

PROBS Fresh northwesterly winds; fair; becoming somewhat cooler.

MONDAY MORNING JULY 31 1916—TWELVE PAGES

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200 LIVES LOST, TOWNS DESTROYED IN BIG NORTHERN ONTARIO BUSH FIRE

Woods Solid Wall of Flame Along Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Line Between Matheson and Cochrane, a Stretch of Nearly Fifty Miles, and Extending as Far West as Hearst on the Transcontinental Line --- Government and City Organizing Relief Measures --- "Terrible Destruction of Life and Property," Wires Mayor of Englehart

ALLIES HAVE MADE FRESH ADVANCE IN SOMME REGION ONTARIO'S NORTHLAND FIRE-SWEPT LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY GREAT

Dozen Towns and Villages Burned, Including Cochrane and Matheson—Two Hundred Lives Lost and Property Damage Will Reach Millions—Three Separate Fires Ravaging Big Areas.

FIRE BULLETINS

Early this morning definite word was received that 183 bodies had been recovered.

Northern Ontario is being swept by the biggest bush fire in its history. South from Cochrane, and as far west as Hearst, on the Transcontinental line, the flames have engulfed thousands of dollars' worth of timber land, and wiped out at least a dozen towns and villages. According to reliable information 200 settlers have perished.

Cochrane and Matheson are said to have been wiped out. Between them lie the settlements of Iroquois Falls, Nushka, Watahbeag and Kelo. The flames swept this territory, claiming scores of victims in each place.

Indications are that the loss of life will reach 200.

The fire is reported raging all along the line of the T. N. O. between Matheson and Cochrane. Both these towns are destroyed, with towns along the line, including Iroquois Falls. A "terrible destruction of life and property" is mentioned in telegram of appeal for aid sent by Mayor Warratt of Englehart to Mayor Church.

The main fire zone extends from Matheson to Cochrane on the T. N. O., and west to Hearst on the Transcontinental. It is about 47 miles south of Matheson. It is also seriously damaged. Reports which do not reveal the full extent of the losses show that in Matheson 60 persons perished; in Nushka, 15 miles north, 27 lives were lost, and in Cochrane 13 bodies have been recovered.

All telegraph and telephone lines between Englehart and Cochrane are down.

BRITISH AND FRENCH GAINED FURTHER ON SOMME FRONT

ADVANCE ON STANISLAU STARTED BY RUSSIANS

General Letchitzky Begins Movement To Reach Halicz and Lemberg From South by Way of Dniester To Take Austrians in Rear—Kovel's Fall Believed Near.

British Moved Line Forward After Heavy Engagement Between Delville Wood and the Somme—French Make Gain Around Hardecourt—Canadians Raid Trenches.

PETROGRAD, July 30, via London.—While Gen. Brusilov's breach in the Austro-German lines is being widened and deepened by the further driving home of the wedge between the armies of Gen. Von Linington and Gen. Von Boehm-Ermolli, a development has been recorded in the last 24 hours in the renewed activity of Gen. Letchitzky to the south of the Dniester. The Russians here have begun a new turning movement on Von Boehm's right flank to the west and southwest of Tarnopol. The operations in this section, which were brought to a halt a fortnight ago by freshets, have been renewed in the direction of Stanislaw, a division of Caucasian cavalry having rushed the Austrians and captured Ezerzany, 20 miles southeast of Stanislaw.

Strike Again in North.

At the same time new blows have been delivered on the north extremity of the Lutsk breach, just south of the Kovel-Saraj railway, at Gulevitchi and Sydniki, where the Rovno-Kovel railway crosses the Stokhod. The latter centre has been the most fiercely contested portion of the Kovel defense. The fact that the Russians have been able to throw bridges across the Stokhod here and at Gulevitchi and Stanislaw is a foothold on the west bank of the river is taken by military experts in Petrograd to signify a definite weakening of German opposition and the tightening of the circle around Kovel.

Gen. Sakharoff's drive in the direction of Vladimir-Volynski and Sokal continues with unabated vigor. His enormous capture of prisoners, totaling in eight days nearly 40,000, is considered significant of the demoralization of the forces under Von Boehm-Ermolli.

Col. Shumsky, military critic of the Bourne Gazette, points out that the capture of two generals and two regimental commanders is an indication of the extreme depth of the penetration of the Austro-German lines, and that the capture of such officers is a considerable distance back of the fighting front. The pressure exerted by the Russians on the army of Von Linington in the direction of Vladimir-Volynski deprived the Austrians of any help which might have been expected in this direction. Left to its own devices, Von Boehm-Ermolli's army under the serious turning of the left flank, suffered greatly from the swift blows of Gen. Sakharoff's troops.

