

BEACON OF FAITH GUIDES ASTORIA

Modern City Is to Rise on Ruins of Fire.

VISION OF FUTURE BROAD

People Turn Faces Against Calamity and Lay Plans for Vast Reconstruction.

(Continued From First Page.)

Officials of the Astoria Savings bank would rebuild tomorrow, and the Astoria Budget, which mimeographed one edition to preserve its continuity, would start not an hour later.

Yet these and scores of other similar endeavors are forced to temporize with actualities, with the need for a comprehensive survey of what the city must have through reconstruction. Wider streets, for one thing, and a harmonious plan of reconstruction that will in every detail surpass the old.

The wonder is where they will begin. It is very plain, of course, that ere they build retaining walls for their new street fills, or mortar the stone for foundations, they must toil in that blackened and disconcerting puzzle which was once the business district of the city—till for an approximate distance of half a mile without once quitting the debris of jumbled bricks and twisted steel.

It is such a contract as ants might find delight in, and perhaps it is not quite so formidable as it seems, but as an illustration of elemental ruin to be redeemed by toilsome industry it is convincing to the verge of dismay.

Ruins Still Are Virgin.

Gulls wander idly in from the harbor and turn on graceful wing to perch on the snags of masonry. They stoop to the edge of the embers for such salvages as may be described, quarreling amid the litter. But save for the gulls and for a half dozen telephone laborers who toil for an underground location, there must be those heaps of tortured stone and iron, the ruins of Astoria are virgin.

Folk who have the privilege of police passes and who carry documents—skirt the smoldering wreckage and speculate upon the fortunes that are fumed or vaulted there. Others, debate the merits from afar, restrained from closer inquiry by bayonets.

City Still Businesslike.

Astoria is very businesslike about its calamity. It would seem send a duck-lipped butler through the middle of the inquisitive seekers as take a pinch of snuff, which is far from unpopular in these parts.

Tuna where you will, one cannot escape the ancient mariner of the great life. Long since he has scoured the local haunts, who have stories of their own to relate. Let him but spy the unwary stranger and he descends upon that hapless sight like a hawk on a quail.

His diffident victim into a convenient corner, he describes at length his consideration upon awakening, the dunes where he awoke, the trousers, his advent upon the scene, and the fortune he evinced in remaining until the floor burst into flames beneath his feet.

He is more than apt to remind one, being filled with his subject, that in the haste and turmoil of events he has been alighted as the heroic figure of the fire. It all comes to the same in the end. Those who have suffered the affliction learn the art of the quarry, perceive the survivor from afar, and give him such berth as he deserves.

The destroyer Yarborough was bent upon a record run to San Diego. Now she lies at dock in Astoria harbor, her sailors packing the frosty streets and her searchlights turned from dusk to dawn thrusting here and there upon the area of ruin. Somewhere off the Coos county coast her radio caught the word of disaster and turned her prow north again, racing to the succor of the blazing town.

Sailors Have Soothing Effect.

They on the Yarborough are content with service, yet the pacing sentries are apt to voice, now and again, their perplexity at the vagaries of landmen, which permitted them to proceed southward to northern California before calling them back again for standard duty. The arrival of the sailors had a soothing effect upon local nerves. They halt with authority but without that eccentric display of steel that is so disquieting to the evening wayfarer.

It remained for one Portland newspaperman, blessed by that special providence of the fourth estate to unwittingly outwit both civilian quartermen and the quiet but resolute tars.

Police Star Handy Aid.

A veteran of the story, he had commandeered for the trip to Astoria the brass-bound overcoat of a Portland patrolman, together with its large and authoritative star. This he wore with no thought save to foil the weather, yet the voluminous garment and its symbol proved a telegram to that effect was received yesterday from George Pilmore, division manager of the American Red Cross at San Francisco. The telegram also announced a donation of \$200 in addition to the \$5000 given by the Portland chapter, for Astoria work. P. A. Parsons of the University of Oregon, Miss Eleanor Tomson and Miss Elita Brownlee will assist Mr. Kilpatrick.

Slickers, gum boots and rubber hats, worn by citizens on guard duty at Astoria, were furnished by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Because of the snow, rain and slush, these garments have proved a godsend to men who are spending their nights and days protecting the lives and property of the city.

