

The Forest Fires.

CANYON FIRE COVERS 6 SQUARE MILES

Description of Territory Burned Over Up to This Morning.

J. E. Gribble, in charge of the fire fighting in Ashland canyon, gave us the following description of the extent of the fire and the territory covered up to this morning:

"Fire extends from just above Long's cabin at forks of creek south on Brushy Hill to near the zigzag or switchback trail at south end of Brushy Hill. It has burned all of east side of Brushy Hill and extends in places as high up east from the creek as the new Mount Ashland trail and east toward Wagner ridge.

The fire extends from near old sawdust pile in Ashland creek canyon to near first ford or last bridge on both sides of ridge and on east side over ridge to east side of Ashland creek near old ice plant and arastra.

Fire is on east side of main fork of Ashland creek from reserve line south to the Buckman mines, or above the upper falls 300 or 400 yards.

The fire starting near Watson's cabin extends west on both sides of Watson canyon to top of and over the ridge, joining the Wagner creek fire.

The south and southwest portion of the Wagner creek fire is still uncontrolled and many other places are very dangerous and have broken out over the patrol lines in a number of places. The fire has burned to within a short distance of Long's cabin on southwest and north sides.

Good earnest help is needed to keep the fires from spreading.

Approximately six square miles have already burned over."

Mr. Gribble urges the citizens of Ashland to take a greater interest in the matter and says that many men have been of the indifferent type and instead of going to the fire with interest to put it out, sit around and let the fire burn all around them while they eat and sleep. He says the citizens of Ashland should take a trip over the burned area to be able to realize in part only the great damage to their valuable water supply. While there has been cause for complaint at some, there have also been many good, earnest workers there whose services have been valuable and effective.

A high wind has arisen since nine o'clock this morning in town and if it is as severe in the fire zone the fire will doubtless break over the lines in many places and continue its destructive work.

Co. A, First Infantry, U. S. A., 59 soldiers and officers, in charge of First Lieutenant James Uilo, arrived in Ashland direct from the maneuvering camp at American Lake Monday afternoon, and at eight o'clock the march to Long's Lodge began, arriving there at midnight. At 4 a. m. Tuesday morning they were taken to a point near the fire line, "where they did excellent work, demonstrating the great value of having systematized help and help that may be depended upon," Mr. Gribble reports.

Though the matter of pay in emergencies like this is of small moment to our citizens, it may not be amiss to restate that the forest service and city council have made arrangements to pay off the men as fast as possible. The sum of 30 cents an hour is the price paid for good service.

A fire broke out near White Point siding below the south side of Siskiyou tunnel Saturday and by Sunday afternoon reached Colestin and gave the summer resort and hotel a bad scare. The hotel was twice on fire but was saved from destruction. The campers, numbering between 50 and 100, became greatly alarmed and took No. 16 for the north. Those residing in Rogue river valley came home and those residing in northern California came to Siskiyou station on the north side of Siskiyou range pending an opportunity of returning home or awaiting events of the fire.

The Colestin fire did not destroy the picnic grounds, going on each side of them. It has gone on through to Gregory.

Mrs. Lindsey telephoned from from Lilyglan Tuesday that a fire had broken out three and a half miles north of that place in the Dead Indian timber belt. Ranger Somerville organized a crew of ranchers to fight it. The place is 25 miles east of Ashland.

A large fire is at work on Jackson creek, four miles from Jacksonville. Ranchers are fighting it.

The Anderson creek fire has covered an extensive territory and was reported under fairly good control.

The Wagner creek fire has covered a great amount of territory and finally reached the Ashland canyon fire. It has been extensively back-

fired and unless the wind today gives it another boost it should be considered under control, though very threatening.

R. J. Shaw was placed in charge of the feeding arrangements at Watson's cabin headquarters, leaving important work to do this service. On Monday Geo. T. Watson, of the 4th Regiment quartermaster staff, went to the scene with Co. B's military cooking outfit and hot meals were served to the workers, Mr. Watson being complimented on his ability for cooking "mulligan," the hungry men declaring it "just like mother used to make." The members of Co. B returned to Ashland last Thursday, and though not ordered out officially went to the scene and did good service. Capt. George C. Spencer had good control of them and the boys had just gone through the maneuvers at American Lake, which emphasized again the importance of team work. Councilmen Moore and Myer, of the light and power committee, were early on the scene guarding the pipe line and dams as well as fighting forest fires. Mayor Snell remained at the city hall to manage things from that end.

Monday at 11 o'clock, after a consultation between Mr. Gribble and citizens, the fire bell was rung and citizens were called to the plaza, where E. V. Carter explained the purpose and introduced Mr. Gribble, who explained the fire situation and the need of earnest men who feel a personal interest in the canyon and its value to the city. The business houses were all closed at one o'clock for the rest of the day and fully two hundred men went to the canyon and took a hand. Much effective work was done.

