

24 BLOCKS BURN IN ASTORIA FIRE

Business District Swept by \$12,000,000 Blaze

WIDE TERRITORY RAZED

2000 Homeless and Food Supplies Are Taken Over by Relief Committee.

MANY CITIES OFFER RELIEF

Portland Sends Apparatus to Help in Battle Against Flames Sweeping City.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Fire, which broke out shortly after 2 o'clock this morning, tonight had swept through 24 blocks of the business district of the city, done damage estimated at \$12,000,000, destroyed every department store, hotel, bank and countless small business establishments and taken a toll of two lives.

Summarized tonight, the situation was as follows:

Two thousand persons homeless. The city cut off without banking facilities.

No food obtainable, except from a central distributing station, established by a swiftly-organized committee of 50 business men.

Relief arriving hourly by train and automobile from Portland and other points.

At nightfall the situation was in hand. Beds had been provided for all without them and hot meals were being served at several stations.

One prominent citizen is dead from heart disease, brought on by the strenuous work of fire fighting. He is Norris Staples, president of the Commercial Savings bank and of the new Columbia Hotel Building company. His death occurred at 4 A. M. at the height of the inferno.

Laborer Found Suicide.

Another death accredited to the excitement of the blaze is that of John G. Smith, a laborer, 50 years of age, who was found hanging by the neck from a pier at the foot of Eighth street at daybreak this morning. Coroner Hughes declared he believed the man a suicide because of fright.

The blaze was discovered a few minutes after 2 o'clock this morning in the rear of a frame building occupied by Thiel's cafe, on the north side of Commercial street, the main thoroughfare of the city, between Eleventh and Twelfth streets. Cries of "fire" were set up by several who discovered the blaze at about the same time, but not until it had eaten well into the frame structure and burst through the roof of the building. In response to the general alarm which was immediately sounded, the fire apparatus arrived on the scene, but the flames had already spread to the Beehive department store adjoining the frame restaurant. Blazes broke out simultaneously along Commercial street both east and west of the source of the fire.

It was apparent that the rapid spread of the fire had been caused by flames eating their way beneath the paved streets, attacking the cross-tied pilings which provide the support for the pavement. To this honeycomb construction of the streets of Astoria is attributed the amazing speed with which the flames traveled, breaking through in myriad places.

Flames Escape Fighters.

Half an hour had not elapsed before it was evident that the flames were out of control. Local apparatus was overtaxed and for hours the fight against the roaring flames was a fruitless one. Citizens ten blocks from the fire were busily at work removing furniture and valuables from their homes.

Call for aid was sent to Portland by 5:30 and by 6 it was noised about through the crowd of impromptu fire fighters that relief was on the way. Fire apparatus

BANKS IN PORTLAND OFFER ASTORIA AID

HOTEL MEN RAISE \$5000 FOR RELIEVING DISTRESS.

Institutions in Burned City Are Not Expected to Reopen Inside of 48 Hours.

No sooner had the banks of Portland been made acquainted with conditions in Astoria, where fire has practically destroyed the city, than they notified the Astoria banks that they stood ready to give any necessary aid. The First National bank dispatched Elliott Corbett and W. L. Thompson, vice-presidents, to the stricken city on the early afternoon train. They went with the authority to give the Astoria banks all possible aid in affecting a reorganization and opening for business.

E. C. Sammons, assistant cashier of the United States National, is representing his institution at the scene of the disaster. The Northwestern National and Ladd & Tilton did not send representatives to Astoria, but telegraphed to their correspondent banks that they were ready to give any aid desired.

The Astoria banks will not be able to resume business for at least 48 hours, according to local bankers. It will require that time to cool the vaults so that they can be opened. All of the banks are in excellent financial condition and will not require a great deal of outside aid in order to get started again.

"Every dollar and all the credit of the First National bank are at the disposal of the banks in Astoria and are back of the town," announced A. L. Mills, president of the First National bank of Portland.

"I have sent Mr. Thompson and Mr. Corbett to Astoria to find the bankers there and tell them that they can draw on us to any amount and that we are behind the town with our resources."

Attempts of the bank to get in communication by wire with Astoria failed, so Messrs. Thompson and Corbett prepared to travel to the stricken city by motor until they were informed that there was too much snow at Clatsop crest for a car. The bankers then went to Astoria on a special train.

Five thousand dollars was pledged for the relief of Astoria at the meeting of the Oregon Hotel Men's association yesterday. The hotel men were in annual convention when the distress of Astoria was learned. A proposal to raise \$5000 was quickly responded to, E. V. Hauser contributing \$1000 in the name of the Multnomah, and the remaining \$4000 was subscribed late in the afternoon.

OPTIMISM RULES IN STRICKEN CITY

Best Harbor on Coast Is Left, Says Mayor.

BIGGER CITY IS TO RISE

Portland Is Thanked for Aid in Fighting Flames.

