

## BOY REPORTS ASTORIA MEETINGS. GIVING PEN PICTURE OF LEADERS

**Earnest and Faithful Scout Tells How Great Caesar Saved Everybody After Fire With Skypilot's Noble Help, and Who's Who in Stricken City's Affairs.**

The Western American assigned a smart schoolboy to report the proceedings of Astoria's new City Commission meeting on January 24 and that of the committee of Ten on January 25. The lad wrote 'em up just as they appeared to him. His report is given below. It is enjoyable. Read it!

ASTORIA, Ore., Jan. 24.—I attended the meetings of the erstwhile committee of Ten and also the City Council meeting. Merle Cheezeman, Small Town Drake (Goose, I should say), were there, also representing the press. Then there were Auzzy Osborn, Father Waters (H2O), the lynx-eyed vice-president of the Astoria bank—the port commissioner, I forget his name—you know who I mean—and there was the Honorable E. Pea Hawkins, with his silly grin, blinking his eyes like a bullfrog in a halibut; W. P. O'Brien, E. R. Keefe and several of their henchmen—I can't remember all of them, but you know all of them—two-thirds KC in the hall, a dozen or two KKK's, and about twelve sight-seers in the rubberneck row.

**Glimpse of New Manager.**  
Well, the curtain rose promptly at 7:30 p. m., with roll-call. Arnold, Maunula, Skyles, Seeborg absent (being sick), and the Mr. Mayor upon the throne, just like you said he would be; Ira Nelson on his left, Mannix on his right, with the 6% manager in an obscure corner, with a Habana Europa Al Cabajo stuck in his face, giving the impression of deep meditation and equilibrium (I wonder if I spelled that word correctly.)

**Introducing Famous Skypilot.**  
Mr. Mayor expounded first. A few business matters were cussed and discussed and then the Mr. Mayor called on the famous world war razzberry Skypilot. After a great deal of primping and flopping his eyelids up and down in the manner of a dying alligator, or a What-You Bird of the island of Luzon (that you told us about), he puckered his lips like he had been eating green persimmons, and after doing all this he finally started talking, giving in detail the true facts and purpose of the committee of Ten, so he said; how on the fatal morning of December 8, at 10 a. m., he was called

by Judge Edward Everett Gray to report to the Grace Episcopal church. There he found many other men like himself, all ready to function for the benefit of the fast burning city; how someone would have to feed, clothe, house and care for the many hundreds of not thousands of homeless and stricken people that night. Remember, the fire just at this period had not yet burned seven blocks.

**Notes Puffed Expression.**  
Mr. Gilbert was appointed chairman of this body of men, numbering about 25 or 30, nominated by the great and noble O. See Narvestad, duly seconded. I think he said, by G. C. Fulton (telephoned affectionately as "Great Caesar" by some), judging so from the puffed expression that arose on his face when Mr. Gilbert gave him one of those prolific smiles and eye-blinkings.

Well, this 10 a. m. meeting was adjourned till 12 noon, to be held at the YMCA, but if I remember right it was afterward called at the city hall for 2 p. m. to meet with the City Council under Jim Bremner.

**Committee Hard to Handle.**  
Well, it seems the first committee was hard to handle, so it was reduced to the final bunch of Ten. WHOM NOBODY COULD HANDLE. John Tait was instructed to get in touch with Portland. Dunbar was to work Salem. Sanborn the port and government, etc. This being Friday and Saturday, then Sunday, could not act till Monday. This self-appointed committee took it upon themselves to handle the situation, which they claim they did.

**Great Caesar Saves Town.**  
After a little more of bowing and lip-puckering the speaker sat down. Then Great Caesar sprang up, stating how the town was saved by his efforts of guard duty; that there were no women attacked, no robberies, no looting, no acts of violence, because he had the city under a Praetorian guard of the finest system; and how the Ten got the YWCA ladies to feed the hundreds in the basement of the YMCA. (I learn by inquiring that the women had this all fixed in the YWCA, but the fire burned them out, so they moved over to the YMCA themselves on their own hook. A friend of mine talked with the head lady.) Then, said G. C., the Ten got the soldiers to rush down from Portland or Vancouver, and put up a mess-hall, furnish-

ing blankets, etc. There was quite a draft of hot air in this talk, and then Great Caesar sat down.

**Some of 'Em Were Speechless.**  
Dunbar was called on but could not talk. He looked blank. Parker was called on and he also arose and sat down, mum. Sanborn read the dry financial report, all figures. Patton followed suit, as did the McGregors and Jim Bremner. Then comes John Arnold from Missouri, Kaw River County. He said the City Commission desired the relief funds to be turned over to the city treasurer, and thus save lots of trouble, but that the commission would gladly let the Ten act or sit in with them on open meetings. Well, John got it over pretty good in his crude way.

**Wait Smith Under Scrutiny.**  
Then a few citizens of less magnitude got up and said a few remarks, but that was wasted time. I saw Wait Smith there, but he didn't deliver any speech. He was making notes on a Four R application blank, while Rednecks on each side and behind him rolled their orbs over his way, but they didn't seem to faze him.

Great Caesar got up again and declared it was the wish of the Ten to help be in harmony at all times with the city administration, and it was their wish to do all in their power to help the town, etc. No, Al Norblad took no part in these meetings; neither did Charley Robertson nor B. F. Stone. I wish Norblad had been there, for he sure could have put pep into the dull and dry proceedings.

