

FIGHTING FOREST FIRES



AN forest fire such as those whose devastation of life and property in Idaho and Montana is so fresh in the public mind be prevented? Cannot human ingenuity, caution and wealth devise some means of making such horrors impossible?

These questions have been asked by thousands of persons throughout the country in the last few weeks, ever since the first bad fire began. The Idaho disaster has given an added impetus to these appeals for information, appeals that indicate a hope that some preventive system may be discovered and put into operation.

In response to these questions Clifford Pinchot, former chief forester, and Henry S. Graves, the present chief forester, return the same answer:

"No." Such a fire, they say, is to be classed with the great Chicago conflagration, the San Francisco earthquake, the Galveston flood. Disasters of this sort can neither be foreseen nor dealt with in the ordinary human endeavor.

This fire, according to Mr. Pinchot, Mr. Graves and the experts who have spent years in the forest service, resulted from an unusual combination of circumstances. The main causes were the exceptional drought and the high, steady winds that prevailed for a long period preceding the outbreak of fire.

Not ordinary forest fires can be prevented. Thousands upon thousands of them are prevented every year by the forest rangers and forest guards. But they are ordinary fires, which, if caught early, can be promptly suppressed before they attain serious proportions.

"More forest rangers and forest guards" is the cry of the forest service. It is the cry that has been hurled from the department of agriculture, of which the forest service is a bureau, to the capital for several years. But it has usually foundered on the rocks of a more practical consideration.

"There is not nearly enough men," said Mr. Pinchot, "in talking of the Idaho disaster. Just how many are really needed it is difficult to say, but many more than the 2,000 now engaged in fire prevention and fire fighting."

Just as eternal vigilance is the price of peace, so eternal vigilance is the price of safety from forest fires. As well as it is possible with the number of men it has, the forest service now looks after this part of its business. It has fire fighting down to a system, and so far as ordinary cases go, its force works effectively. The only trouble lies in the size of the force.

Situation Becoming Acute. But, with the recent disasters in mind, it is likely that congress will do something better in this line in the near future. The loss of human life and the loss of property (not only to the government, but to corporations and private individuals as well) are almost sure to arouse a keener and greater interest in the whole forest question.

Wood is becoming scarce. Its demand is increasing. By this time it was difficult to move or breathe.

My discomfort was increased by having a silver-gilt amulet fastened on my right forearm; on the left was hung a rhinoceros-hide shield, covered with dark blue silk ornamented with silver-gilt, while into my almost powerless hands were thrust two inconspicuously long spears. A gold ornament, the badge of the Order of Solomon, was hung on my neck.

I had to lead a gaily trapped horse to the door of the king's hut, and bow to his majesty, the king of Zion. This I accomplished to the admiration of the spectators. Transferring my horse to my groom, and my shield and spear to my servant, I returned to shake hands with the king.

By this time I was in a profuse perspiration, which was not remarkable, as I had on two nearly complete suits of clothes, beside a lion's skin surcoat, which was rigidly strapped to my waist on the right side, and which made sitting down difficult. But I triumphed over these difficulties.

When the ceremony was over: I received many compliments. My interpreter told me that all the spectators declared I was made to wear such costume. They always say that; it produces dollars oftentimes.

It was not easy to mount my horse in such fearful and wonderful attire. But I managed it, and I rode off with a light heart and a splitting headache, and when I reached my abode I speedily divested myself of my splendor.—Youth's Companion.

pletion is being felt by the railroads and other big corporations, and their cooperation with the government in the matter of fire protection is almost a certainty.

Surprise has been expressed at the extent of the probable loss of life in the great fires that have swept certain sections of the west. To the uninitiated, a government forest reservation means a great wilderness of trees, uninhabited, save by itinerant hunters and the forest rangers and guards.

It is true that some of the forest ranges answer to this description, but others are, for forests, densely populated. Their population consists of small landholders—"nesters" they are called in the west. They are men who, with their families, take up small claims on government forest reservations and farm and raise stock on a small scale under the limitations set down by the government.

It is nothing for a forest reservation to have a population of 10,000 persons, exclusive of the employees of the forest service. Several of the forests in Idaho and Montana are filled with "nesters."

As for the loss in money from forest fires in ordinary years, that in itself is enough to warrant extraordinary effort and expense in the prevention of such disasters.

