

Thessalon river, and worked its way west into the old cutting around Bruce Mines, and east to Blind river, where it reached some old saw-log cutting made by a French-Canadian named Salvoil. Continuing east along the shore it reached the mouth of the Serpent, where it destroyed a local mill owned by Lauzon. Here it met fresh fuel in the old cuttings and continued east to the Spanish and up that stream for many miles, almost the entire southern slope of the Killarney mountain being swept over from White Fish west to Collin's Inlet.

While this fire was burning, a fiercer fire was, in August of the same year, working its way west from the west arm of Lake Nipissing, and the two finally met somewhere in the valley of the Wanapitei.

This was, however, but a small fire compared with the one which followed it in 1871. The fire of 1864 followed the dry, moss-covered rocks and small pine ridges, but when it struck a deep swamp or muskeg it stopped or smoldered until it was revived by high winds or found fresh fuel in some of the old timber cuttings. During the following six years winds and storms levelled the dead timber and piled windfalls around the skirts of swamps and muskegs.

The summer of 1871 was exceedingly dry and hot, and hence very favorable for the fires, and at many points along the north shore from French river to Kaministiquia, on Lake Superior, fires started, swept over the dead timber and brûlé of 1864, destroying swamp barriers that saved the pineries six years before. Clouds of smoke, tipped with a fringe of flame, swept from one hill-top to another. Lakes, rivers and streams formed no barrier or protection. Township after township to the south of the French was swept over and millions of pine destroyed. The fire swept up the French along the west shore of Lake Nipissing and up the Sturgeon; then,

swinging around westerly, it crossed the Wanapitei and continued to the head waters of the Spanish, up the Vermilion and west to the headwaters of the Mississagi and down that stream for over fifty miles. This fire swept with fierce energy over an area of over 2,000 square miles, leaving blackened and giant pines to be a reminder for over half a century of the immense destruction there and then caused, when a virgin forest was converted into a barren and desolate wilderness.

During the same summer many smaller fires broke out in different parts along the north shore of Lake Superior, around Port Arthur and points east. Exploration surveys were then being made for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and many fires were started through carelessness on the part of the men employed. An axeman on Mr. David Beatty's exploration party started a fire by burning out a wasp's nest on the line east of Red Rock, on the Nipigon river, which Mr. Beatty was unable to quench. He and his party were forced to flee for their lives and take refuge in a stream, but unfortunately six of his packers were overtaken and perished in the flames.

Probably a more extensive fire than that of 1871 was the fire of (probably) 1855, which was started by an Indian on Lady Evelyn lake, while burning over a blueberry patch. This fire burned easterly to the shores of Lake Timiskaming, up the Montreal river to its source, and westerly along the height of land for over two hundred miles to near Michipicoten, on Lake Superior.

Surveyors Salter, Gilmour and Sinclair, in their reports (1867) of the baseline from Michipicoten to the Montreal river, describe vast areas of burned-over territory, and from the trunks of trees then standing they were able to state that the country at one time contained a heavy growth of pine. I can do