

MANAGER'S OFFICE
Bunker Hill & Sullivan Mining & Concentrating Co.
(THE COEUR D'ALENE)
KELLOGG, IDAHO

August 22, 1910.

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Mr. F. W. Bradley,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

On Saturday, the 20th inst. the wind began to blow from the West violently and steadily. The forest fires, which are on the South side ^{of the river} wholly, and spread from Pine Creek to Placer Creek, at Wallace, immediately flared up and got away from the men under the direction of the Forest Service, who had heretofore successfully confined them and were holding them from spreading, hoping for rain to extinguish the fires. Saturday evening, about 8:00 o'clock, the fire burst over the hill back of Wallace and ignited the buildings closely adjacent to the O.R. & N. depot. Within a short time everything was burned east of 7th St., the street on which the Samuels hotel is situated. For a time it was reported the Providence Hospital and Federal concentrators were consumed, as they were entirely obscured by smoke and inaccessible on account of other fires. It seems, however, that the fire did not cross Canyon Creek at this point and the mills and Hospital were saved. It looked as though the town was to be totally destroyed and some 2,000 people left on rescue trains, about 1,500 of whom spent the night at Kellogg. By hard work and good water pressure the fire was confined to the area described and although the hills about town have been on fire ever since and the wind yesterday was fully as strong as

Mr. F. W. Bradley, #2.

Saturday, no further damage has been suffered at Wallace. The fire continued past Wallace to Mullan and while many reports have issued, I do not think any serious damage has yet been inflicted, although many scattered homes are certainly destroyed and the improvements on some of the smaller mining companies. The damage done at Wallace will certainly run over three hundred thousand dollars and may reach four hundred thousand.

At Kellogg we have two and sometimes three streams from fire hose playing on the different parts of the plant. The yards are thoroughly drenched with water and the roofs and sides of the buildings sprinkled. This not only prevents easy ignition, but insures that the apparatus and water supply is in good shape, and gives the men familiarity with handling the hose. A large fire is burning on Pine Creek, from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to four miles distant. The sky is not entirely covered with smoke and yesterday afternoon when the wind was blowing stronger than it was this morning the volume was enormous. Fine white ashes and bits of charred bark and twigs are constantly falling, particularly when the wind is high, which is always in the late afternoons. Though the barometer has been falling, there are no visible signs of an early rain and it is probable that the falling barometer is caused by this wind storm. The Federal people are very much alarmed and I understand shut down their mine last night. Mr. Peoples informs me he is sending a large crew of men up in the mountain above the Arizona tunnel to strip off a large piece of land from which to back fire, if necessary. I am confident that we can protect the property and do not feel that the fire will

Mr. F. W. Bradley, #3.

reach a dangerous proximity, although the experience at Wallace, where comparative safety was felt, is a warning against over confidence. We have three steam pumps and one electric pump in commission to supplement the domestic and high line water supply, and can easily keep six streams of water going, if necessary. I have on five watchmen, or guards, at night. There are a great many people wandering around who are upset by the conditions and it is possible that some vicious person might wilfully set fires.

You will see a good deal of press report concerning this condition, but I think we can hold out against the fires indefinitely, as I have little hope of rain. The loss of life has been very heavy and one of the Chief Forest Rangers applied to me yesterday for Hospital accommodation for a party of his men whom they will probably bring in to-day from the Pine Creek County, three dead, three with broken legs and two badly burned to the point of total blindness. Seven fire fighters lost their lives on Placer Creek, the bodies being recovered, and there are numerous reports of other fatalities, of which I do not yet have confirmation. Your old acquaintance, J. G. Boyd, once N. P. Agent at Wallace, lost his life in the fire and one other yet unidentified. Other casualties may be learned of later. Kellogg citizens took good care of the Wallace refugees. We had some 12 or 15 of them here. Most have left and Mrs. Jas. F. McCarthy and family plan to return to Wallace this morning. The Kellogg hospital is full to capacity, with patients moved from the Wallace hospitals and there are a number of infectious cases

Mr. F. W. Bradley, #4.

that we have found room for about town. Operations are going along just the same, though we are about 20% short on crew.

Yours truly,

Stanley A. Caston
Manager.