Four companies from the First Infantry, U. S. A., arrived at Medford Monday afternoon and were sent out to the Butte Falls fire line. Regular soldiers were sent there a week ago. The Cat hill fire on this side and the Mt. Pitt fire on the other side of the Cascades are the largest fires in southern Oregon.

A trip through Ashland canyon Monday afternoon as far as Long's Lodge shows that the effect of the fire on the scenic beauty of the canyon has not been nearly as serious as one would imagine. The most of the destruction by fire observed from the canyon road is immediately above the upper dam of the city light plant intake on the west branch of Ashland creek. Both sides of the canyon road were well scorched and the effect is plain to the eye of the traveler. The entire length of this particular fire line would probably be half a mile up the canyon. It stops a considerable distance this side of the road to Long's Lodge where the road crosses the creek three or four times in a very short distance, near which the forest ranger's tent has been stationed for a few seasons.

There is also a little mar farther up the mountain to the west from Watson's cabin. This is the total of scenic injury between the city park and Long's Lodge.

Another item that would likely become over-estimated would be the loss to the timber in the canyon. Though the forest fires covered a great acreage, few trees scorched by the fire were ruined. It requires a burn clear around a tree to stop the sap from coming up, and only a few trees were effected in this way. The underbrush was well burned out. In the deep parts of the canyon where underbrush had accumulated to a considerable extent, the fires were not enough to destroy some of the fir trees by burning out the tops and occasionally cooking the sap. Pine trees are seldom injured.

The fire started between the two municipal power plant dam sites Friday afternoon was the one that created the most excitement in Ashland. It was seen from town and spread rapidly. At 3:30 a systematic effort was made to organize a force of men with a view of putting it under control during that night and it was practically a success. Later in the evening more fires started in the canyon above Long's lodge and they proved to be the most serious fires of the season and the greatest ones Ashland canyon ever experienced, and which have received the constant attention of a large force of fire fighters ever since Friday evening and brought on the scene a company of United States cavalry Monday evening and will continue for some days to engage the attention of fire fighters.

Some of our citizens declare that the forest fires do as much good as injury, that the Indians burned the forests annually and that the pioneers believed the Indians' experience worth while. Yet all the students of the question from the scientific point of view, with the experience of the Indian and the pioneer in view, as well as the knowledge gathered from the older countries of Europe as well,

FIRE ALARM AGAIN CALLS FOR CANYON

Ashland Stores Close Until Tomorrow Night.

The forest fire situation in Ashland canyon has again assumed dangerous proportions. The fire alarm this afternoon brought business men to the plaza and it was decided to close the town up this afternoon and Thursday all day in order to again fight the fires. The danger is great.

declare that the Indian policy was all right from the Indian's point of view, founded on his simple habits and small necessities, but that it is a great mistake in a highly intensified use of natural resources, as huge masses of white civilization must use them. C. B. Watson, member of the Oregon Conservation Commission, and student of the subject, declares that the fires in the canyon have done great damage to the water supply and that we will find it out next year. He says the mass of fern, moss, fallen and decaying limbs, etc., make what is known as the forest floor, which for many years past has enriched the forest soil and made it possible to grow these great trees. It was the accumulation of this matter that has built up the conditions by which the forest was able to arise, and it is the saving of this matter that keeps the forest from being denuded. Mr. Watson declares that it will not require a great deal of research to demonstrate the value of conservation to any citizen that will take the time to convince himself. Mr. Watson is very earnest in the matter of controlling the fires and stamping them out. It is the underbrush, etc., that keeps the rain and snowfall in its place, otherwise the water would run off as it fell and be of small benefit. The question has its scientific side as well as its apparent side.

THE MOUNT PITT FIRE

The huge forest fire raging on the Klamath side of Mount Pitt extends over a distance of fifteen miles and keeps on gaining. It is being fought by forest rangers and federal troops from the Klamath end.

LATEST REPORT FROM BUTTE FALLS SECTION

Medford, August 24.—Supervisor M. L. Erickson, who has charge of the fight against the big Cat hill fire near Butte east and north of Butte Falls, telephoned yesterday and stated that he had seven miles along the east side of the big fire under control. He says that he has had portions of the fire under control several times; but that the high winds sent firebrands across the fire lines and caused the fires to break out again.

He has more than eighty men working under his direction besides the soldiers that reached Lodgepole last evening. The fires in this section extend from Mount McLoughlin north to Rustler's peak.

The fires on the Applegate river are still growing and there are but four men, outside of the volunteers, on that fire. More men will reach there today. The fire is about a mile and a half from Rush postoffice.

Yesterday was the first day the wind has not blown hard in the mountains since the fires started and Mr. Buck believes from reports that came in yesterday afternoon and evening that conditions will be a great deal better by night.

A party consisting of Rev. A. A. Holmes and Mrs. Holmes, Miss Stella Holmes, Miss Ida Garman, Charles Hoover, Miss Mabel Collins, J. L. Symonds and Rev. W. T. Matlock returned to Medford last evening from a three weeks vacation trip at Crater lake.

