

WEATHER
Best yesterday 35
Best last night 32
Light fair; Saturday

ROSEBURG NEWS-REVIEW



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CITY OF ASTORIA DESTROYED BY FIRE

THIRTY BUSINESS BLOCKS IN RUINS AS RESULT OREGON'S WORST HOLOCAUST

Newspaper Plants Destroyed—Several Banks Burned—Two Men Dead—Norris Staples Drops Dead Fighting Flames—Dynamite Checking Flames.

ASTORIA, Dec. 8.—(By Associated Press.)—Thirty blocks of business district, including a part of the older residence on leading business houses and banks, and the buildings of newspapers, were fire-swept at noon today. The fire was spreading east at 17th street, but has been fully checked in the west end and north. The flames have spread some on the south side of the devastated area to Franklin, between Eleventh and Twelfth. Dynamiting broke the windows of the courthouse but that fire is believed saved. The fire had practically burned itself out at noon. In addition to Norris Staples, who dropped dead, an unidentified man was reported to have hanged himself. The loss is estimated at between ten and fifteen millions.

STORIA, Dec. 8.—(By Associated Press.)—The entire business district, covering 26 square blocks, was wiped out by fire which started shortly 2 a.m. in a restaurant in the heart of the business district. The life was lost, Norris Staples, automobile dealer and president of the Chamber of Commerce, dropped dead. The financial loss is estimated all the way from four to fifteen millions. At 9 o'clock this morning all of the district between Astor street, at the front, south to Exchange street and east and west between Eighth and Tenth streets, was devastated. Between Eleventh and Twelfth streets were penetrated as far as Franklin street. Fire Chief Foster said the fire got out of control because it burned beneath the buildings under the piling, which had not been filled in when the rest of the buildings burned, were frame structure, but the city's substantial brick buildings are also gone, including The Astoria Savings Bank, the Astoria National Bank, Elks Temple, Astoria National Bank, Staples & Company, Covey Motor Company, Skelrud Dry Goods store. All of the docks were saved. The rain was falling most of the time and no wind.

Garage Man Drops Dead

STORIA, Dec. 8.—(By United Press.)—The most disastrous fire in the history of Oregon is raging here.

Started early this morning in a restaurant, and rapidly spread.

At 7:30 a. m. W. A. Tyler, vice-president of the Astoria National Bank, estimated the damage between and fifteen million dollars. At 10:15 a. m. the fire had spread from Franklin to Eleventh and from Ninth to Tenth streets, were destroyed.

The fire is still raging in three blocks between Eighth and Ninth streets and in two between Exchange and Franklin streets.

A fatality is reported. Norris Staples, president of the Bank of Commerce, and owner of the Ford garage, died of heart failure, while fighting his way out of his garage. Three engines and 6,000 feet of hose were sent from Portland.

Fire Is Under Control

STORIA, Dec. 8.—(U. P.)—At 10 o'clock the fire was under control. The city hall and Catholic hospital, previously threatened, were both saved.

The only known dead are Norris Staples, president of the Bank of Commerce, and W. H. Fellman, Sturges dealer.

The Sanborn and other docks were destroyed.

The telephone operators on night duty remained at their posts until the fire was under control.

The following firms' places were destroyed: Columbia Trust Savings company, Bank of Commerce, First National Bank, Astoria National Bank, Astoria National Bank, Astoria National Bank, Astoria National Bank, Astoria National Bank.

The Astorian recently moved into a new concrete one-story building. The flames swept through this.

Practically Burned Out

ASTORIA, Dec. 8.—Early this afternoon the fire had practically burned itself out. The apparatus from Portland put six additional hose lines on the fire. W. A. Tyler, president of the Astoria National Bank, estimated the loss between ten and fifteen million dollars.

The Astoria business men sent word that the city needed cash, as all of the banks had been burned, and the money was locked in the vaults.

All of the bakeries burned and bread is needed badly.

Beds for the homeless are to be sent from the Seaside hotel. The hotel is to accommodate such as go there for shelter.

The police are making an effort to patrol the district to prevent looting.

LEAGUE ATTACKS MARKET ROAD LAW

Claims County Did Not Have Right to Levy Full Mill and a Half.

