

24 ASTORIA BLOCKS ARE RAZED BY FIRE

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

2000 LEFT HOMELESS

Many Cities Offer Aid and Portland Sends Apparatus to Help in Battle Against Flames.

(Continued From First Page.)

from Portland arrived on the scene in a special train at 10:15 this morning and with two steam pump engines, one gasoline engine and 6000 feet of hose rendered effective aid in bringing the blaze under control. The Portland equipment was handled by Walter Long of the A. G. Long & Co., who brought seven men to assist in directing the laying out of the hose and attending the engine. Thirty minutes after the arrival of the train the fire apparatus had been unloaded and 2000 feet of the hose laid.

These additional streams were thrown on the fire at the southern boundary in an attempt to confine the blaze to the immediate area of the business district. Use of dynamite was resorted to with success in blocking the flames in their advance on the residential district and with the increased fire-fighting apparatus the blaze was soon under control. By noon it was decided by those directing the fighting that the concentration was checked. Throughout the afternoon and tonight, however, additional dynamite charges demolished possible avenues by which the blaze might reach into new districts of the city. With the flames under control the citizens of the city have turned to the serious business of caring for the homeless and hungry.

Hundreds of homes have been thrown open to these made destitute by the blaze and all public buildings available will provide sleeping and eating quarters for the several thousand persons. Although not many residences were in the path of the flames, apartment houses, hotels and frame tenement structures were destroyed and residents of Astoria who made their homes in these structures barely had time to escape with their lives.

Relief Committee Formed.

A committee of 23 representative citizens appointed by Mayor Brenner met at the Y. M. C. A. at noon and began preliminary steps for relief. Major W. E. Gilbert, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, was appointed temporary chairman at the meeting and at a later meeting held at 2 o'clock in the afternoon in the council chamber at the city hall his appointment was made permanent and the committee personnel raised to 40.

Relief measures consisted of orders to commandeer all of the city's food supplies at once, to be gathered together in the Levenson garage building, one of the largest unburned structures. From here the supplies will be distributed to the hungry population upon written orders issued by the relief committee, which has taken up permanent headquarters in the Y. M. C. A. Difficulties of obtaining money for the thousands who have been deprived of banking privileges through the destruction of the five banking institutions were taken up and a committee, headed by C. R. Higgins, president of the Astoria National bank, was appointed. Officials of the other banks will assist on this committee.

Hotel Men Give \$5000.

Word was dispatched immediately by this group to the Oregon Hotel Men's association in Portland which telegraphed that it had contributed \$5000 to the relief fund, to send the currency. Banking headquarters have been temporarily established in the Y. M. C. A. and from this point funds will be used as necessary. Wholesale grocery concerns, Portland baking establishments and all intact warehouses where food supplies are available immediately offered all food on hand, and this was sent at once to the central distributing point in the old garage building.

Long lines of hungry persons waited in front of the Y. M. C. A. here tonight where they were fed with sandwiches and loaves of bread. Inside many of the buildings, including church buildings near the scene of the terrible blaze, women and men worked tirelessly in an effort to provide for those without a home. The problem of providing provisions for the hungry residents of the city now presents itself to the relief committee.

Several grocery stores and small meat markets in the outlying districts suffered an unprecedented rush and police agencies issued orders of precaution against any possible profiteering. As soon as systematic operations can be started by relief committees it will be possible to receive aid through the Red Cross. This was assured here tonight.

Cities Pledge Assistance.

The aid of Portland and Seattle was also pledged by telegram to the mayor of the city tonight. An optimistic note for the future of the city was sounded by all in speaking of the plans for Astoria. This was indicative of the fighting spirit of the citizens who kept at the task of fighting the flames until noon and then began their constant attention throughout the night.

"Business men of Astoria have felt that the city has been penalized in the matter of insurance rates," declared G. W. Sanborn, prominent broker and owner of one of the largest building firms here. "With the excessive rates charged for insuring our buildings, it was a safe in predicting that there will be a 40 per cent return to the business men."

Frantic efforts by telephone and electric light workers had partly restored the lighting facilities for the city here tonight, but throughout the remaining district a heavy guard of soldiers and special police had been established to prevent looting of the destroyed area of the city. Chief of Police Lab Carlson said that 14 men had been arrested by his officers during the confusion and that all were attempting to carry away articles from stores within the district.

