

**RIPE TOMATOES** 

## **Forest Fires are Devasting** Vast Areas in the Western States

Many Settlements Have Been Wiped Out of Existence, with a Large Loss of Life---Considerable Difficulty is Being Experienced in Getting Supplies Through to the Fire Fighters---Much Suffering Falls to Those Who Succeed in Escaping with Their Lives.

linary measures. Portland, Wash., Aug. 22-Hourly of over confidence.

n an attempt to reach the town.

have but two days rations .-

D'Alene. have been destroyed.

to Spokane by electric line.

Washington, Aug. 22-War depart- their faces in mud for protection hastened to the War Englo mine ment officials began a conference at from the intense heat. The only im- where the men were. 10.15 today in an effort to find provement in the situation is Wal-lace, where the remnant of the town crisp on the trail, five of those in One of the forty were burned to a means of sending afditional fire fight- that is left seems to be saved from the tunnel, were suffocated and dead, ers to the stricken northwest. It is fire, and at Mullen, where the town and a dozen others were resusitated expected the entire situation will be threatened all day yesterday, seems only after one hour's work. Three aid before President Taft with a to be safe. It is reported that Salt- men are known to be dead on Pine request for his approval of extraor- age in Western Montana, is also out Creek. Ranger Bell had twenty-five of danger, but this may prove a bit men under him. All were caught.

Three were killed, three others were eports from fires in the districts of The towns of Taft, Deborgia, Hen- blinded for life and five had their Northern Idaho and Western Montana derson, and the old part of Stregis, are increasing the toll of the dead. are in ashes. The old placer town of more met death yesterday afternoon. The latest figures from Wallace are Murray, in Idaho, is in danger. The They and twenty others were trapped that 45 fighters probably have per- flames have the upper hand of the in a fire on Boulder Creek near Mulished. In the hills near Sand Point, situation in a score of places. Rain lan. Four of the twenty managed to Idaho, forest ranger Van Dyke and a is the only salvation of hundreds of crew of 65 enlisted in Spokane are miles of timber and of many camps other men was killed on Placer Creek reported surrounded by flames. A and small towns. 'Men have fought a mile from Wallace. He and a comroman and her daughter perished at the flames to the limit of human en- panion hemmed in by flames took re-Cabinet, Idaho. Five are known to have died near Newport, Washington, in an attempt to reach the town. All along the Great Northern and the contest in many places. Especi- tree struck one of them on the head Northern Pacific tracks between Spo- ally is the situation serious in the and killed him instantly. His comkane and Helena, numberless fires are lines of the Chicago Milwaukee and panion was able to escape to Walknown to be raging fiercely, but de- Bt. Paul speeding toward Missoula, lace, but his clothing was burned off. finite reports cannot be secured, as the railway has suffered tremendous He was stopped at the limits by the telegraph and telephone wires are loss from fire in the very region policeman, who obtained clothing for Libby, Mont., ended, it was re- winter. Bridges have been burned to enter the city for treatment. Henported that every male resident of and stations wiped off the map. ry Chamberlain was engaged the town was working with two hun- Wherever possible the railway com- burying two treasure filled trunks in dred fire fighters to divert Flower pany has brought the people to safe- the yard of his home in East Wal-Creek to the south side of the vil- ty in special trains. This morning lace when the flames swept around lage, as a protection against the there were two rescue trains on the the corner of the house and burned flames driving up from that direc- St. Paul apeeding toward Missula, him from head to foot.

with about 500 people on board. The fire situation is still bad, all In the clear water forest reserve There is another on the Northern Pa- the hills around the town being filled in the hills east of Lewiston, Idaho, cific Coeur D'Alene branch with 250 with burning timbers. The wind i fires create no excitement as the set- women and children, taken from the blowing strongly at times. Nearly a have fled from the claims burned town of Stregis. In Wallace third of the population has left the broughout the district and forest the death list may grow. The fires town. At 9.30 yesterday morning supervisor Fenn, has refused to send swept that town with such terrible the first train from Wallace district any more fire fighters in unless he swiftness that it is feared there will pulled into Missoula. It carried a ean pack trains to aid in getting sup plies to them. be more homes found in the ruins as most pitiable crowd. A thousand or more of the people of Missoula in-

A train of twenty-five horses was The most disastrous fires in this cluding many women and the leading yesterday afternoon turned back in an district today are those in Sanders business men of the city were at the attempt to reach a force of sixty-five County between Thompson and the station to receive and administer to men near Peck, which is known to Idaho line. These fires extend along the refugees. Ambulances, automo an unbroken line for more than fifty biles and public conveyances were Five fires are burning on the shores miles and are in dense timber. There pressed into service. Among the first of Coeur D'Alene Lake. One was are several towns in this district, to get off one of the box cars was a burning the village of Sunny Side, built in the very midst of the timber nurse wearing a uniform and cap and three miles from the town of Coeur J. M. Boyd, former Northern Pacific carrying a ten day old baby.

agent at Wallace, met death in an her heels was the mother, nervous, Many summer homes on the beach effort to save his parrot. In the pale and emaciated, trembling from ruins of one house, two skulls pre- head to foot. Following this trio Refugees from burned district pour- sumably of men were found. Six men came another nurse with a nine day ed into Spokane last night. Seven are known to have died in an at- old child and a frail, frightened moth hundred from Wallace crossed Lake tempt to reach Wallace from Big er. From the car ahead a desperate-Coeur D'Alene by boat and came Creek, St. Joe County, Some as- ly and fearfully weak man was liftsert that six more are lost. ed. By his side hobbled an old

Missoula, Mont., Aug. 22-From ev- Ranger Pulaski and forty one men wrinkled faced pioneer, travelling on ery corner of the western Montana were forced to leave Big Creek and crutches. There were a half dozen and Idaho this morning there are attempt to cover the forty miles feeble ones. Working men covered



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