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TERRORS OF FOREST FIRE

Described By W. A. Watson, Just Arrived From North.

PASSED THROUGH FIRE

Great Risk Taken By Settlers In Burning to Clear the Land.

The Whig has the pleasure to-day, of presenting a most able and interesting article from the pen of W. A. Watson, Verona, on the forest fires in northern Ontario.

Again the attention of the south is drawn to the north by the recent outbreak of forest fires. The people of the south living in well developed and old settled communities know nothing of the terror and destructiveness of a forest fire; flames leaping mountain high, with the noise of a thunderstorm, trees falling, embers crackling, speed of a cyclone, as it gathers speed, passing over a country rich in timber and leaving ruin in its wake.

ed rink for hockey and have a golf course for the employees, and this year won the N.O.B.A. championship. Everything about the town is in order, and shows organization. The plant is the most complete in Canada, producing, from the raw pulp, finished paper used chiefly for newspaper, and averaged a trainload per day, leaving the Falls on scheduled time with right of way over all trains except the National.

Twenty-seven miles south of Cochrane is Porquois Junction, a small railway town with hotels and restaurants to accommodate the travelling public. Some thirty miles west of Porquois Junction is Timmins, the home of the Hollinger gold mine. The population is about 8,000, including miners, and the miners' shacks and tents on the outskirts of the town are quite typical. The town has a good business section and a baseball team; the trip through the mine is quite interesting. One can go 1,800 feet below the surface and see the metal in the rough and follow the mineral through the various departments and see the finished product.

These towns are, as yet, all safe from fire. Twenty-seven miles south of Cochrane is Porquois Junction with Porquois Falls, a paper mill town on east, and Timmins mining town on west, and as yet, safe.

The picture of the north can be drawn as a vast forest, with here and there a lake and a railway line penetrating the wilderness. Clearings on either side of the railway have been made for towns or prospective farms.

Passed Through Fire. As we passed south, when smoke permitted us to see the country the fire was on both sides of the track and leaping frantically, driven by a north-east wind. Wild animals, and birds were leaving the forest ahead of the fire, and seeking safety along the right of way; a partridge felt at home on top of the coach. The rabbits ran ahead of the engine for a distance, but finally gave up the race. We saw two baby moose leave the track and make for the forest, somewhat reluctantly, as though they had lost their guide and trusted the safety of the railway track rather than the crackling of the fire, embers and volumes of dense smoke in the distance.

The fire has certainly come at an inopportune time. Public opinion should not blame the camper, prospector or homesteader for carelessness. The government during the summer months has an efficient staff of fire-rangers guarding all forest reserves against such an outbreak. But as the summer was somewhat rainy and the rangers cautious about granting firing permits, there was practically no burning done, and during these months the country was quite safe. The government sees fit to remove the fire-rangers about the middle of September, and after this time settlers are free to burn the slash.

Settlers Take Risk. Unfortunately, this year, the latter part of September was warm and

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dry. The campers have mostly returned south and prospectors are back from their summer's work. The settler is somewhat justified in burning, as there is no other practical way of clearing the land, and they take the risk, realizing that the alternative is inevitable disaster.

It is needless to say if the forestry department had had its staff still on the ground there would not have been a fire. But as it is, a staff brought in, is useless. Once the fire has got under way, sand, backfiring and ditching are not sufficient. Aeroplanes with chemicals may be useful, but the aeroplanes were chiefly used for sighting fires, and were a long distance farther north, between Cochrane and James Bay, far from the present outbreak.

The forest areas now being ravaged are mostly spruce used for pulp, from 6 to 9 inches in diameter. The timber limits so far have not suffered any serious loss.

AN URGENT CALL

For Clothing For the Fire Sufferers of North.

An urgent telegram from the Red Cross headquarters, Toronto, was received this morning by the president of the local Red Cross branch for clothing for the fire sufferers in Northern Ontario. Infants and young children are in a pitiable condition for lack of warm clothing. No old articles of wearing apparel will be sent. The local committee will be at the Red Cross Lodge at Sydenham Hospital on Monday at 2.30 p.m. to give out material. Workers are asked for.

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"Every pair with Goodyear welted soles—narrow toes, new French toes, wide toes—all sizes in each style.

S. J. MARTIN

HAZE ENVELOPES CITY.

Likely From The Forest Fires In Northern Ontario.

A haze, believed to have reached the city from the fire stricken areas of Northern Ontario began to hang over the city on Thursday afternoon and became denser as the hours passed on. It is believed that there are no forest fires in the immediate vicinity, and the opinion was generally expressed that the smoke had come

from the northern regions. One man stated that in former fires, smoke had come over three hundred miles to where he lived. The present fire area is somewhat less than three hundred miles north of Kingston, and as there was a north wind on Thursday there is every reason to believe that the haze is from Northern Ontario.

Sale 15c sheet music, Dutton's. Speech is the index of the mind.

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Iroquois Falls. Iroquois Falls is located eight miles east of Porquois Junction on same spur line as Timmins. This is the home of the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company, and famous for its hockey teams, contenders for the Allan Cup. The company has a definite plan for the laying out of the town, owning all real estate themselves. They have erected a cover-