Fire-fighting apparatus was all working at full tilt at a late hour and will be kept constantly on the job until all the embers have been extinguished.

ALL STATE AIDS ASTORIA

(Continued From First Page.)
Vancouver barracks. When it was learned directly from the citizens

ASTORIA AS IT WAS BEFORE THE FIRE OF YESTERDAY, VIEWED FROM SEVERAL ANGLES, AND PROMINENT BUILDINGS BURNED

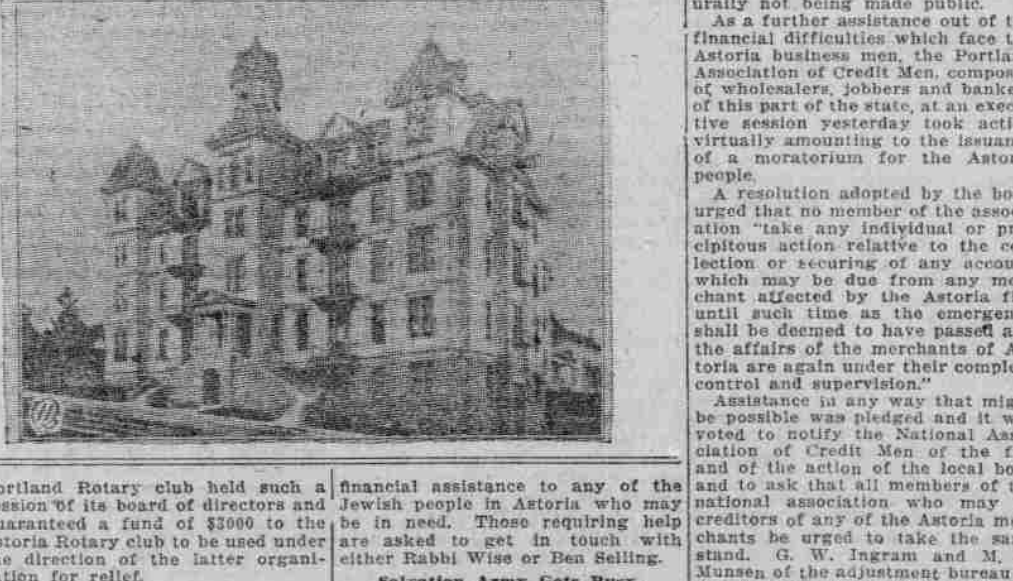
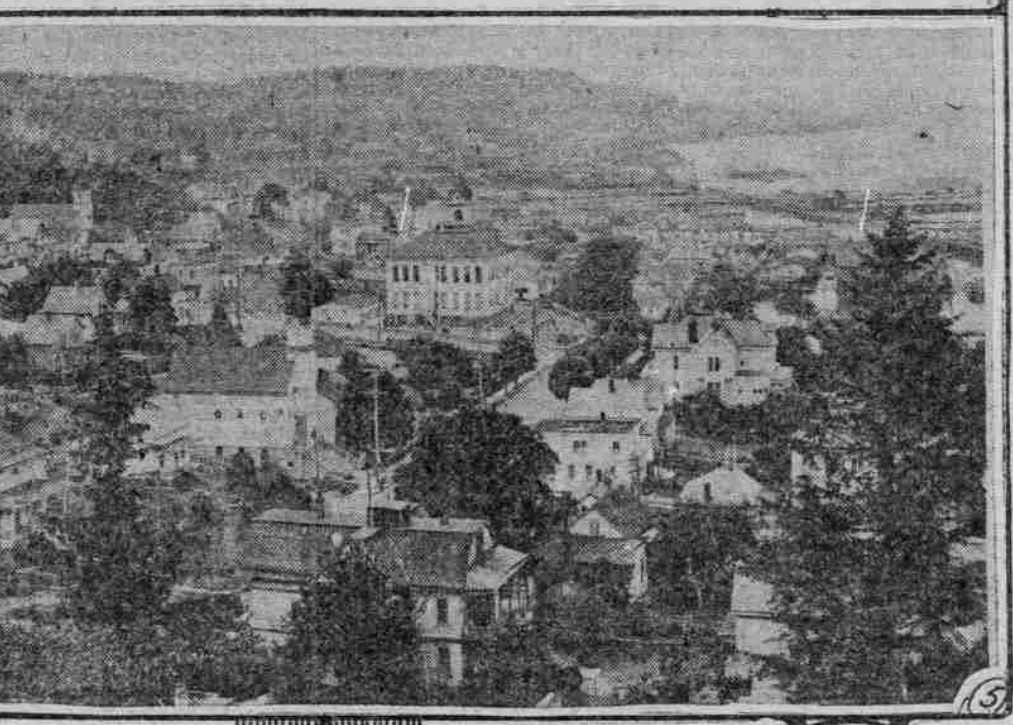
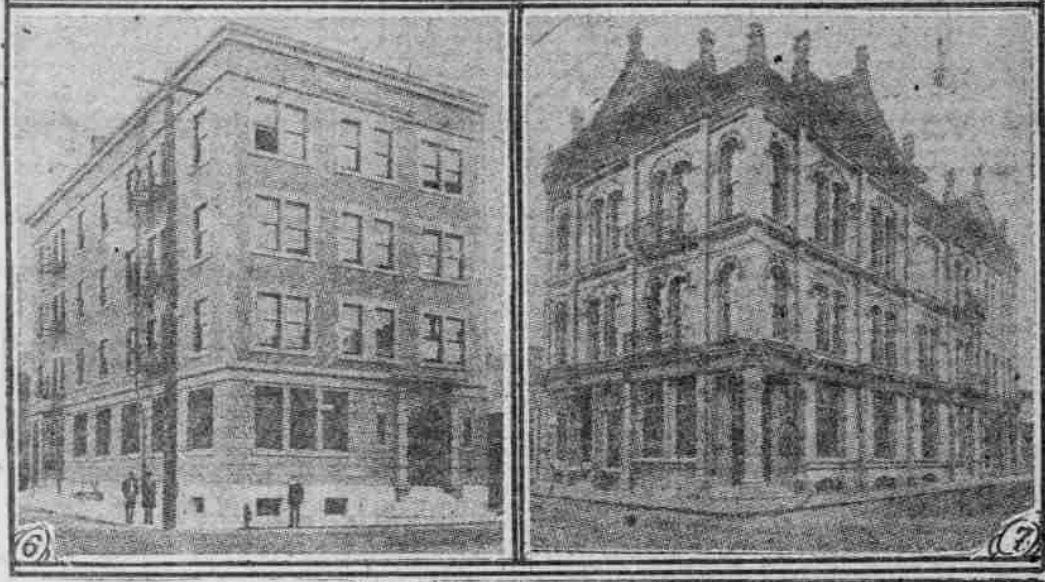
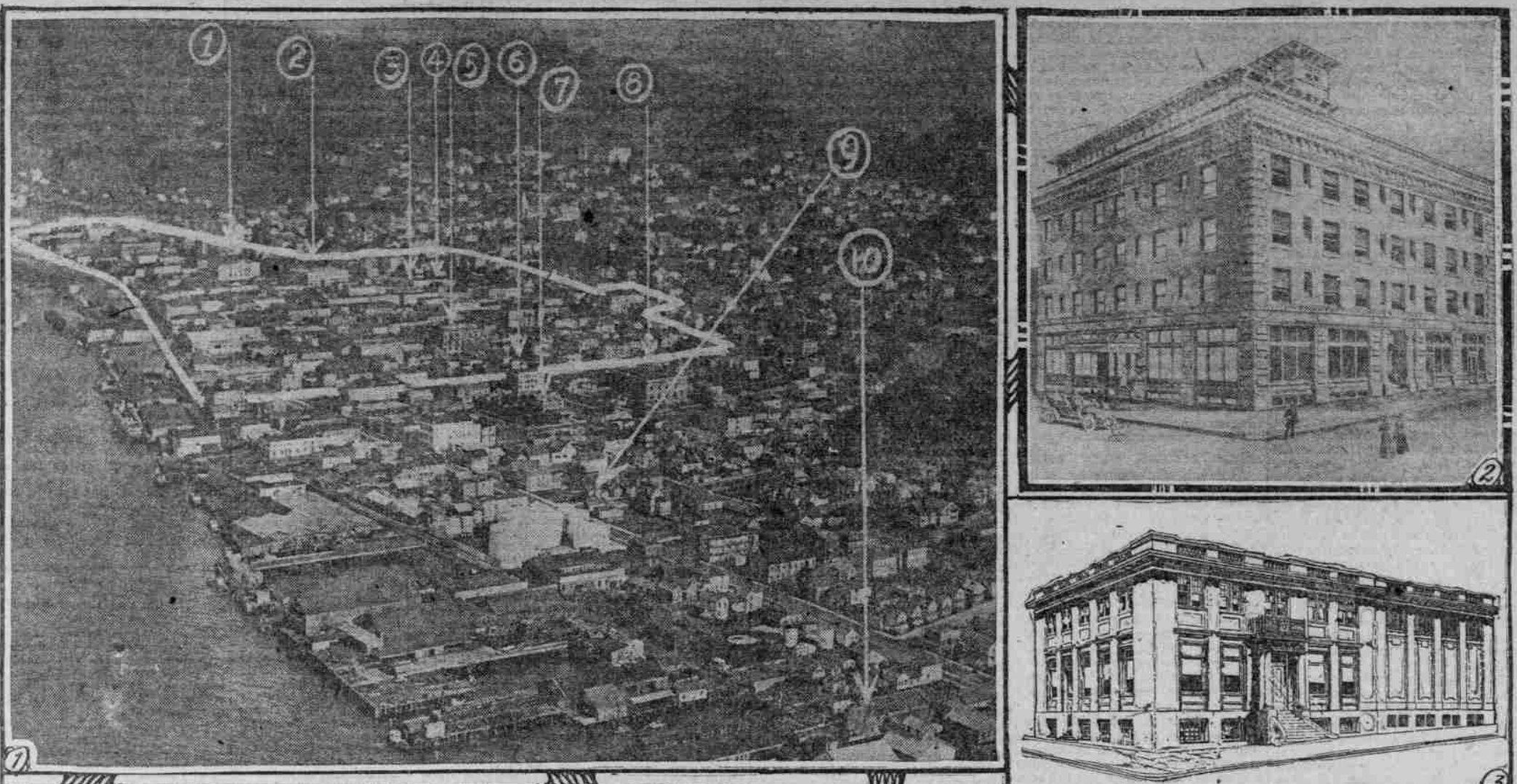


