

INDIAN METHOD OF FIRE FIGHTING WOULDNT GO NOW

Redmen Burned Leaves and Brush While Forests Growing, But Foresters Say That Couldn't Be Done Now.

"The least said about the Indian method of fighting fire the better," said E. T. Allen of the Western Forestry and Conservation association, discussing yesterday the means which should be employed to prevent destruction of forests.

The Indian method is to burn over the ground whenever twigs, leaves and brush have accumulated. This, says N. F. Throne, of Ashland, Or., was practiced by the red man for hundreds of years while the forests were growing.

"It was under the false but attractive theory that it was necessary to protect our water supply and also to assure a future growth of timber with the result that the brush and rubbish accumulating for years in now the cause of destroying millions upon millions of feet of our finest timber," says Mr. Throne in writing to The Journal.

"Use of the Indian method or allowing the brush to remain on the ground are alike mistakes," said Mr. Allen, "burning the ground over destroys the young trees while allowing the brush and debris to remain on the ground constitutes the fire menace from which the best of forests suffer danger all through the dry summer season."

Throne of Same Opinion. This opinion is evidently shared by Mr. Throne, for he says in his letter: "Let every timber land owner begin this fall to clean up his forest. It will be a big job because it has been neglected so long, but it will have to be done and if the timber is worth anything it is worth protecting from destruction by brush fires. Better employ men at reasonable wages spring and fall to clean up the surface of the ground and make timber safe from fires in the dry season than be compelled to pay them big wages in dry and busy season when men are hard to get and the battle is so hopeless that in many cases it could not be won by all the men in the world."

"Control the fire situation instead of letting it run you through the policy of neglect and inertia."

"No penalties can be made severe enough to prevent fires from starting because fire bugs are not easily caught. Let our legislatures make laws requiring the immediate building of fire trails and the cleaning up of the surface of the ground in forests and burning of all debris in logging camps and provide for state and county aid in making the timber safe from fires."

Should Build Fire Trails. "The state could well afford to build a system of fire trails and appropriate money to fight fires within the boundaries of these until owners of timber land can get rid of the dangerous timber beds that have been years in accumulating."

"If something worth while is not done at once one of our most attractive taxable properties will be nearly wiped off the tax rolls of the northwest and it will not be longer necessary to raise each year the assessed valuation on our bottled up timber. It is no wonder that timber land has become about the hardest thing to dispose of in this state, with the taxes steadily advanced and the fire danger increasing with each succeeding season and the Southern Pacific imposing such exorbitant freight rates that lumbering is made unprofitable as the numerous failures of milling concerns along that railroad indicate."

Mr. Allen believes in piling up the brush and burning it. He said today: "The greatest advantage of brush burning is the protection it gives against fire. In many cases brush burning is the only practicable safeguard against fire."

Should Burn Brush. "After the average lumbering operation the ground is covered with slashing, scattered about or piled. Just as the swamper left it. This in the dry season is a veritable fire trap. Probably 90 per cent of all uncontrolled cuttings are burned over, which retards the second crop at least from 50 to 100 years and perhaps permanently changes the composition of the forest. Fires may be set by loggers while still at work on the area or several years after by lightning, campers or locomotives. By piling the brush and burning it in wet weather or in snow when there is no danger of the fire spreading, all inflammable material is removed, and the second growth can come up without serious risk of being destroyed."

"Even where only part of the brush is burned and the rest is piled, as when the piles in open places along ridges, streams or laid off lines are burned, very much is gained in case of fire, since these cleared areas form bases from which a fire may be fought."

Woodland Cannery Starts. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Woodland, Wash., Aug. 24.—The Woodland Cannery company of this place commenced operations yesterday morning and will run until the end of the fruit season, canning apples, pears and string beans, principally.

Clouds Appear Above Head of F. Augustus. (United Press Leased Wire.) New York, Aug. 24.—Declaring that if F. Augustus Helms, the copper magnate, followed his announced determination to marry a chorus girl of the "A Fool There Was" company, he would find it costly. Mrs. Lillian Hobart French of Batta, Mont., a divorcee, declared today that she would bring suit for breach of promise as soon as the marriage should take place. Mrs. French said she had been an intimate friend of Helms since she was divorced 12 years ago. She said Helms had offered her a pension of \$150 a month, but that she had spurned the offer.

Const Pioneer Dies. Walls Walla, Aug. 24.—Thomas Delaney, a native of Ireland and a pioneer of the Pacific coast, is dead here, and his funeral will be held tomorrow. The deceased was born 84 years ago in Ireland and came to this country when a boy. He crossed the plains in 1852 and has lived on the coast ever since. He was a stockraiser in Harney county, Oregon, until 1903, when he moved to this city, where he has since resided.

The Allen Preparatory School for Boys and Girls. Prepares students for all eastern and western colleges and technical schools. This school is characterized by the simplicity of the school life and the thoroughness of the work done. Full term opens September 12. Office hours Wednesdays. THE ALLEN PREPARATORY SCHOOL, 655 East Salmon Street, Portland, Or.

"UNWRITTEN LAW" FREES LANE MAN

Coroner's Jury Says Shooting of L. S. Prindel Was Justifiable.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Eugene, Or., Aug. 24.—At the coroner's inquest over the body of L. S. Prindel, who was shot and killed Sunday night by John Johnson as he was leaving Johnson's house, after Johnson had found him with his wife, the jury returned a verdict of justifiable killing and Sheriff Brown released Johnson from custody.

The evidence introduced at the inquest showed that Prindel had returned Johnson's home and that Johnson caught him in an embarrassing position with his wife. Johnson has a 5-year-old son who was at the house at the time of the shooting and it was partly through his testimony that the father was cleared.

Prindel was aged about 52 years and single. He lived at Five Elvers, in the extreme northwestern corner of the county, but had been in the vicinity of the Johnson home for some time.

The sheriff and Coroner Gordon, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Fish and Deputy District Attorney G. F. Skipton, who left in an automobile for the scene of the tragedy Monday afternoon, arrived home late last night.

Murdered Baby Buried. Centralia, Wash., Aug. 24.—The body

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of the baby, which was found on the train here about three months ago, saturated with carbonic acid, was buried last week. The police abandoned the case, having no clues whatever, as to the identity of the murderer.

CLOUDS APPEAR ABOVE HEAD OF F. AUGUSTUS

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