LONDON, July 31.—Further advances by the British are reported in the latest despatches from General Haig, in command on the French front. A heavy engagement was fought on the sector between Delville Wood and the Somme, with the result that the British moved their line forward past Waterlot Farm and Trones Wood.

The official statement follows: "Yesterday morning, in co-operation with the French on our right flank, an advance was made on a front extending from east of Delville Wood to the Somme. As a result of heavy fighting, we made progress to the east of Waterlot Farm, Trones Wood and Maltorn Farm. The enemy was encountered in considerable strength and must have suffered heavily. We captured 250 prisoners.

"On our right flank the French also advanced their line.

"In the neighborhood of Pozieres the day was spent in strengthening the ground gained last week. There was no infantry fighting in this area today.

"Three hostile aeroplanes were destroyed yesterday; several others were forced to land in a damaged condition. Between the Ancre and the sea there was nothing important."

Canadians Raid Trenches.

The text of the British communica-tions this afternoon is as follows: "Last night we heavily bombarded the enemy's trenches and reserve area between the Ancre and the Somme. During the bombardment a hostile ammunition depot near Courcellette was exploded by our fire.

"Parties of Canadian infantry successfully raided the enemy's trenches in two places south of Ypres and the Royal Munster Fusiliers carried out a similar enterprise in the Loos salient. The enemy's casualties in each case were severe.

"Near Hohen, it is doubtful the Germans attempted to break through. One of these failed to get further than our wire. The other succeeded in entering our front trench, but the enemy was immediately driven out.

Minor Engagements.

The British official statement from headquarters in France, issued Saturday night, reads: "Except for minor local actions and some heavy artillery fire on both sides, nothing of importance occurred on the Somme front today.

"On other parts of the British front there was the usual trench warfare activity. One of our patrols entered

Three Separate Fires.

Three separate fires are sweeping the country. The largest, and the only one concerning which any details are available, commenced at Porquus Junction, on Thursday last. A stiff south-east wind hurled the flames down the line of the T. and N. O., wiping out everything as far south as Matheson.

Another has been raging east of Cochrane for several days, but the estimated death list of 147 does not include any casualties in that zone. There is no means of communication.

The third is supposed to have started near Hearst and is sweeping the Transcontinental Railway on both sides, but working mainly south-east with the wind. Near Hearst there is a big instrument camp and hundreds of soldiers. All telegraph lines are down east of Grant on the Transcontinental, and there is no way of ascertaining if any lives have been lost at this point.

doctors, 25 nurses and 130 officers. Another train will leave early this morning and several more during the day.

Fred Dane, the newly appointed loan commissioner, left last night for the fire zone to take care of the relief work. Losses are controlled by Buffalo firm and are located 35 miles west of Cochrane on the Grand Trunk Pacific. This is three miles west of Flat Rock Falls, where fire is also reported.

Fire Wall at Cartier.

A fire which had assumed serious proportions last night was reported to be raging north of the Canadian Pacific lines at Cartier. No details could be secured up to a late hour, but it is understood the flames cover a territory 10 miles wide and are working north in the direction of the Canadian Northern lines. These, however, are about 100 miles distant, so there is no fear of a breach in Buffalo circles, as it was thought there would be slight possibility of their spreading so far.

Due to Negligence?

Men who know the north country say the fire most probably was caused by the carelessness of settlers themselves. But on this occasion it is quite probable that the record here was sufficient to fire the bush. The World secured an opinion that the heavy muskeg on cleared ground in the clay belt was fired by the sun's rays. It is significant at least that fire broke out at three points hundreds of miles apart apparently within a few days.

Army of Fire-Fighters.

An army of between five and six thousand men are fighting the fires. But the best they can hope to do is hold it in check until a heavy rain storm comes. The meteorological office said last night it rained a little in northern Ontario Sunday. There is no prospect of heavy rain for some time.

Heavy Loss in Towns.

A North Bay despatch says: "Cochrane and Matheson, two small towns in Northern Ontario, are reported to have been wiped out by fire today with a loss of at least 100 lives. Many persons were injured."

Special trains with doctors have left North Bay for the north. At least eighty are known to be dead, and it is feared the casualty list may be much larger.

A Cobalt report says: "Terrific forest fires are raging all thru the north country and the town of Timmins is in serious danger. The telephone operator at Matheson had to leave the office as the fire had worked right up to the building, and it was at the risk of life to remain. A large number of farm buildings around Pearson's Landing were destroyed. Telephone communication north of Swastika is completely cut off. The last word received was from the Matheson operator just as she left the building at which time there was no communication possible with the Porcupine district.

Started Near Matheson.

According to information received

Fire Travels Fast.

