

FOREST FIRES SPREAD FAST IN WISCONSIN

Northern Part of the State is
Hard Hit With Small Pros-
pect of Checking By War-
dens, According to Reports.
At Manitowish

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

The most serious was reported west of Mercer in Iron county. The blaze, which started several days ago, was headed toward Mercer, about eight miles away, and threatened the town unless rain or a change of wind stopped it.

A force of 200 men from the federal conservation camp at Manitowish, which has been battling the fire since the start, was augmented today by 30 picked men from Mercer under the direction of Warden Virgil A. Moon. Mercer, shortly before noon today the fire was reported to be advancing on a six mile front and had reached a point about a mile and a half from Forest Warden Jones, one of the many resorts in the county. The lodge is in the path of the flames.

CONCENTRATES FORCE

Warden Moon concentrated his force on U. S. Highway 51, hoping to keep the fire from crossing the road. Although Frode lake was in

at one point was only 250 yards wide and wardens were fearful that burning birch chips would be blown across. They said burning chips often were blown much farther than that across water.

A country school, farm buildings, and a half dozen settler shacks were destroyed in Alameda county yesterday. Occupants of other farm homes were forced to move out. Some cattle were so badly burned they had to be shot. The school was in the town of Rock Falls.

The Tomahawk fire department was adding state wardens' forces in fighting fires south of the city. Several million feet of timber were endangered in the new wood area, 15 miles northwest of Merrill in the region of County Trust E.

Three hundred men banded together yesterday to save the Levington lake camp of the Vaybys-Bussel Lumber company. The fire had not abated today, however, and was being pushed along by a strong wind. It covered an area about eight miles wide. A large force fought to get it under control.

BLAMED BY WARDENS

Campers and berry pickers were blamed by wardens for starting 20 to 25 fires in the Park Falls district. Most of these fires were small, however, covering from one to 100 acres. Crews of fighters were as large as 100 men and as small as four.

Nine fires were reported around Rhinelander, five of them under control.

Guests of one resort and residents of several cottages near Pickewee lake, 30 miles northeast of Antigo, moved out last night. Fires were reported over a large area of cut over land in that region. 300 men from the conservation camp at Burnit Lake were mustered by the wardens in an effort to save property.

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