

The Telephone and Forest Fires

Every year seems to bring up forcibly the need for more extensive systems of protection against fire in the national forests of the far west and north-west. The disasters of this season point to the fact that more safeguards must be thrown about the wooded areas of the country if a repetition of the recent fires is to be avoided.

For it is a fact that a year's fires burn away more of the precious woodlands than would be taken to supply the timber needs of the country for quite a few years. Added to this, and even more urgent as a reason for action, is the enormous loss of life and property involved in a fire like that of this year.

In some cases in the national forests, according to Chief Forester Henry C. Graves, a single ranger has the responsibility of looking after more than 100,000 acres during the dry season. In the forests of Germany one guard is kept for every 1700 acres—in one case even as few as 750 acres.

The national forests of the United States now include almost 200,000,000 acres of land, and to look after these a force of 3000 men is employed. This is recognized to be totally inadequate for the heavy demands, and each dry spell brings its quota of disastrous fires to bear on this fact more strongly.

In the measures that have already been taken to protect the forests from fire, the telephone has played a very important part. This part is described in a recent Washington dispatch to a number of daily newspapers under the heading "Thousands of Dollars Saved the Government by Telephone" in the following words:

In protecting forest reserves of the United States from fire the telephone has become an instrument of salvation, and there are many cases on record in the forestry bureau where this modern appliance has saved innumerable lives and many hundred thousand dollars worth of timber.

Experience has taught the officials in charge of the forestry bureau that it is almost out of the question to cope with forest fires after they have been fully started. When they get a good start and have favorable conditions, such as a brisk breeze and dry weather, the flames sweep through the forest and over the surrounding country without meeting any great resistance. Therefore, the officials of the bureau have determined that the only possible way to control these fires is to prevent them—that is, attack the fire at its inception.

It is at this point where the telephone gets in its work and has demonstrated itself as an important factor and as a machine of salvation. As a means of preventing fires and to discover those that have not gained any amount of headway, thousands of men have been employed annually by the government as rangers and patrolmen. They are assigned to districts which they are called on to patrol, but the work of this patrol system did not really become effective until the telephone was introduced.

As the condition presents itself today, a forest ranger leaves his cabin in some secluded valley to patrol the territory allotted him. His trails are well kept, his telephone is in order, with call boxes arranged every few miles along the path and fire lanes, and at observation towers. He reaches a spot where a party of prospectors or others have been camping and have left their camp fire without extinguishing it. Since their departure and prior to the appearance of the ranger the fire has extended along the ground in the dry forest carpet and assumed proportions too great for him to handle alone, though his efforts may be sufficient to check the flames for a short period. The ranger can remain and fight the fire alone and wait for the arrival of other rangers who have been attracted by the smoke, or he can ride to the nearest telephone box and send out an emergency call.

Before the days of the telephone, the ranger, after discovering the blaze, was compelled to ride to the nearest settlement, which might have been one or two days' ride, to obtain assistance. During his absence the fire would get beyond human control and he and the men at his command were practically helpless.

The use of the telephone on the forest reserves is not a suppositional or merely contingent matter. The officials of the forestry bureau contend that its trial has been practical and it has proven by time to be invaluable.

As rapidly as its appropriations will allow, the government is extending the use of the telephone further and further into the forests. New telephone systems are now being built and others are projected for construction in the near future. The government officials are going about this work with extreme care, utilizing existing telephone lines wherever possible. The apparatus and other material for the government's telephone lines are being furnished by the Western Electric Company, the largest manufacturer of telephones in the world.

Gifford Pinchot, the ex-chief forester, sums up his opinion in these few words: "If a forest is equipped with roads, trails, telephone lines, and a reasonable number of men for patrol there is no more likelihood that great fires will be able to get started than that that great conflagrations like the Chicago fire will get started in a city with a modern fire department."

The States of New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine have their own protection against forest fires, in all of which the telephone plays an important part. This is not the only case in which the telephone figures as a safeguarding measure. It is being used in underground mines with marked success and is being depended upon by the fruit growers of the west, who use telephone reports to aid them in their fight against untimely frosts.

COUNTRY CORRESPONDENCE

HOPE

Albert Daily is on the sick list this week. Arthur Hubbell was in the canyon Saturday.

Miss Vira Horn visited with home folks over Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Nellie Whitman from Hayard is visiting with her aunt, Mrs. Fred Burns, for a few days.

Mrs. Tonie Friend and Mrs. Albert Daily called at Hope on their way home from the homestead Wednesday evening.

