

PINCHOT AND HEYBURN

It is not easy to say much in support of the late chief forester position in his criticism of the work of handling the forest fires. Mr. Pinchot blames specifically Senators Heyburn of Idaho and Carter of Montana and Representative Mondell of Wyoming for their failure to do as he wished them to do in urging appropriations, far beyond any reason- the Salt Lake Tribune. Such appropriations if once granted would be practically certain to reach formidable proportions, far beyond any reasonable estimate of that made at the beginning, because the forests of the United States are very extensive and widely scattered and the accidents and carelessness which start the fires are so obscure that it would be practically impossible to guard against them unless a forest ranger accompanied every camping party; and even then a high wind would be likely to carry sparks from a fire even though the utmost precautions were taken. And then, we believe, it is agreed among foresters that the friction in the branches of dry trees sometimes starts a spontaneous combustion that is the origin of a forest fire.

But why Mr. Pinchot should have singled out the senators named and the one representative it is not easy to say. He shows special satisfaction in the report that Wallace, which is Senator Heyburn's home town, was a bad sufferer. He must have some personal grudge against the men named, some score to wipe out or malice to gratify. The gentlemen named are all standpatters, regular party men, however, and it is possible that Mr. Pinchot thinks the standpat crowd are so badly used up now that it is safe to jump on them.

The reply which might easily and effectively be made to Mr. Pinchot with regard to his forest theory, is on the surface. It is that it would be better for the settlers in this western region to deliberately cut out sufficient plots of clear ground through all these western forests to prevent the spread of fires to any great extent. It would really be better to cut down all the trees than to incur the imminent risk of such vast devastation and mortality as has accompanied these fires in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana. For it is better to devastate forests than to devastate settlements and to roast people to death. Much of the forest area that burned contained few or no trees worth preserving. Every one in this western country knows what these mountain trees are. Large areas of them are of but small value save for firewood. They are not worth preserving at all as a rule, but when the preserving of them is set off against the alternative of saving

## PINCHOT AND HEYBURN (Cont.)

the settlements and the lives of human beings, then the case for the preservation of the forests vanishes at once into thin air.

But we believe that Mr. Pinchot's praise for the work of the forest rangers, fervent as it is, is simply their just due. They have deserved all that can be said in their praise. They have exhibited the finest qualities of human nature. They have labored heroically and to the point of exhaustion. Their efforts were whole-hearted and brave to the point of self-sacrifice. Many of them sacrificed their lives in their splendid efforts to fight back the devouring flames. Whatever men could do they did, and the sorrowful <sup>scenes</sup> of death and devastation is brightened, so far as such as calamity can be brightened by the manly and brilliant work of the forest rangers in these all-devouring forest fires.

DRESSES BLAZE IN RUN FOR LIFE  
Butte Hears of Mrs. Dick Daxon's Party Adventure.

Butte, Mont. Aug. 30--Living two days and one night in the mouth of the Bryan tunnel, nine persons escaped death through their own foresight and the help of two men in the party.

This is the story told today by Ed Killfeather and Ca A. Derry, two Butte men who went over to Saltese because the women were bound to them by the closest of ties.

Mr. Killfeather's mother, Mrs. Lalande is 74 years old. Mrs. Derry is Mr. Killfeather's sister. The story told by them is one such as the roman citizen never dreamed.

Mrs. Lalande and Mrs. Derry were living at the Runover mine with Mrs. Richard Daxon, spending the summer weeks in the open and getting a little of the life of the wildwood and has as little fear of disaster as one could imagine.

Dave Bogart and Bill Adams of Saltese, two of the well-known miners of the locality, were doing assessment work near the Last Chance mine when the fire began to sweep down on the party. They took refuge in the tunnel.

Jim McWilliams and a miner known as "The Protestant Kid," remembered that the women were over camping at the Runover. Harnessing up a team they started to drive over and get them before the fire would destroy them.

