

# HAWTHORNE BRIDGE IS DAMAGED \$2000

## Fire in Lift Span at 9:20 A. M. Thought to Have Started From Sparks of Steamer.

### FIREBOAT IS HAMPERED

#### Blaze Spreads Rapidly in Inflammable Paving Material, but Raising of Span by Crew Prevents Greater Loss.

Damage of \$2000 was done to the Hawthorne bridge between 9:20 and 10 o'clock yesterday morning by a fire which is supposed to have started from sparks lodging in the woodwork of the bridge from a boat passing below and which swept the lift span.

The approaches of the bridge were saved by quick action of the bridge crew in raising the lift span. Fire companies came to both ends of the approaches and fought the flames from beneath, playing their streams up into the blazing and smoking tar-coated roadway of the bridge. The fireboat David Campbell, on its berth north of the Morrison bridge, was handicapped by having against it both the tide and the wind, which carried the dense smoke into the faces of the firemen.

#### Spectators Are Critical.

Considerable criticism was expressed by spectators on the work of the fireboat David Campbell. It approached from the north in the face of a brisk wind, which carried the thick smoke with it. The heavy streams of water were sometimes broken by the force of the wind. Because of the danger of catching fire the boat was unable to go through the span, and most of the fighting was done from close to the north side of the bridge.

Patrolman Larry Evans, on his way down town, was crossing the bridge when he saw the blaze, about 9:20 o'clock. He turned in an alarm, and all the down town fire companies responded.

During the fire and for some time after, while the bridge was being examined, streets were closed to the Morrison street bridge. The timbers of the lift span were partly burned for a distance of 200 feet, but after the blaze was extinguished the bridge was found safe for streetcar traffic. Vehicle traffic was also resumed before night. There was no damage to the steel except to the painting.

#### Small Fires Frequent.

A brief fire in the Hawthorne bridge several months ago was started, it is believed, from a carelessly thrown cigarette.

Since the completion of the Harriman bridge at the foot of Third street North, several fires have damaged Portland bridges to the extent of nearly \$65,000, not including yesterday's fire.

Last July fire of unassigned origin started on the Harriman bridge, and damaged it about \$60,000. The blaze was in the upper part of the lift span and firemen ran part of a freight train upon the lower span and fought the blaze from this point of vantage.

The fireboat David Campbell, which injured when the tide carried it into the bridge, and a turret monitor was broken off.

#### BIRDS SHARE BLAME FOR FIRE

#### Engineers Recommend Steps to Protect Bridges in Future.

Following receipt yesterday of information from engineers in the public works department to the effect that the fire on the Hawthorne bridge was started by sparks falling in bird nests and other debris, city Commissioner Dick announced that he had taken at once proper steps to safeguard all the city's bridges in the future.

The engineers in their investigation reported their belief that the fire originated by a spark from a passing boat lighting bird nests, loose straw and general debris in the eaves and gusset plates. To prevent a repetition of the trouble, recommendation is made that metal fire curtains be erected at intervals on the approaches to prevent spread of fire, that fire hydrants, hose and fire alarm boxes be installed at gate houses on the bridges and that steps be taken to clean out the debris at intervals. It is suggested that a suspended walk between the girders under the bridges would help in the work of inspecting and cleaning the bridges and would assist materially in fighting of fires which might be started.

Commissioner Dick said that he will look into the proposition and determine what to do. He says he believes the carrying out of the suggestions made by the engineers and the periodical inspection of the bridges will solve the problem.