Photo No. 1 Copyright by Prentiss.
1-City, viewed from waterfront, with white line bounding fire-swept district; numbers and arrows indicate prominent buildings; 1, Beehive store; 2, Lovell garage; 3, Weinhard Astoria hotel; 4, Astoria theater; 5, old Astoria National bank; 6, Spexarth building; 7, post-office; 8, Clatsop county courthouse; 9, Standard Oil company plant; 10, Astoria Flouring Mills; 11, Weinhard Astoria hotel; 12, Y. M. C. A. building; 13, Astoria as it was viewed from west hill; 14, panorama of Astoria from east hill; 15, Astoria Savings bank; 16, Astoria National bank; 17, Oddfellows' building; 18, Flavelle building; 19, James Brenner, mayor of Astoria; 20, Astoria street scene; 21, St. Mary's hospital, saved from flames after patients had been removed.

leaders in Astoria that such assistance was not needed. These plans of relief were given up, but all units are still in readiness to go to the lower Columbia city should the emergency arise.

At the call of the Portland Chamber of Commerce about 50 business men, representing in the main wholesale dealers in foodstuffs and transportation lines, gathered at the Chamber of Commerce rooms to consider means of relief. The purpose of the meeting was outlined briefly by O. W. Melke, president of the chamber, and he was authorized to appoint a general committee to represent the business men of Portland and to take any steps it thought fit for the aid of Astoria. This committee was composed of the following:

O. W. Melke, chairman; C. C. Bell, R. B. Esin, M. C. Darnell, Julius I. Meier, Nathan Strauss, Jay Smith, A. J. Baie, N. A. Leach, Edward Ehrman, E. J. Newlander, Frank Woodard, G. S. Calhoun, C. Noble, W. A. McDonald, W. D. Skinner, Fred Spoerl, J. W. Brewer, Dr. J. Guy Strohm and Pat Allen.

