

## FOREST FIRES IN OREGON

The Nehalem Timber Tract Is Surely Doomed.

LOSS WILL REACH INTO MILLIONS

Most of the Timber Belongs to Syndicates—No Loss of Life Has Been Reported.

FOREST GROVE, Or., June 15.—Fire continues to ravage the timber in west central Oregon. Settlers in the vicinity of Glenwood are fleeing for their lives. The Nehalem forest seems doomed and the loss will probably reach into the millions. Virgin forests of the finest yellow fir, cedar and spruce on the coast are being consumed. They are mostly owned by syndicates, but there are some tracts

owned by individuals. No casualties are so far known. The dense pall of smoke and miles of flames were last night visible for a great distance.

### Lumber Vessel Wrecked.

EUGENE, Or., June 15.—The schooner Del Norte, bound from Florence to San Francisco is wrecked at the mouth of the Siuslaw and it is believed impossible to save her. A deck load of lumber was washed off,

### College President Shot in Quarrel.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 15.—Robert Durham, president of the California Business college, was shot and probably fatally wounded at noon by B. C. F. Costeel, a solicitor for Western School Correspondence during a quarrel over money matters. The shooting occurred at Durham's office. Costeel immediately surrendered. He claims self defense.

### Negress Lynched by Kentucky Mob.

LEBANON JUNCTION, Ky., June 15.—A mob of 30 men this morning battered down the jail doors and took Martha Thompson, the negress who killed John Irvin Tuesday and started to lead her away with a rope. The negress, who weighs 250 pounds broke away, throwing her captors aside. While she was running the mob opened fire and killed her. Irvin provoked the woman's son. The mother in revenge nearly severed the man's head with a razor.

# AN APPALLING CATASTROPHE WOMEN AND CHILDREN PERISH

## The Steamboat General Slocum Bearing Sixteen Hundred Sunday School Excursionists Burns in Long Island Sound--Between Two and Three Hundred Lives Were Lost--Origin of the Fire Is a Mystery--The Flames Started Among the Life Preservers.

NEW YORK, June 15.—The steamboat General Slocum is ashore off to the north of Brothers' island, 138th street. Telephone messages say that many persons have lost their lives. The vessel took fire and the pilot steered for shore, but before the ship was beached the flames spread from stem to stern. The Slocum carried an excursion party of 1600, half of whom were children. Many jumped overboard and were drowned, while others were burned to death on the boat. The telephone operator at Brothers' island states that the water near the island is full of dead bodies. Slocum is an immense triple-decker plying between New York and the Rockaway beach. It is now reported that 500 lives were lost.

The Slocum left the foot of East Third street for Locust grove at 9 o'clock this morning, being engaged by the Sunday school classes of St. Mark's Lutheran church on Sixth street, between Second and the Bowery. The Knickerbocker Steamboat company, owners of the Slocum, have received a message stating that the boat has burned to the water's edge and that the hull is still burning. Their message says that a number of persons jumped overboard and that some were picked up by small boats. No estimate of the loss of life is given by the company. The police have recovered eleven bodies thus far. The adults are mostly women. Ambulances and surgeons have been sent to the scene.

At noon the best estimate placed on the number of lives lost is between 200 and 300. About 50 bodies had been recovered at that time and the police tug boats, steamers and small boats were out in the sound looking for the others. A dozen ambulances, a score of physicians and nurses and all the police reserves of the city were on the scene to rescue the bodies of the dead and succor the living and injured.

It was an annual Sunday school excursion. The party was made up largely of women and children who commenced boarding the steamer at the foot of East Third street at 7 this morning. With the triple decks well filled Captain Vanschaick, a veteran navigator, gave the signal and the boat pulled out from the pier bound for Locust Grove, Long Island Sound. It headed up East river and all went well until the boat passed through Hell Gate and was nearing Brothers' island. Then the joy and merriment was quickly turned to panic by the

cry of "fire." Flames had been discovered among the life preservers, but how and when they started none has yet been found who can say.

The burning preservers were torn from their resting places and thrown overboard in the endeavor to smother the flames. This added greatly to the loss of life, as it was noticed afterwards that the bodies recovered from the water had no life saving apparatus on.

Captain Vanschaick, when the dreadful cry arose called for full speed and headed the vessel for the rock bound shores of North Brothers' island. Meantime the scenes aboard were frightful. The flames spread with terrific rapidity and men, women and children were running about in wild fear, shrieking and in tears seeking a haven of safety. Mothers gathered their children in their arms and leaped into the water. Others seemed too dazed from the flames licking up everything up about them and were burned to death.

