

NORTHWEST FIRE LOSSES FOUND LOW

A Remarkable Number of Blazes Are Caused by Lightning.

Portland, Or.—Fires in the 22 national forests of Oregon and Washington this year have not been as destructive as the news of the last two weeks seemed to indicate, the United States forest service concluded when summary reports were compiled.

Of 995 reported fires, 783 of them burned over less than one-quarter acre.

Fires burning areas ranging from a quarter acre to ten acres numbered 175. There were 37 fires which burned over more than ten acres. Of the 37, some were very large, bringing the total acreage burned over to date to 75,205.

A remarkable number of the fires was caused by lightning; 731 of the 995. Man is held accountable for the remaining 264 fires. The distribution among human agencies follows: Campers, 93; smokers, 82; railroads, 29; miscellaneous, 60. The number of fires caused by smokers has been increasing from year to year, and last year there were more such fires than there were of blazes left by campers; the figures for this year to August 10 show campers' fires leading. Sixty-one convictions for carelessness with fire or for criminal intent have been obtained.

Rainier national forest has had more fires (105) this year than any of the other 21 national forests. The Columbia is second with 84. The Deschutes and the Mount Hood forests each have had 83 fires.

COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT APPROVED

Spokane, Wash.—Members of the irrigation and reclamation committee of the house of representatives, United States congress, gathered in Spokane Sunday to begin a four-day personal investigation of the water resources and land areas connected with the Columbia basin irrigation project.

All who were seen said they were in sympathy with continued reclamation and that the ordinary time checks on projects of great magnitude, which are naturally slow-moving, would eliminate the danger of overproduction. One representative stated it.

Eighteen United States representatives, some accompanied by their wives and families, gathered here. It was the largest group of congressmen ever entertained at one time in this state.

The Columbia basin plan is to put 6,000,000-acre feet of water into storage, to deliver as needed to 1,883,000 acres of rich land, according to experts. This reclamation will mean the creation of assets that will equal the importance of adding another state to the union, it is confidently believed.

JUDGE GARY SUCCUMBS

Head of United States Steel Corporation Dies.

New York.—Elbert H. Gary, one of America's industrial giants, died in his home here Monday at the age of 80.

Judge Gary, who was chairman of the board of the United States Steel corporation, had been away from his desk for about three weeks because of a decline in his health, but his death was a surprise and shock to his many friends in the financial district.

He was one of the world's leading financiers, having organized the United States Steel corporation in 1901, with the backing of J. Pierpont Morgan. He had been head of the big company ever since. Because of the effect of Judge Gary's death on the stock market, news that he had died was withheld for hours and did not become known until some time after the stock market opened at 10 o'clock. There was an immediate decline in the price of United States Steel stock.

Two California Bankers Are Arrested.

Bishop, Cal.—W. W. Watterston and M. Q. Watterston, guiding spirits of five Inyo county banks, which recently closed their doors, were arrested on warrants charging theft and embezzlement on 43 counts.

Anaortes Man Heads State Elks.

Aberdeen, Wash.—Lee Carroll, Anaortes, Friday was elected and installed as president of the Washington State Elks' association at the final business session of the annual convention here.

Osage River Flood Damage \$1,000,000.

Tuscumbia, Mo.—A million dollars' damage has been done in 10 counties of the Osage river valley, it was estimated as high water continued to sweep through the counties.

Matter of History

Confirmed by Coin

Coins do more than throw corroborative light on historical events. In some cases they actually supply data missing in the records which would otherwise remain in the limbo of forgotten things.

There is an old tradition of the Christian church, for instance, that the Apostle Thomas, familiarly known as Doubting Thomas, went to India as a missionary. The Apocrypha contains a book known as the "Acts of St. Thomas," in which it is revealed how the disciple converted one Gondapharnes, king of India, to Christianity.

As far as history can tell us, no such king of India ever lived. But in 1835 coins were found in northwestern India bearing the name Gondapharnes. Thus the tradition was corroborated and the apocryphal book found to contain the truth.

