

Fighting Forest Fires.

Washington, Sept. 15—Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are of the opinion that 1910 will hold the record among many years for the severity of the losses from forest fires. The summer fires followed a spring season believed to have been the worst, certainly in the Lake States, known for a long time. Nor is it wise to assume that the danger is over when the fierce conflagrations which have called forth in the Mountain States the efforts of three Federal Departments have been conquered. The forests will not be safe until the fall rains and snows have once more made a wet blanket of the dry forest floor. That the total losses of the year will run up to millions of dollars is considered certain.

How such losses may be prevented is a matter of general public concern. To the National Forest timber burned must be added great amounts on state and private holdings, besides the immense damage done to town, farm and other property. Railroads have suffered from the interruption of traffic as well as from direct losses. A bulletin by Forester Henry S. Graves discusses forest fires and the proper methods of preventing and fighting them, as follows:

"In some sections of country forest fires have always been of such common occurrence that there is a popular notion that they can not be prevented. The risk from fires can never be entirely eliminated, for in the forest there is always inflammable material which is very easily ignited. They may, however, be largely prevented, and under efficient organization their damage may be kept down to a very small amount. The problem is like that in cities, where fires can never be entirely eliminated, but where the risk of loss to property may be reduced almost to insignificance."

The importance of systematic provision for the early discovery of fires and for getting a properly equipped force of fire fighters quickly to the scene of an outbreak is in-

isted upon by Forester Graves. "A careful supervision or patrol during the dry season," he says, "is one of the most important measures in organized fire protection. One of the fundamental principles of fire protection is to detect and attack fires in their incipiency." After pointing out the value of look outs, telephone or signal communication and various methods of patrol, the forester tells how to fight fires, as follows:

"The principles of fighting forest fires are essentially the same as those recognized in fighting fires in cities. The following are of first importance: (1) Quick arrival at the fire; (2) an adequate force; (3) proper equipment; (4) a thorough organization of the fighting crew, and (5) skill in attacking and fighting fires. Quick access to fires is accomplished through the work of supervision and patrol in discovering fires before they have gained much headway, and by a well developed system of communication through the forest by roads and trails.

"A small fire may be put out by one man, but in extensive forests several hours may pass before the fire can be reached. It is important to secure an adequate force of men and get them to the fire quickly. In a well organized system of patrol the guard who discovers a fire communicates quickly to other guards and to headquarters by telephone, signal, or other means, and indicates the number of men he needs.

"The efficiency of the fire fighting crew depends very largely on their skill and experience, and particularly on the skill and experience of the man directing the work. It is not only a question of knowledge of how to assign each man where his work will be most effective, but there must be judgment exercised in determining the general method of attack. The character of the forest, the condition of the atmosphere, the strength and direction of the wind, the rapidity with which the fire is running, and many other points have to be taken into consideration."

After describing how surface fires may be put out by beating, by throwing sand or loose earth, and by other methods, the account goes on:

"Sometimes the front of the fire is so fierce that it is impossible to meet it directly. One method under such circumstance is to direct the course of the fire. The attack is made on the sides near the front, separating the forward portion of the fire from the main wings. A portion of the crew attacks the forward part and others run down and extinguish the wings. The front of the fire attacked from the sides, is forced gradually and constantly into a narrow path. Usually the front can be directed to and some cleared space, road, pond, stream, swamp or fire line, when it will be checked enough to admit of a direct front attack. Sometimes by this plan the front may be rapidly narrowed by working from the sides, until it is at last entirely extinguished. The plan of giving direction to the course of the fire has often been successfully carried out when the fire fighting crew is too small for direct attack.

"When fires gain such headway that it is impossible to stop them by direct attack, no matter how numerous and efficient the crew or complete the equipment for fighting, back firing becomes the only means of stopping the fire. It should, however, be used only when it is absolutely necessary. One of the commonest mistakes in fighting fires is to overestimate the rapidity of the fire and the difficulty of putting it out. A forest fire is always a frightening spectacle, particularly if it is sweeping in the direction of one's own property. Men often become excited and start back fires when it is entirely unnecessary. Back firing necessarily involves deliberately burning over property. When this belongs to another person and one's own forest seems in danger, there is a great temptation to sacrifice it.

"If it is found that a back fire is necessary, a favorable point is selected directly in front of the fire, from which to set the new fire. This must be a point where it is safe to start a back fire, such as a road, fire line, stream or swamp. The leaves are ignited at points five feet to a rod apart for a distance not greater than the estimated width of the head of the fire. These small fires gradually meet and form a continuous line, eating back against the wind. A part of the crew is stationed across the road or other break from which the back fire is started, and put out at once the small fires which may result from the sparks blown over from the back fire.

"The meeting of the two fires stops at once the head of the main fire. It is usually possible at that time to attack the wings with the ordinary methods of fighting. It is necessary to attack the wings at once, particularly if there is a strong wind, for otherwise each wing of the old fire would soon form an independent fire with a well-developed head. It is necessary also that a number of men be stationed where the original fire and the back fire meet in order to extinguish smoldering fires in tops, logs, and other debris."

"A fire is never out," the bulletin concludes, "until the last spark is extinguished. Often a log or snag will smolder unnoticed after the flames have apparently been conquered, only to break out afresh with a rising wind. After the fire-fighting crew has left the ground it is always well to assign at least one man to patrol the edges of the burned area until it is certain that the fire is entirely out. This may not be for several days."