Foodstuffs are sent. All present were anxious to tender immediate relief, but realized the necessity of concerted action and it was voted that C. C. Bell and Nathan Strauss confer with Mayor Baker in order that relief work of the two agencies harmonize. Following this conference a session of the general committee was held at noon. It was reported that the Astoria business men would meet at 2 o'clock to make a canvass of the situation and would report their needs after that time. After authorizing the chamber to take any emergency action that might be necessary, should word come from Astoria, the committee adjourned to meet in the late afternoon.

In the meantime relief from a number of agencies had gone out, including a truck load of bread each from the Hayes-Poster Baking company, the Log Cabin and the United States bakeries, and a truck load of meat from Swift & Co. A full carload of meat was sent out by Swift & Co. on the train last night.

Food Warehouses Saved. In the late afternoon word was received from Astoria indicating that their immediate needs could be cared for, and that the big food warehouse of Lang & Co., Allen &

PHONE, TELEGRAPH REBUILDING BEGUN

Linemen, Equipment Sent by Train and Steamer.

BIG LOSSES SUFFERED

Overhead Lines Burn and Underground System Believed Destroyed; Workmen Busy.

Despite an almost complete destruction of their local lines and centralized equipment, both the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company and the Western Union Telegraph company reported last night that reconstruction at Astoria is already under way and that by this afternoon they will be in a position to handle all business offered.

The Western union, before the flames had halted, had opened a temporary central office in the Spokane, Portland & Seattle passenger depot, and was operating two wires. Linemen and additional equipment were dispatched to the coast city on the special relief train yesterday afternoon, and the work of emergency installation went on all night.

Lines to Be Added.

This morning the company expected to have, in addition to the two original lines, two other lines and a quadruplex in operation. The loss in equipment and lines is estimated at not less than \$100,000. All lines were destroyed, and though this does not represent financial loss, it is a serious inconvenience to the company. Local officials of the Western Union said they would be prepared to handle all telegraphic business offered to and from Astoria today.

Though temporarily paralyzed by the destruction of its Astoria lines, the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company resumed limited service in that city yesterday afternoon. For a time its wires were the only source of communication with the outer world. Losses are estimated to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000. The steamer Astoria, specially chartered by the company, sailed late last night laden with equipment and relief crews.

Steamer Takes Experts.

"The Astorian carried," said Charles E. Hickman, division commercial superintendent, 50 linemen, switchboard experts and instrument men, who will at once begin the work of reconstruction. To the present we have handled all business, but necessarily at a faster rate than normal speed. Temporary long distance exchange is established in the city hall.

"Fortunately our exchange building did not burn, owing to precautions taken by our crew at Astoria and to the splendid fight they made. As the fire approached they worked the exchange with sheet iron and when it raged next door they played a loss upon the blazing building opposite. Our equipment is badly scorched, but is still intact.

"It is difficult to determine, as yet, the exact extent of damage to our lines. There was a great deal of underground in addition to the overhead lines, and as the main business district was built upon pillars the fire ate its way through these timbers and undoubtedly ruined the system.

Relief Trucks Hurred.

"At 6 o'clock this morning of the fire we started relief trucks to Astoria, with emergency supplies and crews of workmen. They reached there at 9 o'clock and began at once the survey of damage. In chartering the Astorian for the carrying of supplies, the company offered the chamber of commerce committee free use of the vessel all day tomorrow. Newspaper men who are at Astoria for the Portland dailies have also been invited to make the boat their home while it is in that port."

The Harkins Transportation Company Will Place a Special Boat on the Astoria Run Tonight, and in Addition Will Run a Special Boat Tomorrow Night. The Hour of Sailing is 7:30.

Company officials expressed a willingness to co-operate in every way in carrying relief to Astoria.

Normal Rail Service Resumed.

Rail transportation to Seaside was interrupted for only a few hours, owing to hose across the tracks. Passengers were transferred around the fire from all early trains, but normal service was resumed yesterday afternoon. No damage to tracks was sustained, and but slight damage to tracks.