Mrs. F. A. Brown drove down to the Hope postoffice Monday afternoon.

Miss Nora Cogar and Albert Wright were seen in the canyon Sunday.

Miss Sadie Horn visited the school in Dist. 33 Tuesday.

Frank Beeson is harvesting his potatoes this week.

Bert Horn is the proud owner of a new rifle, and oh my, how the jack rabbits will suffer.

Ralph Morehead and Marion Hewitt were visiting at Abe Smith's Sunday.

Orlando Learned and his former wife, who were divorced some years ago, were married yesterday at Gering. Mr. Learned has been an inmate of the Old Soldiers' Home at Grand Island for a number of years and we understand they will both go there to reside.

John Parmenter is very ill with the typhoid fever.

Everett Horn is on the sick list this week.

Peter Thompson and sons returned Tuesday from a visit with relatives at Lakeside.

STRASBURGER

We regret to report that Harry McMillan lost a fine horse. The horse, while tied to a wagon wheel, broke a leg. Joseph Fischer, whom we claim as our veterinary surgeon and who is always ready to respond when his neighbors need him, was called, and, finding that nothing could be done to save its life, Mr. McMillan had the horse humanely shot.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Starr returned to their home adjoining Strasburger last week. We are sorry that his eyesight is not fully restored.

Fred Bernit drove to Rushville Thursday, attending to some business

and returning Friday. He has a fine pair of driving horses.

Miss Jennie Sandoz is spending several weeks in Rushville.

Rev. D. R. McLaughlin of Alliance preached in Strasburger school home last Sabbath afternoon.

W. S. Hardison and McMillan brothers and others have driven to Ellsworth and Lakeside for coal, but were disappointed. Coal ordered months ago had not arrived.

The Strasburger brothers have been busy making tanks, putting up new windmills, with the determination of having plenty of water for about 1,000 cattle.

Dr. Samuel Willard, a teacher of the writer, the oldest physician in Chicago, on the occasion of the celebration of his ninety-second birthday, gave five rules to which he attributed his long life. They are:

"Live sanely and moderately.
"Be temperate in your habits.
"Keep interested in your work.
"Be alive to the things of the present.
"Keep sweet."

Mrs. Carrie Chapman who has been spending several weeks on her farm north of Strasburger returned to her position as cashier in the Ellsworth hotel.

QUAKER VALLEY

The cold weather we've been looking for has not put in its appearance yet.

Roy Scott of Ackworth, Iowa, returned home last week after filing on a claim in Quaker Valley.

Nathan Pearson from Ackworth, Iowa, is here looking over the country.

Mrs. Robbins is enjoying a visit with her brother-in-law who has come to stay a while with her.

Mr. Sailor was in these parts recently getting signers to a petition for a post office.

Everyone here is done digging potatoes, a very fair yield.

The men in this neighborhood intend to work on the school house this week, beginning Tuesday.

Murle and Albert Hawthorn raised a half bushel of peanuts.

James Jamison, Superintendent of the Sunday School, was suffering with neuralgia Sunday morning so that he could not attend Sunday school.

POTATO BLACKLEG

Disease Threatens Tuber Which Appears Daily on Table.

GERMS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED.

Agricultural Department issues Warning to Growers to Be on Lookout for It—Spread Can Be Checked by Selection of Seed From Fields Free From Disease.

Washington, Oct. 25.—Every school-boy is familiar with the "eyes" of the homely white potato, which appears on the average American's table in some form at almost every meal, but many of the oldest and most experienced farmers will look puzzled when they read Uncle Sam's latest bulletin on the "Blackleg of the Irish Potato."

"Blackleg" is a bacterial potato disease on the stems of the potato, originating in Europe, while in Germany it was called "black stem" or "black shank." Blackleg has been accepted as the English translation of the German name, even though it does not fit in with the anatomy of the vegetable which is such a great money-maker in many sections of the United States.

Three and a half millions acres of land are planted to Irish potatoes in this country, with an average yield of about 106 bushels to the acre, or a total production of nearly 400,000,000 bushels, with the enormous value of more than \$200,000,000. With such tremendous farm interests at stake, the new disease is not to be considered lightly, say the experts. Reports to the office of the experiment station in the agricultural department show that it is becoming widely distributed throughout much of the potato-growing areas of the United States. In describing the disease, Professor W. J. Morse of the office of experiment stations says:

"Blackleg probably was introduced into Canada from England, and from there into the United States. It occurs, to some extent at least, over a considerable area of the potato-growing sections in eastern United States and Canada. A similar disease is also found in England, Germany, France and other parts of Europe. It has been reported from Charleston, S. C.; Norfolk, Portsmouth and several points on the eastern shore of Virginia; Beltsville, Md.; Long Island, N. Y.; Gurley, Colo., and Plainville, O.

