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FIRES TAKE 200 LIVES

Ontario Northland Swept by Big Forest Conflagrations.
 A Dozen Towns and Villages Have Been Practically Wiped Out by Holocaust Which Has Swept Over the District Between Matheson and Cochrane—Present Fire is Worst in History of North.

COCHRANE, July 31.—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, the flames have engulfed millions of dollars' worth of timber land, and wiped out at least a dozen towns and villages. According to reliable information 200 settlers have perished.

Three separate fires are sweeping the country. The largest, and the only one concerning which any details are available, commenced at Porcupine 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-easterly with the wind. Near Hearst there is a big interment 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.

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 Sunday night that it had rained a little in Northern Ontario on that day. There is no prospect of heavy rain for some time.

A North Bay despatch says: "Cochrane and Matheson, two small towns in Northern Ontario, are reported to have been wiped out by fire to-day 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 through 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.

Three of the largest pulp and paper mills in Ontario may have been destroyed in the fire which is sweeping its way through the north country. These include the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company's plant at Ironquios Falls, the Metagami Pulp and Paper Company 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. lines north of Matheson and east of Timmins. The Jacksonboro mills are controlled by a 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.

A fire which had assumed serious proportions Sunday 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 that no fear was expressed in C. N. R. circles, as it was thought there would be slight possibility of their spreading so far.

Throughout the regions surrounding that of the central fire, other fires of lesser degree were reported Sunday. The Canadian Northern station at Foley, which is a divisional point, was seriously threatened for a time. A hailstorm which came along at a critical moment extinguished the fire completely. Foley is about 150 miles west of Sudbury.

Mining men who came down yesterday from Cobalt and further north say fires have been raging throughout the north country for some time past, but had not assumed threatening proportions until a large section of the country along the line of the T. and N. O.

The intense heat had dried out the brush and made it splendid fuel, while the "slash" everywhere through the bush accentuated the danger.

Settlers all along the line were expecting the fire to go almost in any direction and were taking what precautions they could. Sunday at Porcupine Junction, the point where the trains switch into the Porcupine division, the T. and N. O. had an engine standing ready to take out refugees as soon as the fire reached there, while at Matheson the same precautions had been observed by the Government railway officials.

Baby-Killers Out Again.
COPENHAGEN, July 31.—Fishermen from the Island of Gotland, report having sighted ten zeppelins over the Baltic, steering in a northerly direction.

FLIGHT OF ARETHUSA

Mythological Origin of a Favorite British Warship Name.
 From the days of Drake "Arethusa" has always been the favorite name of a swift, light cruiser in the British navy. A corvet named Arethusa took part in the battle of Cape St. Vincent on Feb. 14, 1797, when Nelson, then under Jervis, defeated the Spanish fleet, and this Arethusa was henceforth with the great admiral down to his last battle at Trafalgar eight years later.

As Arethusas have succeeded one another in the British navy, legends have gathered around the name until the ship so named has seemed to symbolize the mythological origin of the term.

There is in Peloponnesus a river called Mores. In ancient times, it is said, it was presided over by a river god named Alpheus. Alpheus fell in love with the river nymph, Arethusa, and pursued her through the water. Diana, hearing her cries of distress, opened a passage for the stream so that it flowed under the sea to Sicily, where, near Syracuse, Arethusa disappeared in the spray of a beautiful fountain.

The river, untainted by the sea, still flows underground to the fountain, and Alpheus is still said to be searching for the nymph, but never finds her. This is why her naval namesakes have eluded the enemy through all the centuries and have been believed by the superstitious to be invulnerable.

Bread Crusts.

A crust of bread is usually regarded in this country as the last stopping place on this side of starvation. Foreigners like crust. Americans do not; therefore the foreigners buy hearth bread, which is baked on the floor of the oven and which consequently has a heavy crust all over it, whereas we buy the pan loaf, which has a good crust only on top. That is one reason why our immigrants have better teeth than native Americans, although they take less care of them and spend less money on them. Not only do they buy better bread, but they keep it longer. They have learned what we have still to discover, that bread fresh from the oven is unfit to eat.—Youth's Companion.

Stevenson to Henry James.

It takes a stylist to criticize a stylist and was the thing ever done more gracefully than by Robert Louis Stevenson in a letter to Henry James? "May I beg you, the next time 'Roderick Hudson' is printed off, to go over the sheets of the last few chapters and strike out 'immense' and 'tremendous'?" You have simply dropped them there like your pocket handkerchief. All you have to do is to pick them up and punch them, and your room—what do I say?—your cathedral—will be swept and garnished. I am, dear sir, your delighted reader, R. L. S."

The Way It Goes.

"A man lives three lives—youth, manhood and age," philosophically stated Professor Pate. "Youth is the rising sun of life, when he thinks of what a heck of a feller he is going to be; manhood is the sun at full meridian, when he is satisfied that he is indeed a heck of a feller; age is the setting sun, when he sags around and brags about what a heck of a feller he used to be."—Judge.

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