

LLOYD GEORGE REPLIES TO CLEMENCEAU TOMORROW

IN FIRST of series of remarkable articles in THE OREGON SUNDAY JOURNAL tomorrow, Britain's former premier denies England broke faith with respect to pact for guarantee of France against possible German aggression. Charges France deliberately wrecked Genoa conference when real European peace might have been attained. Startling revelations of recent European diplomatic negotiations.

CITY EDITION

It's All Here and It's All True
IF IT BE a disastrous fire or a social gathering, The Journal's news report thereon will be found to be impartial and correct, so far as human energy can make it.

Oregon Journal

CITY EDITION

It's All Here and It's All True
THE WEATHER—Tonight and Sunday rain; southerly winds. Minimum temperatures Friday: Portland.....13 New Orleans.....13 Pocatello.....13 New York.....14 Los Angeles.....14 St. Paul.....14

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ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS FIVE CENTS

TEN MEN TO GUIDE ASTORIA

Dictatorial Commission Named to Assume Full Control of Fire Stricken City During Period of Reconstruction.

Astoria, Dec. 9.—A dictatorial form of government somewhat similar to the Napoleonic bureau which functioned during the first French empire, will rule Astoria until it emerges from its period of stress.

This governing body will be a commission composed of 10 citizens with Major William S. Gilbert, "the fighting parson," as chairman. Other members are: G. C. Fulton, Frank Patton, W. F. McGregor, C. R. Higgins, James Bremner, John Tait, G. W. Sanborn, Frank Parker and P. I. Dunbar.

POWER IS SUPREME

This commission was born as a result of a larger committee of 50 appointed by the mayor Friday. This latter committee met this morning and decided that it was too unwieldy to work properly. The commission will be subdivided into bureaus, such as police, sanitation, water, sewer, labor, supplies, business reconstruction, clothing, fuel, publicity and the like. Its power over these activities and industries will be complete and beyond question. Nothing will be sanctioned that does not pass through these bureaus and bear the approval of the commission.

When reference was made to a bureau of police, someone in the audience protested that the police force should not be tampered with, as it had been acting with utmost efficiency. However, Major Gilbert and other members at once announced that the police would be no exception and would be forced to operate through the commission.

Motion for the commission of 10 to replace the larger committee was made by G. C. Fulton. It was carried unanimously.

George Filmore, representing the Pacific coast bureau of the Red Cross, today tendered the city any aid, financial or otherwise, within the power of his organization.

Something like 2000 or 2500 persons, most of them being those who lived over shops or stores, were rendered homeless by the disaster. Cots are being provided for these. So far as known, not a single arrest has been made for looting, lawlessness or other violence. Everybody is revealing a calmness which speaks high for Astoria.

Banks Rush To Aid Fire Sufferers

Astoria, Dec. 9.—Arrangements for temporary financial relief to fire sufferers were perfected at a meeting of officials of the five Astoria banks Friday afternoon and an emergency bank with quarters in the Y. M. C. A. building began operations at 9:30 a. m. today. Certificates to a maximum value of \$5 will be issued in lieu of legal currency and distributed to people in actual need.

The American Red Cross supplied \$5000 in funds as working capital for the bank and additional sums amounting to many thousands of dollars have been offered by civic and fraternal organizations in cities throughout the Northwest. Emergency bank certificates have been printed by a local printing establishment and will be redeemed by the bank at their face value.

C. R. Higgins, president of the Astoria National bank, is chairman of the board of directors of the emergency bank and J. E. Roman, cashier of the Bank of Commerce, is secretary. The names of the two officials are signed to the emergency certificates. Indications are that the bank will have a considerable surplus on hand when it discontinues operations, many merchants and other business men being anxious to hold the emergency certificates as souvenirs.

It will be two weeks before the vaults of the burned banks can be opened, Higgins stated today, and afterward the contents of the vaults would be carefully checked. To minimize inconvenience resulting from the destruction of the bank quarters, every facility is being supplied the emergency bank and it will continue in operation at the Y. M. C. A. building for several weeks.

