

REPORT ON FIRE CONDITIONS HERE

National Board of Underwriters Finds Portland Is Poorly Protected.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT

Department Undermanned, Alarm System Defective, Water Distribution Imperfect, Structural Conditions Hazardous.

The findings of the committee of 30 of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, which investigated local fire conditions last fall, are embodied in the form of a comprehensive report received recently by the Chamber of Commerce.

Its conclusions are almost invariably regarded as final in the matter of fixing insurance rates, and for that reason possess peculiar local interest.

Report on Portland. The report on Portland was compiled mainly from data collected during September and October of last year, by an engineering party composed of R. C. Clark, engineer in charge of party and structural work; R. C. Martin, engineer in charge of fire department work; A. H. Smith, engineer in charge of hydraulic work, and assistants.

After giving detailed reports concerning the different institutions whose operations have a tendency to affect insurance rates in any way, the report concludes with a general summary, from which the following significant extracts are taken:

Fire-Fighting Facilities.

The water works, with the exception of those in relatively unimportant outlying sections, owned and operated by the municipality. Management fairly efficient. Supply mostly by gravity from drainage areas 30 miles east of the city; capacity of conduit about equal to present consumption.

Annual losses by fire generally high, and sometimes excessive. Fire-fighting facilities. The water works, with the exception of those in relatively unimportant outlying sections, owned and operated by the municipality.

Fire Companies Undermanned.

On a full-paid basis the Fire Department is under satisfactory supervision. Most companies undermanned. Engines insufficient in number; most are in poor condition. Ladder service fair, street good; other equipment below proper standard.

Structural Conditions and Hazards.

Laws for building department comprehensive but defective; no area provided, protection required for vertical and horizontal openings inadequate, and excessive heights permitted in buildings of ordinary construction.

Explosives and Inflammables.

Responsibility of enforcement not properly concentrated. Laws indefinite and not comprehensive. Enforcement poor. Electricity—No municipal control. Conditions seriously objectionable. Electrolysis under control.

Confagration Hazard—Potential.

Severe, owing to compactness of blocks, poor structural conditions, lack of gutters and fire-breaks, unprotected vertical openings and comparatively narrow streets.

Probability.

High, owing to the presence of numerous confagration breeders in surroundings conducive to the spread of fire, the large number of bad or weak blocks grouped undesirably, scanty private protection and lack of reserve strength in the Fire Department.

Summary.

The confagration hazard, therefore, is on the whole, severe. A particularly objectionable feature is exposure from the long warehouse and deck section consisting mainly of frame buildings largely open underneath or at the sides and subject to a sweeping fire. East Portland is generally free from congestion as to values, but the largely frame construction and the fact that the

PLEASANT VALLEY GROWS

Land Is Being Cleared and New-comers Going There for Homes.

Pleasant Valley well named. Leaving the station on the electric railway at Sycamore and following the winding road one mile south, which crosses several well-built bridges, the valley is reached. While the valley was settled more than 40 years ago and is a pioneer district, for the past two years it has made a forward movement.

A more beautiful section than Pleasant Valley, which is partly in Clatsop and partly in Multnomah counties, cannot be found in Oregon. The soil is of the most prolific character. It grows the finest fruits. It produces an early crop, owing to the lay of the valley. It produces potatoes in the Spring much earlier than other sections because of the warmth that concentrates between the hills which it is surrounded.

The valley will soon be connected with the outside world with the rural telephone. It was in Pleasant Valley that the agitation for an independent telephone system in that section was started, and the agitation has extended to Damascus, four miles to the southwest. W. J. Jenne, who is working for this independent telephone line in that neighborhood, said yesterday that the farmers were taking hold with enthusiasm. Mr. Jenne reports that the farmers generally want an independent telephone line, and they have been notified that connection with the Pacific States lines will be made on completion of the farmers' independent line.

WRITES TO HIS MOTHER

George N. Wolfe Says Charges in Manila Paper Are Untrue.