## Observer Reveals K. C. Ceremonial

(Continued from page 1)

**Q. Do you believe in the three Divine Persons?**  
A. I do.  
**Q. Do you believe in the Holy Roman Catholic Church?**  
A. I do.  
**Q. Do you pledge yourself to obey the Church in all things?**  
A. I do.  
**Q. Do you pledge yourself to be a true Knight of this order and to obey its laws, rules and regulations, its orders, its mandates and its decrees at all times, unflinchingly and without question?**  
A. I do.

**GRAND KNIGHT:** It is well. Remember that you are Catholics and for the future you will be Catholic Knights always prepared to defend your faith to any extent, remembering that whatever you do in the name of the Church the Holy Father will forgive you of all your sins. Retire now and prepare for the second degree.

**SECOND DEGREE.**  
The Captain of the Guard and his men go to the ante-room and whip the candidates into line and at a signal, unblinded, into the council chamber. The chamber is dark except for one dim light over the Altar, Catholics finding they can work better in the dark than in the open shining light. They form a hollow square about the Altar and the Grand Knight and the other officers are standing before the Altar in the center. The Captain of the Guard advances to these and salutes.

In the first degree, the candidates have made a confession of faith. In the second degree it is proposed to teach them that they have no intelligent idea of what faith is.

**GRAND KNIGHT:** Brothers, you have affirmed your faith. You believe in the Holy Mother Church. Are you able to defend her if necessary, disregarding all else, and giving your life for her?

**ANSWER:** I am.  
Then the Grand Knight proceeds to ask them questions from the catechism, but if a priest is among the candidates great care must be taken not to ask him any of the questions, for it would never do for a priest to show his ignorance before the laymen.

The horseplay in this degree is to ask a lot of fool questions about the catechism that even the Pope could not answer, and after this has been done for some time and everyone present has exhibited his ignorance to suit the most exacting Catholic, the Grand Knight charges them as follows:

Brothers, you have sworn to defend the faith, yet you have immediately demonstrated that you have been unable to do so. You have failed to answer simple questions of the catechism. In former days the clergy alone could instruct the people, but today the laity must be militant and carry the word of the Church to the accused Protestants. Go from here and resolve that you will study your faith and be able to speak the word of truth upon the proper occasion. Guards, lead the candidates to the ante-room and prepare them for the Third Degree.

(Continued Next Week.)

Announcement was made during the week that \$100,000 will be expended at once in rearranging interiors of the Wells-Fargo building, recently sold to Porter Bros.

## SCORES HEARST OF THE YELLOW PRESS

**Eminent Citizen Hits Enemy of Klan Where He Lives—His Pocketbook.**

Spirit Lake, Idaho, Jan. 18, 1923.—Editor Western American—Dear Sir: Am inclosing a copy of a letter which I sent to Hearst's International as a means of terminating my subscription to that magazine.

For some time past their attacks on certain real Americans and their apparent leaning tendency to the Red element has caused me to become disgusted with them.

As the subscription price is \$3 per year I can think of no better way of spending this money than by asking you to send me six copies of the "Old Cedar School," a copy of which I have just read and am heartily in accord with the motives therein intended.

I have several friends here to whom I wish to present these books with the hope that continued protection of our public schools may be assured. I am sending the money in cash as we have a Knights of Columbus cashier in our bank, thus no check is issued; no money order because of a Catholic postmistress, and the man who issues the express money orders is also on a strict fish diet. Yours truly,

Spirit Lake, Idaho, Jan. 17, 1923.—Hearst's International, New York, N. Y.—Gentlemen: The notice of expiration of my subscription has arrived and the fact of my having been a subscriber for years seems to entitle me to the expression of the following reasons as to why I do not again renew: First of which is my dislike of the series of articles you have been running wherein you have attacked Henry Ford and others, who by their philanthropic actions have lightened the burden of the working class in this country.

I had the latest number lying on the table and a little twelve-year-old girl opened it, and I can't forget the look of shame on her face as she saw the illustration on page 36. That seems a rather extreme manner of illustration to me, and I don't wish to have any literature lying around that is going to bring shame to our young people.

And when I read the article of Hapgood's on the Ku Klux Klan the first thought that entered my mind was, "If this is a true exposure of that order, how did they get the information?" And there can be but one answer, and that is, "Jewish gold has again made some man a traitor." Why is it necessary for all this muck-raking?

I don't know much about the Ku Klux Klan, only what I read in the papers and periodicals, and I have thus far failed to find where they have committed any previous un-American offense.

If there is an organization formed to combat graft and other damnable influences in American politics, and is also striving to rid our land of this radical red movement, I believe they should be encouraged and not bitterly fought while engaged in it.

I believe there is need of just such an organization as this, and if the Ku Klux Klan is the one that is bold enough to try and put some stiffening in the back-bone of American manhood to the end that all crooked politicians may be relegated to the discard, I'll say for one that I am with them in the fight. For I believe that if the working class learn to vote right there would be less industrial strife and these long-haired bolsheviks and I. W. W. leaders would soon find their following a small one.

Now I'll say in conclusion that I'm not conceited enough to imagine that this letter of my failure to renew the subscription will in any way affect subsequent issues of Hearst's any more than your articles affected the sale of Ford cars, but I just wanted you to know that there is one United States workman (I am a locomotive engineer) who does not care to read articles that are gained by making a Benedict Arnold out of some man who will take an obligation before his God and then sell out.

I have read the Klansman's oath, as it is distributed widely as a comparison with the Knights of Columbus oath, and if the password is "America Forever" as your article claims, it must be rather a patriotic order in spite of all that is said against it, it is my deduction of the matter, and I further believe that the same element that so cruelly persecuted and crucified our Saviour whom we love and adore, is still trying their tactics on everything that tends to the betterment of this country and the flag we worship. Yours truly,

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