"Will it pay to support an adequate fire protection system?" This is the question practical lumbermen of the old school ask. The forest service men are confident it will. They have had experience and know that reasonable protection requires no patented tools, no secret method. Co-operation on the part of the state governments and more money from congress will bring about the desired results.

"Does the maintenance of an expensive fire-fighting force pay a city?" is the counter question of the forest service experts. The affirmative answer comes promptly.

The government methods of fighting and controlling forest fires are simple. They consist of nothing more than extreme care to prevent as many fires as possible and plain, businesslike methods of getting to work on the flames as soon as they are discovered and staying with the fire until it is out.

An ax, a mattock, a pick, a shovel and a wet gunny sack, if water is obtainable, are the forest ranger's fire-fighting apparatus. In the more accessible regions, where water is abundant, wagons equipped with hose are used. But these are impossible far up in the mountains, where the most sure-footed horses find progress difficult.

Get Quickly to Work. There the work is done by the cool, berry rangers. Trained woodmen they are, who know their work and have the heart to do it. They hunt the high places and keep persistent watch over the surrounding country for miles.

When they see a fire or two to them, if it looks too big for one or two men to handle they hurry to the nearest station for help. In some of the ranges the telephone and telegraph wires and the railroads are at their disposal.

Gradually the forest service is laying out a network of telephone lines through the forest reserves. But such a system as is contemplated in connection with forest preservation is in its infancy today, and, in the last analysis, the average embryonic fire is fought by small groups of men, sometimes by only two men, sometimes by a single one.

Of the thousands of fires that are put out every year in the national reserves before they get well started the general public knows nothing. They are part of the regular routine of the forest guards and rangers.

The amount spent on forest fire fighting by the forest service is approximately \$50,000 a year in ordinary years. Twice or three times that sum would not seem large in view of the amount of property saved, to say nothing of loss of life prevented.

Aside from the loss of life and leaving out indirect results of forest fires, damage done by such conflagrations include the death of standing trees, injury to trees that are not killed, injury to the soil, reduction of the growth of the stand and the effect on reproduction. Some of the resistant species of trees are harmed (but little, while forest fires at times utterly wipe out species of less vitality, so that they never return to the territory which has been swept by the flames.

In considering the causes of fires the forest service has learned by experience that the principal ones are sparks from locomotives, sparks from

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sawmills, camp fires, burning brush, careless smokers, incendiarism and lightning.

For the prevention of fires, or lessening their ravages, the following are necessary:

Elimination, so far as possible, of the causes of fires, a proper organization of the forest by the careful disposition of slash, by which is meant chips and cut branches, the opening of roads and trails, adequate supervision, and sufficient men, armed with the proper apparatus.

The forest service gives great importance to the necessity of carefully burning brush and of the establishment of trails through the forest, so the small fires may be more easily got at. The brush should be piled in small piles and each pile burned independently. This work is best done in the winter, when there is snow on the ground, or when the air is moist and less liable to spread the flames.

The careful watching of a tract makes it safer, because hunters, campers and others crossing that tract are more careful of their fires. By efficient supervision most of the unnecessary fires can be prevented.

As part of this supervision by the forest service all the government forest reserves are posted with warnings. These warnings are printed in English, Italian, French and Spanish. They warn against carelessness and describe the penalties. The four languages are used because many Italians are at work on the railroads and more Mexicans are adrift all over the west.

Watch for Incipient Fires. All over the forest reserves are lookout stations. In the flat country they consist of platforms in the tops of high trees, approached by ladders. If there are no tall trees towers are erected. In the mountainous country any high peak or crag will do.

From these lookouts the keen eyed rangers and guards, provided with the best long distance glasses, keep a constant watch over the territory assigned to them. From one to another they signal in various ways. Wherever it is possible the telephone is used. In the wilder regions more primitive methods must be employed.

Among the most effective is the old fire system, the system used by the Scots of Scotland, the system the white men of Europe found the red men of America using when they first struck the shores of the western hemisphere.

At a time when fire signals are not needed the rangers and guards build little brush piles all over their territory. Placed about 100 feet apart, they are ready to burn at a moment's notice. A regular code of signals prevails. The number of brush fires burning at the same time conveys the signal. One fire means a forest fire on the west of a certain mountain. Two fires mean one to the east, and so on.