SURPLUS IS ISSUE

Taxpayers League claims County Had No Right to Levy Amount in Excess of Sum Needed to Meet Surplus Fund

A question of whether or not Douglas county has a right to vote a market road millage of 1 1/2 mills, has been raised by the taxpayers league in making an investigation of the budget, and the Attorney General may possibly be asked for an opinion on the matter.

The market road law provides that a levy of one mill shall be voted on all taxable property within the state for the purpose of constructing market roads. This money, however, is distributed only to counties which match the fund. A provision is also made that no county shall receive more than 10 per cent.

Under this provision Multnomah county pays 35 per cent of the tax, but receives only 10 per cent. This, of course, leaves a surplus to be distributed.

Douglas county pays approximately \$32,000 into the fund. A levy of one mill is then made to meet this amount, so that the county may get back the money paid into the state. When this is done the county is receiving only the money raised within its own limits. However, by levying an additional amount for the surplus and thus receive some of the money paid in by Multnomah or other counties who, because of the 10 per cent clause or failure to provide an initial levy, do not receive in return all that is paid out.

As the budget is made out before the amount of the state levy becomes known, the budget committee can only approximate the amount of money it will be necessary to raise within the county. Last year the county levied 1 1/2 mills. When the funds became available it was found that the county levy raised \$6,000 too much.

It is now claimed that the county had no right to raise by taxation more money than was needed to match the state funds. If this contention is sustained it will put a very difficult problem before the budget committees in the future. The budget committee would have absolutely no way of knowing how much would be necessary to meet Douglas county's share of the surplus, but yet would be prevented from levying any amount in excess of the absolute amount available from the state. This would serve to prevent the county from receiving its full share of the surplus and would cut down the advantage the county now has.

District Attorney Neuner is investigating the matter and will probably give an opinion in the near future. It may be that the taxpayers will refer the matter to the attorney general. The constitutionality of the law itself has been attacked and a court action to determine its constitutionality may result.

LANDSLIDE THREATENS DESTRUCTION OF TOWN

MODENA, Dec. 8.—Six hundred persons escaped from the town of Piandegall, where a hundred houses collapsed beneath a landslide. Complete destruction of the town is threatened.

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Mr. Turick Tells of Fire Hazards

W. H. Turick, the Cass street jeweler, who formerly lived at Astoria, where for several years he conducted a watchmaking establishment, stated that the town was built up on piling and was a veritable fire trap. Mr. Turick said that at the time he was in business there he could go down a ladder leading to the ground beneath his store, and from there it was possible to go through underground passages all over the town by the aid of lantern light, because it was murky dark underneath the buildings. He stated there was not a fireproof building in Astoria, and with the flames working beneath the buildings, as they evidently did in this morning's fire, there would be practically no way of checking the conflagration until it burned itself out.

Mr. Turick stated that in his opinion two-thirds of the business of Astoria which suffered from today's fire faced financial ruin, owing to the fact that the insurance rate was \$58 per thousand, which was practically prohibitive in most cases, and merchants carried only partial protection. More than that, all of them have doubtless gotten in their holiday stocks and probably have not yet realized a dollar on these goods, which went up in flames and are a total loss.

LOYAL ARMED PEASANTS FIGHTING REVOLUTIONISTS

ATHENS, Dec. 8.—The Bulgaria revolutionists are reported fleeing before loyal armed peasants. Advances said that the peasants mobilized at Sofia but are now under control.

REPUBLICAN GENERALS EXECUTED AT PRISON

DUBLIN, Dec. 8.—Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows, republican generals and two other insurgent officers were executed today at Mount Joy prison. They were taken prisoner after the insurrection in Dublin was put down. The Free state government announced that the executions were a reprisal for the assassination of Sean Hale Thursday.

FREIGHT RATES ARE DECLARED TOO HIGH

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The railroad rates on classified freight from Portland, Medford and other jobbing centers in Oregon to the consuming territory in southern Oregon and northern California were held today by the interstate commerce commission to be unreasonably high and to constitute discrimination against Oregon cities in favor of San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Stockton and Marysville, Cal. The commission ordered a general reorganization of rates, applying to traffic on the general principle of reducing slightly the charges on classified freight moving from northern points and increasing slightly the rates to some destinations on similar freight from California cities.

