

# The Elizabethtown Post.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1899.

## Adirondack Forest Fires.

There has been a great deal of talk of late regarding Adirondack forest fires. Much just indignation has been aroused during the past few days concerning the gross heedlessness and carelessness which has been the cause of the extensive and destructive forest fires now raging in many parts of the Adirondacks. Fires have been started in many places through the carelessness of summer guests, who do not thoroughly extinguish campfires on leaving the places of their outing. It is hoped by those interested in the preservation of our magnificent Adirondack forests that the costly example of this summer's fires will awaken tourists and others who habitually travel in the woods to their responsibility and that next season will not bring a repetition of such uncalled for, dangerous and highly reprehensible offences.

The Saranac Lake region, Lake Placid, Clear Lake, the north side of Whiteface, Elizabethtown and other places too numerous to mention in detail have been surrounded by forest fires of greater or less size and destructibility. Here in Elizabethtown there have been several. First came the one which is now spoken of as the Otis fire because it was started on land owned by Wm. N. Otis. Following there have been the one on the north side of Mt. Raven, one on "Ward Hill," and the one at the "Four Mile Beaver Meadow," the last being by far the most destructive. This fire is said to have come through from the "Stove Pipe City" section and has swept along with the besom of destruction, destroying all in its pitiless march. Sunday all the able bodied men who were available in the Boquet Valley and some from

other parts of the town were engaged in an effort to stay the march of the terrible destroyer. Indeed the fire took the complete attention of men, women and children, as is illustrated by the fact that there was no one to attend preaching service at the New Russia Chapel Sunday afternoon, Rev. W. H. Barker driving up there only to find that the folks were all away fighting fire.

Everything being so exceptionally dry it is hard to fight fire effectually. Indeed many predict that the fires will continue to rage in spite of the most heroic human effort until rain interferes. God speed the rain on this account and many others.

It is said that it is known just how and by whom the first fire in Elizabethtown, the one on the east side of the Boquet valley, on land owned by Mr. Otis, was set. It was, if accounts are true, and we have good and sufficient reasons for believing that they are, the result of heedlessness and carelessness on the part of those old and well bred enough to know better. It is said that the origin of this particular fire ought to be investigated. Mr. Otis has suffered heavily, in that territory valuable to him as being available for cottage sites, &c., has been burned over and badly disfigured, a black blot has been dropped into the beautiful Boquet Valley which it will take many years to completely overcome. It is a stain on Elizabethtown's fair face and if private individuals are really to blame for it, it is too bad that the public should be obliged to foot the bills incident to the fire fighting. Under the circumstances shouldn't the origin of the fire be the subject of investigation? What say you taxpayers?

--P.S.--Since the above was written we have had rain and are thankful for it, as it puts us out of immediate danger of being burned by forest fires.