Shortly afterward other coins of the same period were discovered, lacking the name, but bearing a new inscription. This time it was "Great Saviour, King of Kings." No numismatist will go so far as to declare that this inscription refers to the king's conversion, but it may very likely be so.—Crawford Wyman in the Saturday Evening Post.

Pumice Deposits Due to Volcanic Activity

Nebraska possesses extraordinary deposits of pumice. Virtually the whole state is overlaid by natural deposits of this substance, in all stages of consolidation, from fairly solid rock to the finest dust.

Pumice is a volcanic product, and its presence in such large quantities in Nebraska and some adjoining states is taken to be evidence of former volcanic activity in that region. It is produced by the rapid expansion of gases in lava, due to sudden release of pressure, which either forms a very light, porous rock or may completely shatter the lava into dust, in which state it may be transported great distances by wind and deposited in drifts.

In the western portion of Nebraska there are impure masses of it, probably deposited in this way, 100 feet or more in depth. Nearly all the pumice or the volcanic ash used in the United States is made into polishing powder or incorporated in abrasive soap. Other uses are the manufacture of semi-fused filling brick or mineral wool or cement and of a cheap kind of glass.

Literary Anecdote

There was nothing that James Whitcomb Riley liked better than a cup of weak tea. Once when he and Edgar Wilson (Bill) Nye were eating chocolate soldiers after an arduous stage of lecturing, the talk turned to fame.

"The keystone of every famous author's glory is one character," said Nye. "Shakespeare achieved fame through inventing the character of Falstaff. Dickens is deservedly well known for his Samuel Weller. Thackeray created Becky Sharp. Now then, Mr. Riley, from what character of your invention did you obtain your reputation?"

"I got it Orphan Annie," answered Riley, who had not had more than three cups of diluted tea since dinner time.—Akron Beacon-Journal.

Important in Commerce

"Ramie" is the name of a fiber-producing plant and of the fiber produced thereby. The fiber is one of the strongest and finest known. The plant is widely grown in China, more or less in India and has been grown in California on a small scale. From China and India it is exported to various countries of Europe and to the United States. The fiber is employed in the manufacture of nets, cordage, gas mantles, underwear, canvas, dress goods, etc., and for embroideries. Some of the woven fabrics composed of it closely resemble those made of flax linen in various characteristics, including appearance.

Elephants That Burn

Mixed metaphors are not by any means uncommon. Sometimes they are merely inept; occasionally they are ludicrous. In England the other day the Salford city council emitted a gem.

The question under municipal debate was whether Salford wanted to have an exhibition hall. There seems to have been a considerable difference of opinion. Said one speaker: "I do not want the council to get their fingers burnt with a white elephant!"

Presidents for a Day

In March, 1849, the United States had three successive Presidents on as many successive days. James A. Polk ended his term March 3. President-elect Zachary Taylor refused to be inaugurated on Sunday, and he did not take office until March 5. As neither administration was in office, David Rice Atchison of Kentucky, president pro tem. of the senate, served in the interim.

Appropriated Motto

"Ich dien" is a German phrase, meaning literally "I serve." It was originally the motto of John, the blind king of Bohemia, who served in the army of the king of France and was slain in the battle of Crecy, 1346. The victorious English army was led by Edward the Black Prince, who appropriated the motto, which since that time has been the motto of the prince of Wales.

TAX REDUCTION PLAN HIT BY DEFENSE ITEM

Increases Required to Meet Expenses of Army and Navy Program.

Rapid City, S. D.—A jar to the tax reduction plan by the next congress was given in the increased budget approved by President Coolidge, but the blow is not expected to be fatal to the hopes of taxpayers.

Recalling the surplus of \$600,000,000 piled up by the treasury during the fiscal year ending last June 30, administration leaders who have called here this summer have announced plans for a tax slash of at least \$300,000,000.

However, Director Lord of the budget seemed rather dubious about the tax reduction plan after relating that after the tentative budget just submitted to the president called for a material increase over last year and slightly more than the government expenses. The increases were required, he said, to meet expenses of the army and navy building program and for public building construction.

The new budget provides for the building of all ships authorized by congress, including sufficient funds to carry out the first year's work in all instances. Pending the Geneva naval disarmament congress which ended in failure, the president and the budget director had been reluctant to commend money for further construction.