The smoke and heat became so great that they were forced to abandon their team and cut across country. The women in the meantime had packed up and were leaving the place. They had about a half hour's start of the fire and they had packed some bedding and provisions and hiked for the camp. Had the men not intercepted them and brought them to the tunnel's mouth they would have died of suffocation or fire.

Arriving at the tunnel the exhausted party met Mrs. Anno and her 16 year old boy, who lived near the mouth of the tunnel. The party of nine first moved into the blacksmith shop. Here they talked over the danger. It was decided that a big frame building near the tunnel invited fire and would smother them. This was promptly torn down and the lumber thrown over the dump.

It was with difficulty that the little blacksmith shop was saved. But here for 60 hours, the little party took turns carrying water, cooking food and maintaining a semblance of bravery.

Coffee, bacon and flour biscuits was the menu of the party and this was prepared with but little consideration for the palate.

Both men and women took turns at the vigils and the duties and among them Mrs. Lalande was the busiest of the party. Though 74 the old lady showed the younger ones how to act in times of distress and did her duties with the air of one upon whom responsibilities devolved.

In their mad race for the Runover mine to the tunnel the straw hats and garments of the women were practically burned off them. Sometimes the flames billowed over their heads and sometimes snapped at their heels.

The tunnel had a perfect draught, but had the fire occurred near the mouth it would have suffocated all those who were existing for

Dresses Blase in Run For Life. (Contd)

60 hours within.

On the third day with the fire raging and roaring within a stone's throw the conflagration passed leaving nothing but blackened embers. The wagon and team was burned where it stood.

On the third day the party deemed it advisable to start for Saltese. They were ragged, emaciated and hungry, their clothes were burned and they were broken down physically and from mental worry.

Near Saltese the rescuing party met them and Derry and Killfeather were close by. The reunion was a happy one. The Butte men then left, knowing that their relatives were safe.

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BULLION VICTIMS BODIES HERE  
Five brought into Wallace From Disaster Scene.

The five remaining bodies from the Bullion disaster were brought into Wallace last night and were taken to Worstell's undertaking establishment. The men were identified as follows:

S. D. Adams, 167 Institute Place, Chicago.

Aaron Benson, Hillsdale, Wis.

Louis Holmes, Birmingham, England.

Ernest Elgin, Wallace.

The bodies were in good condition and were brought into Wallace without much difficulty. They were packed out to the railroad at Borax. An engine and box car met the party there and the bodies were placed in the car and taken to the Wallow Creek tunnel. On account of the cave-in at the tunnel the bodies were transferred around it. A box car was in readiness on a work train and they were brought to Wallace and will be interred here.

Holmes is a well known resident of the Coeur d'Alenes, having worked as cook at Wallace for a number of years. About a year ago he returned to his home at Birmingham, England, where he opened an American restaurant. The venture was a failure and he lost all of his savings. Friends who aided him also lost their money. The English people did not take to an American restaurant.

About a month ago he returned to Wallace from Spokane and was chef at the Grill when it opened a month ago. He remained there but a short time. An offer was made to him to cook in the forest fire fighting camp near the Bullion and he went there. He had been cooking there a little over a week when the fires got beyond the control of the men and they fled to the Bullion tunnel for protection. Holmes was one of the eight to meet death.

Adams is said to be a Persian. Why he adopted the name is not known. His home was at Chicago. Nothing is known here of his family or relatives.

Benson lived at Hillsdale, Wis. He told other men in the camp that he owned a farm near there and that a wife and two daughters resided on the farm. He said that one of the daughters was about to be married. He claimed to be a Mason in good standing. Telegrams that have been sent to Hillsdale have brought no answer. Benson was quite an old man and was known in the fire gang by the name of "Dad."

Nothing is known of Welen and Elgin. They were sent in from Spokane to fight the fires and they gave no information concerning their relatives or friends. They were not acquainted with any of the men in the crew.

The bodies of the men probably will be held several days waiting word from relatives.

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PINE CREEK SETTLERS SAVE A THIRD OF THEIR TIMBER  
Many Homesteaders Lose Practically All They Have--Fire Keeps  
Returning to Same Spot.

