

# The Journal and Republican.

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## FIERCE FOREST FIRES.

**Sudden Rush of Flame from the Woods  
Wipe Out the Hamlet of Long Lake  
West, Causing a Loss Estimated at  
\$125,000.**

Winds which blew up from the south on Saturday fanned to life, and beyond control, many fires which had been smouldering for weeks in various parts of the woods and sent the flames raging through the timbers. About the hamlet of Long Lake West, which is on the railroad, nineteen miles from the village of Long Lake (not on the railroad), fires had been smouldering and when the rising wind Saturday stirred them up and sent sheets of flame through the woods the hamlet on the railroad was doomed.

Many men were out fighting the fire, along the railroad and back in the woods, but the futility of their efforts at once became apparent when the wind sent the sparks flying through the air. Wherever a spark fell it was sure to start a fire, and, with the whole country literally as inflammable as a pile of dry excelsior, the breeze soon put to rout the men who had been frantically trying to keep the fire within bounds. After the breeze came, back-firing, instead of helping things, added to the extent of the burning area, for the embers went in all directions and digging trenches was of no avail, because rivers will not stop the advance of flames when the wind is high.

At 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon it was seen that Long Lake West was doomed. The woods lit up in all directions, the smoke was choking everybody and the town was sizzling hot. Notwithstanding all the fighting and the watching, the sweep of the fire over the station was sudden and to a degree terrifying.

Preparations were at once made to leave the village and an engine of the railroad was the rallying point for the whole population of the settlement. The flight of the crowd was a scene picturesque in the extreme and one that will long live in the memory of those who witnessed it. With the country turning to flames all about them, their homes beyond saving, white-faced women and sobbing children climbed upon the cars and with such few belongings as they were permitted to take, fearfully watched the clouds of smoke rolling up and the embers shooting over them. The buildings burned were: A large hotel conducted by Mr. Smith and owned by A. A. Low, millionaire of New York city; Monahan & Company's general store, the railroad station, post-office (Sabatte's post-office) and office building, a pool room and barber shop, seven dwellings, fifteen box cars used as boarding houses for railroad men who were engaged in fire-fighting and ten freight cars which stood on a siding. The total loss at the station is \$125,000.

Most of the refugees were landed at Horseshoe station, a few miles north of the fire-swept hamlet, and the rest, twenty-five in number, were taken to Tupper Lake Junction, 19 miles north of the station at which the conflagration centered. Those who were left at Horseshoe were the men who were engaged in fire-fighting for the railroad company.

In the path of the fire at Long Lake West there was a storehouse which contained four tons of dynamite. The fire reached the storehouse in due time and the explosion which followed tore down telephone and telegraph wires and tore up a section of railroad track.

Rain began to fall about 10 o'clock Monday morning. The downfall was not very heavy, but it served to check the fires and they are now under control.