

LOSS TO TIMBER 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 fires, 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 20 years. One company that has held timber for 52 years estimates the total loss in that time at 1 per cent. Another company that has held timber for 60 years estimates the loss at the same amount, or one-sixth 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 the Okanogan fire, when its loss was considerable. It is probable, however, that the actual loss as a result of that fire was larger because a 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 of a 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 fires have 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 to save it. It is damaged very little for lumber purposes and the amount that must be cut to cause an over-supply of lumber.

It is only within recent years that the timber owners in the country have organized for the purpose of preventing timber fires. In the Pacific Northwest, where the timber is better organized than elsewhere, the results from timber owners in the Inland Empire were all written once the results of the recent fires have been known, and yet the actual loss has been so small as to be classed as "practically nothing."

A fact overlooked by the public is that the nearly every instance of fire in the forests, the timber is not materially injured unless it is left standing for a number of years. The trees which are less severe and which do not kill them, result in practically no damage to the timber. The trees which are killed by the most severe forest fires 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 Pacific Northwest are killed by forest fires should be cut either the following winter or the summer after. The reason is that the dead trees are attacked by worms and before long the wood is so damaged as to make it worthless for lumber. The timber of the Inland Empire is of much the same character and the two-year period applies to it, and also to the Western hemlock on the Coast slope of the Cascades. The spruce of the west slopes can be saved if it can be logged within three years from the time the fire has killed the trees.

The 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 Far West there appears no necessity of setting a time limit. In burned-over areas of this district red cedar is now being logged that was burned more than 50 years ago, and is still proving good shingle timber, only the water, or sap ring, having deteriorated.

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

Upper Mississippi Valley.	
Timber, owner, total loss—	No.
Chippewa Lumber and Boom Co., small loss.	30
C. C. Yawkey, practically none.	22
Burlington Lumber Co., 1 per cent.	25
Backus-Brooks Co., no loss.	25
Marshall H. Conledge, practically nothing.	24
St. Louis Lumber Co., small loss.	18
John Schroder Lumber Co., practically nothing.	23
Thier River Falls Lumber Co., practically nothing.	12
Standard Lumber Co., small loss.	40
Brooks & Ross Lumber Co., very small.	48
A. R. Turnbull, less than 1 per cent.	59
Northern Lumber Co., fraction of 1 per cent.	5
Medford Lumber Co., 2 per cent.	5
Feather-Land Lumber Co., 1 per cent.	10
Stearns Salt & Lumber Co., serious loss.	30
Brooks-Quinn Lumber Co., small loss.	18
and west, no loss.	30
Red River Lumber Co., practically none.	30
Inland Empire.	
Panhandle Lumber Co., practically none.	4
MacGillis & Gibbs Co., none.	3
Goldrick Lumber Co., none.	3
Potlatch Lumber Co., Minnesota and Inland Empire, not worth mentioning.	25
Washington and British Columbia.	
Merrill & Ring Lumber Co., one-fifth of 1 per cent.	25
Port Blakely Mill Co., 1 per cent.	52
St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Co., nothing to amount to anything.	24
Atlas Lumber & Shingle Co., practically nothing.	20
Puget Mill Co., do not know.	20
White River Lumber Co., nothing.	20
Grays Harbor Commercial Co., no loss.	23
Mena Lumber Co., minor loss.	18
Rucker Bros., 15,000,000 feet.	20
Rogers Lumber Co., no loss.	11
Pendleton & Gilkey, less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.	11
A. L. Llewellyn, one-half of 1 per cent.	5
Wash. Forest Fire Assn., one-fifteenth of 1 per cent.	1
Clear Lake Lumber Co., scarcely anything.	10
Defiance Lumber Co., no loss.	10
Parker-Bell Lumber Co., practically none.	12
Oregon and California.	
Booth-Kelly Lumber Co., hardly worth mentioning.	14

FOLKENBERG ACRES AND LOTS

ALL LOTS 50x100

SOLVES THE HIGH COST OF LIVING PROBLEM

FOLKENBERG combines the accessibility and conveniences of city life with the freedom and economy of country life.

FOLKENBERG is so sub-divided that you can buy a lot, a half acre, an acre, 5, 10 or 20 acres.

FOLKENBERG has every advantage of high-priced suburban lots, and yet prices are low and terms easy.

FOLKENBERG acres sell for from \$200 to \$450—\$25 down and \$10 a month.