So far as tax reduction is concerned there is no indication that the president will attempt to stop the movement for a slash which he believed heretofore was possible.

The present favorable outlook for a good grain crop and fair prices, especially for livestock, "will permit many borrowers to put their loans in good order," Eugene Mayer of the federal farm loan board reported to President Coolidge.

"I was happy to tell Mr. Coolidge," he said, "after a trip through the northwest from the Twin Cities to the Pacific coast, that reports of this year's crop outlook have not been exaggerated."

Find Poor Pupils Eager as Rich to Study Music

That the school children of the poor are just as eager to learn music as their more wealthy schoolmates is shown in a survey of school music in the high schools of Springfield, Mo., by the Conn Music Center. Three per cent more pupils were found to be studying music in the Reed Junior high school, located in the poorer section of Springfield, than in the Jarrett Junior high, in the more wealthy section of the city.

The survey also brought out that in Springfield high schools, pupils studying music are twenty-five per cent more efficient in their school work than children who have never taken music lessons.

Baptist Church

Sunday school at 9:45 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m., topic: "A Life Ambition." Young Peoples Meeting at 7 p. m., followed by song and praise service at 8 p. m., topic: "A Revival!" Young People's Prayer Meeting every Tuesday evening at 8 p. m. Mid-week service every Thursday evening at 8.

Church of Christ

Bible school at 10 a. m. We are having some very interesting studies on the life of David.

Morning worship and the Lord's Supper at 11 a. m. The sermon will be "The Need of Union." Does the church in Athens need a new version of her task? Everyone welcome.

31 Years Ago

August 14, 1896

Judge Lowell yesterday granted Mary Hoyt Soit a decree of divorce from Jack Hoyt Soit upon the grounds of habitual drunkenness. The court also ordered that the defendant be ordered to pay hereafter to the Indian agent in trust for the maintenance of the plaintiff, one half his income from the lands allotted to him upon the Umatilla reservation.

Grandpa Froome drove over to Weston yesterday.

Those who are spending these warm days in cool mountain breezes at Cold Springs, have christened the resort "Camp Bryan." Everyone up there believes in Bryan and silver. Recently they had a ratification meeting and Professor F. J. Van Winkle delivered the address. Mr. VanWinkle is fast gaining an enviable reputation as an orator.

Lee Mitchell has been very ill with fever at his Walla Walla home.

George Lienallen's harvest crew laid off yesterday to go to Pendleton to take in the circus.

Dave and Bill Russell and B. T. Bailey, the gambler, engaged in a fistie bout Tuesday. It furnished some excitement for the onlookers. Scraps never come singly in Athena, so shortly after "Cutty" Carden and Austin Foss is one of Athena's rustling young men. Austin never allows his work to drive him, but always drives his work. This season he purchased a binder, and with his four-horse team, assisted by a small boy, has cut and bound an immense quantity of grain.

Mrs. Barnett and children were among the Athena people who attended the circus in Pendleton yesterday. "The cat came back" so did a band of horses which Deputy Marshal Gholson drove out of town several times this week.

The Rosenzweig family returned from Saling's camp Monday. They brought with them 58 quarts of luscious huckleberries.

T. J. Kirk's steam threshing outfit averages from 800 to 1000 sacks per day.

Misses Hattie Luna and Ruby Callender drove to Helix today.

A party of little folks consisting of Winnie Fischer, Kittie, Alta and Carrie Sharp, Edna and Eva Hill, spent Wednesday at the pleasant Rigby home, in the country.

Louie Bergevin is threshing on his farm south of town, and his wheat is turning out well. Wednesday some part of his big engine broke, necessitating a trip to town for repairs.

The Pacific Coast Elevator in the north part of town is undergoing repairs. Angus Gillis and R. A. Carden are doing the carpenter work.

Patrick Dowling and John Korke, brothers-in-law, residing near Walla Walla, undertook to settle an old feud with shot-guns Saturday last. The result is that Dowling is laid up with a seriously wounded arm.

William Bernard, of Weston, was in town Sunday. He brought his phonograph over and captured a quantity of small change. He left Monday by team, for Wallowa county.

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