

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1924.

THE FOREST FIRE ORGANIZATION AND ITS PURPOSE.

The Success of the Organization—What It Means to the Welfare of the People.

ARTICLE IV.

[By J. R. Mingle, Penn. State Forest District.]

The success of the organization depends upon the support, influence and co-operation of the people. The men stationed upon the observation towers depend on them and their judgment to a great extent. People located in valleys are often called upon by tower-men to accurately locate smoke in their immediate vicinity. This they do with a willingness to help which merits success for the organization. Forest land owners in particular are becoming keen observers to the fact that the same untiring efforts are applied to private as well as State forest.

The interest and support of the people in combatting forest fires is a mighty help to the forest fire organization. The personnel of the organization have come to depend upon the help of the people. It is stimulating to know that a great mass of public-spirited citizens are back of you—all for one common cause.

Proper protective measures can sometimes be carried out successfully by the individual, but in most cases the co-operation of communities must be had to assure any degree of effectiveness. A well organized band of men trained in the art of forest protection is very essential. Hence the forest fire organization with its efficient, alert, trained members.

The people of the Penn Forest District are vitally concerned, or should be, with the economic manipulation of the organization. The welfare of each and every person, whether young or old, is involved. As in the case of State forests, they are your forests, and it is to your advantage to do all in your power to help protect them from fire.

People live from birth to death with the help of the forests. To maintain a timber level high enough to keep forest products within the reach of the public at reasonable prices, personal interest in protecting the forest must surely increase. Look where we will in our everyday lives we cannot escape the importance of wood in everything around us. It is the consumer that pays when the forests are despoiled. Nearly everything that is demanded by civilization is effected when forest fires burn.

In addition to destroying the beauty and value of a region, forest fires destroy the animal and plant life. Many denuded hill sides called Pennsylvania's desert is due directly to forest fires. It is not an uncommon thing for houses, barns, live stock, crops to burn, and even the loss of human lives can be laid at the door of deadly forest fires.

There are hundreds of people in the Penn Forest District who depend upon the pure, sparkling water from the mountains to satisfy their thirst and needs. Their future supply is jeopardized if forest fires are allowed to rage. The natural water shed, a precious heritage, is one where deep-wooded hill sides and valleys assure a never ending stream flow. Bare ridges, ravines, erosion, etc., serve to either render the water supply impure or dry it up entirely.

It would seem, then, that there are countless reasons why the forests are essential to the welfare of the people, why their very lives and existence depend upon the forest and its products.

Digging for Coal.

John Confer, of Renovo, who several years ago purchased the William Musser farm, near Woodward, relates the Millheim Journal, has begun mining operations in the hope of locating a vein of coal on his land. The work is being carried on by Mr. Confer, who is experienced in coal mining, and a coal expert whom he has employed, in what is known as the "gravel pit," about one-half mile west of Woodward. It is reported authoritatively that they have unearthed a substance that has the appearance of coal and will burn and produce heat. It has not been found, however, in large enough quantities as yet, the operations so far having carried the prospectors only to a depth of eight or ten feet.

1925 License Plates Not to be Used Before Jan. 1.

Officials in the department of highways warn motorists that although delivery of the 1925 license plates had been started, they are illegal for use until January 1, next. The department has sent out over 47,000 of the 1925 plates.

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MILLHEIM.

(From the Journal.)
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bilger, of Lewisburg, were over Sunday visitors with Mrs. Bilger's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Swartz, of near town.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. O. Housman and Mr. and Mrs. E. V. O. Housman attended the funeral of Mrs. Susan Housman, at Centre Hall, on Saturday.

Paul Musser, pitcher and scout for the Wichita Falls (Texas League) baseball team, was an arrival Wednesday morning at the home of his mother, Mrs. Margaret C. Musser.

Mrs. Wm. A. Stover, of Millheim; Mr. and Mrs. Grover Walker and children, of Spring Mills, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Decker, of Bellefonte, on Sunday motored to Lewisburg, where they visited with the former's sister, Mrs. Fannie L. Reigle.

Charles Stam, who left here thirteen years ago with about a yard of railroad ticket indicating that he was headed for Los Angeles, California, returned to Millheim Monday evening and is a guest at the E. O. Hosterman home. During his thirteen years absence he trod on considerable of the globe, having served two years in Siberia with the U. S. army during the World war, spent several years in the Oregon oil fields, and re-enlisting in the U. S. marines, was a member of a unit sent to China, from where he has just returned via San Francisco where he was honorably discharged Saturday, September 13th.

PUBLIC SALE REGISTER.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, at 10 A. M. on the Joseph Confer farm, 1½ miles East of Potters Mills, by George Jordan: Livestock, implements and household goods. E. M. Smith, auct.

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