Mrs. M. F. Wolfe, of 325 1/2 Chapman street, the mother of George N. Wolfe, who was reported by the Manila Times of January 4 as having abandoned his post as director of prisons on account of some official scandal, has letters from her son going to show that the publication of the article in the Manila paper was inspired by an ex-convict who must have been actuated by motives of revenge, according to intimations contained in the correspondence.

CLAYWORKERS TO ORGANIZE

Association Will Be Formed by Men From the Northwest.

At 10 o'clock this morning the Clayworkers of the Northwest will meet in the rooms of the Portland Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of organizing an association. It is expected that delegates from all the important cities and towns throughout the Northwest will be present.

HAS DRAFT OF NEW GAS FRANCHISE

Council Committee Considering the Application of Thomas McCusker.

Section 1. That there be and hereby is granted to Thomas McCusker, of Portland, Or., and his successors or assigns, the franchise, right and privilege to construct, acquire, own, maintain, conduct and operate plants and works for the manufacture of gas for domestic purposes within the limits of the City of Portland, and to furnish, provide and sell such quantities of gas as may be required in the City of Portland for lighting streets, stores, public and private buildings and places, and to construct, operate and maintain a gas-pipe line system, with all necessary feeders and service pipes in connection therewith, in, along, upon and under all streets, avenues, lanes, alleys, squares and public places in such city.

MAXIMUM RATE 65 CENTS

Promoter Distinctly Agrees to This Clause—Men Behind Him Mean Business and Will Give \$50,000 Bond.

Gas at 65 cents a thousand feet is promised to Portland consumers by Eastern capitalists, who have applied to the Council, through Thomas McCusker, for a 25-year franchise, agreeing to put up \$50,000 bonds for faithful performance of their contract with the city and to spend not less than \$1,500,000. The rate for gas is now \$1.15, or 77 per cent higher than the price promised under the new franchise.

MEDICAL MEN MAKE REPLY

RESENT CHARGES MADE BY DR. MCCORMACK, OF KENTUCKY.

His Criticisms of Profession in Oregon Declared Unjust by Portland Society—Answer Prepared.

Quite a stir has been caused in the medical fraternity of this state by a letter written by Dr. J. N. McCormack, of Bowling Green, Ky., and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association of Chicago. In the letter Dr. McCormack attacks the Portland City and County Medical Society, accusing it of lacking harmony among its members, following a loose system and not being up to modern standards; also charging that the state board is too easy on students applying for licenses and that there is a great deal of professional jealousy among members of the association.

RESERVED FOR RESERVOIR

Entries on Cold Spring Tract Canceled—Settlers Compensated.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash., Feb. 25.—The Secretary of the Interior has finally withdrawn the following described lands in the state of Oregon, for use in connection with the Cold Springs reservoir, Umatilla irrigation project: Williamsite meridian—T. 5 N., R. 29 E., section 34, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4; T. 5 N., R. 29 E., section 35, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4; T. 4 N., R. 29 E., section 1, E 1/2, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, T. 4 N., R. 29 E., section 2, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, T. 5 N., R. 29 E., section 31, N. 1/2, SW 1/4, N. 1/2, SE 1/4.

Oil Calmed the Sea.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 25.—The American Line steamship Noordland arrived here today from Liverpool and Queens-town, four days late. The steamer encountered a succession of heavy gales, and several times during the voyage had to lay to for hours. Oil was frequently used with good effect to calm the sea.

Gray's Special Sale

CONTINUES UNTIL MARCH 1st

All Chesterfield Suits of fancy patterns included in this sale. Single and double-breasted Model Sacks and English Walking Frock Suits. Many medium weights suitable for wear during the Summer season. Some BLACKS and BLUE SERGES, also, in odd sizes

At the Following Great Reductions

Table with 2 columns: Suit Description and Price. Includes: Any \$18 or \$20 Suit Sale Price \$12.50, Any \$22.50 or \$25 Suit Sale Price \$16.50, Any \$30 or \$35 Suit Sale Price \$23.50

CHESTERFIELD SUITS are 50 per cent better than any ready-for-wear clothes made. If the front of the coat in any Chesterfield Suit breaks or loses shape in one year's wear, customer gets a NEW SUIT FREE. Take advantage of this great opportunity of supplying your clothing needs.

