Fires Take Awful Toll in New Ontario

THE LIST OF DEAD MAY REACH 200

ENGLEHART, Ont., July 30.—Forest fires, which for several days have been threatening the northernmost towns and the outlying settlements of northern Ontario culminated in a holocause which has wiped out entire communities, licked the fringe of larger towns, and levied a death toll which cannot at present be accurately computed, but which may range from 140 to 200, with scores of persons suffering from injuries, many of whom are likelyl to succumb. The loss of life so far reported is as follows:

At Nushka, a French-Canadian settlement, fifty-seven.

Cochrane, eighteen dead, thirty-four injured.

Matheson, thirty-four dead.

Iroquois Falls, fifteen dead and many injured.

Porquis Junction, number unknown, but the town wiped out with the exception of the station.

Ramore, fifteen dead. In addition to the known dead there are many outlying places, which, it is feared, will materially swell the list of victims when the rescue parties return. It is thought that at Tashota and Kowkash many prospectors may have been trapped.

And still the horror grows. This is a settlers' fire, and for the most part it has been confined to the clay belt. At a late hour today it was learned that seventeen houses had been burned on the ouetskirts of Timmins, but the fire had been stopped, and there is a thunderstorm brewing all over the north, and South Porcupine has been untouched outside the sawmill at the station, which has been burned.

The fire has covered most of the scattered settlements of the north many miles from a railway. It is most certain that there will be many more to add to this list as rescue parties go out to fetch them in.

At 6 o'clock tonight rain was falling heavily around Matheson, which should dampen down the fires, but nothing more than several days' rain would make the country safe from further conflagration. Nothing definite has been heard from the Transcontinental Railway, but it is feared that at Tashota and Kowkash prospectors may be trapped, although they are much better able to take care of themselves in an emergency than settlers.

The worst loss of life has been at the French-Canadian settlement out at Nushka. It was a flourishing village built along the railway tracks, and consisted of a score or so of dwellings and stores, al of frame structure, that would burn fiercely. It has been enveloped in smoke and flame for the past week from settlers' fires, and at last these got clear out of hand. There was no escape. Fires to the south cut them off fro mMatheson. A great sheet of flame barred their escape to the north, as Porquis Junction was aflame. No lake or river near, they were caught unprepared. Almost the entire population perished, running wildly to and fro as the flame closed in on them on every side. Matheson is totally destroyed with the exception of two houses, after a brave fight, and thirty-four bodies lie on the station platform awaiting burial.

The stories are almost too horrible to recount. One settler with ten children perished in one shack. The father was away and the mother went out to get help. She returned to find her husband and ten children enveloped in smoke and flames.

Cochrane is all burned with the exception of Second and Third Avenues, that is to say, all the principal part of the town has gone. Profiting by dire experience in 1911, the people of Cochrane hurried to the T. & N. O. tracks and the lake, but eighteen are reported dead and thirty-fuor injured in settlements outside.

Refugees destitute of food and clothing are pouring into the more organized towns to the south, the first draft of them having arrived in Englehart last night, 125 strng. Citizens of the town worked all night long, in the terrific heat, providing them with food and clothing, and they left for the south well nourished and clothed. They are being distributed to be taken care of at New Liskeard, Cobalt and Haileybury, and other points farther south.

At the great paper mills town at Iroquois Falls nothing remains but them ills and one store. There was a flourishing town of over a thousand people, but there was ample protection from loss of life in the Abitibi River and the cleared section around the mills. Thetownsite, however, was laid out on the most approved lines, and the loss must run into many thousands of dollars.

At Ramore, a small settlement of two or three houses in the centre of a farming district, it is reported that fifteen lives have been lost, and the bodies buried already.

The T. & N. O. adopted energetic measures in providing relief. They outfitted a relief train and sent out to all principal towns along the line hurried calls for the immediate needs of the refugees. Men and women at Cobalt, Haileybury and New Liskeard set to work to pile up necessaries with a will, so that when the relief train pulled up in the early afternoon the goods were piled up on the platform. Twobagge cars were loaded with goods,, and one refrigerator car was filled with ice and perishables.

The confusion and horror of this awful disaster is as yet undescribale. Devastating fires have swept hundreds of miles of bush north of here, and with it pioneer farms. Dozens of points have not been heard from yet, and it will be surprising if the loss of life is not much higher. Hundreds of settlers took to the rivers and lakes, but they are nearly destitute and in despair. The belt of flame did not extend south of Sesekinika, although the country is full f smoke. There have been some local thunderstorms, but nothing but several days' downpour would be sufficient to flood out the raging fires in the bush. Nothing elst can stop it. Until such time the extension of the area of fire is to be feared, and the ashes of the wrecked towns will not cease to smoulder.

ALL DANGER IS NOW PAST

Latest Despatches From Fire Zone—Statistics of Losses.

TORONTO, July 31.—The bush fires in norther Ontario are out and all danger is past according to information handed out at noon today by Premier Hearst and Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forest and Mines. Rain at the eleventh hour saved the day for the greater part of northern Ontario.

ENGLEHART, July 31.—Englehart today is thronged with refugees seeking safety from the forest fire which has swept over the Cochrane-Matheson district in the last few days claiming a toll of lives variously estimated at 150 to 200. The total number of deaths so far reported are 139, in Nushka 57, in Matheson 26, in Cochrane 20, in districts around these towns 36.

Fourteen bodies were found in Belleek and just west of Matheson. The whole town of Cochrane has been wiped out as have one town of Matheson and the village of Nushka. In addition to these the fire has seriously damaged Timmins, Porcupine, Ramore, Iroquois Falls, and the whole of the country surrounding these places.

