

PUBLISHED BY
Commodore Hotel, Astoria, Oregon

Any friend who feels an interest in the prosperity of this region, is authorized to act as Agent for this paper, in procuring subscribers.

CITY INTELLIGENCE

Common Council. The regular monthly meeting of the City Council will be held this evening.

Street Work. In accordance with instructions from the Common Council, Court Street is being filled to a proper level.

Tall Grass. We have specimens of clover five feet in height from the roots, which grow in the garden at Mrs. Brock's, Astoria.

Mechanical. Mr. G. W. Lamb of this city is a skillful mechanic, and has rendered us valuable assistance in settling things about our new press.

Out of Sorts. For the want of certain letters in the alphabet which the type founders neglected to send with the bulk of the type ordered, much that we wished to say to-day in the first issue of the Astorian is necessarily omitted.

High Tariffs. People living on Gray's Harbor pay \$40 a ton freight on flour and provisions. Some of our Astoria crafts ought to prospect this lead, and furnish supplies from here instead of compelling these settlers to go so far overland to Olympia.

Grading. The County Court having ordered that the Courthouse block be filled as required by the established grade, work has been commenced upon the job. A tram-way has been put down to the bluff, and the earth is taken to the block in cars.

Cement Rock. At our request Prof E. Hopkins of this city made a test of some rock he has discovered which settles the matter in our mind, that there exists in Clatsop county a lodge of stone that will produce a better article than the famous Portland cement. We shall allude to this test in detail soon.

Chowder Club. Astoria has a Chowder Club, organized under the general constitution of the Winship Clubs of this coast. T. J. Winship, the instigator of them, and for whom they are named, has presented to Astoria Club No. 1 a chest containing the entire outfit, and any member of the Club is entitled to the use of the chest whenever he wishes to entertain a party of friends at a Clam Chowder.

Leather Business. The almost inexhaustible supply of Hemlock bark for tanning purposes, to be had in Clatsop county warrants the assertion that in the course of time the leather business alone will be sufficient to maintain here a population of thousands.

Insane. A young man named Gill, who came to Oregon as a sailor from a foreign port a few months ago and was discharged in Portland, attempted to commit suicide on the 20th, by cutting his throat. He was sent to Astoria by Messrs. Hume & Co. in charge of John Gilbert, and the cut was stitched by Dr. Kinsey. After remaining here until he was able to undergo an examination he was taken to Monticello and turned over to the authorities as an insane person and would be committed to the Asylum at Steilacoom

Fourth of July. At a meeting of citizens of Astoria held at the Courthouse on the evening of June 17th, for the purpose of taking steps toward celebrating the 4th of July, Rev. T. A. Hyland was called to the chair, and James W. Welch chosen secretary. The meeting resolved to have a celebration, and appointed a general committee of arrangements as follows: J. H. D. Gray, James Welch, W. H. Twilight, Harry Spedden, and W. W. Parker. It was further moved that two ladies be added to the committee, when Miss Mary Taylor and Miss Florence Van Dusen were chosen to represent the ladies of the city. The committee thus formed have met from time to time and are arranging for a suitable observance of the national holiday. A meeting will be held this evening at the Congregational Church. In our next issue we shall be able to publish the programme of exercises.

CENSUS BUREAU
REPORTS LATEST
POPULATION DATA

The U. S. Census Bureau reports that the current population of Astoria is 9,477, a slight drop from the city's population of 9,813 in 2000. The population of Astoria, which grew rapidly in the second half of the 1800s, peaked in the early-1920s and has remained relatively constant since 1930.

Year	Population
1860.....	250
1870.....	639
1880.....	1,803
1890.....	6,184
1900.....	8,831
1910.....	9,599
1920.....	14,027
1930.....	10,349
1940.....	10,389
1950.....	12,331
1960.....	11,239
1970.....	10,244
1980.....	9,998
1990.....	10,069
2000.....	9,813
2010.....	9,477

FIRE RAVAGES DOWNTOWN

BUSINESS DISTRICT RAZED;
VANDALISM SUSPECTED

December 9, 1922—The business district of Oregon's oldest city is in ruins, hundreds of persons are homeless, and property loss estimated around \$15,000,000 has been caused by a fire which earlier today broke out in a restaurant and was soon beyond control of local firemen who resorted to dynamiting in a vain effort to stop the conflagration. For ten hours the flames held sway, cutting an ever-widening path through the city until shortly after noon. At that time, largely because it had burned itself out, the fire was under control.