SOLDIERS NOT NEEDED

Executive Says Strict Measures Will Be Adopted to Prevent Marauding.

ONE IS DEAD IN FIRE

Seventy Homeless in Blaze Which Destroys Settlement.

NELSON, B. C., Dec. 8.—One person is dead and 70 homeless as a result of fire which destroyed two big community houses and the entire group of auxiliary dwellings belonging to the Doukhobor settlement at Brilliant, B. C., according to word reaching here today.

ASTORIA CALAMITY LAID TO FIREBUGS

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF SUSPECT RADICALS.

Fire Chief Foster Also Is Quoted as Putting Conflagration Incendiary Origin.

U. S. of Library

ASTORIA CALAMITY LAID TO FIREBUGS

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF SUSPECT RADICALS.

ASTORIA CALAMITY LAID TO FIREBUGS

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF SUSPECT RADICALS.

Fire Chief Foster Also Is Quoted as Putting Conflagration Incendiary Origin.

ASTORIA CALAMITY LAID TO FIREBUGS

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF SUSPECT RADICALS.

ASTORIA CALAMITY LAID TO FIREBUGS

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF SUSPECT RADICALS.

ASTORIA CALAMITY LAID TO FIREBUGS

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF SUSPECT RADICALS.

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF SUSPECT RADICALS.

OREGON GUARD FEEDS HOMELESS THROUGHS

SUPPLIES TO CARE FOR 3000 SENT TO ASTORIA.

Cots, Blankets, Rolling Kitchens, Cooks and All Dispatched From Clackamas Depot.

ALL STATE SENDS FOOD AND MONEY

Portland Acts Quickly to Help Stricken City.

RED CROSS IS MOBILIZED

Troops, Nurses, Supplies Ready to Depart.

RELIEF FUNDS RAISED

Moratorium Deferring Collections From Astoria Business Men Virtually Is Declared.

RELIEF COMMITTEE ESTIMATES NEEDS

ENOUGH SUPPLIES ON HAND FOR PRESENT USE.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ALL STATE SENDS FOOD AND MONEY

Portland Acts Quickly to Help Stricken City.

RED CROSS IS MOBILIZED

Troops, Nurses, Supplies Ready to Depart.

RELIEF FUNDS RAISED

Moratorium Deferring Collections From Astoria Business Men Virtually Is Declared.

RELIEF COMMITTEE ESTIMATES NEEDS

ENOUGH SUPPLIES ON HAND FOR PRESENT USE.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

RELIEF COMMITTEE ESTIMATES NEEDS

ENOUGH SUPPLIES ON HAND FOR PRESENT USE.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

