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FOREST FIRES DIMINISHING

Copious Rains Falling and Situation Greatly Improved.

HELENA, Aug. 6.—Assurances of co-operation on the part of the railroads in fighting Montana forest fires have been received by Governor Norris in reply to telegrams he sent yesterday. The most reassuring word in days was received from State Forester Junburg. He wired that good rains are now falling in the Flathead country, the winds have died down and the situation appears greatly improved.

Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pacific, replied to the governor's telegram as follows: "Our men already have been doing all they can to help fight the fires, but instructions are renewed to our superintendents to redouble their efforts in co-operating with the state and federal officers. We, of course, owe a duty to the public in seeing that our maintenance is taken care of and can not neglect that. So far as we can, will let all men working for us be employed by the government to stop the unfortunate fires."

Louis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern: "Much appreciate your telegram of yesterday. We will co-operate with the other interests in an endeavor to preserve the property endangered by forest fires independent of source of origin."

E. D. Sewell, assistant to the president of the Puget Sound: "This company will co-operate to the fullest possible extent in suppressing the fires. The matter has been taken up with the general superintendent at Seattle."

C. C. Covington, justice of the peace at Augusta, has written to Sheriff Higgins, one paragraph of which reads as follows:

"We have had a bad forest fire here since last Saturday. The fire is raging from Dupuyer to Clemens and is requiring strenuous work night and day to protect the ranches along the foot of the mountains."