

FIRE IN MICHIGAN. 5-32

The central portion of the State of Michigan has within the last ten days been the theater of a conflagration which, for extent of territory covered and destruction of human life and property, is without a precedent in the history of our country. We scarcely know where to begin, or how to tell the sad story of suffering and loss. Commencing in Sanilac County on the east, bordering on Lake Huron, the flame spread with rapid speed westward through the center of the State, to Lake Michigan, spreading northward as far as Manistee County—consuming almost everything in its course. In consequence of the long protracted drought, everything had been converted into tinder. Numerous "slashings," or partly cleared tracts of land, afforded ready materials for the flames, carried by high winds which gave rapid wing to the devouring fiend. Entire towns and villages were wiped out, and farms innumerable were shorn of fences, buildings, crops—everything that was on them—while the inhabitants, in many cases, hemmed in, were utterly helpless, and without a refuge, and so perished with their property, to a fearful and as yet uncounted number—and thousands who survived, over that entire denuded territory, are left without any support—a vast number will be dependent upon the benevolence of the nation for the means of subsistence during the entire ensuing winter. We can only give a few of the most prominent, sickening details:

The following will indicate the impressions received by persons who have, to some extent, explored the stricken territory. The report comes from Detroit, dated Sept. 8:

In the vicinity of Richmondville and in Western Forester and Marion Townships, reliable information leads me to say that upward of 300 persons perished in the flames. There was no escape for them. The woods and ground were so dry that no warning of danger was given. Faster than a race horse came the fire. It would embrace a house or barn, with its contents, and be away to the next. Persons who have been through the terrible ordeal, say that in ten minutes from the time the fire struck there would be no vestige of a house left.

I have just returned from a trip through the burned district, and a description of the sights would make the reader's blood turn cold. In many instances, men, women, and children are around, lying on their faces in the road where they had fallen when overtaken by the fire. Children were lying on logs, where they had clambered for safety. There was no finding each other when once separated. Many took refuge in the wells and root houses, thinking to escape but in almost every instance were suffocated.

the necessities of the case are so great that contributions of the charitable throughout the country will be required to keep them through the winter.

We, therefore, appeal to you to send money, clothing, bedding, provisions, or any other supplies that will help maintain the sufferers and enable them to provide shelter for themselves and begin work again on their farms.

Contributions may be sent to the Mayor, E. Carleton, Chairman of the Relief Committee appointed by the citizens of Port Huron, who have sent agents through the burned district to ascertain the wants of the sufferers and distribute supplies.

PORT HURON, Mich., Sept. 8.—The undersigned makes this second report after visiting the burned region and receiving the reports of a large number of persons familiar with the facts, and in most instances giving us the names of the victims and sufferers already ascertained.

In twenty towns in Sanilac and Huron Counties, we find over 200 persons destroyed by the fire, including entire families lost. We have lists already of more than 1,500 families burned out, in most cases losing house, barn, cattle, horses, grain, hay, everything, of which they had in most instances abundant possessions a few hours before. Without food, shelter, clothing, and almost without hope, they huddle together in crowds or wander half crazed alone; till help comes to them. They must not perish. They must not become exiles. They must have food, clothing, habitations, with wheat for sowing, grass seed, hay, a thousand things, till the next harvest comes. We will do all we can, but the calamity is too overwhelming and beyond our utmost means to relieve alone.

The generosity of the American people is proverbial. We invoke its exercise. Send your contributions to Hon. E. C. Carleton, Mayor of Port Huron, and Chairman of the Relief Committee.

W. L. BANCROFT,
O. D. CONGER.

DETROIT, Mich., Sept. 9.—Details continue to come. Huron and Sanilac Counties are the principal theaters of the greatest destruction and suffering. An eye witness states that preceding the approach of the fire there was darkness, and a copper-colored appearance of the sky. Later it changed to deep red, and by the middle of the afternoon on Monday, it became so dark that lanterns were a necessity, in order that people might find their way out of doors. This condition of affairs continued until about 8 o'clock, Wednesday morning, when the wind shifted from west to north, which cooled the air, and brought slight relief. In the woods were many dead of every age, and presenting a revolting appearance. The high winds that prevailed cut off nearly every avenue of escape, and large burning masses would be bodily lifted up and borne great distances, and, in many instances, start fires in fresh places. The skill and courage of man seemed impotent to combat such flames, and the fleeing people were caught in the firetraps and roasted, as were their live stock. One farmer, who was plowing with his oxen a few miles from Sand Beach, perceived the approaching darkness and started for his house. Reaching there he found that his wife had gone to a neighbor's. He took two children and gave three

HENDERSON HOUSE: The Henderson House, in London, has been advised by London newspapers for no one had taken it at is a quiet place in the men whose tastes would not such a residence for the notoriety which would on becoming the tenants many in that country re-

PARIS, Sept. 8.—The French Diplomats have advised that Morocco is unattractive tribes and prior authority is not over lions, especially south of tains. His agents will protest against the troops into any part of opinions.

TUNIS, Sept. 9.—It is engagement took place between the French troops and the Arabs, town of Hammamet was ed. No details were communication with the Cap. It is reported the French Wednesday.

Animal life is developed by the four great water, sunshine and food. The fowls of the air, seas, guided by unerring in four elements of life in condition so abundantly for their several necessities. They never err, never herbivorous never carnivorous, but each, with variety of food, reach the of their natures. Man, to same perfection of his capabilities if he employ agencies for his physical as perfect immunity from and pain as the lower animal nature enjoy.

