—	12
Oregon and California.	
Booth-Kelly Lumber Co., hardly worth—	14
mentioning—	14

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COUNTIES MAY CHANGE

STEVENS AND OKANOGAN ARE LIKELY TO BE DIVIDED.

Abolishment of Island and San Juan Counties May Meet With Opposition.

Salem Farmer's Son Killed.

YANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—While felling a tree on a farm one mile east of Slaton yesterday, B. L. Jackson, 24, was struck on the head by a leaning tree and instantly killed. The death-dealing tree had fallen against the tree which Jackson was cutting. The young man, who has a wife and child living at Slaton, was the son of F. R. Jackson, a farmer living three miles from Salem. He also is the son-in-law of P. R. Corson, of this city.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—There has been considerable talk of dividing Stevens and Okanogan counties and bills for this will be introduced at the coming session of the Legislature, but there is one proposition made which is even more radical that may stir up the Legislature if the man in charge of the coming session of the Legislature, the backers of the scheme say it means a big saving because of the great expense of conducting the government of the

smaller counties of the state and an effort will be made to eliminate this as far as possible, the plan being to make counties larger, instead of smaller.

ALLEGED SLAVER CAUGHT

Medford Police Catch Greek Charged With Crime.

MEDFORD, Or., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—John Farmer, a Greek, was arrested in Grants Pass yesterday by Medford officers and brought to Medford on the charge of white slavery. For some weeks past the local authorities have suspected that some one had been harboring girls in Medford, Ashland and Eagle Point, but they were unable to corroborate these suspicions until today.

Trainmen on the Southern Pacific notified the Medford police that they had seen Farmer in company with one of these girls, who has been under surveillance, and that they had other evidence of his relations with her. Farmer will be handed over to the Government officials for trial under the white slave act.

KLAMATH CHAMBER ELECTS

"Get Together" Meeting One of Best Organization Ever Held.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—The fifth annual banquet and election of officers of the Klamath Chamber of Commerce, Thursday, was one of the greatest "get together" meetings the organization ever held.

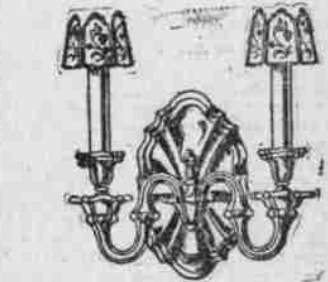
Officers elected were: E. R. Reame, president; County Judge Worden, vice-president; C. T. Oliver, secretary and business manager; W. P. Johnson, treasurer; C. H. Daggett and E. M. Chilcote, directors.

Fifteen new members were added to the roll at the banquet, which was presided over by the retiring President, W. A. Delzell, cashier of the First National Bank. It was shown that the chamber had paid during the past year for publicity work, \$733.70; for entertainment, \$951.60; for salaries of officers, \$442.50; and for miscellaneous expenses, \$43.64; a total of \$2225.44.

An effort was made to interest citizens in sugar-beet growing. Albert Woolverton, who is endeavoring to organize a sugar-beet stock feeding company, presented his plan and asked financial and moral support. Messrs. McCoy, Ezell and Hellman were appointed a committee to look into the proposal.

George T. Baldwin's suggestion that the women form an auxiliary to the chamber met with approval. One of the duties of the auxiliary will be to welcome newcomers of their own sex to the city.

In England there has been invented a pneumatic machine for cutting wire rope or chain under water, where it would be inconvenient to use hand tools.



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are some of the silver-lead mining districts along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Transcontinental railroad. A small portion of this territory has produced to date \$60,000,000 in gold.

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JONES & FRAZIER HOTEL AT FIRST AND COLUMBIA STREETS.
Bids were closed yesterday in the office of Aaron H. Gould, the architect, for construction of the four-story brick hotel to be erected by Milton J. Jones and William Frazier on the full quarter block at the southwest corner of First and Columbia streets. The hotel has been leased by John Mathiasen. The first floor will be occupied by the hotel office, lobby, dining-room, kitchen, cafe and lavatories, besides three stores. The three upper floors will each have 43 rooms, making 129 in all. The hotel will have gas and electric lights, house telephone system and running water in each room. The building will be of mill construction and the exterior will be of red pressed brick with terra cotta trimmings. The cost will be about \$55,000.