Last Sunday the party was at Prospect and they were intercepted by Ranger West and asked to fight the forest fire which was sweeping the country at that point. Mr. Holmes says he enjoyed his experience and that he would not have missed it for anything.

All the shovels and axes in Medford and Ashland have been bought by the forest service and yesterday Assistant Forester C. J. Buck was compelled to telegraph to Grants Pass for a large order of those implements.

Emil Britt of Jacksonville, who keeps the weather records, states that there is no probability of rain before the middle of September and that some years the first rain does not come until October.

WANTED—To buy chickens. Phone 228R.

TIMBER CLAIM FOR SALE—By owner, cut four million yellow pine, extra quality, N. E. quarter of section 28, township 40, south of range 2 west, W. M., Jackson county. Address 95 West 8th St, room 2, Eugene, Oregon. 8-24-4

Many infant prodigies grow up into adult prodigals.

CENTRAL POINT

Herald, August 18.]

Col. J. W. Hicks of Ashland came down last week, captured S. M. Nealon, and together they visited Gold Hill in the interests of the coming reunion of the old soldiers in that city.

H. C. Bateham, one of the directors of the Grants Pass fair, which will be held October 5, 6, 7, was here yesterday boosting for that excellent show. The best exhibition yet given in the valley is promised this season at Grants Pass.

Mrs. Lottie Odell, wife of E. J. Odell of Agate, died at her home near that place Monday evening at 6:30, aged 36 years. Mrs. Odell was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Hotchkiss of Medford. The funeral services and burial took place on Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Rev. T. M. Jones officiating.

J. T. Williams, who lives at the mouth of Little Butte creek, on Rouge river, caught a 45 pound salmon last Friday morning. The big fellow measured 48 inches in length and is the finest specimen taken from Rogue river in many years. Mr. Williams says the river is full of fish and that good sport may be had at any point along the stream.

M. F. Hanley has bought 39 acres of the Prall ranch 1½ miles south of town on the Medford road. The land is mostly Bear creek bottom of the first quality and is in alfalfa. The exact figures in the deal have not been made public, but it is understood the price was within \$200 an acre. Mr. Hanley will make extensive improvements on the place within the next few months.

Ed Hanley and Evan Reames are starting this week for Alaska, where they will spend a few weeks hunting big game and enjoying a real outing in the wilds of that delightful summer region. Mr. Hanley is a pioneer of that country, having spent several years there in early boom days, when he drove much stock in over the trails into the interior to supply the miners with meat. He also engaged extensively in mining while in the country.

Frank Hawk has just finished a light model wheelbarrow which was built to the order of Harry Harvey, who will use the wheelbarrow on a pleasure trip he contemplates making to Crater Lake. The barrow is built on a pneumatic bicycle wheel with ball bearings and weighs only 20 pounds. Mr. Harvey will carry his blankets and a light camping outfit on the unique vehicle, and expects a most enjoyable outing. He says he first thought of taking a pack horse to carry his camp outfit, but fearing the horse would wander from camp and thus cause him untold vexation and delay, he conceived the wheelbarrow plan of locomotion.

A quiet wedding was solemnized at high noon last Sunday, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lewis in this city, when their niece, Miss Gladys Kindel became the bride of Mr. Kenneth Beebe. The ceremony was performed by Rev. K. H. Sickafosse of the Christian church. Following the ceremony an elegant dinner was served. The groom took the O. A. C. course in horticulture and is superintendent of the Woodlawn orchards.

The biggest thing ever seen in this valley in the way of a plow was received last Friday by the Rogue River Land & Irrigation Co., for use in breaking up and reclaiming the desert east of this city. The plow is a 10-gang machine of 14-inch bottoms and will turn 140 inches, or nearly 12 feet of furrows every trip across the field. The motive power is furnished by a 110 H. P. traction engine, and the entire ponderous machine weighs more than 10 tons. The cost of the machine at factory was about \$5000. Besides the regular gang plow a subsoil attachment also goes with the outfit, and after the surface of the ground is plowed the engine is attached to the subsoiler which is simply a heavy bar of steel which is set at such an angle that it will sink into the hardest ground to a depth of two feet or more, thoroughly stirring the subsoil and breaking any spots of hardpan that may be encountered. The company is spending a large amount of money on the desert which will soon blossom as the rose.



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FIRE AT ASEBSTOS

Settlers living near Asbestos, at the head of Evans creek and north of Woodville are in danger of losing their homes in a forest fire which is raging in that vicinity. One of the settlers came to Medford yesterday and asked the forest service for help, stating that the people there were exhausted and that help was urgently needed.

Another new fire was reported yesterday afternoon at Three Mile creek on the east side of the range. This fire has burned over three hundred acres and threatens to become one of the largest fires in the forest. Fourteen men are at this fire and more will be hired if they can be secured.

Common sense is uncommon.

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