Where there are no brush fire signals the simple Indian system of a small fire and a blanket serves the purpose of Uncle Sam's forest guardians. The small fire is started. Then wet grass or earth is used to deaden it and make the smoke heavy. Over the fire a blanket is thrown to hold the smoke down. When the blanket is released a solid puff of smoke goes skyward. Again the blanket is applied and quickly removed. Up goes another puff of smoke.

Other methods are the heliograph—a windmill with small mirrors attached to its wheels, which flash the signal of a fire, and, in some cases, the flag system of the army signal corps.

Best of all, however, is the telephone. Since 1906 the forest service has built 4,500 miles of telephone line, and is extending them as rapidly as congress appropriates the money.

In a report on the forest fire question Chief Forester Graves says it is impossible to give a specific rule for the number of men required to protect tracts of different sizes, although he supports Mr. Pinchot in saying that the forest service is undermanned. In some cases a single man has to watch a tract of 1,000 acres. More men are required in flat regions, as in the mountain regions a single man may, by climbing to a high peak, and there pitching his camp, keep guard over a vast territory.

The fire fighting crews of the forest service are well organized. One man is always in charge. All know their business. The first rule is to get there as quickly as possible. Then organization counts. A well organized small crew can do more work in an hour than an ordinary gang of able bodied men, well intentioned but ignorant, could accomplish in twenty-four.

Hand-to-Hand Conflict. In most cases the battle between the rangers and the fire is a hand-to-hand conflict. Using coats, slickers, gunny-sacks, or whatever they have, Uncle Sam's guardians go after the fire as though it were a den of snakes, and beat it out. Dirt, if it is loose, may be dug up and thrown on the fire.

The Difference. A fool is unable to see his own faults. A wise man, seeing his own faults, is able to keep other people from noting them.

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Not Quite. "I think photography, like dreams, must go by contraries." "What makes you think that?" "When I expressed some doubts as to the success of the pictures I had taken, he assured me the negative was a positive success."

The Whole Trouble. "Mr. Rowley had nothing but praise for your work for him before the congressional committee," said the friend. "Yes," replied the lobbyist, gloomily; "nothing but praise."—Catholic Standard and Times.

WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP CLASH



Manager Frank Chance of Chicago.

Cubs vs. Athletics for the world's baseball honors! That's the morsel to be laded out for fandom during the latter days of October unless some dire calamity befalls F. Leroy Chance & Co., writes Harold D. Johnson in Chicago Record-Herald. It's all over but the shouting as regards the American league race with Mack's seasoned youngsters galloping pennantward on the high speed. Practically the same situation prevails in the National despite the crippled condition of the great Cub machine, and fans whether partial or impartial around both circuits have conceded the palm to the West side combination.

Interest in the coming clash already has stirred the rooting populace of every city of major, minor or trolley league caliber. Speculation over the outcome of the Cubs-Athletic struggle is running at fever heat, with the majority of the critics picking Chicago as the haunting scene of the next world's pennant. Whatever the outcome, the battle royal will bring together two of the most formidable twirling forces ever known to the national pastime.

Frank Chance, typical exponent of the playing manager, will be on first, unless the aforementioned dire calamity works a change in the color scheme. And from the initial corner the P. L. is a master hand at driving his hurlers. Ask any umpire who has officiated on the bases when some poor, unhappy Cub finger has experienced a bad spell. On the other hand, Connie Mack (real name Cornelius McGillicuddy) is a bench leader of the highest rank, crafty, quick to note a player's shortcomings and a thorough practitioner of inside ball.

A seven-game series is no criterion of the real strength of any team. And chances are neither will use more than three pitchers in the big show. Veteran batting stars in the National league claim "Three-fingered" Brown isn't the same demon he was two seasons ago. Orval Overall at present is hors de combat and may miss the big series. Leonard (King) Cole, the young phenom uncovered by Chance this season is almost sure of a steady job in the championship.

Then there's Jack Pfister, one of the greatest left-handers in the game, and southpaws, by the way, are usually effective against the Macks. For reserve fingers the Cubs boast of such veterans as McIntire, Richie and Foxen. Against this array of talent Mack will offer his three mainstays, Chief Bender, Eddie Plank and Jack Coombs, all seasoned veterans of hundreds of conflicts.

Of the Philadelphia staff Plank probably has shown the poorest form this season, while his stablemates, including "Cy" Morgan, have gone at break-neck speed. It looks like a nip and tuck affair, this coming test of pitching strength.