The Pacific Power & Light company of Portland, which supplies service to Astoria, was unable last night to estimate the extent of damage to its lines.

PORTLAND SENDS HELP TO ASTORIA.

FIRE EQUIPMENT IS RUSHED TO ASTORIA.

Local Apparatus Arrives on Scene in Record Time After Call for Aid Comes.

Hastily assembled by order of Fire Chief Young, additional fire fighting apparatus was dispatched to Astoria on a special train at 6 o'clock yesterday morning, arriving in time to be in at the death of one of the greatest fires in the history of the state.

The equipment, accompanied by crews of local firemen, comprised two steamers, one pumper, 6000 feet of hose, and other apparatus. In response to the call for assistance, received scarcely two hours before the special broke rail records in Astoria. Co-operating with Chief Young in sending the apparatus was Walter Long, of the A. G. Long company, local representative of a fire apparatus company. With six members of the Portland bureau, Mr. Long and one of his employees manned the equipment at Astoria. The 6000 feet of hose was contributed by various companies throughout the city, and was assembled by Chief Young, who violated traffic regulations in his dash from engine house to engine house.

The speedy dispatch of the special was made possible by the co-operation of Spokane, Portland & Seattle railway officials, who ordered that the train be made up at the load-rigging and given right of way to the coast city.

stricken city to help unravel this problem. It is understood the problem will be solved by taking sufficient currency from Portland, although the definite plans are naturally not being made public.

As a further assistance out of the financial difficulties which face the Astoria business men, the Portland Association of Credit Men, composed of wholesalers, jobbers and bankers of that city, organized a fund of \$1000 to be used under the direction of the latter organization for relief.

Relief Money Voted.

The Portland Realty board at a special meeting of its directors voted a donation of \$1500, and authorized two members of its body to proceed to Astoria to tender the money for relief through whatever channel would appear best. Directors of the Associated Industries of Oregon at a meeting in the afternoon voted \$500 for relief work. A telegram was sent to the mayor of Astoria telling him that the sum is at the disposal of the citizens' relief organization.

Resolutions of sympathy, together with a check for \$100, forwarded to Robert A. Booth, donated to the mayor of Astoria by the workers engaged in the Willamette university employment drive. The resolution was passed at the regular noon meeting of the drive workers at the Seward hotel. The resolution and check were sent direct to M. C. Wire, Methodist pastor at Astoria, for transmittal to the mayor.

Leaders of the local Jewish population are offering assistance to those of their faith. Rabbi Jonah B. Wise yesterday announced that the local lodge of Ethel Smith is able and willing to offer temporary

financial assistance to any of the Jewish people in Astoria who may be in need. Those requiring help are asked to get in touch with either Rabbi Wise or Ben Seiling.

Salvation Army Gets Busy.

At the urgent plea of Captain F. Jorgensen, Salvation Army head at Astoria, received by telegraph yesterday afternoon at Portland headquarters of that organization, four Portland Salvation Army officers were at once sent down to investigate and report on the immediate needs of the fire-stricken city. Brigadier H. W. Hay, Captain Mrs. Upton, Ensign Ernest L. Graves and Captain J. Frostad were the officers who left at 3:30 P. M. yesterday. Following their report, which is expected some time today, a large force of army workers will be sent down fully equipped to carry support to Astoria's homeless.

An unusual feature of the situation yesterday was the lack of currency in Astoria, following the burning of the city's banks. While the vaults will probably give forth their contents unharmed, it was impossible to get to them yesterday and will be for some days to come, it is expected. This left the city virtually without money with which to carry on its business.

Merchants are appealing to Portland early yesterday and Elliott H. Corbett and W. L. Thompson, representing the Portland clearing house, immediately left for the

Salem Offers Help.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Mayor Halverson tonight sent a telegram to the Astoria officials offering any assistance that might be desired. The Salem lodge of Elks and other local fraternal organizations, representing the Portland clearing house, immediately left for the

Merchants are appealing to Portland early yesterday and Elliott H. Corbett and W. L. Thompson, representing the Portland clearing house, immediately left for the