

THE WEATHER

Tonight and tomorrow—Fair and warm.

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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FIFTH YEAR.

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## 327 ARE DEAD AND MISSING AS RESULT OF NORTHWEST FOREST FIRES HOPE FOR SAFETY OF A PARTY OF 85 MEN ABANDONED

SPOKANE, Wash., Aug. 25.—Here is the forest fire situation, as reported from the burned districts today.

Estimated property losses, \$20,000, divided as follows: At Wallace, Idaho, \$1,000,000; Coeur d'Alene mines, \$250,000; railroads, \$3,000,000; settlers in three states, \$750,000; timber, \$15,000,000.

Grand total number of dead and missing, 327.

Forest rangers, 85 under Joe Halm and 100 under F. A. Fern, not heard from.

Conditions in the St. Joe country are the worst on the Coeur d'Alene reserve.

Two relief expeditions under Rangers Fisher and Colcomb start out to penetrate forest.

Fires around Wallace and other canyon towns is out, due to lack of material.

Improvement reported in Montana.

Liberal relief contributions are pouring into Wallace.

Boise sends \$2000.

Forest Ranger Watson reaches Koonkia after desperate trip to get relief for party of six hemmed in by fire near Selway.

In mountains between Lolo Pass and St. Maries 180 reported to be surrounded.

Forester W. B. Greeley at Missoula estimates the total loss of life at 75; thinks many reports inaccurate.

SPOKANE, Wash., Aug. 25.— of Idaho and Montana.

Hope for the safety of a party of 85 men in the forestry service was practically abandoned this morning, according to a special dispatch from Wallace, Idaho. The party was headed by Joe Halm of Spokane and they were fighting the fires at the headwaters of the St. Joe river. No word has been received from them for three days, in spite of desperate efforts to get into communication with the party.

Forestry experts here and at Wallace today estimate the loss in timber alone at \$15,000,000. Scores of miles of the finest timber in the west were destroyed.

Wallace reports that a strong wind is springing up again, but that there is no danger there, for the reason that all the timber has been burned.

For the first time since the great fires started, Spokane today is enveloped in a heavy pall of smoke, which obscures the sun.

SPOKANE, Wash., Aug. 25.—Supervisor Weigle, stationed at Wallace, has announced that 94 fire fighters in his employ have met death while fighting the forest fires

## CUMMINGS TO PROMULGATE NATIONAL PRIMARY LAW

DES MOINES, Ia., Aug. 25.—United States Senator Albert B. Cummings of Iowa will become the promulgator of a bill providing for the nomination of the nation's president and vice-president by direct primary when the next congress convenes. He gave out a statement today defining his views on the subject and explaining that he considers such a movement the natural outcome of the progressive tendencies now asserting themselves in the re-

### ESTRADA PROCLAIMED NICARAGUA PRESIDENT

MANAGUA, Aug. 25.—Juan J. Estrada, provisional president of Nicaragua, arrived here today and was proclaimed president. His coming was the signal for the restoration of order, the suppression of the mobs and the imprisonment of the rioters.

The election of Estrada as the regular president at the coming election is conceded by his enemies. He will devote the first two years of his administration to reconstruction.

### CONSERVATION CONGRESS TO TALK FIRE-FIGHTING

ST. PAUL, Aug. 25.—The program of the National Conservation congress is to be again changed. This time the change will be made in order to allow the discussion of fire protection at the meeting. The change is a direct result of the disastrous forest fires which have swept the forests of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and California for the past few days.

## CLUB'S AID IS GIVEN TO HOSPITAL

Commercial Club Formally Endorses Proposal of Sisters of Providence to Erect a \$100,000 Hospital in This City—Committee Appointed to Act.

Formal indorsement of the proposal of the Sisters of Providence to erect a \$100,000 hospital in Medford on condition of a \$10,000 bonus being raised, was unanimously given by the Medford Commercial club Wednesday evening and a committee composed of Drs. Piekal, Porter, Conroy, Reddy and G. Putnam was appointed to undertake the raising of the necessary fund.