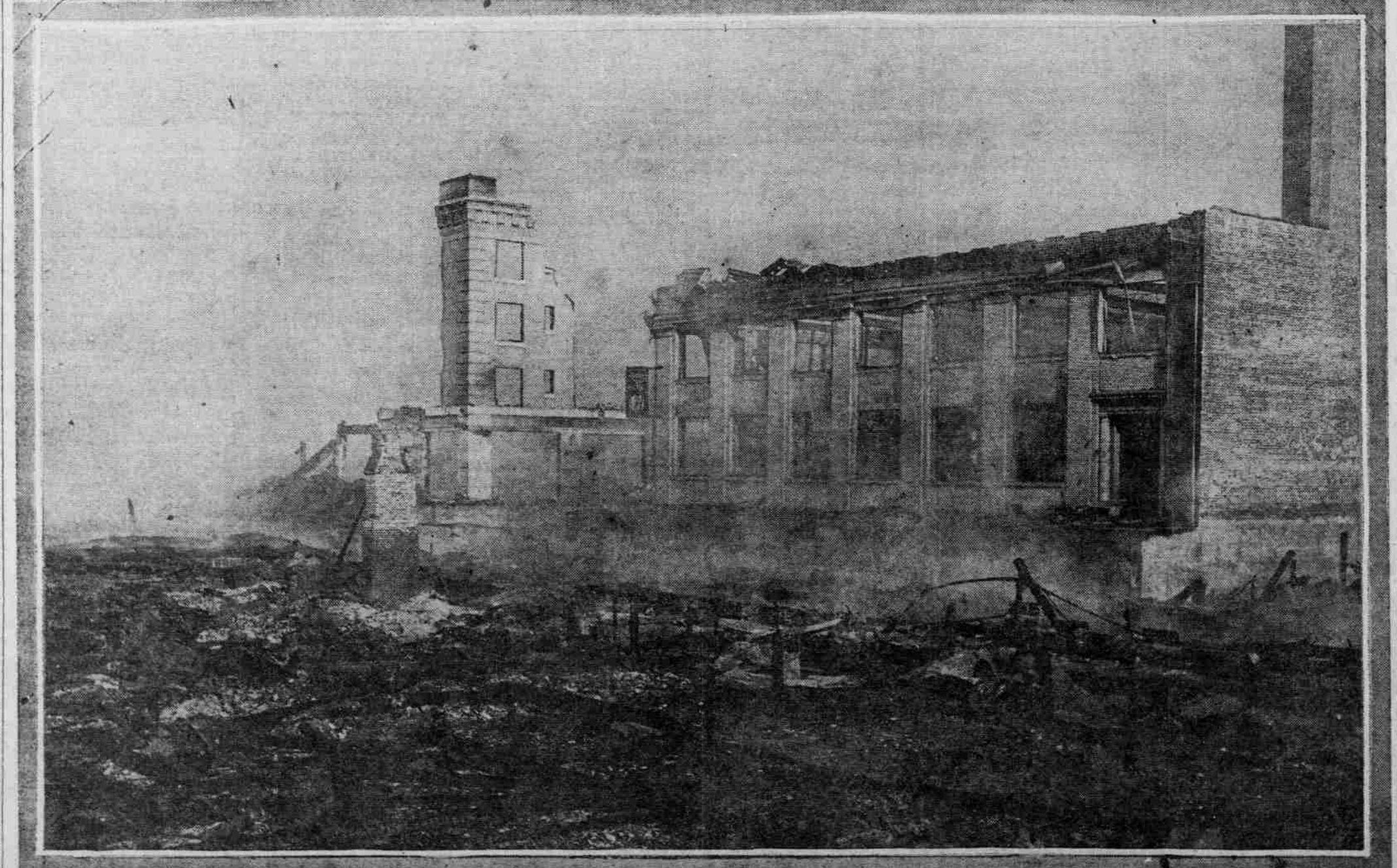
About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.	Page 1.
YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 41 degrees; minimum, 28 degrees.	Page 1.
TODAY'S—Rain; not so cold; southerly winds.	Page 1.
Astoria Fire.	Page 1.
Astoria business shops wiped out by fire.	Page 1.
Secretary of state goes to Astoria to aid.	Page 6.
Oregon guard feeds homeless throgs.	Page 1.
Twenty-four blocks in Astoria burned in \$12,000,000 fire.	Page 1.
All Oregon springs to Astoria's aid.	Page 1.
Optimism rules in stricken city.	Page 1.
Portland banks to aid Astoria institutions.	Page 1.
Rebuilding of homes and telegraph lines begun.	Page 9.
Astoria sleepers pour into street.	Page 6.
Astoria conflagration held due to incendiary.	Page 1.
Buildings in Astoria not heavily insured.	Page 1.
National.	Page 1.
Revision of freight rates in south Oregon and north California ordered.	Page 15.
Ship subsidy bill changed by senate committee.	Page 3.
Harding stresses transport needs.	Page 19.
Japan scraps 28 warships.	Page 2.
Rail divorce urged by Union Pacific.	Page 4.
Foreign.	Page 3.
Turkish demands acceptable to allies.	Page 3.
Domestic.	Page 17.
Edsel Ford called martyr of war.	Page 17.
Pacific Northwest.	Page 14.
Building rail lines in public service commission's only interest in merger case.	Page 4.
Sports.	Page 14.
University of West Virginia and Oregon eleven may play at San Diego Christmas day.	Page 14.
Columbia plays Vancouver Legion today.	Page 14.
Commercial and Marine.	Page 1.
Exporters out of market for northwestern wheat.	Page 24.
Government and foreign bonds advance.	Page 25.
Pawley and cargo lifted by new drydock.	Page 15.
Prices for stock again advance.	Page 25.
Wheat market shows strong undertone at close in Chicago.	Page 25.
Portland and Vicinity.	Page 15.
Snow deepest here in three years.	Page 2.
Big growth is shown in tourist travel.	Page 15.
Winners selected in the Oregonian cooking school contest.	Page 12.
Police and dock budgets sanctioned.	Page 14.
Weather boosts vegetable prices.	Page 25.
Lightner asks new trial.	Page 15.

HEART OF ASTORIA'S BUSINESS SECTION, LEFT DESOLATE WASTE BY \$12,000,000 FIRE THAT SWEEPED HISTORIC CITY YESTERDAY.



AT LEFT IS WEINHARD HOTEL, PERHAPS MOST WIDELY KNOWN BUILDING IN ASTORIA. AT RIGHT IS ASTORIA NATIONAL BANK. THE BURNED AREA EXTENDS OVER 24 BLOCKS IN ALL DIRECTIONS FROM THIS LOCATION.

—By Oregonian Staff Photographer.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

EVERYTHING IS RUINED

Little Other Than Books and Accounts Saved by Merchants.

DAMAGE IS SEGREGATED

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

ASTORIA STORES ARE WIPED OUT

Stocks for Christmas Add to Losses.

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

About 70 Per Cent Insurance Carried on Shops and 40 on Buildings.

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)

(Concluded on Page 15, Column 4.)