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fire season of 1919 in reporting fires and otherwise in the carrying on of the fire campaign with eminently satisfactory results," says the forest service statement.

The real test came during the destructive forest fires in the Clearwater forest in northern Idaho.

"Over 90 miles of ordinary telephone line was destroyed," the statement says. "The trees from which the wire was suspended were burned. Telephone communication was thus ended and the efficiency of the fire fighting organization correspondingly reduced. It took over a week to restore this communication."

In marked contrast was the effect of fires sweeping near wireless stations. With the flames dangerously near the Beaver Ridge station, the operator promptly transferred the entire equipment to a hastily constructed log raft which he put afloat on a nearby lake, navigated to a safe distance from shore and awaited the passing of the fire. After the front had passed he returned to shore, set up his equipment and within an hour was making a report of the cause of the interruption to communication.

While the sending radius of the sets used was not great, the receiving power was practically unlimited, the statement says, and wireless telegraph messages from many distant points were picked up. Perhaps the Beaver Ridge station was the first placed in the inter-mountain territory. It is stated, to know that Admiral Rodman's flagship had safely passed through the Panama canal. The forest service observer, there in the mountain wilderness, picked up the naval radio message announcing that fact.

Equipment of the experimental stations necessarily was rather crude in some respects. Field tents, with kerosene lanterns for illumination at night, afforded the only protection against the hot sun and the sometimes hotter wind, bearing the breath of the forest fires.

The chief practical difficulty encountered in the operation of the sets, it is declared, was the trouble experienced in obtaining sufficient power. After numerous experiments 270 dry batteries in series, were employed to furnish the requisite power. Gasoline engines, windmills, or various forms of hydro-electric power development are possibilities in this connection, it is asserted, depending on local conditions.

In a lifetime of seventy years the blood driven by a man's heart travels 4,292,000 miles.

BEYOND PUNY MAN

Before Volcanic Eruptions He Is Helpless.

Fact Made Manifest by the Indifference Which He Goes About His Business After the Disasters Have Passed.

Under no circumstances does man show to less advantage than when a volcano sends forth its torrents. As a figure of speech, man may consider himself to be a puny creature, but his working opinion of himself is by no means so small. In Java the earth groaned, and 15,000 people were wiped out of existence like so many ants. Perhaps only 10,000 were killed; perhaps it was 20,000. No one will ever know; no one will ever be concerned in the matter beyond the desire to arrive at a reasonable guess as to the loss of life. It will always be a vague question, to be discussed in round numbers. The Javanese who perished were indeed puny creatures, whose memory will be nothing more than a mathematical approximation.

As far back as man has a history there are details of volcanic eruption to testify to the haphazard, unworkmanlike fashion in which this world of ours was made. Pompeii and Herculaneum are household words to people who do not know where Vesuvius stands, but Stabiae, which was engulfed with them, seems to have escaped literary notice. Between Vesuvius and Pelee there are few who have any knowledge of the volcanic catastrophes that have suddenly overwhelmed thousands of human beings. Messina still lingers vague in the public mind, and Pelee, by reason of its comparatively close proximity, can be recalled, although one must ordinarily consult books of reference to determine whether the loss of life was 30,000 or 300,000. The Krakaton eruption, which took place in 1883 on the Sunda sea not far from the Kalut explosion, has been studied for years by scientists, but the fact that 30,000 persons were killed is an inconsequential detail. The Krakaton explosion is not remembered because it caused 30,000 deaths, but because it occasioned some puzzling atmospheric phenomena. Souffriere, a neighbor of Mount Pelee, has a long record of disaster, in which the mortality figures are usually overlooked. The fact that the explosion was heard in South America, while it was not heard at distances of 20 miles, is considered of much more importance. Souffriere, it may be recalled, was in eruption at the same time as Mount Pelee, but on this occasion it killed less than 1,500 persons. Perhaps for this reason it is never mentioned.

Before the volcano man stands helpless, and he recognizes this fact by his indifference. He buries his dead and goes about his business. As in the case of the Messina disaster, he only waits for the ground to cool, when he goes to work unperturbably raising his crops on the dangerous mountainside. In the meantime he tries to gratify his taste for information by studying volcanoes, but without any hope of being able to protect himself.

Norman Kings

The names of the early dukes of Normandy, as well as their family history, are known but very dimly; and it may be as well that it should be so, for their descent does not seem to have been as orthodox as it might. Be that as it may, the dukes appear, in such reliable annals of their times as we possess, under their Christian names only.

Thus, William I of England (William II of Normandy) was the illegitimate son of his predecessor, Robert the Devil, and of a young woman of Falaise, a tanner's daughter named Arletta, or (as some say) Herleva. The birth records of Robert's predecessors, Richard the Good, Richard the Fearless and William Long-Sword, were equally smirched; and of the parentage of Raoul or Rolla (christened "Robert"), the first duke of Normandy of whom we have any historical knowledge, we have no data whatever.

Neat Picture Framing

If you do your own picture framing, first of all be sure that the glass is immaculately clean next to the picture. Then next to the picture lay a piece of paper, then a layer of cardboard, and weight it while you drive in the tiny nails to the sides of the frame. The frame should be laid on something soft while this is being done, and against something hard while the nails are driven in. When the picture is placed, paste a piece of heavy paper over the back of the entire frame, and insert screw-eyes to hold the picture wire or cord. Pictures are always hung, now, flat on the wall.

Pine Stumps Worth Millions

Norway pine stumps obstructing agricultural development in northern Minnesota potentially are worth about \$300,000,000, according to the state auditor.

"Distillation of pine stumps is a problem of recent development," he said. "It is done to secure various ingredients of great commercial value. Experiments have proven pine stumps on cut-over northern Minnesota lands are exceptionally rich in rosin and adapted to the manufacture of turpentine, pine tar, pine creosote, pine oil and similar products. A company is being formed to establish a plant in the northern part of the state."

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STERN TESTS PROVE WORTH OF WIRELESS

MISSOULA, Montana, Jan. 14.—The wireless telephone, as a result of a season's tryout, during which the handicaps of "packing" instruments over a thirty-mile mountainous trail, the perils of passing through a forest fire, and numerous other tests were applied, has been pronounced a success for forest service work by officials of the service, according to an announcement from district headquarters here.

Hereafter, the announcement says, wireless telephone instruments are

to be a part of the standard equipment of the forest service.

At the direction of Chief Forester William S. Graves, tests of this plan of communication were initiated in this district last season by R. B. Adams, telephone engineer, who was assisted by Everett Cutting, United States signal corps standard sets were selected for the experiment, and one was placed in position, after almost interminable difficulties, at the Mud Creek ranger station, near the Lolo Hot Springs, Montana, and another at Beaver Ridge, Idaho.

While the air line distance between the two stations is but twelve miles, the distance by trail is thirty miles, much of it almost impassible even with pack animals. At last, however, after mishaps that included pack horses off the trail, packs displaced and rolling down mountain sides, and batteries and equipment all but lost, the antennae were hung high on convenient pines.

"The sets were used during the

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