That on an average the homesteaders of the Pine creek country are saving a third of their timber holdings, though the persistency of the flames in returning again and again to the same spots may result in an entire loss to the majority are statements of Wm. Tyson, a settler, who was in Wallace after supplies.

"It is one continued tale of woe," said Mr. Tyson. "We fight with all our might to save a strip of timber and then have to go out and fight several times more to save that same strip after we have considered it out of all danger. The fire keeps coming back to us. Each has only a fringe of timber left and we are trying to save it.

"One satisfaction we have is that the Pine creek fires have not resulted in any loss of life so far. There are enough men among the fire fighters who know the country and who can guide the strangers into places of safety in cases that are critical.

"One of the most remarkable experiences reported on Pine creek is that of the Fisher family who were caught in the gulch where their cabins are. The fire was approaching them on all sides and kept coming during the entire time between 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon, August 20, and the next morning at 2 o'clock. The family could see it coming and had no way to get away. They had to stay and see it coming. They faced it and fought it what they could, at times being compelled to lie down in order to breathe. They saved their lives and the cabins as well though some of the party nearly lost their eyes in doing so. The wind did not change so that the Fishers were out of danger until the Sunday night after the fire first menaced them.

"For three days the terrible wind and fire had us all going. During that time the fire came over timber that never had been touched before on the claims owned by Frank Gilbert, Frank Brooks, M. E. Thurston and R. C. Christopher.

"At the present time the timber is all pretty well burned out but the fire on Lattour creek is coming over the divide into the little west fork of Baldy mountain where the Constans have their ranches and it looks as if the Constan ranches are in greater danger than ever before.

"The settlers, on an average, are saving a third of their timber. Some, like George Thompson and myself, have nothing left.

"Thompson's case is pitiable. He has six little children and a wife dependent on him, their clothing is burned outside of what they have on their backs, they have no grub and their timber is gone. Thompson's nerves are unstrung on his trying experiences and he is unable to do much just now to take care of his family. That is a case that deserves relief. Thompson would rather starve than ask for help and if the relief committee wants to help him they will have to go after him.

"On a number of claims the timber is practically all gone. These claims are owned by Jack Shiplett, Clarence Dawson, George Thompson, Wm. Boro, Charles Seeger, R.C. Christopher and myself.

## Pine Creek Settlers Save a Third of Their Timber (Contd)

"Settlers that have lost about half their timber so far are Frank Brooks, M. E. Thurston, Fisher, Box, Gibson and Sevdy.

"These people all have claims on the west fork of Pine except Sevdy and Gibson. Gibson's place is on the main stream and Sevdy's on the east fork near the mouth. Sevdy has a big family and he will be hard pinched by his loss.

"I am not acquainted with present conditions on the east fork of Pine as I have been too busy on the west fork to inquire.

"I know of many cases where the ranchers have not taken off their clothes for weeks. By experience I have found that a man can live for two weeks with eating hardly anything. The only times I have taken off my shoes in several weeks were when my clothes were burned off and I had to take my shoes off to put on new clothes.

"We needn't have ~~not~~ had these fires if it were not for some of the rules of the forest service. One rule I refer to particularly is that a settler may not burn brush off his land between a certain date in June and the wet weather of the fall. As a rule the forest service refuses to issue these permits when they are asked for.

"The result is the settler is not able to burn his brush when it will burn and he has to allow it to accumulate year after year. If it hadn't been for this brush accumulation on many of the homesteads, combined with the unusual dryness of the season, the fires wouldn't have become so bad in many places.

"The idea of the government coming in and telling a settler he must be careful on his own property when the settler probably has his all in his little homestead and is going to be mighty careful on his own account so as not to lose anything."

FIRE DEATH LIST STAYS AT 79  
No Further Fatalities Are Reported Today.