R. M. GRAY Remember the Place 269-271 Morrison St.

MAY GET KILBURN

Steamer May Be Placed on Run to Alaska.

IS AS FAST AS ROANOKE

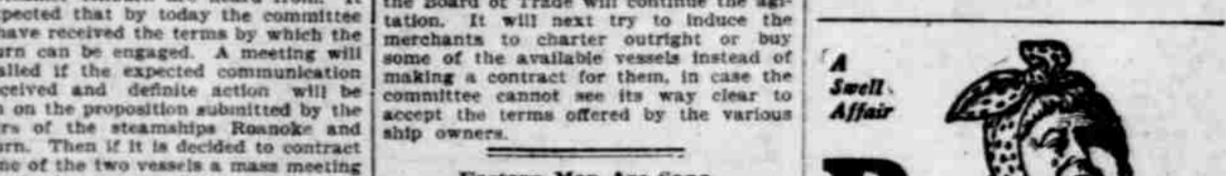
Committee Which is Endeavoring to Establish Line From Portland to the North Expects to Hear Today.

Nothing will be done by the committee representing the four commercial organizations of Portland which has under consideration the establishment of a line of steamships to Alaska until the owners of the steamer Kilburn are heard from. It is expected that by today the committee will have received the terms by which the Kilburn can be engaged. A meeting will be called if the expected communication is received and definite action will be taken on the proposition submitted by the owners of the steamships Roanoke and Kilburn. Then if it is decided to contract for one of the two vessels a mass meeting of the business men will be called.

Eastern Men Are Sane.

INDEPENDENCE, Or., Feb. 25.—(To the Editor)—I am only two weeks from Illinois, seeking a home in the Northwest. I cannot restrain from asking our would-be Representatives why they should pledge themselves under any circumstances to vote for a Democrat for United States Senator. Have you in your party none who are not big enough, broad enough and possessed of statesmanship enough to represent your state? If not, then dishonor, reorganize and start anew.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought



DENT'S Toothache Gum

The only remedy that stops toothache instantly. The only toothache gum that cleans the cavity and prevents decay. Instructions do not do the work. See that you get Dent's Toothache Gum. Label. A small drugstore is yours, or by mail, Dent's Corn Gum, Detroit, Mich. C. S. DENT & CO., Detroit, Mich.



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IN A WEEK

We treat successfully all private nervous and chronic diseases of men, also blood, stomach, heart, liver, kidney and throat trouble. We cure EPILEPSY (without mercury) to stay cured forever. We remove STRICTURE, without operation or pain, in 15 days. We stop drains, spermatorrhoea and night losses by a new method, in a short time. We can restore the sexual vigor of any man under 40, by means of local treatment, peculiar to ourselves.