The disobedience to the ways followed by physically or remotely in the of the transgressor. The overwhelming in the end cases and premature death. And is it any woful air, exciting foods, whisky, wine, beer, tobacco, and kindred vices, dreadful work, and the peraged physical law seems direct cause of their suffering in most cases to Provide diseases that spring direct refusal of obedience of life. "What shall millions of dying human selves from the fruits of our DO? But will you do that good and great-Demitan-like, tells you, vile, destructive habits; into your numerous woe-

ance were suffocated.

The details of the disaster in Huron are as bad as here. I believe that when the returns are in, 1,000 persons will be found to have perished in the flames. Forester Township will turn out and bury the dead cattle, sheep, and horses, the stench from which is unbearable. Rev. W. T. Allington found sixteen dead bodies near Docksville. Only five buildings are left between that place and Minden.

John Flytewager's family of seven children and his wife were all burned together in Paris Township, with fifteen others. The Day family were burned, with Morris Clifford, wife and child. A man and woman were lying dead in the road between Donner's mill and Tyre. Fifteen families were burned in Moore and Argyle. Five hundred families are reported at Minden, as having been burned out. A woman and seven head of cattle were burned at Smith's mill, half a mile from Tyre. Wherever a house is left people flock to it like sheep to a fold, in some places as many as six families being in a log shanty. They must have relief from below, or great suffering will be the result. I saw many families to-day who hadn't had one meal since Monday, and who do not know when they will get one. Their teams are all gone, cows and other stock burned, and desolation stares them in the face. They talk about their misfortunes, and many of them say as bad as it is, it might be a great deal worse.

They are glad to get away with their lives. Many of the men are Canadians, who have been over but a short time, and have just begun to get matters in comfortable shape. Many need medicine and medical assistance.

Geo. McDonald, of Minden, Sanilac County, tells a harrowing tale. Over 200 families in that section are suffering from the want of food and clothing. John Ballentine of Verona mills, says fifty-three lives were known to be lost in the flames.

All public offices closed here to-day between 10 and 1 o'clock, and meetings were held in all the churches, and prayers were offered for the recovery of the President and relief of our fellow citizens suffering from the terrible devastations of the fire.

At noon a public meeting of the citizens convened, and took steps for the relief of the sufferers by the fire. Subscriptions of over \$6,000 were taken on the spot, and soliciting and disbursing committees were appointed to aid the sufferers in Huron and Sanilac Counties.

Reports from Bay City state a heavy rain has visited that region, lasting through the night.

The following appeal has been issued by the committee of citizens at Port Huron, headed by Senator Congor, Mayor E. C. Carleton, and others:

To the People of the United States:

A most appalling disaster has fallen upon a large portion of the counties of Huron and Sanilac, with some adjacent territory, a section of country recently covered with forests and now occupied by nearly 50,000 people, largely recent settlers, and either poor or in very moderate circumstances. In the whole of this section there has been but little rain during the past two months, and everything was parched and dry when, on Monday, September 5, a hurricane swept over it, carrying with it a sheet of flame that hardly anything could withstand. We have reports already of over 200 persons burned to death, many of them by the roadside or in the fields, while seeking places of safety, and it is probable that twice this number have perished. We also have reports from twenty or more

bor's. He took two children and gave three others in charge of his eldest daughter. Before traveling many rods they found themselves cut off by the flames. He turned in another direction and escaped with two children. The three children and daughter were found next day all in a heap, charred beyond recognition.

Up to Wednesday night forty-five bodies had been found within a mile in the Township of Paris. Many more are missing. Nearly all are Poles. The whole settlement is swept clear, buildings, crops and fences. In Delaware Township all the country south of Forestville, from the lake, seven miles back, there is hardly anything left—not one house to the square mile. They were new settlers and had small clearings, and the fires swept them like a hurricane. They lose all they had, and owe for their place. Many of them fled to the lake. The shore line has been crowded with human beings, cattle, and everything that could get to the water. Eye-witnesses from Forestville say that the utmost confusion prevailed. Many could not see. One man, who had lost all, was both blind and crazy, and had to be led to the lake.

North of Sanilac, the fire Monday night was terrible, sweeping almost everything, but it seemed to leave the houses. People here did not know any fire was near them until it was on them, and all had to run for the lake, and being but a short distance all reached it safely. One woman, while they were running for their lives, saw her oxen run into the slashing, and in spite of the efforts and cries of others, rushed into it and succeeded in driving them out before her to the lake.

John Kerr and family were asleep when their building caught fire, and a neighbor seeing it ran and woke them, and they succeeded in saving the house, but lost everything else. Mrs. N. Burgess got separated from her husband and lay all night in a ditch. Another person lay down in a mud-puddle and rolled over and over all night. A large party of men have gone to bury the dead beasts in Forester Township. Dr. Hoyt reported several badly burned, many so blind they had to be led. Many are without food. Numbers of parties have already gone with food, clothing, shoes, and medicine. More help must come quick, as much suffering will ensue. They have no flour or provisions. George Ferguson, of White Rock, who has been on the road since Monday, reports he has seen 116 burned bodies.

The point is now reached where it may be reasonably hoped we shall hear of no fresh disaster to the afflicted people of the burned district. Rains have fallen probably sufficient to quench the fires, but not enough to soak the ground, and revive drooping vegetation. The lowest estimates make 215 families burned out in the towns of Marlette, Flynn, Argyle, Evergreen, Moore, Lamotte, and Elmer, Sanilac County, and thirty-two persons are known to be dead.

Many persons are still missing. The exact number of those who perished, can not be known for days to come.

LONDON, Sept. 9.—A dispatch from Cairo says 4,000 soldiers, with thirty pieces of artillery, surrounded the Khedive's residence. They ask for the assembling of notables and the dismissal of all the Khedive's Ministers. No hostile intentions are entertained against the Europeans.