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FOREST FIRE SITUATION IS WELL IN HAND

IN NUMBER OF BLAZES IDAHO LEADS THE LIST, WITH 470 FIRES DURING JULY

OREGON REPORTS 400 FIRES

Because of Fast Drying-Out Conditions Danger Still Lurks in Forests; Wardens on Job

Portland, Aug. 5.—Extreme dryness in all but the immediate coast country, with fast drying out of the latter, emphasizes the need for great care if the fire situation is to be held in check during August.

The large number of fires which have so far occurred in Northwestern states and have been successfully extinguished is a tribute to the alertness of fire protection agencies but also serves as a warning that August may prove an extremely trying month.

Reports received from Northwestern states by the Western Forestry & Conservation Association show that during July over 1,000 fires occurred in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Some of these in the former state caused considerable loss of green timber. A force of over 1500 men is now at work to prevent the starting or spreading of fires. Favorable weather conditions the last week of July caused great improvement in the general situation.

Washington had 150 fires during July caused by sparks from engines and berry pickers. Not over one and one half million feet of green timber was killed but loss of bucked logs and camp buildings and equipment will be a considerable item. A force of 100 wardens employed by the Washington Forest Fire association, is now on duty.

Oregon reports 400 fires, mostly small ones originating from lightning, campers and logging camps. There has been practically no loss of green timber but some damage to logs and logging equipment. The full force of patrolmen is now on duty composed of 53 state and weeks law wardens employed by patrol associations and individual timber owners.

Idaho had 470 fires during July caused by railroads, lightning, campers and loggers. Losses cannot be given at this time as many fires are burning. A force of over 1,000 men were fighting fires in July.

MEXICAN TREASURER SAYS LEAGUE IS A DREAM

Mexico City, Aug. 5.—Luis Cabrera, secretary of the treasury, is quoted by El Democrita as saying in an address before the Chamber of Deputies: "The league of nations continues to be a dream for there is not one nation that cares to renounce a part of its sovereignty as a sacrifice to the good of the rest."

NO OASIS IN OLD MEXICO FOR THIRSTY AMERICANS

Mexico City, Aug. 5.—Thirsty residents of the United States who hope to find an oasis in Mexico may be disappointed. A cabinet member whose influence will be felt in the drafting of "dry" regulations was recently quoted in The Excelsior as saying that it may be necessary for the Mexican government to establish a "dry" zone at least ten kilometers deep along the entire length of the United States boundary.

Intimation was also given that the government is prepared to move immediately against persons who are reported to be selling liquor to Americans, using Mexican territory as their base of operations.

GREEKS TURN THE TABLES ON TURKS

In Revenge for Past Atrocities They Murder, Mutilate and Rob the Turkish Garrison

London, Aug. 5.—The Greek army of occupation which landed at Smyrna a few months ago murdered and pillaged the Turks, according to a letter published by Marmaduke Pichthall, a well known writer of eastern affairs. The writer of the letter was described by Mr. Pichthall as "the reliable correspondent" but his identity was not disclosed.

The writer asserts that when the Greek army landed at Smyrna, Turkish troops had been ordered by the Turkish authorities to remain in their barracks and that they did so; but that the Greeks broke into places where Turkish officers were collected and shot down all who would not shout "long live Venizelos." Many were thus shot down according to the writer. The writer adds:

"The governor of Smyrna was dragged along the wharf and carried aboard a Greek ship. His wife was wounded and his house looted. The Turkish chief of staff was bayoneted in the face and thrown into the hold of the Greek cattle ship among the animals. The senior doctor of the Turkish army corps was murdered and his body mutilated. Fingers of Turkish men and women whose rings were cut off wholesale. Houses were looted, women robbed of all their jewels."

"This was supposed to be an absolutely peaceful occupation in the interests of law and order. Greece had not even been at war with Turkey. In no case did the Turks show fight until they were attacked by the Greeks. The civilian Greeks joined with the invading soldiery in the work of murder and pillage. And the allied fleet acquiesced in these proceedings, which were made possible only by its presence."

WATSON WOULD REJECT SHANTUNG PROVISION

Washington, Aug. 5.—Senator Watson, Indiana republican, declared that the history of German and Japanese acquisitions by Shantung had been one wrong heaped upon another. He asked the senate to reject the treaty provision giving Japan control on the Shantung Peninsula.

MURDER SUSPECT HELD FOR THE GRAND JURY

Marshfield, Aug. 5.—Harold Howell, aged 15 years, was bound over to the grand jury, and Carroll Warden, his 18-year-old companion during most of the afternoon on which the murder of 16-year-old Lillian Leuthold, of Bandon, occurred, was freed, when District Attorney Hall dismissed the charge against him. Young Howell, only, appeared before Judge Wade and 11 witnesses appeared for the state. The defense was silent.

The only new development was the testimony of the last witness for the state, who stated that the markings on the bullet which was found in the girl's head indicated that it had been fired from a gun in which the bore had been changed. The bore in the gun which young Howell had with him the afternoon of the murder, and which belongs to him, had been changed from .22 to .25 caliber. Howell and Marden were seen hunting in the vicinity of the crime Sunday afternoon; the day the girl was murdered.

