

**FOREST FIRES  
SPREAD FAST  
IN WISCONSIN**

Northern Part of the State is Hard Hit With Small Prospect of Checking By Wardens, According to Reports. At Manitowoc

Milwaukee.—P.—Forest fires were spreading rapidly over various parts of northern Wisconsin, as hundreds of volunteer fighters and fire wardens fought with little success to stop the flames. It was estimated that as many as 40 separate fires were burning.

The most serious was reported west of Mercer, where the blaze, which started several days ago, was headed toward Mercer, about 15 miles from the lake. It threatened the town unless rain or a change in wind direction stopped it.

A force of 200 men from the federal conservation camp at Manitowoc was sent to help fight the fire since the staff was augmented to 100 men. The camp had been put under the direction of Warden Virgil Moon of Mercer. Shortly before noon yesterday the fire was reported to be advancing on a six mile front. It had already burned about a mile and a half from Forest Lake, and the edge of the fire was in the town of Rock Falls. One Conservation Force

Warden Moon concentrated his force on U. S. Highway 51, hoping to stop the fire before it reached the road. Although Trade lake was in the path of the flames, the fire at one point was only 150 yards wide and wardens were fearing that houses in the town would be burned across. They said burning chips still smoldered much farther than that across water.

A country school, farm buildings, and several houses and cottages were destroyed in Janslin county yesterday. The fire had forced many homes were forced to move out, some of them so badly burned they had to be abandoned. One house was in the town of Rock Falls.

The state forest department was aiding state warden's forces in fighting the flames. The fire, several miles from the lake, was reported to have been started by lightning. In the region of County Trunk E, the warden's force had banded together yesterday to save the Lovington lake camp of the Yavkey-Bishop lumber company. The fire had not abated today, however, and was still spreading rapidly in the wind. It covered an area about eight miles wide. A large force fought to get the camp out.

**BLAMED BY WARDENS**

Campers and berry pickers were blamed by warden's forces for starting 20 to 25 fires in the Park Falls district. Most of the fires were small, however, covering from one to 100 acres. Conservation fighters were as large as 100 men and as small as 10 men. Nine fires were reported around Manitowoc, all of which were under control.

Losses of one house and residents of several cottages near Pickerel lake, 30 miles northeast of Antigo, mostly from campers, were reported. A large area of cut over land, 10 miles from the camp from the conservation camp at Summit Lake were blazed by the warden's in an effort to save property.

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