

ENVELOPED IN SMOKE

Forest Fires Do Great Damage

Business is Suspended in Several Small Cities in Wash- ington.

Seattle, Sept. 22.—Dense clouds of smoke, enveloping the entire western slope of Washington and Oregon, from the Cascades to the sea. Forest fires without number are burning fiercely in the mountains and foothills and a hundred villages and towns are threatened with total destruction. Seattle is almost cut off from telegraphic and telephone communication with the outside world. The situation is the worst in the annals of the great Pacific Northwest. Hundreds of lives may have been sacrificed to the greed of the fire demon.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost already. This is certain. Immense tracts of fine timber are at this writing being destroyed by the fire demon, which aided by dry underbrush, unmoistened for days past by rain, is making a black pathway of destruction across the hills and mountains of Western Washington.

At Portland and Tacoma black clouds of smoke obscure the sun and both cities are in almost total darkness. Olympia is as badly off. In Seattle at high noon the light was little better than that which prevails an hour after sunset. Lights were burned in all the stores and in many offices. By 4 o'clock lights were universally in use throughout the city.

Mariners on Puget Sound are faring badly. The Sound is overhung with smoke and many of the steamers are forced to run at half speed. Landmarks by the aid of which the captains guide their vessels are entirely hidden by the universal smoke. Many steamers on the Sound routes, which it conditions continue, be forced to lie up tonight and tomorrow.

Seattle, while not suffering directly from the forest fires, or being at any time in danger, nevertheless awaits eagerly and anxiously definite news from the towns that are now in danger. South of Portland, according to the latest messages received from the wires went down, the forests are ablaze. At Olympia this morning the stores were closed and business of all kinds suspended. Montesano and Elma along the coast, are threatened with destruction. Budo, in Thurston county, lies in a heavy timber belt and is in great danger. Enumclaw, on the main line of the Northern Pacific, is reported as being in the pathway of a great fire and may be wiped out by this time.

In the north conditions are not much better. Around Whatcom and Blaine there are very serious fires and great destruction of property is threatened.

Hundreds of lumber and shingle mills in the interior are likely to be destroyed. Ranchers in the foothills are being driven to the towns along the Sound and much suffering may result. Rain only will prevent wide destruction of life and property. Every vestige of news is awaited eagerly from all points in Western Washington. The Times this morning being held every telegram as it was received and thousands of people gathered to read the news. In Seattle the greatest interest is felt for the fate of the towns that are threatened with destruction.

Union Veterans of Iowa

Des Moines, Sept. 22.—Thirty-five local societies of the Union Veterans of Iowa are represented at the annual state encampment and reunion which began in Des Moines today. Today was devoted largely to the reception of the delegates and the formal organization of the convention. The sessions will continue until next Tuesday. A successor to Department Commander J. W. Ellis of Maquoketa, together with other officers, will be chosen and between the business sessions there will be features of entertainment provided by the local veterans.

Sifton on Tariff.

Ottawa, Sept. 3.—Hon. Clifford Sifton, minister of the interior, was interviewed today by your correspondent regarding the discussion of the tariff now going on in the press. "Do the speeches of Mr. Tarte indicate action by the government on the tariff at the next session in the way of a general increase?" Mr. Sifton was asked.

"I do not know that I have seen an exact report of any of Mr. Tarte's recent speeches," replied the Minister, "but if he spoke of favoring an increase in the tariff he was expressing his own views, and not those of the government or the Liberal party."

"There seems to be a concerted movement in the direction of an increase in the tariff?"

"I think it will be found to be confined to somewhat narrow limits, so

far as the Liberal party is concerned."

"What is your own position as representing the western Liberals?"

"My position is that the tariff as it stands is a compromise, well and carefully worked out. Its adaptability to the requirements of the trade of Canada is shown by results. Manufacturers and consumers are alike getting fair treatment. We would like the tariff lower, but we recognize that there must be mutual concessions and for the present we recognize the present tariff as a reasonable one."