MORE VESSELS ON THE WESTERN COAST

San Francisco, Aug. 5.—The San Francisco division of the shipping board has asked the allocation of 80 more vessels for foreign trade from its coast. Of 48 vessels already assigned, which will be finished during August and September, 20 are assigned to San Francisco, 16 to Seattle and 12 to Portland.

UNITED STATES FACING GREATEST LABOR CRISIS

Railway Shopmen Take Lead in Demanding Wage Increase and Reduction of Commodities—Eager to Strike and Defy Grand Lodge—Would Deal With Government

Washington, Aug. 5.—Director General Hines and J. J. Forrester, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, conferred today on the employees' demands for a wage increase unless something is done immediately to materially reduce the living cost. Similar demands from the Brotherhoods of Locomotive Engineers and Railway Trainmen are now before Director Hines.

Five hundred thousand shopmen over the country are voting on whether to call a strike to enforce the 25 per cent increase. Pending the outcome, shopmen now striking are expected to return to work in most places. The shopmen of the Chicago district, however, have refused to return and say they will pay no attention to the grand lodge but will treat with the government separately.

Organized labor was before the country today with a demand that private capital be retired from railroad operations, substituting tripartite control of railroad properties by the public, operating management and employees. Engineers, firemen and the American Federation of Labor made demands that the matter be laid before the house interstate commerce committee.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Attorney General Palmer is expected to present a preliminary report today to President Wilson concerning possible steps to be taken by government agencies to reduce the high living cost.

The president is to discuss with Julius Barnes, president of the grain corporation, the proposal to restore wheat to the free market, with the government making good the difference between the market price and guarantee.

Administration officials believe that increased production is one way to decrease the living cost.

President Wilson feels that strikes or threats of strikes now will interfere materially with the solution. He may go before congress and recommend that steps be taken for relief.

San Francisco, Aug. 5.—James O'Connell, chairman of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor, today announced that a half-million members of the metal trades crafts this month will demand that congress and the president reduce the cost of living if possible, to avoid strike disturbances.

MAKES STATEMENT IN REGARD TO SHANTUNG

Tokio, Aug. 5.—Viscount Uchida, Japanese foreign minister, in a statement today declared that Japan does not intend to claim any rights affecting the territorial sovereignty of China in Shantung. He promises that the Japanese troops are to withdraw immediately after an agreement is concluded with China.

Japan moreover is considering the establishment of a general settlement at Tsin Tao, instead of a purely Japanese settlement.

ARGENTINE'S ACTION HAS PEEVED ENGLAND

Buenos Ayres, Aug. 5.—Diplomatic relations between England and Argentina are delicate as a result of the purchase by Argentina of the German steamship Bapla Blanca. England refused to recognize the purchase, made during the war.

One Argentine newspaper deploras "Argentina's hostile attitude toward British capital invested in Argentina."

DESPITE GRADING AND PAVING, CARS ARE SPRINKLED OVER PACIFIC HIGHWAY

(John W. Kelly in The Oregonian.)

Clinging to the summit of the Siskiyou is a rock crusher, reducing to macadamy size ancient masses of blue basalt for the Pacific highway. Like a thin spider web, a wire stretches from the perched quarry across the mountain slopes, until it is lost in the distance. This wire, attached to rugged pines, continues on and on for seven miles, leaving the quarry plant in Oregon and terminating in a power plant at Hill, Cal.

Fuel is scarce and costly to deliver at the Siskiyou summit, so Oskar Huber, who has the contract for paving the Pacific highway from Ashland to the California line, operates his crusher with electric power, drawn from Hill. This is the most southern outfit working on the Pacific highway. From this summit, 4700 feet in the air, trucks loaded with rock for the pavement base roll down toward the state line, five miles away, southward, while the same plant furnishes rock for the northern section as well.

It will be next year before the Oskar Huber job, which is a trifle more than 20 miles, 5.9 miles being the Ashland-Green Springs mountain and 14.6 miles being the Green

Springs Mountain to the state line, is completed.

When finished it will connect with the present hard surface, extending from Ashland to Medford and thence to Central Point.

Everything from Grants Pass to the state line has been contracted for paving.

From Central Point to Gold Hill there is an 8.9-mile paving contract on which the Clark-Henry company is working. This will cost \$231,689 and will be laid on an asphaltic concrete base.

A contract to Schell & Calvert for the 12.2 miles from Gold Hill to the Josephine county line will soon be under way. Mr. Schell has a paving contract on his own account between Grants Pass and the county line and as soon as this is completed which will be in about six weeks, Schell's equipment will be moved onto the Gold Hill-Josephine county line work. Between Grants Pass and the county line Mr. Schell has a 6.1 mile paving contract, which is about 50 per cent finished.

