

THE CAMERA WAS THERE

For the cameras, it was a week of contrast. As big world news claimed attention, Pathe News surveyed the scene to bring to the screen another chapter in human affairs. Through the forests of Maine in America sweep the greatest fires in the history of New England. Cameramen go into action with front line fire fighters to record these vivid pictures, as the sheet of flame races along a ten mile front, destroying everything in its path.

The trickle of available water cannot hold the fire. With their safety dependant on the fickleness of the wind, families prepare for split-second flight. After evacuating their homes, the refugees found main roads of escape cut-off by the blaze.

As the fire creeps nearer, hundreds more prepare for their flight to safety.

America's main paper-yielding forests are rapidly being destroyed. Once better, the paper companies tried to evict trappers and guides who live as squatters in the forests. Their reply was an envelope containing a match. Today, fire may succeed where the owners failed.

110 thousand acres of forest and townships have been ravaged. The whole state of Maine - bigger in area than Wales - has been declared a disaster-region by the President. Damage is set at £7 million. Only heavy rains can now bring relief.

From the American disaster, Britain turned to domestic events at home. At Durham, the foundation stone of St. Mary's College for women was laid by Princess Elizabeth. Despite the worries that beset a young bride-to-be, she still found time to attend public engagements. It was the Princess' first visit to Durham and a large crowd was there to greet her.

The new £150 thousand college will go a long way towards accommodating the growing number of women students.

At Durham, as elsewhere in Britain, the people's interest in a day that will make history, quickens as the Royal wedding date nears.