"The attacked plants are usually unthrifty, light green in color, or even yellow, and undersized. The branches and leaves have a tendency to grow upward, forming a rather compact top. The most characteristic symptom is the inky black discoloration of the stem at or below the surface of the ground. This discoloration often extends two or three inches above the surface and the invaded tissues show a soft, wet decay during the active progress of the disease.

"It seems that the blackleg is largely distributed by means of germs in the wounds, cracks and decayed areas of the seed tubers. The propagation and spread of the disease can probably be controlled by the selection of seed from fields free from the disease, the rejection of all seed tubers which have wounds, cracks or decayed spots, and by treating the remainder with corrosive sublimate or formaldehyde solution, or with formaldehyde gas, as is done for potato scab.

"Potato growers should be on their guard against its introduction into new areas or its further dissemination in regions already known to be infected."

So, look out Mr. Farmer, or "blackleg" will have your profits.

GREAT AIR ARMY IN FIELD

Officers of the Army and Navy Assigned to Cooperate.

New York, Oct. 25.—America's air army is ready for business. John Barry Ryan, son of Thomas F. Ryan, founder and commodore of the United States aeronautical reserve, said in a signed statement:

"We have 3,500 men, in every state in the union, enlisted in the aeronautical reserve to act as scouts in time of war and for service in time of battle. Officers of the army and navy have been assigned to cooperate in the organization of an aeronautical reserve corps.

"The aeroplane will eventually make war so full of horrors, by its inevitable increasing power to destroy fortifications, ships and towns, that it will be one of the greatest means of bringing about peace among nations."

Miss Elkins to Winter in Italy. Genoa, Italy, Oct. 25.—Nervi, a resort on the Italian coast seven miles east of here, is preparing to entertain the wife and daughter of Senator Elkins this winter. The proprietor of the Grand hotel there says the suite lately occupied by the queen of Sweden has been refurnished for them and that they have engaged also several rooms on the second floor, and a part of the garden and park, so that they can secure complete privacy.

Dies With Doll in Arms. San Francisco, Oct. 25.—With her arms still clasping the frame of a doll, the charred body of ten-year-old Lillian Simons, one of the inmates of the Catholic orphan asylum, burned to the ground, was found by workmen clearing away the debris. All the other children were saved.

CONDENSED NEWS

Frost was reported at several places in Louisiana.

The cholera, the ravages of which had almost ceased in St. Petersburg, has broken out afresh in the municipal hospital.

Frank Dolan, former president of district No. 5, United Mine Workers, was killed while trying to board a moving train at Pittsburg.

Fire destroyed the pattern and saw shops of the Burlington route at Hannibal, Mo. Three workmen were seriously injured. The loss is \$100,000.

Carl Hallberg, well known educator and professor of pharmacy at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy, in Chicago, died, at the age of fifty-four.

The president and Mrs. Taft gave a dinner in honor of the mayor of Tokyo and Mme. Osaki, and among the guests were Mayor and Mrs. Gaynor of New York.

A new American record for altitude was made by J. Armstrong Drexel at the aviation meet at Belmont park, Long Island. He ascended to a height of 7,195 feet.

The secretary of the interior has withdrawn from entry 3,840 acres of land in western Utah as necessary in the construction of the Strawberry valley reservoir.

Men and women gathered in New Orleans this week to attend the American purity congress. One of the questions to be considered will be that of the white slave traffic.

The Philadelphia club of the American league won the baseball championship of the world by defeating the Chicago Nationals in the fifth game of the series, winning four.

Ralph Wilson, right halfback of the Wabash (Ind.) college is dead, and two St. Louisans are seriously injured, as the result of reformed football in St. Louis. All of the accidents occurred in "mass plays."

The following officers were selected by the National Alfalfa Millers' association at the last session of its convention in Kansas City: Bryan Hayward of Denver, president; C. W. Wright of Kansas City, secretary-treasurer.

Martin Robertson, who shot and killed his sweetheart, Grace Eller, at Montmorancy, Ind., and later shot himself in the breast with the same shotgun, died in the county jail hospital. Jealousy was the cause of the crime.