Deposits aggregating approximately \$7,000,000 were held by the five banks according to recent financial statements. Capitalization of the banks is as follows: Astoria National, \$200,000; Astoria Savings bank, \$150,000; Bank of Commerce, \$100,000; Columbia Trust & Savings bank, \$100,000; First National bank, \$100,000.

MORATORIUM DECLARED

Portland merchants have declared a moratorium on obligations incurred by Astoria business men whose affairs have been wiped out by the fire. The action was taken Friday at a meeting of the Portland Association of Credit Men, which passed resolutions urging that no "individual or firm precipitate action relative to collection or securing any account" until

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Indianapolis Mayor Goes Out Himself And Nabs Speeders

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 9.—Mayor Lew Shank, who recently declared war on speeders after 54 persons had been killed by automobiles here since the first of the year, personally took up the pursuit of speeders Friday. Shank made several arrests, sending most of his prisoners to police headquarters in a patrol wagon.

ASTORIANS GAZE UPON BLACK RUINS

Citizens Begin to Realize Extent of Disaster Which Wiped Out Once Thriving Area; 30 Blocks Devastated by Flames.

By Phil Parrish Journal Staff Correspondent.

Astoria, Dec. 9.—The disconsolate people of this seaport city still walked the hills last night as darkness descended, just beginning to realize their tragedy as they gazed down upon the gray oblong space dotted with dying fires that the day before was a busy business district.

Thirty blocks, the very heart of the city, were burned down—and down means down. Here and there an old stone wall protrudes 10 or 15 feet into the air, but nothing beside remains, save the red hot embers from the great fire. Between 2000 and 2500 people, who lived in hotels and above shops, were rendered homeless. Insurance, real estate and other business men estimate the damage at between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

"Seems like it must have been more than that," remarked a man in a slicker to the man in a slicker beside him. "That's a lot of money," the other man replied. The first is a fisherman, the second, the other was the owner of one of Astoria's biggest stores Wednesday night.

Necessity has broken social distinctions. The rich and the poor, the good and the bad, the men and the women, labor together to care for the needy and save the wreckage. And the needy are being cared for. There is no actual suffering thus far. Though not a restaurant or eating house stands in the city, the doors have been thrown open, telephone girls eat with one hand on the receiver and the other a hold of a fork, and the show rooms of garages are turned into dining rooms.

But it is a disconsolate scene. Two hundred special policemen have been sworn in by Chief of Police Foster and promptly at 5 o'clock they went on duty

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15 CARS OF SUPPLIES GO TO ASTORIA

Special Train Laden With Relief Goods Enough to Last 2500 People Ten Days; Chamber of Commerce Acts.

By Phil Parrish Journal Staff Correspondent.

Loaded with sufficient supplies to last the 2500 destitute victims of Astoria's conflagration for 10 days, the Portland relief special of 15 cars left the Hoyt street yards at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Aboard the train were food supplies, blankets, mattresses, coal and other articles calculated to relieve the suffering. The contributions represented the work of the citizens of Portland, the city officials and the special relief committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The train left with J. C. Moore, city passenger agent of the S. P. & S., in charge. Free transportation was given the train by the railroad company.

COAL IS INCLUDED

The quick organization of the relief special was made possible by the relief committee which authorized purchase of the supplies this morning at a special meeting. The method of financing the purchase was to be considered later.

Of the 15 cars, 11 were of food stuffs and clothing and the remainder of coal. The S. P. & S. planned to have the special arrive in Astoria about 8 o'clock this evening.

The finance committee arranged for its first meeting this afternoon at 3 o'clock at which a budget will be made up. In the meantime it desires that all those who have expressed a desire to aid send their checks to the Chamber of Commerce relief committee, which will credit them.

Indicative of the spirit of sympathy which is sweeping the city, it was reported by W. D. B. Dodson of the chamber, that already numerous offers of aid have been made to the chamber, in money and in supplies. Just prior to the committee meeting this

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Heavy Wind Storm Hits Portland

Weather officials are endeavoring to ascertain today the conditions which brought about the severe wind storm which struck Portland early Friday night and continued today. No severe wind is reported from points down the Willamette valley or along the coast, said Edward L. Wells, weather forecaster. At North Head, which usually experiences strong winds first, the wind was blowing 16 miles an hour, while at Portland the speed was 24 miles an hour at 9 o'clock this morning. The highest velocity during the night was 22 miles an hour at 11 o'clock.