Chicago will have the advantage in the catching department with King and Archer, two of the really greats of the age, as against Thomas and Livingston of the Athletics. Veterans will play first base on both sides—Chance, king of them all for the Cubs, and Davis, a master hand, for the casters.

At second two of the brainiest exponents of the inside ball now in service will be seen.

For years Evers has been hailed monarch of all he surveys; around that section of the field, but the crafty little Trojan will encounter a sturdy opponent in Collins, who practically commands the Athletic forces. Critics throughout the land have named Tinker the superior of all other short stops, and Joe, with his greater experience, should overshadow Barry, the Holy Cross product with Mack's troupe. Steinfeldt and Baker—the first a grizzled warrior—tried and found not wanting in a thousand combats, and the latter a hustling youngster

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STORY OF "TOPSY" HARTSEL

Veteran Outfielder of Philadelphia Athletics Was Handicapped at Start Because of Size.

By "Topsy" Hartsel. It took me a long time to get started right in baseball, but only a minute to start. The greatest handicap I had when I was trying to get started was my size. You see down at Polk, O., they thought I was a great player and we had an old player there who taught me to play the game. I began playing before I was ten years old, and was on the high school and town teams when I was fifteen. I was five feet four inches tall and weighed then about 125 pounds. I played around with the teams in our section of the country, and was determined to become a professional player. We had few chances to learn much, and when I finally got a job with the Burlington, la. club in 1897, I must have been as green a "busher" as there was. I was fast, but in that league they seemed to think I was too small to play, and I went to Montgomery, then to Salem, Ohio, and finally reached Grand Rapids, Mich. It was there I really started. The Grand Rapids team then was a sort of farm for big league clubs and a bunch of experienced and really good players were there. I learned rapidly then, and began to see where I was shy. I found I had been making mistakes and misplaying the game in many ways and still thinking I was doing it right because no one ever had told me how I should do. Louisville took me from Grand Rapids, then Indianapolis got me, and finally I landed with the Chicago National league team. I think I played better ball there than I ever did. Besides I had learned a whole lot about batting and had a good opportunity to study pitchers.

It was at Chicago that I had my best hitting year, and my best base running seasons, and I attribute all my success there to the study of the opposing pitchers. A base runner especially ought to be familiar with every trick and move of every op-

posing pitcher. I found that out when I went into the American league in 1902 with the Athletics. Many of the pitchers were new to me and I made many breaks in base running before I learned their styles and their tricks. I had to begin all over again to study them, and it did me more good than before, because of the experience in the National league.

Experience and close study of the game and the men who play it are necessary to success, and if there is any lesson in my experience in getting started that may be of value to new men it is that any man no matter how good, must think and study all the time. The starting is easy, for players are in demand—but the finish is quick unless the player is willing to work and learn.

PLAY BASEBALL AT NIGHT. Two La Crosse Teams Battle for Two Hours by Aid of Artificial Light Without Inconvenience.

C. A. Comiskey's recently installed lights received their first real tryout at the American league grounds in Chicago the other night, when the Illinois Athletic club and Calumet La Crosse teams battled for over two hours in a fast match in the glare of over 1,000,000 candle power of light which constitutes a portion of the light plant that will give Chicago night baseball in the near future.

The plant proved itself equal to the occasion, for the test held up to what was expected.

The Illinois A. C. won the game, 11 to 10, but this fact was lost to view in the confusion resulting from the pronounced success of the light plant—and at that the grounds were curtained and only half the power was in use.

At no time during the 80 minutes of play did the players find it hard to follow the ball, but the game proved as fast and as interesting as if it had been played in the broad daylight.

No complaint was heard from the players and with the roof lights uncovered the contestants were in no way bothered by the force of the lamps.

Remedies for Dyspepsia. Summing up his experiences with 425 cases of dyspepsia, an English physician said that benefit had resulted most frequently from one of two kinds of medicine—namely, alkali and a carminative, such as ginger, an hour or an hour and a half after a meal, or when the discomfort came on; or bismuth carbonate, in doses of half a dram or more before meals.

Speaks on Varnish. When one finds white spots on varnished table, wet piece of soft flannel in spirits camphor and rub over the spot, and presto! it's gone.

Mending China. Knocking the handle off my china butter dish cover, I took some white paint from the bottom of an old paint can. It was thick, with not much oil. Put paint on one part, then press the other piece on. Let thoroughly dry. Good as new.—Exchange.