FIRE VICTIMS ARE NOT OUT OF DANGER

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 8.—Mr. and Mrs. James Church, burned Wednesday night at a bad residence fire here, are still in a critical condition. Mrs. Church is hovering between life and death. Ivor Johnson and his baby son are considered out of danger.

JURY COMPLETED IN HERRIN MASSACRE TRIAL

HERRIN, Ill., Dec. 8.—The jury in the first Herring massacre trial was completed today.

HARDING DELIVERS ANNUAL MESSAGE

Touches on Score of Subjects in Address Made in Person.

DISCUSSES PROHIBITION

Proposes That Railroad Labor Board Be Abolished and Division Placed in Interstate Commerce Commission.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—President Harding in his annual message delivered to congress today in person, deals with nearly a score of subjects, including prohibition, farm credits, transportation, child labor and immigration.

He announced that he would call a conference of governors to adopt definite policies for national and state cooperation in administering the prohibition laws. He said the prohibition amendment would likely never be repealed and that the nation should adapt its course accordingly. He said that if the enforcement provisions are contrary to public opinion, which he does not believe they are, the vigorous enforcement will concentrate public attention on any necessary modifications.

He proposed that the railroad labor board be abolished with the substitution of a labor division in the interstate commerce commission.

He urged the coordination of all transportation facilities. He stated that he is opposed to paralleling railroads with motor truck lines.

A more extensive credit to the farmers was also urged in the message.

He suggested a constitutional amendment giving congress authority over child labor and any restricting tax exempt securities.

He proposed legislation for the registration of aliens and a more thorough examination of immigrants.

CLARA PHILLIPS IS STILL HIDING OUT

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 8.—Sheriff Traeger and assistant, Biscallus, returned from the Mexican border today, after directing an exhaustive search there. Today they started a search around the city of Los Angeles in the belief that Clara Phillips is hiding there. The officers have three men in their custody who talked to Armour Phillips on the night of the escape. They expect to break Phillips alibi to obtain information warranting his arrest.

Clarence Baker Buys Business

Clarence Baker, well known young man of this city, this afternoon purchased the Palace of Sweets from the Black Brothers who have conducted the business here for a number of years. Mr. Baker takes immediate possession and plans to remodel the building and make it one of the most up to date confectionery stores in southern Oregon. The work of remodeling will be started at once, Mr. Baker states, and the interior fixtures will be the classiest obtainable. A first class grille will be operated in connection.

Mr. Baker has contracted for the Umpqua Five orchestra to play several evenings each week, which will undoubtedly be quite an attraction.

Cecil Black will leave for Fresno, California, to reside and Carl Black has purchased the 16-acre chicken ranch, belonging to Mr. Baker and situated in Edenhower. Mr. Black will reside there.

Sam Crouch, who recently underwent an operation in the Portland hospital, has returned here, and is able to be about the streets. Mr. Crouch was confined to the hospital for two weeks.

S. M. Zeller, and H. E. Crosby, prominent resident of Corvallis, are spending a few days in this vicinity, attending to business matters.

SCHOOL TEACHERS PRESENT VIEWS OF EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN ROSEBURG

Leading Instructors of City Are Quoted Relative to the Most Crying Needs of the Educational System Maintained Here—Controlled Recreation Stressed.

Throughout our land this week the attention of all citizens is being directed to the topic of education. Aside from the church, the school system of America is the most important force in the development and advancement of our nation. The enlightened status of United States today can be laid to America's schools. Is Roseburg abreast of the times or are our city schools and many ways deficient?

From the standpoint of a churchman, "our children are being educated one-sidedly. Only the mental nature is being developed. There is only one force that will hold a republic together and that is religion. The editors of the leading Socialist magazines were formerly, or at present, professors in the leading colleges in the United States. Our nation is endangered by such tendencies. God had a purpose in creating man and He has an interest in this great movement of education. Education should be toward God but the tendency is away from Him. Are we going to stand for such a thing when we pay our taxes as Christian people? It is time we woke up to the situation. No teacher should be accepted to teach in our public schools who is not a devout Christian. I am not asking that religion be taught in the schools but that there be kept out of the schools the elements that tend to draw the students away from Christianity. The schools have more influence upon the children than the parents in keeping faith in the Master."