Wells predicts rain, southerly winds and unchanged temperature for Sunday. Willamette valley cities had a heavy rainfall during the past 24 hours, 1.57 inches falling at Salem, 1.35 inches at Albany, and .99 inch at Oregon city. Portland had .84 inch.

East of the mountains the weather is very cold, especially in Umatilla county, where the thermometer is down to 13 degrees above zero. No snow had fallen in the past 24 hours at any of the large Eastern cities from which reports were received.

San Francisco, Dec. 9.—(I. N. S.)—Another storm is following close on the heels of this week's disturbance, the United States weather bureau announced today.

The storm, of decided character, was central today over Vancouver island, and storm warnings have been hoisted at all North Pacific seaports.

Rain fell in Western Washington and Oregon and Northern California, with snow in Northeastern Washington and Oregon and Nevada and Idaho, was predicted as a result of the storm.

Snow has already fallen in parts of Oregon and Washington and Arizona and extreme Southeastern California. Temperatures are expected to moderate slowly in Northern Nevada and the North Pacific states.

MELTING OF SNOW SPEEDS UP LOGGING OPERATIONS

Aberdeen, Wash., Dec. 9.—With rain and snow melting, Grays Harbor logging camps are expected to resume work on a normal scale by Monday. Many companies have kept their men in the woods and have operated on a small scale despite the snow.

The Polson Logging company, Hump-tulps Logging company, East Branch Logging company and several others have kept their men busy in all camps

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ASTORIA IS ANNOYED BY OUTSIDERS

Hundreds of Curiosity Seekers Flocking to Stricken City, Thereby Clogging Roads With Vehicles; Warning Is Issued.

By George O'Neal Journal Staff Correspondent.

Astoria, Dec. 9.—Hundreds of curiosity seekers and thrill hunters arriving here by stages, trains and automobiles are causing much annoyance to the committee of 50 by taxing the housing and subsistence facilities and clogging up the roads and streets which the committee is making an effort to keep open for the movement of supplies.

A movement was started in the forenoon to close the highways leading to the city, in an effort to keep away all persons who have no legitimate business to perform.

The conductor of the S. P. & S. train which arrived here at 12:30 o'clock this morning reported heavier passenger travel on his train than at any time since the beach season. Scores of persons are using the disaster as an excuse to visit friends here, who are but poorly prepared for any kind of excitement.

One woman with two suitcases, the name of a friend but no address, and virtually no knowledge of the streets of Astoria, arrived on the midnight train, and for two hours or more required the assistance of two relief workers before a place for her could be found. An urgent appeal is made to all persons to remain away from Astoria except in cases of extreme emergency.

All during the day hundreds of persons visited the police station trying to obtain passes through the lines to the devastated area. Except in cases where they were able to show some reason for passing the lines they were refused and kept back in the eastern section of the city, where they would cause the least annoyance.

Temporary badges of red ribbon are being issued as passes through the guard lines. Perfect order has been maintained since the beginning of the fire.

All of the 30 patients transferred from the Catholic hospital to the high school and the residence of P. E. Hoefler are reported in satisfactory condition today. As soon as arrangements could be made Friday afternoon the women patients were all taken to the homes of friends and physicians. The men are being cared for now in the high school, while the sisters are living at the Hoefler residence.

Of the women patients, the two considered to be in the most serious condition are both reported apparently in no danger today.

They were Miss Genevieve Malarky, who was taken to the home of Dr. Ar-

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Boy Scouts Earn Praise By Service

Astoria, Or., Dec. 9.—Boy Scouts here Friday night earned another decoration in recognition of special merit and faithful service for their untiring and patient work all during the trying night. With 50 per cent of the tele-phones in the city out of commission, the Boy Scouts took charge of delivering messages and making deliveries of necessities, finding opportunity for countless ways of service.

