

Balloonist Forbes Takes All Blame

Says He Is Responsible for Accident Which May Cost Life of Comrade J. H. Yates.

TELLS OF THRILLING TRIP

GLASGOW, Ky., May 12.—A. Holland Forbes, New York aeronaut who was badly injured in the descent of his balloon, "The Viking," at Center, recovered sufficiently to tell for the first time of the cause of that descent and the injuries it has done to himself and his companion, James H. Yates, the astronomer and wealthy clubman of New York.

He says he was responsible, and that had he not pulled the rip cord of the balloon so hard, both men might have alighted in safety. Forbes said:

"We attempted to make a landing somewhere near here, I am sure, and when I pulled the rip cord to do this I saw in a moment that my jerk on the cord had been too hard.

Balloon Dropped Suddenly.

"The balloon started to fall too fast; we did all we could to lessen the drop, but it was useless. The ship came down probably 1,000 feet, and then swerved from its original course and took a southerly direction.

"That was the last I knew of anything. I suppose we both sank into the bottom of the basket from the speed of the car, for the next thing I can remember after the balloon swerved, was that I awakened here in Mr. Boston's house, and told the doctor to wire New York of my descent.

"That was why we threw out our food and water and everything else to give the balloon a chance to become right again.

Miscalculated Distance.

"Up in the air we discovered bad winds and we miscalculated the distance to the earth. I feel as though I were to die, but



A. HOLLAND FORBES

THREE TOWNS DESTROYED IN PATH OF FIRE

More Than 200 Other Villages in Danger From Flames Now Sweeping Dense Pine Forests.

SETTLERS' HOMES GONE

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Up in the air we discovered bad winds and we miscalculated the distance to the earth. I feel as though I were to die, but my doctor says I'll be all right again if I keep quiet.

"My friend Yates was taking observations on the skies when I pulled the cord. He dropped back into the basket as we began to fall and I did not see him again until I came to on Tuesday night."

Mr. Forbes is said by the physicians who are attending him to be in very bad condition, and it is thought he will be nursed here at least for the next week or ten days.

Both physicians say that Yates is hurt worse than Forbes, and that he suffered internal injuries when the car hit the ground.

Yates May Not Live.

Both of them say that if he lives it will be a marvel, and they have issued a statement to the press to this effect and have sent messages to New York to his family to come here by the first train.

Mr. Forbes told the physicians that after they left Quincy, Ill., on Monday they traveled through a small portion of Missouri and then over into Tennessee, coming up into Kentucky after entering Tennessee, near in the far northeastern part of the state. In Kentucky they encountered snowstorms 20,000 feet from the earth.

Photographed Halley's Comet.

Photographs of immense scientific interest and value of Halley's comet, taken at an elevation of 20,000 feet from earth, is one result of the balloon trip, notwithstanding the disastrous end of their journey, which nearly killed both men.

A new record for height was established when an elevation of 20,600 feet was reached.

The balloon trip began at Quincy, Ill., Monday night and ended in Center, Ky.

"On this trip I did not suffer from the low temperature so much; both of us were prepared for it," said Mr. Forbes. "We suffered for want of oxygen when we went higher than 18,000 feet, as the air pressure at that altitude is not more than three or four pounds, and it seems that one cannot get enough air. We panted like dogs, and my ear drums and eyes pained me severely."

STORM ROUTE AVIATORS.

Grandstand and Sheds Are Blown Down

Thursday indicate the forest fires, which have been raging in the districts of St. Louis, Cook and Lake counties for the last week, have not abated. A wireless message from Grand Marais says the wind that died down Wednesday evening has again risen and the town is in great danger.

Capt. Pichter, of the steamer America, now at Grand Marais, sent word that the towns of Tofte, Lutzen and Rose Bush were entirely destroyed. Chippewa is about half destroyed. All are small towns on the lake shore in the neighborhood of Grand Marais.

There are more than 200 towns and settlements between Duluth and the fire-bound area.

Fine Timber Destroyed.

A dispatch from Two Harbors says timber northeast of the town is burning fiercely and that hundreds of thousands of feet of the finest pine are doomed. The sawmills at Silver Creek were destroyed and settlers and fishermen at Split Rock and vicinity have lost everything. The fires have consumed practically all the winter cut of ties.

WICKERSHAM DID PRE-DATE LINES IN GRAVIS CASE

(Continued from Page One.)

wards by the direction of the president from the documents and rough drafts of the attorney general. He says that the record properly bore the date of the day when the matter was considered and disposed of by the president. He declares there is nothing mysterious in it, but intimates that he refused to give any information about it previously because con-

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