The great bulk of the passengers stood by the boat until she neared the shores of the island, where the water is shoaler, thinking that here they might find a chance for life. Eye witnesses state that as the boat neared shore she was surrounded on all sides by the floating bodies of passengers who had jumped.

On North Brothers' island is located the hospital for contagious diseases and some other institutions.

The employes and other people on the island did what they could with small boats, grappling hooks and rafts in pulling ashore scores of people, many of whom were blackened and burned by fire.

The city was telephoned for aid but was more than an hour before help arrived. The steamer Massasoit and a few tugboats in the vicinity saved a number of lives of those who jumped overboard. Later the Massasoit was pressed into service by the police and took from the island a number of the dead and injured and others saved and hurried them to the New York side of the river. On her first trip the steamer carried 30 dead and 75 rescued. On shore were squads of police with ambulances and surgeons who administered to the needs of the injured. On one street car alone were five infant bodies.

The Slocum burned practically to the water's edge. Fire boats this af-

ternoon flooded her with water, so the hull can be searched for bodies.

The sound shore from Oak point to 138th street is lined with people watching the efforts of police and others in rescuing bodies.

At 1 o'clock about 75 bodies had been landed on the New York shore.

Fire Chief Crocker at 1:30 this afternoon said that he believed the dead numbered between 400 and 500 and that the injured included about everybody who had been saved. The flames are still raging in the hull and the bodies of three children can be seen hanging over the rail. It is feared many corpses are in the hull.

It is learned that 900 tickets for the excursion were sold to adults. It is estimated the mothers took from 500 to 800 children along for whom no charge was made. There were very few men aboard with the party. Of 36 bodies taken to the Alexander avenue station up to this afternoon 30 were women and six children. The police say that fully 125 bodies have been landed on the New York side of the piers among them 20 babies.

As near as can be learned the fire broke out at 9:45 a. m. The first notice the police had came half an hour later. Comment on all sides is adverse to the officers of the boat because they did not land further down the stream.

The excursion was in charge of Rev. George Hass, who was accompanied by his family, Assistant Superintendent Carl Anger, W. E. Tetamore, the pastor lost his wife and daughter. He says the fire started in the kitchen from fat boiling over.

The Slocum was inspected May 5 and reported in thoroughly safe condition.

At 2:30 o'clock 175 bodies, nearly all women and children had been recovered. Hundreds of policemen in small boats continue to be rewarded in the search for bodies every few minutes. The bodies are tagged by the coroner who is at the island.

Describing in a vivid manner of the terrible catastrophe, Captain Vanschaick said: "The boat was off 135th street, just at the point known as Sunken Meadows, and 200 feet from shore when I heard the cry of fire. Without further warning I rang the bells for getting out the fire apparatus and leaving the wheel in charge of Pilot Vanwart I started for the cabin to see what was the matter. By the

time I reached the stairs, the passage-way was jammed with people, mostly women, many of them with babies in their arms. I tried to calm them, but the flames by this time were all about them and I was compelled to rush for a water pail as my hat and clothing were afire.

"When I saw the blaze getting beyond control I shouted to the pilot to beach the boat, which was done. Before the vessel reached shore the panic stricken people were trampling on one another, and such as could reach the side of the boat jumped overboard. When the boat was 50 feet from shore my clothing was burning in several places, so I jumped overboard and swam ashore.

"As to the number lost I could not say, but there is little question that it will prove appalling."

Captain William Churchill, commander of the auxiliary sloop "Easy Times" witnessed the disaster practically from its inception. He says:

"When I saw the Slocum first she was off the Harlem river bridge and the flames were pouring forth from the paddle box as the ship moved along the smoke and flames under the strength of a west wind were blown over the decks. The scene was terrible. Women and children rushed frantically back and forward screaming and crying and scores jumped overboard.

"I cannot understand why the Slocum was not docked or beached before she reached North Brothers' island. There were no small boats near her as she steamed along and those who jumped were drowned. We got alongside as soon as we could and saved many. The blazing steamer rounded the island and turning to the port grounded on the northwest point of the island. By this time the lower decks were crowded with women and children, screaming in terror. As the heat became intense those nearest the rail dropped shrieking into the water. Some were able to keep afloat by grabbing the paddle box supports and the wheel, I took a boat alongside the paddle box and took off as many as I could. When the heat became too intense we were forced away."

Churchill says that as the blazing steamer neared the island whistling for help a ferry boat crossing the river paid no attention.

Captain Vanschaick, First Pilot Vanwart and Second Pilot Edwin N. Leader have been arrested.

