

Army Of Snakes Terrorizes Force Fighting Forest Fire

Hundreds Of Reptiles, Driven From Catoctin Mountain Lairs By Blaze, Advance On Men Seeking To Check Sweep Of Flames.

Frederick, June 4 (Special).—District Forester C. Cyril Klein and a force of 35 men are battling tonight with a raging forest fire and hundreds of venomous snakes on the wooded heights of Catoctin Mountain.

At a late hour the flames were reported sweeping unchecked toward the mountain's summit.

Reptiles Menace Men.

But great as was the menace of the fire, the danger from the snakes was greater. Difficulty was experienced in keeping the fire-fighters to their task.

More than 300 acres of timberland

already have been burned over. This afternoon the fire swept over Rattlesnake Hill, driving hundreds of venomous reptiles from their lairs.

Many Declared Rattlers.

Ahead of the flames as they eat their way toward the mountain summit, creep and writhe the serpents. Everywhere they confront the fire-fighters when they advance to kindle smaller fires in the path of the conflagration to stop its course.

Many of these snakes are immense rattlers.