James Dunsmuir, formerly governor of British Columbia, has entered action for \$1,000,000 against William MacKenzie, president of the Canadian Northern railway, for an accounting since taking over the Dunsmuir mines on Vancouver island.

Attorneys for Frank B. Harriman, Charles L. Ewing and John M. Taylor, defendants in the Illinois Central car repair cases, forced a change in the plans of the prosecution when they obtained from the supreme court a writ of habeas corpus.

The National Employers' Liability commission, provided for by congress, held its first meeting in Chicago. Senator William Warner of Missouri was elected temporary chairman. Luncheon Parker of Washington was appointed secretary to the commission. Eighty-five per cent of the inhabitants of American Samoa are suffering from the hook worm disease, according to the annual report of Captain F. Parker, governor of the American islands of the Samoan group. This means that about 5,700 natives have the disease.

After a tour of inspection covering approximately 14,000 miles, during which every reclamation project was inspected, the board of army engineers, designated by the president to report upon the practicability of completing projects, as well as to propose extensions, has returned.

DATE OF HANGING ADVANCED

Murderer of Belle Elmore Will Be Executed in London Nov. 8.

London, Oct. 25.—Dr. Hawley Crippen, convicted of the murder of his wife, Belle Elmore, the actress, will be hanged on Nov. 8. The date originally announced was Nov. 15, but the sheriff advanced the day one week.

"Wild" Woman Found in Woods.

Cairo, Ill., Oct. 25.—A "wild" woman was found by Sheriff Nellis in the woods below Cairo. She was surrounded by six dogs and refused to go with the sheriff unless her dogs were taken along. It is said she has been roaming through the woods of Ballard county for the last month.

Elkins Still is Gaining.

Elkins, W. Va., Oct. 25.—Senator Stephen B. Elkins, whose illness here has prompted many anxious inquiries from friends in Washington, continued to show improvement. He passed a comfortable night, and the slight fever he had for several days was practically abated.

Nineteen Lost in Wreck of Steamer.

St. Johns, N. F., Oct. 25.—News of the wreck of the steamer Regulus, bound from Belle Island to Sydney, with the loss of nineteen men of the crew, was received here. The wreck occurred at Shoal bay, nine miles from this port.

Aldrich Has Good Gain.

New York, Oct. 25.—The condition of Senator Nelson W. Aldrich of Rhode Island, who was struck by a street car, is greatly improved.

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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The following proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of Nebraska, as hereinafter set forth in full, is submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska, to be voted upon at the general election to be held Tuesday, November 8th, A. D. 1910:

A JOINT RESOLUTION to amend Section one (1) of Article seven (7) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska: Section 1. (Amendment constitution proposed.) That section one (1) of article seven (7) of the constitution of the state of Nebraska, the senate concurring, be so amended as to read as follows:

Section 1. (Who are electors.) Every male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a resident of this state six months next preceding the election and of the county, precinct, or ward, for the term provided by law shall be an elector; provided, that persons of foreign birth who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States and are voting at the taking effect of this amendment, may continue to exercise the right of suffrage until such time as they may have resided in the United States five years, after which they shall take out full citizenship papers to be entitled to vote at any succeeding election.

Section 2. (Ballots.) That at the general election nineteen hundred and ten (1910) there shall be submitted to the electors of the state for their approval or rejection the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution relating to the right of suffrage. At such election, on the ballot of each elector voting for or against said proposed amendment, shall be written or printed the words: "For proposed amendment to the constitution relating to the right of suffrage" and "Against said proposed amendment to the constitution relating to the right of suffrage"

Section 3. (Adoption.) If such amendment shall be approved by a majority of all electors voting at such election, said amendment shall constitute section one (1) of article seven (7) of the constitution of the State of Nebraska.

Approved April 1, 1909.

I, Geo. C. Junkin, Secretary of State, of the state of Nebraska do hereby certify that the foregoing proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Nebraska is a true and correct copy of the original enrolled and engrossed bill, as passed by the thirty-first session of the legislature of the State of Nebraska, as appears from said original bill on file in this office, and that said proposed amendment is submitted to the qualified voters of the state of Nebraska for their adoption or rejection at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the 8th day of November, A. D. 1910.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great seal of the State of Nebraska, Done at Lincoln, this 29th day of July, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten, and of the Independence of the United States the One Hundred and Thirty-fifth, and of this State the Forty-fourth.

GEORGE C. JUNKIN, Secretary of State.

(Seal.) 34-3 months.

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