Supervisor Weigle of the Coeur d'Alene National Forest said today that no further fatalities from forest fires of last week had been reported. The list of dead stands as yesterday at 79 including the four that are supposed to have lost their lives in the Wallace conflagration.

So far as is known there are no missing. The injured are about 50.

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SERVICES HELD FOR 5 VICTIMS  
Placer Creek Dead Buried--One Service For All.

Funeral services for five of the forest fire victims were held this morning at Ward's Undertaking establishment. Rev. Williams of the Methodist church officiated at the services at the chapel and at the grave.

Those who were buried were:

August Burger.  
William Learmouth  
Richard Wood  
Joseph Feere  
One unknown.

All of the bodies were placed in separate vehicles and conveyed to the cemetery. The men lost their lives in the mine tunnel on Placer creek a week ago Saturday night while trying to escape the forest fires.

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FOUR HUNDRED MEN FIGHT FOREST FIRE NEAR SEATTLE

Seattle, Aug. 30--Reports today to the Washington Fire Association indicate a generally improved condition. The only alarming fire is in the Snoqualmie district of King county, where a 15-mile front of almost continuous fire spreads out fan-like from Echo lake to a point near North Bend, encircling the town of Preston. Four hundred men are fighting the fire but it can not be extinguished until a soaking rain comes.

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**FOREST SERVICE FIGHTS TO SAVE BILLIONS FEET TIMBER  
Much Good Lumber in North of Forest and Half Dozen Fires Are Being Com-  
bated.**

Fire fighting is still being continued on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest.

The recent gale of fire and wind did not wipe out all of the timber. Billions of feet remain in the northern part of the national forest.

In the southern part the big fires along the St. Joe all burned together and left hardly anything.

Three hundred men are at work fighting fire under the direction of the forest service. It is hoped the timber standing can be saved as it is not considered probable that another such big wind will blow for years. Old-timers say they do not remember a similar wind during the time they have lived in the Coeur d'Alene.

On the Little North Fork the fires have been stopped and little damage is done. A billion feet of timber stands in one bunch there.

The forest service is still ordering supplies and men and applications are being received daily at the forest office here for positions on the fire line.

Fires are burning now on Independence creek, at Wolf Lodge bay, on the North Fork above Prichard, on Grizzly creek--though the last named fire is practically out--and there is a fire near Rose Lake.

It is estimated that easily 200,000 acres of timber land on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest have been burned over though the forest service declines to issue an estimate since no investigation has been made.

The Clearwater National Forest suffered worse than the local forest by far, according to reports.

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L. W. Stedman Is Biggest Loser.  
Fire Damages Considerable Property On The North Side.

None of the mining properties on the North Side near Murray was much damaged by the forest fires this season, states George J. Kiebler, manager of the Bear Top mine, but many mine owners were given a taste of the fire that was not very pleasant.

At this time the fire is burning on the hill in sight of the Bear Top mine. It is claimed the fire is under control and no trouble is feared so long as the wind keeps quiet.

The Bear Top mine lost 4,000 feet of flume and their saw mill besides a cabin or two. The company's loss is given as between \$4000 to \$5000. The flume is being rebuilt and the mill has resumed running. The Bear Top timber is about the only green spot in that particular section of the country, the timber on all sides being pretty well blackened.

The Paragon had a dose of hard luck. During the snowslide season last February the shaft house was swept to the bottom of the gulch, the machinery going along. The machinery was recovered but the fires caught it recently and did what damage remained possible. The Paragon also lost timber and a number of buildings. L. W. Stedman, the mine manager, is considered about the biggest loser by the fires on the North Side.

Some damage was done to the Monarch property though the main timber belt and the buildings were saved.

At the Golden Chest considerable flume is gone and there is still a little fire burning in that section.

The Orofino and Bearpaw, which adjoin the Bear Top, have been saved so far.

"Considering what damage the forest fires did on this side, we feel that we got off lucky," remarked Mr. Kiebler.

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**POLLEY'S TIMBER HOLDINGS BURN**  
Company Will Have To Cut Trees At Once.