"With a wind that fire will travel as fast as a man will run," an official of the Niagara Pulp and Paper Co. told the World last night. He came down the T. and N. O. on Thursday last, and said the fire was then working both on the north and south sides of the line. At one point the train was held up because the track was on fire. East of Cochrane, he said, the fire was burning on the north side of the line, and it is feared that they will all be burned out and tie up traffic indefinitely. Muskeg, he says, will burn two or three times as fast as cleared ground in the clay belt will not necessarily halt the fire.

All the passengers were taken off the Transcontinental train at Cobalt Saturday night and the train sent far north as possible with supplies.

Arrive From North.

Little news of the fire could be obtained from passengers on the Grand Trunk train, which arrived in Toronto at 11.55 last night from North Bay, in which the fire is raging were on the train, and one of these alighted at Bradford and the other at Parkdale. The fire had been the subject of discussion among the passengers, but only very vague reports were given. It is certain, however, that the conflagration is the largest that has ever raged in northern Ontario, and many of the passengers thought that Matheson and the surrounding villages suffered the worst.

One man had it on good authority that nearly a hundred bodies had been taken out of Matheson and that the fire had exacted a heavy toll from the villages west of the town. George Wright of the Walker House at New Liskeard with his family, but telephone communication could not be established with that town last night.

Paper Mills Burned?

Three of the largest pulp and paper mills in Ontario may have been destroyed in the fire which is sweeping its way thru the north country. These include the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company's plant at Iroquois Falls, the Metagama Pulp and Paper Company

RUSSIANS WIN SUCCESSES AT THREE POINTS

Take Nearly Fifty Thousand Prisoners in Latest Advances.

CROSS STOKHOD RIVER

Czar's Forces Continue Marches From Brody and on Stanislaw.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PETROGRAD, July 30.—Fighting at several points in the past two days has gained further great advantages for the Russian armies under General Brusilov. Thousands of prisoners, both Austrians and Germans, are being taken. The Russians are continuing their advances and the enemy is continuing his disorderly retreat. Nearly 48,000 prisoners have been taken in the past two or three days by the Russians.

On the Stokhod River the Russians crossed yesterday, threw up bridges, consolidated the ground won and resumed their fighting, causing it to develop favorably to them and taking 21 officers and 950 prisoners yesterday. In the Kovel area and south of the Rojitcho-Kovel railway station Russian detachments have broken thru the Austro-German first line and they

MILLIONS LOST IN EXPLOSION AT NEW YORK

Twenty-Five Millions' Damage Done to Property and Many Dead and Injured.

FIRE COMPLETES WORK

Ammunition Consigned to Allies Destroyed by Flames on Barge.

NEW YORK, July 30.—Property loss estimated at \$25,000,000 was caused early today by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition awaiting shipment to the entente allies and stored on Black Tom Island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City. The loss of life still will not be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby. Two are known to be dead and at least two more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably fatally.

The detonations, which were felt in five states, began with a continuous rapid fire of small shells, then the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite and other high explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells which literally

over the long-distance telephone from T. and N. O. offices at North Bay, the fire started near Matheson and quickly spread north to Cochrane. The country west of that town for a distance of 250 miles is blazing, and hundreds of lives are probably lost. It is thought that the west of the conflagration is over. No communication can be established west of Cochrane, so that no estimate of the damage in that section can be ascertained. A few survivors from Matheson and the surrounding villages have reached safety, and are quartered in Englehart, New Liskeard and Halleybury.

It seems certain that Matheson, Watahbeag, Homer, Nushka, Monteth, Kelo, Porquus Junction and Iroquois Falls have been completely wiped out, while Cochrane has sustained enormous damage. It is remarkable that in its break westward thru the Porcupine mining division, Timmins was the only town to suffer, and as far as could be ascertained, only 16 buildings had been burnt. Between Matheson and Cochrane it is estimated that 200 lives have been lost.

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According to information received

at Flat Rock Falls and the big plant at Jacksonboro.

The Abitibi is one of the largest plants in the world. Its capacity is 400 tons a day. It is located on the T. and N. O. line north of Matheson and east of Timmins. The Jacksonboro mill is controlled by Buffalo firm and are located 35 miles west of Cochrane on the Grand Trunk Pacific. This is three miles west of Flat Rock Falls, where fire is also reported.

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There are two important full-page announcements of The Robert Simpson Co., Limited, in this paper—don't fail to have a look at them.

DINEEN'S BARGAIN IN SUMMER HATS.

Summer hats were never selling so cheaply as this season. Prices are one-third and one-half of the regular value. Now is the opportunity to secure a genuine Panama hat that will be a treasure for hot days for several seasons to come. The right kind of a Panama grows old very slowly and always retains its class and style. Dineen's Panamas are reliable.

Dineen, 140 Yonge street, Toronto, and in Hamilton, 20-22 King street west.

According to information received

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