Drunken men are few and far between in Astoria, and no disorders whatever has been reported. With the ban on soft drink parlors suspected of dealing in moonshine, all are kept under surveillance by the authorities. Astoria has no liquor problem today.

Apples Shipped From Lyle. WHITE SALMON, Wash. Dec. 11.—(Special.)—The car shortage situation here is improving. Daily shipments of apples are being made without delay. Thirty-five carloads have been shipped from Lyle during the last ten days with considerable tonnage remaining for shipment both here and at Lyle.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian. Main 7076.

BUILDING PLANS MADE BY ASTORIA

Fire Limits Changed for Temporary Structures.

STREET REOPENING NEXT

Council Approves Personnel of Committee in Charge of Fire Relief Work.

(Special.)

Astoria settled down to real business tonight and started the actual work of reconstruction of the city.

The city council, at an extra meeting, unanimously approved the appointment of the general relief committee, the personnel of which has caused some little discussion.

The reopening of Commercial street was proposed by property owners and merchants who desire immediately to reopen their stores.

Harmony existed at the meeting. The council chambers were packed and the majority of those in attendance expressed satisfaction at the stand the municipal authorities have taken.

Others left everything and gave everything. Mr. Robinson said: "The least that I can do is to give my time and services."

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That black and pungent coffee here is disorderly efficiency, masculine efficiency, if you please, at hand, with a suit, the tie and a midnight diner he tips the milk tin over the cup, letting it pour prodigally, dips a generous spoon into the heaped dish of snowy crystal and before him, stirs for a moment, and lifts the draught to drink—cold and footsore, this is a moment long to remember.

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LEGION HELPS ASTORIA

Portland Post Sends \$250 FOR RELIEF WORK.

CARDS TO BE FURNISHED

Veterans Who Come Here for Employment.

(Special.)

In response to a plea for aid from Clatsop post of the American Legion in Astoria, the executive committee of Portland post, meeting yesterday noon, voted \$250 in cash and pledged the organization to further assistance should the annual post entertainment, "A Night in Paris," prove a financial success.

The plight of the Astoria "buddies," who are without work, many without homes, but who are functioning 100 per cent in relief efforts, was outlined by Post Allen, vice-commander-elect of the Portland post, who had just returned from the seaport. He said that C. A. Murphy, post commander and member of the general committee in Astoria, believed the present great need in helping the post relief was adequate funds.

George R. Wilbur of Hood River, state commander of the American Legion, invited to attend the Portland session, declared that the department of Oregon had no relief funds at the present date and that the question of Astoria relief, so far as ex-service men are concerned, depended on the efforts of individual posts throughout the state. As there are about 115 of them, it is expected that an organized effort will be made in the collection of funds and supplies.

Portland post is asking the Legion commander at Astoria to furnish veterans out of work in that city who intend coming to Portland to seek employment, with cards of identification so that outsiders may not pre-empt the attention of the employment officials of the local organization.

Department Commander Wilbur announced at the meeting that Alvin Mansfield Owsley, national commander of the American Legion, would be a visitor to this state on January 4, 5 and 6, and that a meeting would be held in his honor in Portland on the night of January 5. An attempt had been made to have him route his trip so as to arrive in this city in time for the Legion entertainment on the night of December 10, but his itinerary did not permit of this.

So far as arrangements have been made, Commander Owsley will arrive in Eugene at 2 P. M., December 4, and will address a meeting in Portland on the night of January 5. He will speak at the auditorium or armory in Portland on the night of January 5. An attempt had been made to have him route his trip so as to arrive in this city in time for the Legion entertainment on the night of December 10, but his itinerary did not permit of this.

His primary desire is to talk to the business men of the city and to ex-service men who are not members of the American Legion. He declared that it is unnecessary to petition the Legion to itself, but that the general public knows too little of the great work being accomplished by our organization.

E. T. Stretcher, acting commander of Portland post, was instructed to appoint a committee of five to handle arrangements for the visit of Mr. Owsley.

Mr. Owsley is a well known and successful business man and has been a member of the American Legion since 1918. He is a native of Oregon and has spent much of his life in the state.

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