"Will not some revisions be necessary at the next session?"

"Revision of the tariff from time to time at reasonable intervals becomes necessary, and it may be that at the next session something will be done in that direction."

"That is probably what the attempt will be made to induce the government to go back to high protection?" suggested the correspondent.

Mr. Sifton's reply was very explicit:—"Any attempt to increase the protective features of the tariff in favor of manufacturers as against consumers will meet with the strenuous opposition of every Liberal elector of Lake Superior."

"You are absolutely determined on that?"

"Quite so. With a trade which was stationary under high protection now growing beyond the most sanguine predictions, and with the western prairies, empty and desolate under Conservative rule, filling up with settlers and increasing their product by millions, we regard the position as extremely satisfactory, and we have certainly no intention of supporting an attempt to saddle ourselves with the discredited Tory policy which kept the country in a state of stagnation for fifteen years."

"Will you, with your western supporters, stand alone in this attitude?"

"Not at all. I am satisfied that the great bulk of the Liberal party is sound on the question." — Toronto Globe.

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GRAND JURY IN SESSION.

The grand jury held two sessions today. At each session a number of members of the council that passed the city lighting bill in 1899, in addition to Robert McMath, former president of the board of public improvements, and the Hemens brothers, electrical contractors, were called on to tell what they knew of the transactions connected with the defeat and passage of such measures.

All day rumors were rife that indictments would shortly be found against members of the council combine, but the grand jury adjourned until tomorrow without taking any action. There was quite a flurry when the grand jury adjourned for luncheon and four of the members of the city council were detained. It was believed they were to be held prisoners, but later the district attorney stated their detention was merely for the purpose of having them on hand at the afternoon session.

Mr. Folk says the grand jury will continue the investigation into the lighting scandal for several days.

Following a conference with Judge Sherwood of the supreme court at Springfield, Mo., Judge Chester H. Krump has decided to withdraw the application for a writ of habeas corpus made to secure the release of those imprisoned on the boodle charges. It was found that such a proceeding would first have to be filed before some judge having jurisdiction to try the case. The four indicted men under arrest claim that their bond has been made excessive and the habeas corpus proceedings were based chiefly on this point.

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"So I have heard," added Polidexter.

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...A Kitchen Strategist...

She was a middle-aged person with faded red hair, a heavy white face, and pale blue eyes. She sat on the edge of a colonial chair and looked about her with a patronizing air.

"Are you a cook or a second maid?" asked the mistress of the house. "Which position did you come to apply for?"

"Both, m'm."

"But I don't understand."

"Well, m'm, I'm th' cook an' me sister, Nora, th' upstairs girl. We works together."

"But I have a second maid."

"Very well, m'm. Then I'll take the cooking fer ye. Iy course, if th' upstairs girl ye have now don't be satisfactory you'll be givin' me sister, Nora, th' chance, m'm."

"Yes, I'll be glad to try her under those circumstances. And when can you go to work? Tomorrow?"

"No, m'm, not tomorrow. Tomorrow's Friday. Fer nobuddy would begin work on a Friday."

"Saturday, then?"

"Very well, m'm. An' you'll be givin' me sister, Nora, th' chance if the upstairs girl ye have now won't do, m'm."

"You are absolutely determined on that?"

"Quite so. With a trade which was stationary under high protection now growing beyond the most sanguine predictions, and with the western prairies, empty and desolate under Conservative rule, filling up with settlers and increasing their product by millions, we regard the position as extremely satisfactory, and we have certainly no intention of supporting an attempt to saddle ourselves with the discredited Tory policy which kept the country in a state of stagnation for fifteen years."