YOUNG LADY'S NARROW ESCAPE

Fell to Track When Train Started—Traveller Saved Her

At ten minutes to one o'clock this afternoon, at the Canadian Northern station, an Oshawa young lady had a marvellous escape from death. She was on the step of the 1.50 C.P.R. train for the east and was handing a parcel of fruit to a friend on the station platform when the sudden jolt of the train caused her to fall between the rails and the platform of the station.

Mr. John J. Lightstone, 12 St. Cyril Avenue, Outremont, Que., a traveller sprang forward on the platform and held the young lady from falling on the rails. The train was brought to a stop and the young lady picked up in a condition of collapse. She was taken aboard the train, having recovered in a few minutes and being able to continue her journey.

Mr. Lightstone in saving her life suffered considerable injury to his knee.

EMMANUEL CH. WAS REOPENED

Improvements During Vacation—Services on Sunday Bishop Brewing.

Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church and rectory have during the past month undergone complete renovation and restoration The work has been carefully and systematically done, so that a vast improvement is discernible.

The decorations of the church interior are in complete harmony. All the colors in the decorations are represented in the stained windows of the chancel. The chancel is decorated in walnut, and cardinal. The walls of the nave are in light brown, the roof being in old ivory, and the woodwork in walnut. The stencilling of the walls is in green. The interior is electrically lighted and a new chandelier is to be installed in the center of the church.

The reopening services yesterday were conducted by Rev. Bishop Brewing, who preached two excellent sermons. His morning subject was—"The Kingdom of God"—what it is and where it is. He showed that it is within. The Bishop explained how Britain solved the problem of the kingdom by adding colonies and making them an integral part of the Empire. His evening address was on—"Heroes of Faith." The congregation and committee were congratulated on the work done in the church and rectory. The collections of the day were very large.

Capt. (Rev.) Thos. Dodds, chaplain of the 155th Battalion preached in Bridge Street Methodist Church yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. David Price left today to visit their son, Mr F. E. Price, manager of the Molson's Bank, at Chesterville.

BRITISH GUN FIRE CAUSES FEARFUL CARNAGE AMONG HUNS

Enemy Suffers Terrific Losses in the Last Two Days Along the Somme--Counter Attacks Everywhere Repelled.

BRITISH DRIVE OFF ZEPPELIN.

LONDON, July 31.—A British admiralty announcement says a Zeppelin appeared off the east coast this morning but was attacked and driven off before any damage was done.

BRITISH POSTS ADVANCED DURING NIGHT.

LONDON, July 31.—A despatch from Sir Douglas Haig reports that as the result of local encounters, British posts have advanced at points north of Bazentin-le-Petit. The British passed the night in improving thep ositions pained yesterday.

RUSSIANS SWEEP ALL BEFORE THEM.

LONDON, July 31.—On both wings of the present Russian line of attack Gen. Brusiloff's armies made further important headway during the last twenty-four hours. As a result the city of Stanislau, in southeasern Galicia, the converging point of five strategic railways, is closely menaced with envelopment by the Russian left flank, while the right wing in its advance on Kovel, the great Volhynian railway centre, has broken through the Teuton first lines on the Kovel-Rohitche sector and is now vogorously pushing the pursuit of the retreating defenders. In the centre, too, where Lemberg, capital of Galicia, is the Russian objective, further progress was made by the army of General Sakharoff. On the whole 150mile front, from the east of Kovel down to the region just south of the Dniester, the Germans and Austrians continue on the defensive, stubbornly fighting for every inch of ground.

In yesterday's fighting the Russians took 21 officers and 940 men, among them many Germans, and captured four guns and four machine guns.

The total number of Teuton prisoners taken in the first half of the Russian summer campaign just closing is placed at 350,000 by a semi-official estimate given out in the Russian capital.

BATTLING UNDER INTENSE HEAT.

LONDON, July 31.—Despatches from British headquarters say the French and British soldiers made two days' attack in sweltering midsummer heat. The first real hot wave of the season struck northern France on Saturday night. Fearful carnage is declared to have been wrought on the Germans by the British gun fire owing to the masses of Germans concentrated under the British bombardment before the infantry attacked.

FOE'S TERRIBLE LOSSES AT MONICU.

PARIS, July 31.—The French War Office says violent German attacks along the Somme around Monicu and Hem Woods last night were checked with terrific losses to the enemy. The French troops are consolidating and strengthening positions won yesterday north of the Somme in a sweep forward which took the German position along nearly a four-mile front.

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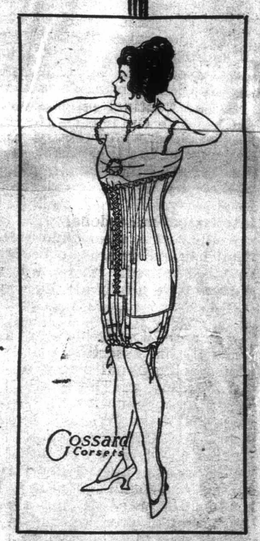

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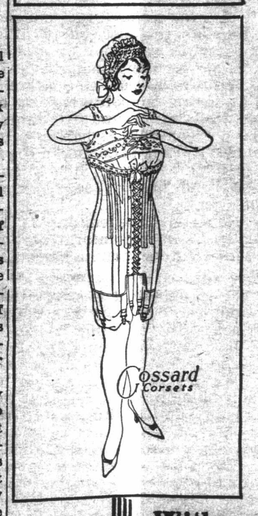

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