Principal B. H. Johnson has the following to say to High School needs: "The most commonly accepted aim of education today is that of social efficiency. A more detailed way of stating it would be this; that it is the duty of the schools to educate the pupil along the following seven objectives, as stated by the Committee on Reorganization of Secondary Education of the National Education Association: (1) Health, (2) Command of the fundamental processes, (3) Vocational, (4) Wholesome home membership, (5) Ethical character, (6) Worthy use of leisure time, (7) Citizenship.

"Granted that these are the objectives toward which our high school aims to train all the pupils that come within its care, the question arises: With the facilities and equipment at hand, is it possible to attain to these objectives?"

"As our high school is at present organized we are giving attention to the mastering of the fundamental processes, that is we try to send out graduates who can read, write and figure. We are trying to give attention to the ethical character of our students. We are giving training for citizenship in class and in practice by permitting student self-government of outside activities.

"What about the remaining four objectives?"

"What are we doing to prepare the student for a worthy home membership? We are trying to teach students to live together as social beings; we are trying to lead them into appreciation of some of the finer things in literature, science and history. What are we not doing? We have no organized music study. We have no Home Economics department through which we can give direct instruction in home duties.

"What are we doing in the way of health instruction? We give a small amount of theoretical knowledge through the medium of science classes with which but a few come in contact. We provide athletics which reaches a still smaller number. What are we doing for the large majority along the lines of physical development and health instruction? The answer is evident to every person conversant with conditions in our schools. The need of a regular physical instructor in the schools of Roseburg is indeed a great one.

"Lastly, what attention are vocations receiving in our high school? At present the only preparation for vocations that we are able to give is along commercial lines. This reaches a small number of students. What about the remaining? A small handful is preparing for college entrance, the rest will graduate from high school with no special training. The remedy here too is clear: Reinstate the departments of Home Economics and Manual Training, enlarge upon them so that they prepare for vocations that are peculiar to this community.

With these additions made to our school system we would feel that we are really giving the students of Roseburg high school a chance."

The consensus of opinion of our teachers is that the removal of the four practical departments from our schools is most detrimental to the best interests of Roseburg's boys and girls. The greatest school need is their speedy restoration. One high school teacher feels there should be a closer understanding between parents and teachers, that parents should visit the high school. During her two years here she states that only one parent has visited her classroom. Parents talk about the needs of our schools, who have never seen our school in action. Visiting the school only when a child is disciplined or failed cannot bring about the proper cooperation that should be prevalent. She pleads that parents come and see the teachers work.

The following comment comes from another High School instructor: "It is very hard for me to say that our greatest need is more room and more teachers, but I must ask for that department which ought never to be eliminated from any school, the department of physical education.

"High School students, especially, neglect themselves at the very time when their bodies need the most care, and the tendency is now, in this school, to give the training to the few who need it least. Those students who are superior are, of course, the ones we want to represent the school or class, but the very inferiority of the others is the best reason for spending time and energy on those who really need help.

"Often if these people had the chance to get rid of their surplus energy the discipline problem would be lessened and I also believe that opportunity to use the 'gym' for games and drills would help to lessen that constant desire for dances.

"To me, physical education is more important than any of the subjects that were dropped last year, because each one of the four touched only the few and the social ones always, while every student has a use and an interest in physical well being whether he is average or extraordinary.

Several teachers stress the need of a special room for those pupils who are backward and do not learn readily. One of the Fullerton teachers has the following to say about retarded pupils: "My observations while in connection with the Roseburg schools, have been that classes average very close to twenty pupils. Of these, about six in each class have strength and mental ability to accomplish more work than is required of the class; about eight do required work satisfactorily; five are doing about 75 per cent of the work, but are working near the maximum of their ability; they form that questionable group that a teacher never feels quite sure whether they should be retained or promoted. The remaining one is unable to take class instruction with anything like satisfactory results and unless a teacher is very careful he is receiving more than his share of time, to the loss of other members of the class.

"These 'one in twenty' cases are rarely subnormal children, but are retarded on account of sickness, phy-

