

REGIONAL FORESTER LAUDS WORK OF CCC MEN ON FIRES

Deplores Deaths, Injuries; Says 'Greenhorns' Were Real He-Men

Commending the Lewiston district CCC forest fire fighters for their display of grit and courage in face of adverse circumstances, Maj. Evan W. Kelley, regional forester with headquarters at Missoula, Mont., has sent Maj. Henry C. Davis, Jr., district CCC commander, the following letter:

"While we are still in the midst of the battle against our red enemy—fire—I want to express to you and to the members of the CCC my sincere appreciation of the splendid work which the officers, the facilitating overhead, and the enrollees are doing on the various fire lines in your district.

"As I write, some 1,200 of the Lewiston district enrollees supplemented by nearly 1000 men from the Fort George Wright district, are aiding some 2,300 other government employees in a brave battle to hold the Selway and Clearwater fires in check with a view to having them completely under control as soon as that is humanly possible.

"On fire duty, more so than in any other class of our work, the stuff of which a man is made is quickly disclosed. Certain tasks connected with fire suppression make it a hazardous task. It is a man's job and there is no place on the fire lines for the man who is not willing to contribute his best efforts.

Work Like "He-Men"

"It gives me great pleasure indeed to tell you that the reports from the fire lines are to the effect that the boys generally, considering their limited experience in some difficult phases of the work, are performing as 'he-men' and that a large percentage of them are tackling this most difficult job with the finest display of grit, determination, and stamina.

"In the first few weeks of CCC work there was considerable skepticism on the part of the general public as to the social

and economic benefits to be derived from the CCC movement. Within a surprisingly short time skepticism changed to approval. Today the CCC is generally recognized not only as the most successful of the various measures enacted to relieve unemployment, but as the greatest achievement of its kind ever accomplished in this or any other nation on the face of the earth. Fire-fighting, especially in the western states, has been one of the outstanding factors in building up this highly favorable public opinion of the CCC movement.

Accident Loss Small

"As in other worthwhile accomplishments, the CCC work has not been done without its sacrifices. Lives have been lost and accidents have occurred although the percentages have been relatively small considering all the many factors involved.

"The members of the forest service deeply deplore the accident which resulted in the death of Lester Johnson and LeRoy McGinnis and in the injury of Messrs. Sprell, Sickley, Rhuda and Cepek of Co. 1645, French Creek camp. Others also were injured while fighting fire in that territory, but their names are not at the moment available. That the other boys had the stuff in them to continue in their efforts in the wake of this lamentable occurrence is indeed to their lasting credit."

FIRE IS RESULT OF STING OF BEE

Irate Victim Sets Nest Ablaze
and Ignites
Forest

3,000 SEE RODEO

Nezperce Fairgrounds Jammed
For Show's Opening

GOV. ROSS THERE TODAY

Will Head Parade In Late Morning—
Arena and Track Program Is
Packed With Thrills.

FLAMES DIE DOWN

Forest Officials Report All
Blazes Under Control

STILL BURNING IN SPOTS

DYNAMITE VICTIM

Albert Elvington Of the CCC
Killed by Explosion

WAS CARRYING 12 STICKS

They Were Wired With Caps and He
Also Carried Battery; Wires Con-
tacted; Two Others Injured.