R. G. Harrington, foreman of the Polleys Lumber Company at Taft, came to town yesterday and brought additional news about his section of the country. He and seven other men remained at the camp and saved the horses and did what they could to prevent the buildings from catching. The tool house and the bunks were destroyed but everything else was saved says the Missoulian.

"We had a great experience," said Mr. Harrington. "Our camp is just a half-mile from Taft. Four weeks ago a forest fire came over the divide from Idaho and lingered around, but we were not seriously threatened until Saturday. About 8 o'clock that night a wind arose. Soon cinders and sticks as large as your finger began to fall about the camp. They sounded like rain falling on the roofs. If caught they felt warm. The smoke was thick, but no flames were in sight.

"I was over at Taft early in the evening but went home when the situation began to be alarming. In order to keep a lookout I remained up until 11 when I lay down with my clothes on so that I could get up and out in a hurry if it were necessary. At 1 o'clock in the morning some men came from Taft and said that the fire was coming. I got up and looked out. The heavens were lit up. Every few minutes there would be a flare-up, as if flames had broken through the smoke. The general color of the fire region was dark red.

"We had a crew of 25 men.

"About 2:30 we saw a brand blow from one ridge to another and when it struck another fire was started. Lighted missiles were flying about a mile. The fires were rolling like a great ocean wave. Flames ran up trees and leaped to others. For hours the wind swept the flames away from us.

"It was 8 o'clock when the fire began to strike us. The wind was blowing hard. Seventeen of our men had taken the relief train several hours before. At daylight we carried our tools and supplies to the creek bottom and buried them. We also tied our horses there.

"Our camp is located on the forks of St. Regis and Dominion creeks. Some time ago the Dominion banks were burned. This fire came down St. Regis and the only thing that saved us was two currents of wind, one traveling each creek, came together just above the camp. The Dominion current checked the St. Regis wind and fire. The camp was reached about noon. By 1 it was dark as midnight and a regular cyclone came with the fire. We went to the creek for four hours. Seeing that we were in danger if all the buildings caught at once we moved further away, taking the six horses with us. At 10 o'clock one of the boys broke through the smoke and ran toward Taft, which had been passed over and later we followed and were safe.

"The air was full of hot cinders and great chunks of burning wood. I can not describe it. I hope to forget it." "Is the timber damaged?" "Not for immediate use. It is killed, but if we cut it at once it will be all right. The underbrush is burned and we can get about better than before." e

"What buildings did you save?" "The cook house, the office and the stor/

"How many people were burned?"

"One, Billy McKay, the carpenter."

JUDGE HARRY COHEN OF WALLACE TELLS ~~THE~~ MISSOULIA OF  
FIRES

Judge Harry Cohen, one of the Wallace refugees who spent last week in Missoula, is a veteran in the fire business says the Missoulian. "I am getting used to it," said he to a Missoulian man the other day. "I was in Providence hospital in Wallace when the fire came and I was ready to move when the order came. It seemed quite natural. In the earlier Wallace fire I was burned out clean. ~~it seemed quite natural. in the ear~~ Before that, I had lost all I had in the world in the big Chicago fire in 1871. Even before that I was burned out in Kansas. This fire business is getting to be a habit with me I am afraid. In the Chicago fire, I had a stock of goods that I had brought from Leavenworth. They had been insured in transit, but on the very day of the fire they were moved from the freight station and they had not been unpacked when the fire came. I had not placed local insurance on them and the transit insurance expired when they were taken from the station. That was the severest blow I ever had. This time I have been treated finely. Missoula is a fine place and has fine people."

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MEETS BLIND BEAR WHICH IS SAVAGE  
Animal On Big Creek Caught By Forest Fire

A traveler down Big creek of the St. Joe, who was looking over the desolation wrought by the forest fire here recently, encountered a blind bear.

The animal had been burned so badly in the fire that it was ~~particular~~ practically sightless. It was extremely savage and attempted to attack the traveler.