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stairs in th' middle of th' night that way to disturb th' family an' wake up th' neighbors. Sure I begged her to wait till th' morning. I'm that ashamed, I am. Sure the poor thing, I aivir made fun iv her at all ner sit up in bed to kape her awake. Sure I have other things to think of. But I've the newraly in my left knee cap that bad, an' I can't blape at all, at all. An' whin I lay down in th' bid th' pain comes on th' worse, so sometimes I sits up in th' bid and maybe whin th' pain cuts like a shar-p knife I groans a bit out loud. The poor thing—to think I'd be makin' faces and calling names at the likes iv her! She ought to know I've."

"Ellen," said the mistress, "Maggie is leaving us this morning. How soon can you get word to your sister that there is a place open for her?"

"Sure, m'm, I see Nora last night an' she do be tellin' me that she'd be over to call on me this mornin'."

"I'm expectin' she'll be here by 9 o'clock this mornin', m'm. She'll be all riddy to go to wur-ruk, m'm."

"I was afraid that she might have a place somewhere else."

"No, m'm; I was afraid that th' upstairs girl, Maggie, poor thing, wouldn't be suitin' ye, an' I told Nora to kape herself riddy to come to ye, m'm, so ye shouldn't be widout help. She'll be here in a few minutes, m'm. Sure, that's her now, knockin' at the dore."

So closely had the great strategist made her calculations and so skillfully had she carried out her campaign that within five minutes after Maggie had left the house Nora was installed in her place.

And now the mistress is waiting to see who will be the next member of the household on whom Ellen will fix her evil eye. It has been generally agreed that once she shows that she has picked out a fresh victim, he or she, as the case may be, shall at once retire as gracefully as possible. For Ellen is a queen among cooks as well as a master of strategy.—Chicago Tribune.

Work is Progressing

The work of construction on the new road being built on the east side of the Yukon which will connect the ferry landing with the Glacier creek trail is progressing as rapidly as could be expected considering the limited number of men who are enabled to work to an advantage.

About forty are employed, over half the number being rock men, and every day at the noon hour and just after 6 o'clock a volley of shots can be heard as the charges are set off. As the road is being virtually cut out of the steep bluff the most of the time that will be required to complete it will be expended on the rock work. An easy grade is being established, the roadway will be sixteen feet wide and the difficulties experienced this summer by teams in trying to get to the top of the hill will have passed. At the last session of the Yukon council an appropriation of \$10,000 was voted to the improvement of the road in question and the trail to Glacier creek, and after the former is completed the funds remaining on hand will be devoted to the trail which in many places is sadly in need of repairs. When the latter was built it was done hurriedly and no provision was made for drainage, with the result that owing to the unusually heavy rains this season the trail in many low spots and in the crossing of small draws the mudholes are seemingly bottomless.

At Portland

Portland, Or., Sept. 22.—The smoke from the forest fires becomes thicker every hour and there is little hope of improvement. "Fires are burning within a few miles of this city in every direction, and in many instances houses, barns and stock have been burned."

The most disastrous fire appears to be raging in Clackamas county, where a number of farm houses have been destroyed. In Clarke county, Wash., north of Vancouver, a fire has spread over several square miles. On both sides of the Columbia river from The Dalles to Astoria, fires are burning, making it difficult for telegraph and telephone companies to keep their lines working. Around Tillamook Bay a tremendous fire has been raging for several days and the inhabitants of Tillamook stood guard all last night to protect their homes. Today the fire, while still burning, is not spreading.

A bridge on the O. R. & N. at Multnomah Falls, thirty miles east of Portland, burned early this morning, delaying all trains. The company will transfer passengers and mails today and by tonight it is expected repairs will be completed.

To Ask Aid

Portland, Sept. 21.—A bill is to be introduced in the state legislature at the coming session for the relief of Mrs. Waggoner, of Chehalis, who, in company with her son, found the body of the outlaw Merrill in the woods. The reward of \$1,500 which was offered for the body of the outlaw, dead or alive, will be claimed in this manner in consideration of the fact that the secretary of state refused to pay more than \$300 to Mrs. Waggoner, the amount which Superintendent Lee, of the state penitentiary, offered the woman.

LEGISLATION IS URGED