

Eimons

Are Fire Victims

The following letter is taken from the Sharon Reporter, but as two of the men referred to in it, Ben and Peter Eimon, are well known in this vicinity, the letter will be of interest to readers of the Enterprise as well:

"It will be unnecessary for me to write of the suffering and destruction caused by this fire (the forest fire in Minnesota as you have read of it in the newspapers.

"The question uppermost in your minds seems to be, how badly am I burned and how it all happened. The burns are not at all serious, but it will probably be four weeks or more before I will be able to work. My left hand is burned the worst and is the most painful. My right hand, the calves of my legs and my face are also burned but are not so painful.

"Saturday afternoon about four o'clock the general alarm was spread over the city requesting every able-bodied man with an auto to go out into the country west of Duluth and rescue settlers from the fire. Ben and Peter Eimon and I went out about 12 miles along with hundreds of others. We did what work we could out there, by bringing settlers into clearings and places of safety. At about 7:30 in the evening we decided we had done all we could do in that particular locality, and that we had better get back to Duluth before the Duluth road was cut off by the fire. We had driven about 3 miles when we had a tire blow-out. The fire did not seem very near then, and judging from the reflection in the sky we thought we had time enough to change the tire. It gradually came nearer and before we realized it the fire had surrounded us on all sides.

"We got in the car and started up but it was impossible to stay in the road or see where we were going, so the car went into the ditch, and we jumped out and ran up the road thinking we could get out of the path of the flames. We soon were overcome by the smoke and fire so we lay down in the road, pulled our coats up over our heads the best we could and waited the outcome. We had become separated from each other so that neither one knew how the others were getting along. I lay in the road for about 2 hours wondering what had become of the Eimons. My greatest difficulty was in getting my breath but I summoned all the strength I had and walked a short ways and found both the Eimons lying together in the road still alive. They were glad to see me although they were burned much worse than I, and we all managed to walk along the road a little further to a clearing where the smoke was not so bad.

"At about 1 a. m. rescue parties came out from Duluth and we were taken to St. Lukes Hospital where our burns were dressed and we were soon made comfortable. The doctor says I will not have any scars on my face or right hand but my left hand may be disfigured a little.

"At this particular spot in the road where we were caught, five automobiles were burned up and several people burned to death, most of them women and children on account of their clothing. The only thing that saved us was that we had woolen clothes on and woolen overcoats which we pulled up over our heads. Don't worry about me, I am out of all danger. I have a good appetite and eat everything they bring me."