

# INTER-MOUNTAIN PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
P. O. BOXES 1274, 1772

Big Timber, Mont.

Pioneer.

AUG 11 1910

## FOREST FIRES ARE SUBDUED 153 ATMOSPHERE LESS SMOKY

Absence during the last few days of the pall of smoke which for weeks hung over this section indicates a lessening of the forest fires which have been raging in the western part of the state. News from there last Tuesday was to the effect that many of the fires had been extinguished and that the remaining ones were under control.

Hundreds of men have been rushed to the burning territory, every available man who could be secured having been employed. At first it was a matter of considerable difficulty to secure help, but with the danger of total destruction of some of the forests becoming more imminent a scale of wages was adopted that appealed to the idle men at the different cities and towns. Three dollars a day and expenses has been paid lately.

Even with the large number of fire fighters employed by the forest service and lumber companies it became apparent that unless rain intervened it would be impossible to subdue the fires. This caused an appeal to be made to the president that he order the army out to the assistance of those already in the field. This appeal met with prompt response and information was received last Tuesday that orders had been issued to the different department commanders in the west to hold their troops in readiness at the posts to be placed

at the disposal of the district officials of the several national forests.

Upon receipt of the order the necessary steps were taken to make it effective in case of need. It was believed, however, that, so far as Montana was concerned it would not be necessary to call on the troops, unless to establish permanent patrols until all of the fires were out. The men then at work were thought to be able to cope with the situation, having it well in hand.

The amount of damage done in this and other states to the west is hard to calculate, but it is believed to run into the millions. Not only has an immense amount of merchantable timber been destroyed, but countless young trees have been killed and thereby the source of future supplies seriously impaired and many years will be required to replace them.

### Works of Incendiary.

It has been well established that many of the fires were the result of design. Circumstances have arisen that make it clear that while one set of men were fighting fires other men were skulking through the forests starting new ones. A reward has been posted for the arrest of the incendiaries and efforts put forth to secure their apprehension. At last accounts no arrests had been made, although it was said some were likely to follow shortly.