

## Astoria and the Lower Columbia

Astoria, situated at the mouth of the Columbia river, has the distinction of being first in historical interest, not only of the cities of Oregon, but of the great territory known as the Northwest. Astoria may also rightfully lay claim to being first in progress and development during a period which begun with the building of the first section of the sea wall which shut out the tide, giving terra firma foundation for industrial structures and converting it from a town standing on stilts, into a city built on land.

This development may have received impetus from the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the establishing of the fur trading post on the point of land between Young's river, Young's bay and the Columbia river by John Jacob Astor, for that demonstration attracted wide attention to the city and brought new business blood. At any rate a new spirit of enterprise descended upon the city bringing about the marvelous transformation that has taken place during the past five or six years. The visitor at the Astoria centennial exposition would hardly recognize the Astoria of today, and the future looms large in possibilities. That the city may become one of the great maritime stations of the future on the Pacific is by no means impossible, or even improbable. Its situation at the terminal of both rail and water transportation serving a vast empire of great and varied resources and its connection with the great lanes of world ocean traffic opens a vista of wonderful potentialities. Add to this its strategic position from a naval and military point of view and it is not surprising that the people of Astoria should be enthusiastic regarding the future of that city.

The completion of the main highways under construction and the extensions projected will place Astoria in contact with another important factor—the already great, and constantly growing, stream of tourist travel by automobile. The interest and enterprise shown by the people in building and improving highways shows that the importance of this feature is also understood and appreciated. A half dozen years ago automobiles on the streets of Astoria were not numerous. Today the myriad of cars of the best makes in the country attest the prosperity of the community.

The development of highways will lay the foundation for a considerable business in the line of general mercantile supplies. The building of highway brings a higher development of the territories traversed. Every line of industry will respond to the stimulus which good roads bring in cutting down time and distance in the transaction of business and expand accordingly.

In this connection it is interesting to note that a new industry is being developed on the lower river which bids fair to become one of great importance. This is the growing of cranberries. Thousands of acres of bog and swamp land along the Columbia and its tributaries have not only been lying idle but have actually been a source of loss and annoyance to the stock and dairying industry. These lands may be made arable by drainage systems and all varieties of berries grown, but the idea of converting the bog lands into cranberry marshes is one that is meeting with great favor. The value of the cranberry crop for the season of 1918-1919 is said to have been not less than \$150,000, and the industry is in its swaddling clothes. Reliable reports state that the acreage will be

more than doubled this season. That the vast waste stretches of land on the lower river will in a few years be transformed into a state of profitable production there is not the shadow of a doubt.

The J. H. Tillman Company has been awarded a contract from the county of Clatsop to pave the county road with asphaltic concrete to a width of 18 feet, from the Wahanna bridge to the southern limits of the city of Seaside. The Tillman bid, the only one submitted, was \$29,690.23.

### Andrew Birch of Astoria, Dies.

Andrew Birch, chairman of the Astoria sanitary and reclamation and superintendent of streets of Astoria, died on the 26th inst, following an operation for cancer of the stomach. Mr. Birch was a native of Finland, 4 years of age and had resided in Astoria for 25 years. He is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters.

### FINNISH WOMEN ARE LEARNING AMERICAN HOME WAYS

Webster school in Duluth is located in the middle of one of the Finnish districts of that city. There, a short time ago, went the traveling kitchen of the government in the Americanization movement for a week's visit. It was not new territory to the home demonstration agent in charge, for she had conducted a sewing class there in 1919 and had grown to know many of the Finnish people. From the start, the cooking demonstrations were a success. Each day showed an increase in attendance, and faces were expressive of appreciation at being shown American methods.

Quite as important as the methods taught is the help given the foreign-born women to learn a little more English. The greatest good of all is the better feeling engendered toward the people of their adopted country. The friendly help given at the cooking and sewing classes counteracts much of the indifference to his welfare which the new citizen not infrequently finds in this country.

One of the women who attended every demonstration, had been in this country only two months and was the first to say she was going to make a fireless cooker by the instructions given at the demonstration.

At the close the Finnish women asked the home demonstration agent if she thought it would be interesting to the Americans to have demonstrated the making of some Finnish dishes. She did. The invitations were sent out, and the result was one of the finest Americanization meetings held in that city during the past year.

One woman made coffee-bread and showed how to braid it, and another made salad. These were later served with coffee to the guests.

In the social hour which followed both Americans and Finns came to a better understanding of each other, although conversation was limited as many of the Finnish people spoke little American. They could however, smile, and make signs, so were not forced into the alternative of shaking bush.

### THE REAL THING IN FREEDOM

"This Bolsheviki bunch," remarked a Portland philosopher a few days ago, referring to the American sprout rather than the Russian plant, "have about the same ideas of freedom and privilege of a free country as my little boy Billy had, when he saw a circus poster. 'The United States is a free land ain't it pa?' Billy's eyes were devouring the pictures of summer-

saulting acrobats, fox-trotting elephants and other astounding performance.

"Yes, Billy boy, this is a free country."

"Then," demanded Billy, "Why don't they let a feller into the circus without payin'?"

### AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE AMERICANIZATION MOVEMENT

An important factor in the Americanizing the millions of prospective citizens in the United States today, not only through teaching them the American language but by providing them with books on American history, ideals, institutions and traditions translated into the various foreign tongues, is a movement launched through the American Library Association. By this method, it is believed thousands, who for one reason or another, have difficulty in learning, will become thoroughly imbued with the American spirit and love of their adopted land and consequently be better citizens.

Co-operating in this theory, The American Library Association in its "Books For Everybody!" movement now under way throughout the nation, will encourage the translation of the best books about America in order to bring national facts and ideals before that percentage of the newcomers who do not speak American and to whom the assimilation of such information is easier and more practical in their native tongues. The movement points to a time when the best books of all sorts will be freely accessible to every man, woman and child and advancement in every line of human endeavor. For the accomplishment of the broad scope of the program which has many other ramifications, a fund of \$2,000,000 is being obtained through the individual efforts of librarians, library trustees and friends of libraries.

### DELIVERANCE FROM CALAMITY

(George Matheson)

The best way to deliver a man from calamity is to put a song in his heart. There are some who sink under their calamity, and there are some who swim through it. I think you will find that the difference between these lies in the comparative amount of their previous cheer. The balance generally turns on the hearing or not hearing of yesterday's song. They who have the song already in their hearts pass over the Red Sea; they who have heard no previous music are submerged in the wave.

### PRAISEWORTHY COURAGE

His be the praise who, looking down with scorn  
On the false judgment of the partial herd,  
Consults his own clear heart and boldly dares  
To be, not to be thought, an honest man.

—Philemon, B. C. 330

Next to trying and winning, the best thing is trying and failing.

### THE MATRIMONIAL TRANSFER

An efficiency genius along matrimonial lines is presented in the little daughter of a streetcar conductor who inquired: "Mother dear, if you want to get a divorce and marry someone else, do you just go to the judge and get a transfer?"

### Re-paired—Good as New

They were both broken up by their separation.

But, I understand they've effected a reconciliation and are now re-paired.

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