

# Independence Enterprise

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## THE ASTORIA FIRE

Astoria is emulating the spirit of "carry on" which has characterized American life. With the embers still smoldering from a conflagration which wiped out the business section of the city, plans are being devised for the building of a better, more substantial city. The loss is accepted without a murmur and to add to the burden some of the business men are finding that the intense fire also destroyed the contents of their safes—many valuables and records of their business institutions. The property damage was estimated at \$15,000,000, but this will be very materially increased if the safes continue to reveal that they were unsafe. Yet in spite of all the trials and tribulations which the people of Astoria have been subjected, it has been announced that the spirit of the yuletide is not to be overlooked. Preparations are being made for a community gathering with a Christmas tree for the kiddies.

With its business section builded upon piling, Astoria has been regarded as hazardous fire risk for a long time. It had been fortunate in that it had had no serious fire, and there was a feeling of security notwithstanding the hazard. However, insurance companies looking at it from an impersonal viewpoint, recognized the danger. They continued to take the risks but charged accordingly, with the result that the percentage of insurance to the value of the property averaged low.

Hundreds of business men and others will probably find that their capital has been wiped out. Outside assistance is being tendered, and out of the ruins will come a city in which of course will be trampled the hopes and aspirations of many of the unfortunate ones.

John Wanamaker, through his own initiative, became what has been termed a merchant prince. But he lived a life of usefulness. Through his objection to boss in Pennsylvania politics he became a considerable factor in national affairs. He served one term as postmaster general and reluctantly served in other capacities. However, Wanamaker was more interested in general public welfare than he was in politics. He was a great church worker and for years was superintendent of a Sunday school in Philadelphia which enjoyed the distinction of having the largest membership of any such organization in the United States.

Through persistent efforts, the Independence corn show is attracting much meritorious attention. Paul Carpenter, county agent, in his annual report, which will be found in the Enterprise this week, says that the Independence corn show has been made the largest display of corn and vegetables in western Oregon.

"Grandma's Boy" shows Harold Lloyd at his best and is one of the most meritorious pictures which has been shown at the Isis this season. It is not surprising that it was greeted with packed houses the two nights it was here. It is a wholesome laugh creator without being rough. And there was another thing in connection with the presentation of this attraction. There was no advance in price. In and yet of shrdlu eaoin hrldu hrldu hrldu hrldu cfwy other words, "Grandma's Boy" was shown here for two bits when to see the same film in Portland you would find it necessary to dig deeper into your pockets. The Isis management has never deemed it expedient to tax to the limit.

## POWER CONTRACT DETAILS GIVEN IN BULLETIN

The details of the contract whereby the Mountain States Power company has acquired 16,000 horse power of electrical energy from the California-Oregon Power company are given in the current issue of the "Byllesby Monthly News," the official publication of the Byllesby company, owner of the local power concern. It says: "A 115-mile 110,000-volt transmission line has been constructed to connect the hydro-electric plant of the California-Oregon Power company at Prospect, Oregon, on the Rogue River, with the Mountain States Power company's substation at Springfield. Negotiations also are pending, and have practically been completed, for the interchange of power between the Willamette Division of Mountain States Power company and the transmission system of the Portland Railway, Light and Power company at Portland, Oregon. The new lines will link together a chain of interconnected systems of prominent electric distributing companies, of which Mountain States Power company is one, reaching from Portland to San Francisco.

"The steam power plants of the company in the Willamette Division have depended heretofore upon saw-mill refuse as fuel, and the supply has been irregular at times; the new source of energy supply will permit these plants to close down, and they will be maintained as reserve stations for operation only in time of emergency. The Willamette valley embraces over 9,000 square miles of the most productive land in the west, and the adequate supply of electric energy, which the construction of this transmission line makes available, will go far to aid the future growth and development of this section of the state. The territory will benefit by better service, and the company by the stabilization of operating costs, which should result in marked increases in the net earnings.

"The consistent record of growth of the company's business is laid to steadily increasing agricultural and industrial production and greater business activity. The territory served occupies a conspicuous place in the commercial, industrial and agricultural life of the nation. It is noted for its diversified crop farming, dairying, fruit growing, live stock and poultry raising, lumbering and ship building.

"The Willamette Division of the company serves a territory justly

famous for its fertility—the Willamette valley of northwestern Oregon. An electric transmission system radiates from Albany, an important manufacturing and agricultural center, where the company's headquarters are located. The slopes of the surrounding mountains are densely wooded, and lumber is a leading industry in this section."

## UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ORGANIZE AT DALLAS

Alumni and former students of the University of Oregon who live Polk county held a reunion meeting in the Gail hotel in Dallas last night. Hallie Smith was general chairman of arrangements.

The following reunion committees officiated: Banquet, Miss Maude Barnes and R. S. Kreason; nominations—Leon Ralston and Harry Casper; publicity—Dr. L. A. Bollman and Laird Woods.

Dr. A. B. Starbuck presided as toastmaster at the banquet. Among the speakers were W. K. Newell, in charge of headquarters of the university of Oregon endowment campaign, and Lamar Toozee, field director of the campaign.

A Polk county alumni organization perfected. One of the outstanding matters of discussion at the gathering was the endowment campaign. The university is seeking to care for the rapidly increasing enrollment by augmenting millage taxes by private benefactions.

## PRIZE WINNERS IN LEGION CONTEST ARE NAMED

Indianapolis, Ind.—First prize winners of the American legion's national essay contest for school children were announced today by Garland W. Powell, national director of the legion's Americanism commission. The subject was "How Can the American Legion Best Serve the Nation."

The winning essays will be judged by John J. Tigert, U. S. commissioner of education, E. E. Brown, former national commissioner of education, and S. S. McClure, publisher, to determine the national reward. This will be announced January 19, the birthday of Robert E. Lee. National prizes are, first, \$750; second, \$500, and third, \$250.

"More than 50,000 school children participated in the contest, a part of the legion's campaign to advance the cause of education in connection with American Education week," said Mr. Powell. Medals to the state prize winners are being forwarded today."

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