Presbyterian Church

Regular services are held every Sunday at 11:00 a. m. and 8 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Y. P. S. C. E. at 7 p. m. Strangers and new comers are always welcome.

See or phone L. J. Radley for all kinds of Fire Wood. 27-11

The Pilgrim Fathers

It was on September 16, 1620, that the little band of Pilgrims set sail from Plymouth, England, to find a new home in this far away land. It was with difficulty that they escaped from their native land, first going to Amsterdam, Holland. Here they dwelt for 11 years, exiles for conscience sake, earning their bread by the labor of their hands. But these seekers after religious freedom found that Holland was not their home; they could not endure the thought of giving up their language and customs for those of the Dutch, and having heard of the colony of Virginia, their thoughts were directed to the wilderness of the New World.

They finally secured sufficient money to purchase a vessel, the "Speedwell," and to hire another, the "Mayflower." They first secured a grant of land in the Hudson valley, and a promise from the king that he would not interfere with them. The Speedwell proved unseaworthy, and the little band finally embarked on the Mayflower alone. William Brewster was the spiritual leader of the band.

The "Pilgrim Fathers," with their wives and children, as borne by the Mayflower, numbered 102; one died on the voyage and one was born. Who has not read of the terrible discomforts and dangers of the perilous voyage of 67 days. It was not until early in November that they reached this continent, far from the point at which they aimed.

Determined to put in at Cape Cod harbor, and so to land on a territory where their patent could confer no rights, the leaders of the expedition, after consulting together in the cabin of the Mayflower, there drew up and signed the historic "Compact," "which was to convert the hundred voyagers into the founders of a commonwealth. There they solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one another, combined themselves into a civic body politic to frame such laws as they might need. This compact was signed on Nov. 11th. On that day an exploring party went ashore, and found the country bleak and uninviting in the extreme. The snow was half a foot deep, and the fierce wind of the sea blew a spray upon them.

But the Pilgrims had not sought ease and comfort. They chose Plymouth harbor as a landing place, and on December 16, 102 days after leaving Plymouth, England, they made a landing in the face of a wintry storm, on a barren rock since known as Plymouth Rock. Next they fell upon their knees and blessed God for having brought them safely over the ocean.

In a few days the men were busily engaged in building cabins, returning each night to the ship; but ere they were finished the wintry blasts had planted the seeds of consumption in many of the little band, and before the coming of spring more than 40 of them, including the wives of some of the leaders, had been laid in the grave.

And yet when the Mayflower sailed for England in the early spring, not one of the survivors returned with her, and it is a singular fact that nearly all who survived that dreadful winter at Plymouth lived to a good old age. The site of their first "Common House" is now marked, and near the lot assigned to Elder Brewster still we may stop to drink from the Pilgrim spring. The first meeting house is also marked, as well as the spot of the fort built by Captain Miles Standish, whereon he promptly placed his cannon.

"Unable to speak for himself" was he, But his guns spoke for him valiantly!"

And most persuasive did their voices prove, inspiring awe in the hearts of the savages for many miles around. Here in the shelter of the fort, for the most part, the Pilgrims were compelled to worship, and here probably the first hymns of praise and prayers for guidance were sung and uttered by New England colonists.

Bandon Recorder

THURSDAY SEPT. 22, 1910

Lodge and Professional Directory

Lodges are Requested to Notify this Office on Election of Officers and on Change of Meeting Night. Cards under this Head are 50c per in., month.

Lewah Tribe No. 48, Imp. O. R. M. MEETS every Thursday evening at 8:00 at the Bandon Wigman. Sojourning chief in good standing are cordially invited to attend. G. E. Wilson, C. S. Hubbard, C. of R. Sachem.

Masonic BANDON LODGE, No. 130 A. F. & A. M. Stated communications first Saturday after the full moon of each month. All Master Masons cordially invited. J. A. Morrison, W. M. G. T. Treadgold, Secretary.

I. O. O. F. BANDON LODGE, No. 133, I. O. O. F. meets every Wednesday evening. Visiting brothers in good standing cordially invited. A. Knopp, Secretary. A. G. Hoyt, N. G.

Rebekah Lodge No. 126. MEETS in I. O. O. F. hall every second and fourth Tuesday. Practice night 1st Tuesday of the month; Social evening the 3d Tuesday of the month. A cordial invitation extended to all members in good standing. Clara Coetz, N. G. Belle A. Kolp, Secretary.

Knights of Pythias DELPHI LODGE, No. 64, Knights of Pythias. Meets every Monday evening at Knights hall. Visiting knights invited to attend. C. R. Wade, C. C. B. N. Harrington, K. of R. 5.

Woodmen of the World Seaside Camp No. 212 meets every first and third Thursdays of each month. Visiting neighbors cordially invited. R. W. Bullard, C. C. J. N. Hosking, Clerk.

G. W. REA. Attorney and Counselor-at-Law Notary Public U. S. Land Contests a Specialty. Practice in all Courts Office With Bandon Light & Water Co. Bandon Oregon

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C. R. BARROW Attorney and Counselor-at-Law COQUILLE, ORE Office over Skeels' Store Office Phone, Main 335; residence, Main 346

DR. E. W. ROSSITER PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON BANDON OREGON Office and residence in Panter residence property next door to Bijou Theatre

DR. J. D. KELLEY Physician and Surgeon Office in Donald Charleston home, opposite Presbyterian church, Bandon, Oregon

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