At Gold Hill, the hottest spot in southern Oregon, the contractors who will build the bridge across

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SEN. SMOOT SEES GREAT UPHEAVAL

Exorbitant Profits of Food Speculators Responsible for Strikes and High Cost

Washington, Aug. 5.—Senator Smoot, of Utah, republican, declared in the senate today inflation of currency and exorbitant profit of food distributors were responsible for high living costs.

Urging that the people "not lose their heads" over the situation, Senator Smoot said:

"I look forward to trouble, not only in this country, but all the world, unless a change comes within a reasonable time."

Senator Thomas, democrat, of Colorado, observed that the high cost of living was world-wide and asked if any senator could suggest how one nation alone could change conditions.

Senator Sherman, republican, Illinois, said the meat packers were not responsible for high meat prices.

"The increase in price of meats comes after they leave the refrigerator car," said he.

Senator Borah, republican, of Idaho, said it would be no task to find the profiteer.

"We know where the profiteer is," he said, "and he will be just as safe the next four years as he has been the last four."

Senator Reed, democrat, of Missouri, declared:

"If we can't feed ourselves, we ought not try to feed the world. There is a plan on foot to organize a gigantic corporation to finance and feed Europe, and our government, through the league of nations, is to undertake this plan. We are to drain this country of its money and its goods at the very time our people are clamoring for relief."

FORD SUIT TO JURY

Mount Clemens, Mich., Aug. 5.—The Henry Ford libel suit testimony has ended and the case will probably go to the jury next Tuesday.

WEATHER REPORT SHOWS 1919 ONE OF HOTTEST

The weather reports furnished by County Agent C. D. Thompson shows that Grants Pass people this year sweated through the longest stretch of hot weather experienced since 1911. For 11 days the thermometer registered 100 or more, the highest minimum being 67 degrees on July 10, 1919. The records since 1911 shows the following:

1911			
	June	July	Aug.
Max.	96	110	92
Min.	31	37	39
Eleven days 100 or more.			
1912			
Max.	96	105	98
Min.	36	42	35
Two days 100 or more.			
1913			
Max.	96	101	101
Min.	36	39	38
One day 100 or more.			
1914			
Max.	97	105	108
Min.	33	33	41
Three days 100 or more in July, and five days 100 or more in August.			
1915			
Max.	100	103	105
Min.	36	39	44
Six days 100 or more in July, and nine days 100 or more in August.			
1916			
Max.	101	94	105
Min.	31	40	37
Five days 100 or more in August.			
1917			
Max.	93	106	97
Min.	30	30	40
Two days 100 or more in July.			
1918			
Max.	102	98	104
Min.	31	39	38
Four days 100 or more in August.			
1919			
Max.	94	108	
Min.	35	67	

ROUMANIANS THREATEN TO KILL 5 FOR 1

REPORTS STATE THAT THEY STARTED TO PLUNDER AS SOON AS THE CITY FELL

DEMobilize THE LOCAL POLICE

Austria's Counter Proposals to the Peace Terms Handed Over Tomorrow, on Schedule Time

Paris, Aug. 5.—Telegrams from American officials at Budapest state that the Roumanian troops upon entering Budapest started plundering in the suburbs. Fifteen or twenty civilians were killed by the Roumanians during the day.

The Roumanians demanded hostages, threatening to kill five hostages for each Roumanian soldier killed in Budapest. They arrested some of the new Hungarian ministry, mounted machine guns and demobilized the local police.

Paris, Aug. 5.—Dr. Karl Renner, Austrian chancellor, announced today that counter proposals to the peace terms presented to Austria would be handed over tomorrow, within the prescribed time.

Copenhagen, Aug. 5.—Premier Clemenceau, president of the peace conference, replying to a wireless message from the Italian military mission at Budapest, declares that supreme council of the peace conference does not intend to interfere in the internal policy of the Hungarian government.

SIX INJURED IN EXPLOSION

Raritan N. J., Aug. 4.—Twelve people were killed and many injured in an explosion of a magazine at the United States army arsenal today. The fire which followed the explosion is being fought.

Later reports said that none were killed and only six were injured. The arsenal is threatened with destruction.

FIRST DAY OF FAIR IS "WITHYCOMBE DAY"

Salem, Ore., Aug. 4.—Members of the state fair board, acting upon the suggestion of Governor Olcott, this afternoon designated September 22, the first day of the 1919 fair as Withycombe day, in honor of the late Governor Withycombe. "Perhaps no man has been a greater factor in the development of agriculture and live stock in the state than the late Governor Withycombe," said Governor Olcott in his letter to the board, "and it would seem fitting that the state, through its fair, offer some such tribute to the work which he accomplished along these lines."

GERMANS WOULD REMOVE BLOT FROM ESCUTCHEON

Berlin, Aug. 5.—The Vorwaerts declares that the entente, by demanding the surrender of the former German emperor is affording the monarchists an opportunity for noble poses, which is calculated to win sympathy for Count Hohenzollern and his defenders. "A bit of prudence might have told the entente that much in advance," the paper adds. The Pan-German Deutsche Zeitung says: "The German people, who on June 28th, 1919, a day of dishonor, in cowardly traitorous flight surrendered its imperial master will again remove this blot from its escutcheon."