## Greatest Annual Housekeepers Sale

Begins promptly Wednesday morning, June 15th and continues four days, ending Saturday night, June 18th.

Come and see the bargains in the  
**Queensware Basement**

Five Patterns of Decorated Semi-Porcelain Ware at  
**One-Half Price**

Bargains in Table Linnen, Towels, Dutch Prints,  
Baskets Etc. Etc.

See Hand Bills For Full Particulars

### Motter-Wheeler Co.

103-5-7-9 Main, 6 and 8 South Third Sts. Phone, Main 65

## The Best Manufacturers of

England and the United States contributed to our stock of fishing tackle this season and it is without doubt the finest line ever brought to Walla Walla. Rods, lines, reels, leaders, flies and baskets of many kinds and varieties. Pickled salmon eggs.

### MEYER & KEENEY

No. 27 Main Street  
Phone Main 264

## Latest Style Hand Bags

They are made of alligator skin, African bird skin and other leathers. Beautiful new tints. Some contain a pocket book, card case and smelling salts combinations, while they all have space for a handkerchief and small articles.

### The Hockett Drug Co.

No. 5 East Main Street



## Something New in Crowns

Is what our dentistry  
is giving the public

The  
**Boston Dental Parlors**  
Baumeister Bldg.

## RUSSIAN FLEET ESCAPES

### GIVES BATTLE TO THE JAPANESE

#### OFF THE ISLAND OF TSUSHIMA.

### Entrance to Port Arthur Harbor Is Again Open—Troops Suffer From Dysentery.

TOKIO, June 15.—Various reports are current today concerning a sea engagement near Port Arthur. One has it that the Russian fleet escaped from Vladivostok and gave battle to the Japanese off the island of Tsushima. The captain of a Japanese steamer which arrived this morning says he was fired on by the Russian squadron. Heavy cannonading was heard this morning in the neighbor-

hood of Ishima island, not far from Tsushima. A dispatch received today states that the entrance to Port Arthur harbor is again open and that the Russian cruiser Novik sailed out and engaged the Japanese fleet.

### Troops Suffer From Dysentery.

ROME, June 15.—Agenzia Libera's correspondent at Mukden states that the extreme heat has resulted in a serious epidemic of dysentery among the Russian troops. The Cossacks have dispersed 2000 Chunchuses, 80 versts from Mukden.

### Japanese Posting Siege Guns.

CHEE FOO, June 15.—A report from Russian sources states that the Japanese suffered a severe reverse north of Kinchow. There is no confirmation. The Japanese have placed 52 siege guns on the heights north of Port Arthur. Refugees say that only combatants remain at Port Arthur with provisions for only six weeks.

### To Protect Catholic Missionaries.

ROME, June 15.—The pope has received an autograph letter from the mikado in which the Japanese ruler

states that he has given instructions for the protection of Catholic missionaries wherever the Japanese influence extends.

### Togo Tells of Naval Battle.

TOKIO, June 15.—Admiral Togo reports that the torpedo boat flotilla proceeded to Port Arthur the night of the 13th, laying mines at certain points and safely returned. At noon on the 14th when a second destroyer flotilla was bombarding the enemy ashore near Shampingtao to facilitate the reconnaissance by the army of the enemy the cruiser Novik and ten Russian destroyers came out of Port Arthur and sharp firing was exchanged. The Japanese flotilla tried to entice the enemy by gradually retiring, but at 3 p. m. the enemy withdrew. No damage was done the Japanese ships.

### Another Naval Engagement.

NAGASAKI, June 15.—A dispatch from Okl Island says that Japanese warships engaged the Russian squadron near there.

### Vladivostok Fleet on Move.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 15.—It is

known here that Admiral Skrydloff with the Vladivostok squadron has left Vladivostok and the news of a decisive naval battle is awaited every hour. Before leaving the cruiser Bogaytr on the rocks there was pulled off and towed inside the port.

### LIKE SIBERIAN EXILES.

### Colorado Union Miners Prodded by Bayonets.

ANTONIO, Colo., June 15.—Prodded by bayonets nearly 100 deported union miners and their sympathizers were rushed over the southern boundary of Colorado into New Mexico at daybreak this morning. William Ketcham, one of the unionists, extremely ill on the train all night, begged to be allowed to remain on the roadside, but the soldiers jabbed him and forced the man to continue the journey with his companions.

DENVER, June 15.—A writ of habeas corpus for the production of Charles Moyer, president of the Western Federation, was issued today by Federal Judge Thayer.