Angel Cake and Ice Cream. A loaf of angel cake hollowed out and with the crusts removed to give a snow white appearance makes a charming holder for ice cream. A snow white cream flavored with almond and decorated on top with bright red candied cherries, a delicate pale green cream flavored with pistachio and decorated with pieces of green angelica or a strawberry cream of delicate pink—all look charming in such a receptacle. Individual cups of angel cake may be used for a change and the ice cream within them topped with whipped cream.

Jelly Tumblers for Picnics. Jelly tumblers with light-fitting covers are most useful articles for the picnic basket. They serve as butter crocks, sugar bowls, gelatine pudding molds and receptacles for meat or vegetable salads and deviled eggs. Plenty of oiled paper is essential, and one must always remember to separate articles with strong odors and tastes—such as pickles, bananas, coffee or spiced things.

Cauliflower Pudding. After boiling the cauliflower, mash into a smooth paste, add four eggs, four tablespoonfuls of cream and a tablespoonful of melted butter. Mix well and season and pour into a buttered mold. Bake in a brisk oven. When ready to serve turn it out on a chop platter, surround with cream sauce, and garnish with toast points dipped in butter and sprinkled with parsley.

Cauliflower au Gratin. Boil the cauliflower in slightly salted water until tender. Drain well and break into small bits. Place a layer of cauliflower in a baking dish, pour over it a thick white sauce and sprinkle with grated parmesan cheese. Make another layer the same way and sprinkle a few bread crumbs on the top, add several lumps of butter and bake in oven for 20 minutes.

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MADE OF CHICKEN

APPETIZING DISH EASILY PREPARED BY YOUNG WIFE.

The Name Originated From the Earthen Crock in Which French Cooks Put their Chicken After Browning.

Chicken Marmite—This is a very pretentious and yet easy dish for the young wife to attempt. Choose a good roasting fowl of about three and a half to four pounds. Dismember it and soak after thorough washing in clear, cold water. Dredge the pieces slightly with flour, salt and pepper lightly and brown delicately in lard or olive oil. Then put them in a deep saucepan and cover with the stock, which must be prepared beforehand by boiling the neck, giblets and feet of the bird in water with an onion and savory herbs. Set the vessel over a slow fire and cook covered, adding, when a quarter done, one large ripe tomato, a green pepper denuded of seeds and quite a quantity of paprika. Half a clove of garlic cooked from the beginning with the chicken will add to the taste. It must be thoroughly tender when done, but not in rags, and plain boiled rice flanks the dish admirably. Marmite is the name of the earthen crock in which French cooks prepare chicken in this manner, and sometimes the fowl is put into it whole after the preliminary browning.

Roast Loin of Lamb With Green Peas.—Have the butcher leave the kidney and fat on and skewer the piece daintily. A piece six chops long will be required, for the bit dwindles away with cooking. Dredge with a little flour, salt and pepper and start the roasting with brisk heat, moderating it for the finish.

If canned peas are used open them up and drain in a colander, flushing them while there with cold water. Drain and put in a saucepan with salt, pepper, and a big tablespoonful of butter. Cook covered for five minutes, and serve them in a trim border around the lamb on a hot flat platter.

Pot Roast. A Tasty Dish for Luncheon.—One can get salmon, one egg, juice of one lemon. Season with salt and pepper to suit. Bread crumbs about a cupful. Break the salmon apart with a fork and lightly mix with the other ingredients. Put this into a cake tin with a funnel center and steam for 20 minutes. This will come out in the shape of a salmon loaf. While the salmon loaf is steaming prepare either fresh or canned peas by cooking 15 or 20 minutes, and when done season with butter, pepper and salt, and garnish the salmon loaf on the chop plate with the peas by filling the cavity formed by the funnel and spill generously over the loaf. This makes a pretty and appetizing dish that is especially nice in June, when new peas are so delicious.

Blackberry Cordial. Put the blackberries in either a preserving kettle or a stone jar, set it inside the wash boiler and let them simmer in their own juices until very soft. Strain through a towel wet with boiling water. Measure the juice. To each quart of juice allow two tablespoonfuls of ground cloves, two of mace, two of allspice and four of ground cinnamon. Boil the juice, and after you have removed the scum put it in the spices and stir well. When cold add a pint of whisky to each quart of sirup. Bottle immediately and cork tight. If you use brandy take a half-pint to each quart of sirup.

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