#### REPUBLICANS ARE NAMED

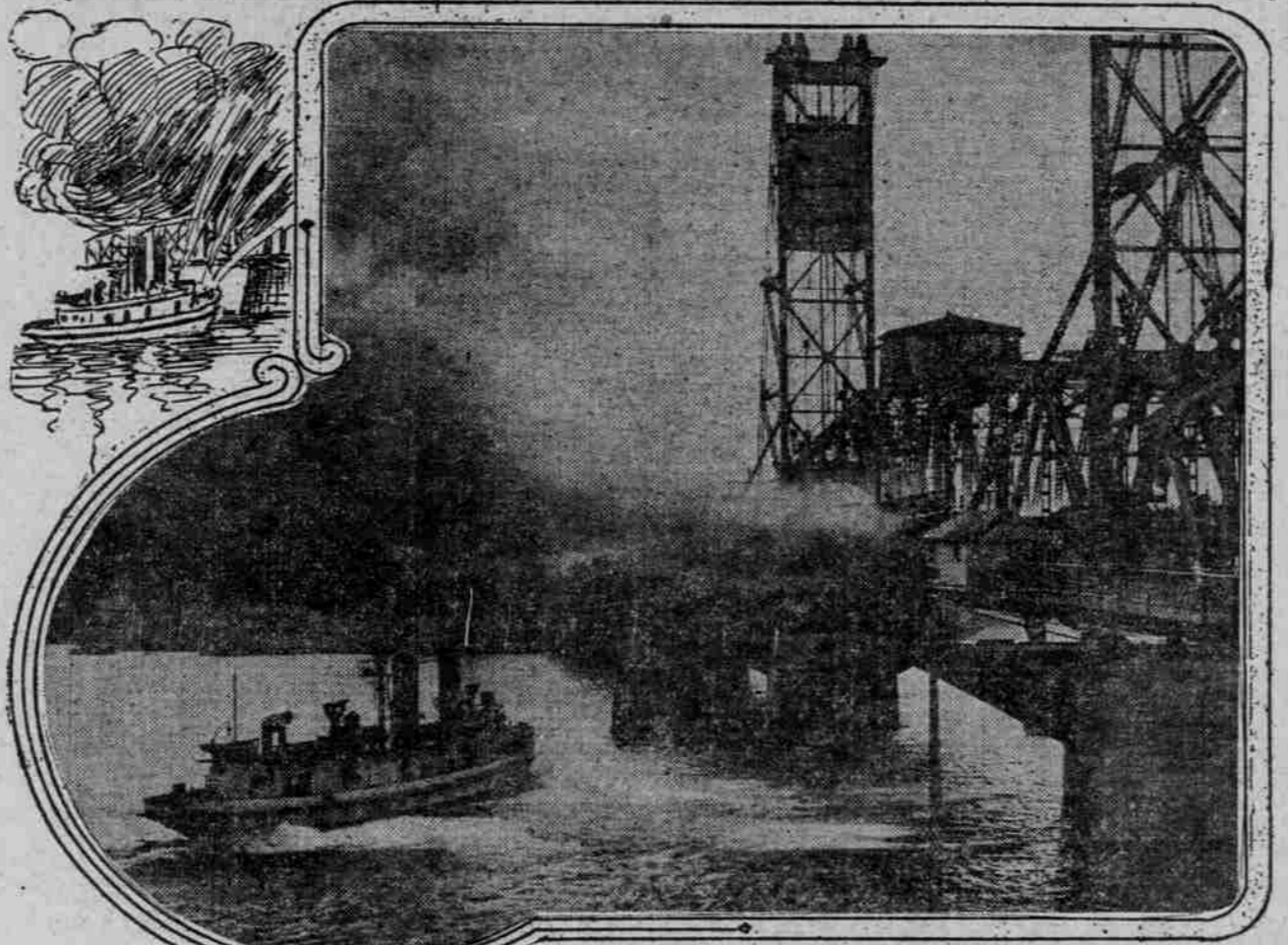
Winn, Richardson, Lindsay and Reid Chosen New Committeemen.

Only a few of those tied for places on the party central committee were present at County Clerk Coffey's office yesterday to draw for their places, with the result that the filling of vacancies in those precincts where the tie has not been decided will be left to the committee, as will the vacancies in those precincts from which no candidate offered himself.

# VIEWS OF BLAZE ON HAWTHORNE BRIDGE WHICH DAMAGED SPAN \$2000 AND HALTED TRAFFIC FOR NEARLY AN HOUR.



Hose Company on Approach to Bridge.



Fireboat David Campbell Fighting Flames!

## POWER PLANT URGED

### City Can Save Thousands by Owning System, Is View.

#### COMMERCIAL USE POSSIBLE

#### Duly to Ask Council to Allow Appointment of Engineer to Investigate Cost—Two Sites Owned by City Considered.

Preparatory to the establishment of a municipal lighting plant in Portland to furnish light and power for all the city streets, buildings, shops and parks and possibly to enter into the sale of current for commercial purposes, City Commissioner Daly will ask the City Council to uphold him in the appointment of an electrical engineer to make a detailed investigation of the cost and feasibility of such a plant on one of two power sites which Mr. Daly says he has under consideration.

Both of the sites, he says, belong to the city. Under budget appropriations, the city has about \$5000 available for the investigation, which Mr. Daly says will be ample. He proposes to engage a competent engineer to make surveys, soundings and an estimate of the cost of plants on both the sites. One site, he says, has a capacity under proper development of 10,000 horsepower and the other has a capacity of 30,000 horsepower. As the city uses only about 3100 horsepower, Mr. Daly says the plan opens the way for the city to enter into the commercial power field.

At present, under a contract with the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, the city's light and power bill amounts to about \$200,000 a year. The contract for the service at this rate extends for 2 1/2 years yet, at which time Mr. Daly says he believes the city can have its own plant in operation. He says he believes from an investigation which he has conducted that the city can save many thousands of dollars each year by operating its own plant. The cost can only be determined, he says, after surveys and soundings are completed.

Mr. Daly says he has options on other sites which may be investigated by the engineer. If any one of these can be acquired and a plant constructed and operated more economically than at one of the city's sites, a purchase may be made or a lease obtained.

#### PERSONAL MENTION.

- R. W. King, of Salem, is at the Washington.
- G. B. Johnson, of Astoria, is at the Imperial.
- D. B. Snyder, of Salem, is at the Seward.
- E. Hofer, a Salem publisher, is at the Imperial.
- George D. Abel, a Hogueham, Wash.

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