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Settlers, With Families in Idaho Are Surrounded by Death Threatening Flames

FIFTY MOUNTED MEN HURRY FROM STITES TO SQUAW
CREEK IN EFFORT TO SAVE NUMBER OF
WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

(Special Dispatch to the Miner.)

Stites, Ida., Aug. 13. A number of settlers with their families are surrounded by forest fires on Squaw creek, 48 miles up the Middle Fork from Kooskia, according to Mr. A. C. Sticker, a Squaw creek rancher, who arrived here this afternoon with a request for assistance, and 50 mounted men, who had been recruited from the surrounding country, left for the scene this evening. Mr. Sticker twice was surrounded by fire coming out, and his horses legs and their sides had the hair singed off, running the gauntlet of the flames.

High winds during the last 24 hours have scattered the fire, and the whole Squaw creek settlement is now threatened.

Fears are entertained that rescuers will not be able to reach the women and children in time to save them.

FLAMES KEPT BACK FROM TOWNS IN IDAHO

(Special Dispatch to the Miner.)

Wallace, Idaho, Aug. 13.—With another favorable day for holding the forest fires which threaten the Cour d'Alene towns owing to weather conditions and the increased fighting forces, Supervisor Weigle feels tonight that the danger has been averted and that nothing but a gale will now break over the trenches.

A well organized fighting force under Ranger Pulaski, now guarding 10 miles along the divide between watersheds of the St. Joe and the Cour d'Alene rivers, reports all along the line tonight that good progress was made today, not in stopping the flames, which are still burning fiercely, but in entrenching them within certain bounds, and principally in blocking

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their progress toward Wallace and other canyon towns. Danger of the situation lies in the fact that all this condition may be changed within a few-hours' time. Line of fire front is so long and the fire fighting force so limited, the grass, dry leaves and parched undergrowth, like a tinder box, that with a wind blowing a gale the fire is scattered faster than a thousand men could guard or try to stop it. Wallace is now in a direct line of the prevailing winds, which have fanned the flames to fierceness at periods during the past six weeks. Eye-witnesses say that under a gale the fire seems to shoot forward several hundred yards in one flash. Under such conditions the trenches protecting the town would be of no avail, as flames would be driven over the few intervening miles to the wooded hilltops surrounding Wallace and the neighboring cities.

The forestry office late tonight reported that two men working in the vicinity of State creek, guarding Northern Pacific timber, are missing from a gang of nine men who have been working together. A back fire caught this crew and the men had to run for their lives. The names of the missing are Oscar Johnson and George Quinn, both young and unmarried. Chances are that they may have escaped, but the country was strange to them and those who escaped say the fire came on them like a hurricane.

Fires on Trout creek and Big creek made great headway today and are burning in fine timber. One new fire on Rock creek, about a mile from Morning mine compressor, is now the danger center for Mullan and the mining properties in that section. Supervisor Weigle was advised tonight that troops from Wright are at his disposal. He said that he would take the matter up immediately and might station one company at Wallace for use in emergency.