The proposal made by the Mother Provincial was presented by Dr. Piekal. The Sisters agree to construct a \$100,000 hospital containing 75 beds for patients, in addition to nearly as many hospital attendants, providing \$10,000 is raised to purchase a site. The Sisters desire several acres of ground with a dwelling house upon it in which a temporary hospital will be opened at once and in which the sisters will reside while superintending the construction of a hospital. Three or four sites are under consideration in various parts of the town, among them being the George Lindley residence, with five acres of ground.

Dr. Piekal stated that this would be the largest hospital in the state outside of Portland. He enumerated the many advantages that would accrue to the community from having such a hospital, and urged that the club do its utmost to aid the enterprise as one of the most worthy ever presented to the club members. Dr. Porter spoke along the same line, as

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## NEW HOME FOR LOCAL BOOSTERS

Commercial Club Holds Important Meeting—Are Soon to Move to the Natatorium—"Gasoline Gang" Organized to Work for Upbuilding.

Securing of new quarters for the Commercial club in the new Natatorium building, the appointment of a committee to call upon the city council to secure the removal of telegraph poles from business streets and the completion of pavement upon streets connecting with county highways; the appointment of a large membership committee to be known as the "Gasoline Gang," to work for the upbuilding of the club, and the community, and the admission of ten new members were the main features at an important meeting of the Medford Commercial club Wednesday evening.

The new quarters offered by the Natatorium management consist of a room 25x60 feet in length, for which the club pays a rental of \$60 per month. The quarters will be lighted and steam-heated free. The quarters were best selected because they were the party offered to the club, and partly as an appreciation of the efforts of the citizens of the town in building such a creditable institution as the Natatorium. Among the advantages, besides suitable quarters, will be the proximity to the many forms of diversion for members provided by the Natatorium management.

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## MANY DIE IN WRECK OF TRAINS

Awful Scenes of Suffering Follow What Is Thought to Be Bungling of Brakeman—Only Four Thought to Have Escaped Out of Twenty Pullman Passengers.

The two women, unidentified. Bodies of six persons, believed to have been those of four women, a man and a child.

Missing:

- George Wilson, fireman No. 4.
- Two passengers, believed incinerated in wreckage.
- Fatally injured:
  - Clinton Davis, Montreal.
  - George Nelson, fireman No. 14, Battle Creek, Mich., scalped.
  - George Mitchell, engineer No. 14, Port Huron, Mich., head crushed.

DURAND, Mich., Aug. 25.—The bodies of six women, a man and a child were recovered early today from the blazing wreckage of the Chicago-Montreal express train on the Grand Trunk which was run down by passenger train No. 4 four miles east of here at midnight.

Several persons, some of them still alive, were believed to be in the wreckage at daybreak. Portions of bodies could be seen dropping into the fire, but the heat from the blazing coaches was so great that the

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## MURDERS ARE TRIAL AFTERMATH

Acquittal of Girl on Plea of "Unwritten Law" Leads Others to Take Hand and Slay Their Unfaithful Sweethearts.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Aug. 25.—Following the acquittal of Mamie McLaughlin on a plea of the "unwritten law" after shooting and killing Hugh Smith, whom she alleged betrayed and deserted her, the police here are facing an epidemic of man-killing by disappointed girls.

The first shooting occurred last night. Katherine Fretsch shot and killed Frank Mischler. The girl, who is expecting to become a mother, is confident that the jury will free her, because, she alleges, she was betrayed by Mischler, and the "unwritten law" gives her a right to avenge herself. She says she followed the McLaughlin case carefully and since the acquittal she felt she was at perfect liberty to kill Mischler.

The police say they have been informed that numerous young men have received letters from girls who say they have been wronged and threatening death as a punishment. Many men are hiring bodyguards.

Katherine Fretsch is a member of an old family here, and the shooting created a sensation. A speedy trial is promised.

The McLaughlin case was given considerable publicity. Members of the Era club, one of the most exclusive women's societies of the south espoused the girl's cause and raised a fund for her defense.

## PROSPECT THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION BY FOREST FIRE

Interstate Commerce Commission May Have New Members.



