

*Spokesman-Review* special from Kaslo, says:

Losses so far reported from the awful forest fires raging throughout the mountains of this section aggregate about \$125,000. The people of the Bloccum district are left destitute without shelter or food. A relief party has gone there, but it is feared there will be great suffering before it pushes its way through the burning forest. Fires had been burning around the ill-fated towns for several days, but about noon a roaring gale swept down the mountain, lifting high in the air tops and limbs of burning trees and carrying them long distances as brands to start new fires in a thousand different places. Almost instantaneously a dozen fires were raging in Three Forks. The terror stricken people had to flee for their lives, leaving everything behind them. The proprietor of a laundry and bath house and his wife jumped into the creek and rolled down stream until they reached a place of shelter. At Bear Lake, Mr. Mahoney, who ran a hotel, with his wife and two small children waded out into the waters of the lake and remained there for hours.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—The bill to create a national board of arbitration, introduced by Springer, which follows the recommendations of the President's message in 1887, will be reported to the House favorably by the commission of labor.

PARIS, July 27.—The Senate today passed the anti-anarchist bill adopted by the deputies yesterday. The vote was 205 to 34.

DENVER, July 28.—Travelers from the East report widespread destruction of crops in Kansas and Nebraska by hot winds. Corn will have to be shipped into many counties of Nebraska to enable the farmers to live until another season. The highways are thronged with disheartened settlers who have abandoned their homes and are moving East. No similar scene has been witnessed since 1873.

LONDON, July 27.—Carl Slewens, the Norwegian Arctic enthusiast, tonight received a telegram from the captain of the Earling, a Norwegian sealer, which arrived today at the island of Tromsø, Finmarken, Norway.

The captain said in his dispatch that near Amsterdam, Invan, in latitude 84 north and 0 longitude the Earling spoke the Ragnvald Jarl, the steamer which was conveying the Wellman Arctic expedition to the edge of the pack ice. The Ragnvald Jarl had been beset with pack ice, which had delayed her progress considerably, but Wellman and his party were then free of the pack ice and they should now be well on their way to the north pole.

The Jackson (English) expedition passed Tromsø yesterday.

ASHLAND, Wis., July 27.—Forest fires are producing great suffering and loss throughout this vicinity, and railroad companies have never before experienced such damage from fire. On the Wisconsin Central road it is impossible to move trains. Phillips, the headquarters of the John R. Davis Lumber company, a manufacturing town of 2,500, is destroyed by fire and only a few buildings remain standing.

A dispatch just received from Fildfield, a small station a few miles this

side of Phillips, says that 500 women and children from Phillips are in the woods without shelter. They sent a request for food and supplies, as the supply at Fildfield is very short.

Mason, a small town south on the Omaha line, caught fire this evening. The White River company's mill with 40,000,000 feet of lumber in the yards was destroyed, and at 6 o'clock the latest report received here says the entire town is threatened.

The Omaha bridge across the White river at Mason is burned. Railroad officials say the loss at Mason is fully \$1,000,000, with \$250,000 insurance.

News from Hurley states that town has been enveloped in dense clouds of smoke all day with fires on nearly every side.

PHILLIPS, Wis., July 28.—Three thousand people have been made homeless by forest fires. Not a building is left standing in town, and property valued at between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000 has been swept away. Hundreds of men battled with the fire without success. The pine forests were dry as parchment and the flames leaped from tree to tree with such rapidity that the air seemed on fire. The baking soil sent up sap that ignited and the atmosphere seemed blazing. When the fire reached the city it swept from house to house and in an hour had wrapped the entire village in flames. The people were hastily conveyed by trains to neighboring towns. Nothing but a few personal effects were saved. There are rumors of loss of life, but in the confusion they cannot be confirmed. The heaviest losses by the fire are those of John R. Davis's Lumber company, \$500,000 and Fayette Shaw, tanner, \$200,000.

GRAND RAPIDS, Wis., July 28.—Forest fires are raging along the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Green Bay and Minnesota roads in this section. Daly Sampson sent out a large force of men to fight the fires in the vicinity of the saw mill located four miles from Centralia. Arpin Bros. had considerable hay burned and the cranberry marshes are endangered. It is feared a repetition of the disastrous experiences of last fall will result if rain does not come soon. Late reports are that 125 acres of Spafford and Trahern's cultivated cranberry marshes have been burned. Dr. G. F. Willes is also a heavy loser. Other marshes are on fire.

SHANGHAI, July 28.—In addition to Hugh Mathieson & Co.'s steamer Kow Shung, sunk by a Japanese cruiser, all the Chinese troops on board being drowned, the Chinese Trading company's steamer Tooneon, also being used as a transport, has been sunk by a Japanese war ship. All steamers of the Chinese Trading company now here and Chinese merchant steamers have been ordered to remain here until orders from Tien Tsin.

The Tooneon was a vessel of 3,000 tons, commanded by Captain Lowe, and belonged to the China Merchant Steam Navigation company. She was chartered by the Chinese government to transport troops to Corea.

LONDON, July 28.—The Chinese legation has received a dispatch from Tien Tsin saying that the king of Corea was captured by the Japanese on July 23. The Chinese minister in-

forms an Associated Press reporter that there has been no formal declaration of war and it is hoped a peaceful settlement will be arranged.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., July 28.—Twenty persons are reported drowned in the lake at Phillips, endeavoring to escape being burned to death by forest fires.

MINNEAPOLIS, July 29.—A special to the *Tribune* from Phillips, Wis., says the terrible scene at Phillips beggars description. A committee of citizens from Ashland arrived with a special train of provisions last night at 9 o'clock. It was the first material relief to arrive, and it arrived just in time to keep the people from actually suffering from want of food. Provisions were given out in small quantities so as to make them last as long as possible and keep something until available provisions arrived.

Men and women walk the streets all begrimed, wringing their hands and bemoaning their sad fate. Only a town hall and a few small buildings are left standing. They were immediately converted into shelter for the destitute, but only a few of the women and children could crowd into them.

A vast multitude had to remain without shelter and food last night, but tents were brought in from the neighboring towns and improvised huts are being utilized tonight. Governor Peck and his staff arrived from Madison this morning. A dozen cars of provisions have arrived from various cities, and the organization for relief has been completed.

SHANGHAI, July 29.—Late this evening further details of the naval engagement reached this city. The fighting, though of short duration, was very severe. Prior to the discharge of the torpedo from the Japanese warship, the crew of the transport, which were armed, and the military force on board of her made a hard fight against the attacking force. Many of those on board of her were shot dead on her deck.

When the vessel began to sink there was great excitement on board. In the confusion no attempt was made to lower the small boats. But even had such an attempt been made the boats could only have carried a small percentage of those on board. Every foreigner on board was either killed in the fighting or went down with the vessel when she foundered.

The loss of life was very great. Of nearly 2,000 Chinese troops on board of her only forty were saved. They were picked up by a French gunboat that was cruising in the vicinity.

OMAHA, Neb., July 30.—Never before in the history of Nebraska did the future for farmers look so discouraging as at present. Fields of corn that promised a bountiful yield and a winter of plenty a week ago, stand today dry and withered as though swept by flames. By the simoon of last week the crop was almost entirely ruined. For a hundred miles back of the river there is a prospect for a partial yield, if rain comes soon. Light local rains fell in this region last night but there is no likelihood of a fall soon. In the western two-thirds of the state there is no hope. Every growing thing is withered. Farmers who had calculated on an unusually heavy crop of corn and had invested