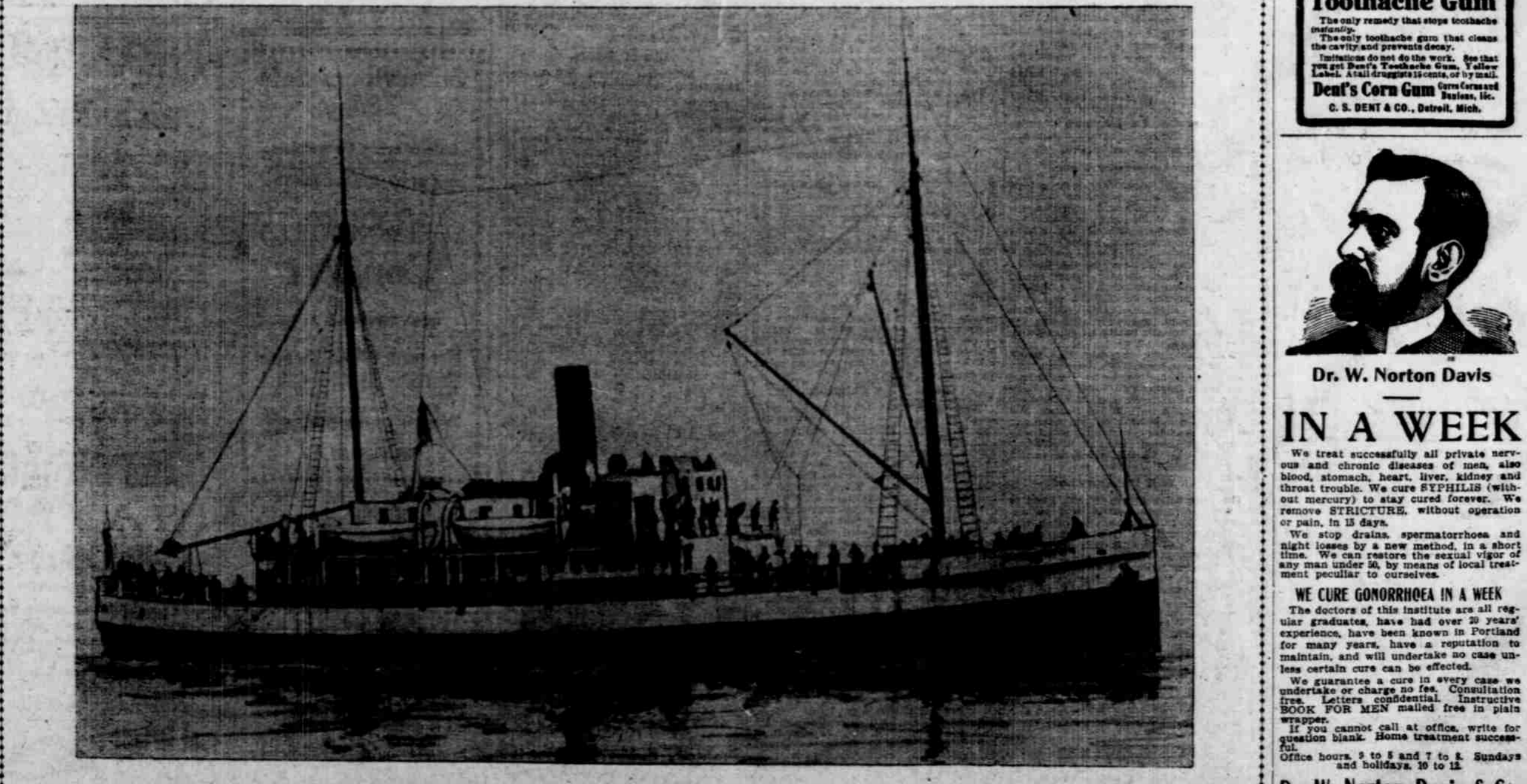
WE CURE GONORRHOEA IN A WEEK

The doctors of this institute are all regular graduates, have had over 20 years' experience, have been known in Portland for many years, have a reputation to maintain, and will undertake no case unless certain cure can be effected. We guarantee a cure in every case we undertake or charge no fee. Consultation free. Letters confidential. Instructive BOOK FOR MEN mailed free in plain wrapper. If you cannot call at office, write for question blank. Home treatment successful.

Office hours, 9 to 5 and 7 to 8. Sundays and holidays, 10 to 12.

Dr. W. Norton Davis & Co.

Offices in Van Nooy Hotel, 32 1/2 Third St., Corner First, Portland, Or.



STEAMER P. A. KILBURN, WHICH MAY BE CHARTERED FOR THE ALASKA RUN.