A great legal battle is impending before the interstate commerce commission when the representatives of more than a hundred railroads doing business east of the Missouri river will argue in favor of their plan to raise freight rates. While the commission is in session one of the most important things that will be talked about by the general public will be the probable appointment of Chairman Martin A. Knapp to a place on the new commerce court provided for by the last session of congress. It is known that President Taft has Mr. Knapp under consideration for this important judicial appointment, and it is believed that he will accept the place if it is tendered to him. The appointment of Judge Knapp to membership in the new court will make two vacancies in the interstate commerce commission. The term of Commissioner Francis M. Cockrell will expire on Dec. 31, 1910. He is not slated for reappointment. Probably no man in the United States has a more comprehensive knowledge of transportation problems than Judge Knapp. In point of service he is the oldest member of the interstate commerce commission. He was first appointed in 1891 and reappointed in 1897, 1902 and 1908. His present term will expire on Dec. 31, 1915. Since 1898 he has been chairman of the commission. The rate hearing will be held in New York city.

## SHERMAN HAS HAD ENOUGH; THE SIMPLE LIFE FOR HIM

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Aug. 25.—Vice-President James B. Sherman has had enough of politics and will seek the more peaceful paths of retirement as soon as he has lived through his present incumbency. He has steadfastly refused to make this statement himself, evidently not wishing to be directly quoted, but it is learned from some of the directors of the Northern New York Trust company, who are close to Sherman, that he is making plans in accordance with the retirement idea.

The director from whom the retirement plan emanated was positive in his assertion that it was positive.

## \$500 THAT ROAD IS A BLUFF

Dr. J. F. Reddy and Colonel Frank Ray Make a Wager Over Incorporation of Grants Pass & Western Railway by Southern Pacific Officials.

Colonel Frank Ray and Dr. J. F. Reddy have wagered \$500 as the result of the incorporation of the Grants Pass & Western railroad by officials of the Southern Pacific. Colonel Ray says the company intends to build the railroad. Dr. Reddy says it is simply another bluff to scare away real builders, and each back up their assertions with the hard coin.

Colonel Ray says: "The Southern Pacific people are the natural developers of this section. It is their territory. This country today is what they have made it. We owe the valley's prosperity to their efforts and

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## SOLDIERS FIGHT TO KEEP FLAMES WITHIN BOUNDS

Situation at Ashland Is Improved—Wind Dies Down, Allowing Fighters to Make Headway—Over \$1,500,000 Is Total of Damage Done.

With the situation at Ashland improved today, word has just reached the forestry officials in this city that the little town of Prospect, 52 miles from this city, on the road to Crater Lake, is in grave danger from the flames. One hundred soldiers and 50 civilians and rangers are now desperately fighting to keep the flames from jumping the middle fork of Rogue river into a heavy growth of brush and timber on the north side. Once the flames are across the small stream they will sweep everything before them, and there is no possible escape for the little village, with a population of about 150. Not alone is the village threatened, but there are many settlers in that neighborhood who are certain to lose their all. The fire will probably also invade the Crater Lake national park, which is heavily timbered. Wire communication has been shut off.

At Ashland there are some 300 worn-out business men and townspeople today who are thanking Providence that the high wind which prevailed yesterday afternoon died down at sunset and gave them a chance to check the flames which were sweeping toward the city. Today the situation is very much improved, but the city is by no means out of danger if the wind should again come up suddenly, as it did yesterday.

Last evening, with the coming of sunset, the wind which had blown hard all afternoon died down and gave the firefighters a chance. They began their onslaught in earnest and by daylight had the flames where they could do no damage, unless fanned to renewed fury by the wind. There is little prospect of a wind this afternoon and it is believed that all

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## MILITIA NOW FIGHTING FIRES

Forests Are Burning Near Gresham, Eleven Miles East of Portland—Ranchers Have Lost Their All—Much Wood Is Burned.

PORTLAND, Or., Aug. 25.—Seventy-five troops, members of the Oregon national guard, are battling with forest fires raging near Gresham, 11 miles east of Portland, today. According to information received this forenoon, the flames threatened to break beyond control. The soldiers had been fighting the fire since late yesterday afternoon, when they were called out for fire duty by Adjutant General Finzer. Several ranchers have lost their homes and several thousand cords of wood have been consumed along with standing timber.

Two hundred national guardsmen are being held in readiness for instant fire duty should their assistance be needed in any part of the state.

Portland today is shrouded in semi-darkness, a result of the heavy smoke which obscures the sun.