He succeeded in evading it easily by jumping aside, the animal not being able to see him, so that the evading process was as harmless and simple as a game of tag.

The bear was not killed since the man had no gun with him.

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ANXIOUS ABOUT FRIEND.

The safety of Harry Fern, the ranger who took his big crew out of the fire zone on the Clearwater with comparative ease, was the object that brought J. Watson to the Forest Supervisor's office this morning. Watson and Fern worked together in the Standard mine last winter and were good friends. When told that Fern was safe at Avery Watson expressed extreme pleasure.

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CITY TO THANK FOREST SERVICE  
Council Will Pass Resolutions Commending Work Done.

The council last night approved the appointment of a committee consisting of Aldermen Flohr, Sutherland and Pfister to draft a set of resolutions thanking the Forest Service and the soldiers for the work done in fighting forest fires in the District near Wallace.

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KITTEN WAS BURNED

Tabby Caught in Fire on Hill But May Live.

With its whiskers gone, half of its fur singed off, its feet burned and its toe nails burned partly off, a little tabby kitten is recuperating at the Stimson plumbing shop.

The kitten was picked up by the Stimson boys in the timber on the hill above High street. It had evidently been making its summer home in the woods and had been unable to flee from the fire.

The little creature is recovering in remarkable manner and bids fair to live long enough to be able to tell its grandchildren of its experience.

By a special provision of the relief committee an appropriation has been secured to purchase a package of cat-nip tea for the kitten.

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SOLDIERS SENT OUT

Fire Back of Sutherland's Residence Breaks Out.

The fire in the timber on the mountain back of the Sutherland residence broke out again this morning and a detail of soldiers was sent to the scene to subdue the flames.

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ONLY SAVED HIS DOG AND IT IS BADLY CRIPPLED

Frank Heller has come in from the placer country near Sherlock creek, bringing with him a badly singed and crippled dog of the setter breed.

"That's all I saved," he remarked to a friend, pointing to the animal.

Heller was working the country where the fire was so bad a week or so ago and acquaintances feared that he might have lost his life, nothing being heard from him until he arrived in Wallace.

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GOES TO MEET CHIEF FORESTER  
Milwaukee Lumber Man Tells of Great Danger.

A. V. Braderick of the Milwaukee Lumber Company, which was building the logging road up Big Creek and which lost heavily in the forest fire was a Wallace visitor over night and left this morning where he will meet Forester Graves and discuss the situation on Big creek.

The lumber company had purchased 100,000,000 feet of lumber on Big creek from the government, the sale having only been made a few weeks ago. The timber extended along the creek to the divide of Pine creek. It was here that the fire did great damage.

Mr. Braderick said that an examination showed that the timber had suffered terribly from the fire and the wind and the future actions of this company would depend upon his conference with the forester at Missoula.

The building of the road is also held in abeyance. Two miles of the road had been built when the great fire occurred a week ago Saturday and Sunday.

The company will go ahead with the mill.

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RAILROAD WORKS BIG CREW NOW  
Puget Sound Employs Thousands In Shoshone County.

Missoula, Aug. 30--The Puget Sound crews that are pushing the work of reconstruction night and day have made good progress during the past day and have passed over the Dominion creek bridge on the east end. A force of 325 bridge carpenters and 200 laborers has been organized into a machine that is pushing its way steadily through the wreckage left by the fire and is leaving in its wake a facsimile of the Puget Sound as it was before the conflagration which crippled it so badly.

During the enforced idleness the Puget Sound will also turn its attention to Missoula. Work on the station grounds and driveway will be started at once and the work on the new depot hurried. The work on the grounds will necessitate 25,000 yards of filling and will greatly improve the appearance of the Milwaukee property.

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NEW FIRE STARTS ABOVE ROSE LAKE

Supervisor Weigle has received word of a bad forest fire that started yesterday above Rose Lake and inside the National Forest.

It is reported that the fire originated from one of the lumber company's camps.

Men were sent out from the Rose Lake Lumber Company's plant in charge of Ranger Crawford.

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