One squad of youngsters remained on duty all night in the Y. M. C. A., tucking in blankets over troubled sleepers and making the refugees as comfortable as possible. Every boy who was ever a Scout donned his uniform Friday night and reported for duty under the direction of Scout Masters Bjorlie and Stevens.

QUICK AUTO TRIP MADE TO ASTORIA

To get The Journal staff writers and a photographer to the scene of the Astoria conflagration to supplement the splendid efforts of the Astoria committee was the prime requisite Friday morning.

Train service was slow and on schedules that conflicted with newspaper time, so the services of Claud McGee of the Howard Auto company were enlisted. McGee piloted a Buick Six down the lower Columbia River highway to Astoria and return in elapsed time of seven hours and 50 minutes.

One staff member of The Journal was left at Astoria, while the second correspondent and the photographer returned with McGee. The road was found slippery from snow. Despite the fact the car was not equipped with chains, the Buick came through without loss of time and safely.

Rail Telegraphers' Pay Cut \$1,500,000

Chicago, Dec. 9.—(U. P.)—Pay of 11,000 railroad telegraphers on 11 western railroads was cut \$1,500,000 a year by a decision handed down by the United States railroad labor board today. The decision was made at the request of the railroads to correct existing inequalities in the pay of station and telegraph employees.

Relief Fund Urged For Greek Refugees

Athens, Dec. 9.—(U. P.)—The raising of a large loan, backed by guarantees of the League of Nations, to aid Greek refugees impoverished by the Turkish war, has been proposed at Lausanne by Captain Nansen, the famous explorer, telegraphed to the minister for relief here.

ASTORIA LAYS PLAN TO REBUILD

New and Greater Astoria to Rise at Once, Citizens Determine at Mass Meeting; Temporary Structures to Care for Needs.

Astoria, Dec. 9.—Astoria is to rise phoenix-like from its mass of blackened, smouldering ruins—not next month or next year, but immediately.

This was the determination which crystallized at a mass meeting of 250 or 300 business men held in the circuit courtroom here this morning. The entire population is tense with a fighting spirit, a do-or-die atmosphere, a sort of tenacious and well-defined intent to mould from the future a greater and grander Astoria. It is going through the body politic like an electric current. Reference to it this morning brought a burst of applause that shook the courtroom.

ENTHUSIASM UNBOUNDED
"Gentlemen of the new and greater Astoria," said Leo Drake, acting president of the Chamber of Commerce, in opening the mass meeting. That phrase brought forth enthusiasm which virtually wrecked the walk.

"I don't have to say, 'Smile, don't you smile,' you are doing it anyhow," was Drake's next volley.

From then on the gathering became a concrete and concentrated pledge toward reshaping and reconstruction.

This spirit came to a head in a plan to erect temporary structures as once in the vicinity of the Y. M. C. A. on the edge of the devastated area. These structures will be used for the handling of provisions and articles that are being shipped into Astoria and for what merchandise and stocks were salvaged from the flames. O. B. Setiers, mayor-elect, was appointed chairman of a committee to allot this space. No rent will be charged and a constant patrol

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New Zealand Votes To Remain 'Wet'

Wellington, New Zealand, Dec. 9.—(I. N. S.)—William (Puseyfoot) Johnson, who has been leading a vigorous campaign to make New Zealand "bone dry," lost his battle today when official tabulation of votes in the national referendum showed a majority of 16,138 in favor of continuing the present system of licensing drink sales.

A similar referendum three years ago gave a majority of only 2262 in favor of continuation of the licensing scheme.

Astoria Homeless Walk City's Streets, Lined With Gaunt Remnants of Finest Business Structures of the Lower River Metropolis



At the left, W. Bechtolt and family, including Mrs. Bechtolt and three children. The Bechtolts were among those who lost their homes in the disaster. The background of the picture gives an excellent idea of the complete sweep of the fire through the center of the business district. On the right in the foreground are the smoking ruins of the Astoria Savings bank building. In the rear is all that is left of the fine home of the Astoria lodge of Elks.