FOLKENBERG lots sell for \$50 to \$175—\$5 down, \$1 a week. FOLKENBERG is low-priced because we bought direct—because it has had no transportation till now. It is the cream of the suburbs.

Prices Are Lower Now in Folkenberg Than They Ever Will Be Again
This is going to be the greatest year in realty Portland has ever seen. Prices will begin to boom in the Spring. Don't pay for pleasant weather. Buy now and get the benefit of blue sky later on.

Would You Like to Own This House and 4 Lots With It? We Are Going to GIVE IT AWAY



10% Reduction on Every Purchase Before January 17. 10% Reduction More Allowed on Anticipated Payments

15 PER CENT INSTEAD OF 10 PER CENT REDUCTION TO THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE PURCHASERS

THIS MEANS A \$50 LOT WILL COST YOU \$37.25 NOW—\$100 LOT FOR \$76.50—\$200 ACRE FOR \$153—\$300 ACRE FOR \$229.50

The United Railways Will Start Cars Running to Folkenberg Tuesday

THIRTY MINUTES TO GET TO FOLKENBERG STATION

We will run excursions there next Saturday and Sunday. Agents on grounds to show you everything; explain everything and assist you. Mail or phone orders will be attended to and reservations made.

J.W. Hefferlin Realty Co.

203 CORBETT BUILDING

PHONES—MARSHALL 2899, A 4684

FREE! This Beautiful Farm Home With Improvements May Be Yours Without a Cent of Cost Call on us for particulars

Why Folkenberg Is a Good Buy, Now:

1. Low Prices.
2. Best of Terms.
3. Fertile Soil.
4. No Gravel.
5. Close to Portland.
6. Pure Air.
7. Good Water.
8. Beautiful View.
9. On Electric Line.
10. Good Drainage.
11. High Altitude.
12. Free from Frosts.
13. Wind Sheltered.
14. Values Increasing.
15. No City Taxes.
16. Helps Support You.
17. Brings Health.
18. Brings Wealth.
19. Brings Comfort.
20. Brings Independence.
21. Absolutely the best investment in and around Portland today.

Frederick A. Kribs, less than 2 per cent.
Jas. D. Lacey & Co., less than one-eighth of 1 per cent.
C. A. Smith Timber Co., less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.
Frank Sigat, also in Wisconsin and South Dakota, when its loss was considerable.
Weed Lumber Co., a mere bagatelle.
South and Atlantic Coast.

Salem Farmer's Son Killed.

YANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—While felling a tree on a farm one mile east of Siston 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 Siston, was the son of P. B. Jackson, a farmer living three miles from Salem. He also is the son-in-law of P. R. Corson, of this city.

COUNTIES MAY CHANGE

STEVENS AND OKANOGAN ARE LIKELY TO BE DIVIDED.

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

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 it decides to introduce the measure. It calls for the abolishing of Island and San Juan counties and dividing them up among Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom

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 Govern-

ment 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. Kearnes, 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, \$723.70; for entertainment, \$501.60; for salaries of officers, \$449.50; and for miscellaneous expenses, \$425.64; a total of \$2225.34.
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, Ewell and Heilman 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.



Richer Than Cobalt or Coeur d'Alene

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.
Let us send you free of cost the "British Columbia Bulletin of Information," giving synopsis of the land, mining, timber and other laws and up-to-date information of fortune-making opportunities for investment.
It tells you how you can share in the tremendous development which is starting along the line of three great transcontinental railroads that are opening up 30,000,000 acres of rich agricultural and fruit land and 50,000,000 acres of the richest timber, coal and mineral land in British Columbia, known as the Fort George district. Write today.

Natural Resources Security Co., Ltd.
Paid up Capital \$250,000.
Joint Owners and Sole Agents
Fort George Townsite
412 Bower Building, Vancouver B. C.
RICHARD OBBE,
District Sales Solicitor,
407 Wells Fargo Bldg., Portland, Or.

The FESTIVE DAYS WILL SOON BE OVER

Many building permits have been issued and there is every indication of a prosperous building season.

Every home and building requires lighting fixtures, and we have made preparations for this increased building activity.

Let us figure with you on wiring, tiling and lighting fixtures. You will find our prices right and our work the best.

M. J. WALSH CO.
311 STARK ST.
Near Sixth.
Phones Main 879, A 1879.

NEW HOTEL IN SOUTH PART OF BUSINESS DISTRICT WILL BE RUSHED TO COMPLETION.

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 Mathiesen. 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 42 rooms, making 126 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.