Banks, newspaper plants, hotels, stores, theaters and numerous buildings housing a variety of business

OPTIMISM REIGNS; RELIEF
EFFORTS UNDERWAY

A striking spirit of optimism, a glowing example of "down, but not out," prevailed in Astoria despite the misfortune which had eaten out its heart. Statements made by the mayor, city officials and prominent businessmen, pausing long enough in their work of fire fighting, salvage and relief work to take cognizance of assistance and expressions of sympathy from outside, bear it out. A forward-looking spirit prevailed. In his battered office in the scorched city hall, its ceilings dripping water and its windows partly shattered and still giving way periodically to thundering detonations from ruins in the street, Mayor James Bremner had this to say:



THE CONFLAGRATION RACED THROUGH DOWNTOWN, RAZING NEARLY EVERY BUILDING IN A MATTER OF SEVERAL HOURS. THE VIEW EAST ON BOND STREET SHOWS THE DEVASTATION.

places were wiped out. According to Fire Chief S. B. Foster, the rapid spread of the fire had been caused by flames eating their way beneath the paved streets, attacking the creosoted pilings which provide the support for the pavement. He attributed the disaster to failure to fill in the space beneath the pilings.

Vandalism was responsible for the conflagration, according to both Mayor Bremner and Chief of Police Carlson, and local radicals are under suspicion. "I am certain that the fire was incendiary," said Mayor Bremner, "and I am likewise certain that radicalism is responsible for the horrible deed. Of course there will be a more thorough investigation than has been possible today. When it is over I am sure it will be established that the fire was set." An investigation proved that the fire at the outset began in two separate places simultaneously. At least a dozen citizens who were in the vicinity of the Bee Hive department store when the conflagration started said they were certain that two restaurants at either side of the department store were raging furnaces, while the store showed no sign of fire.

Thirty blocks were wiped out by flames. Many homes in the older residence district were destroyed and about 50 families living in an apartment house were made homeless. 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.

The body of C. J. Smith, a transient, was found hanging under the sidewalk but whether he had ended his life because of the fire or for other reasons the police were unable to learn.

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.

The Astoria Savings Bank

CAPITAL PAID IN \$100,000. SURPLUS \$35,000

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U.B. Scott, President

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

Fitting Climax to
One Hundred Years
of City's Prosperity

April 12, 1911—An even hundred years ago, the good ship Tonquin, owned by John Jacob Astor, sailed into the mouth of the Columbia River, rode over the bar and anchored ten miles up the river in the cove opposite what has now become Astoria. The Tonquin brought the first white man to the great Oregon country which at that time embraced all the land from which the States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho have since been carved. It is in celebration of this settlement that the Astoria Centennial was projected. The pageant will be opened with simple ceremonies on August 9. The public opening will be the following day and the Centennial will continue for thirty days, or until September 9.

The Legislature of the State of Oregon appropriated \$50,000 toward the expense of the Centennial. Clatsop County made a special tax levy which brought \$25,000 additional funds to the committee; Colonel John Jacob Astor, of New York City, donated \$10,000 to the cause and the businessmen of Astoria contributed \$50,000. Additional subscriptions from the transportation companies and Portland businessmen have brought the available sinews of war up to \$150,000. Tourists from all parts of the United States will be able to travel to the Astoria Centennial at reduced railroad rates and stop at all the principal places of interest en route.

This Centennial celebration is the only official exposition on the Pacific Coast this year and offers the following attractions: Pacific Coast Motor Speed Boat regatta with \$12,000 in cash prizes, lasting one week: September 4 to September 8 inclusive. At this regatta the free-for-all championship will be decided and \$5,000 is the prize money for this one event alone. Practically every Coastal city will enter a boat and craft will be entered from Peoria, Illinois, and several boats are expected from the Atlantic seaboard. The displacement boat championship will also be decided at this regatta as will supremacy in the fishing craft classes, sail rigged hulls, sculling contests, tub races, canoe races between various Indian tribes of the Northwest and such features as are usual at Western regatta tournaments.

Glenn Curtiss will have an aeroplane and an hydro-aeroplane exhibition lasting four days of the third week of the celebration. Mr. Curtiss is under contract to fly over land, seas and river, starting from the surface of the Columbia River, running at a speed of at least thirty-five miles an hour down to the mouth of the Columbia River, rising from the water without mechanical aid, circle over the beach to the Gearhart Hotel and return to the starting point flying in the air overland.

From the opening of the Centennial to the close, there will be two fleets of battleships in the harbor, one detailed by the United States Government and one from the pick of the British Squadron. In addition the South American Republics and China and Japan have promised to detail battleships to the scene of the centennial and participate in land and marine pageants.

BRITISH TAKE
ASTORIA

American Flag Lowered;
City Renamed 'Fort George'

December 12, 1813—In a ceremony at once painful to those Americans watching and loudly celebrated by the British-Canadians present, Captain Black of the British sloop-of-war Raccoon officially took possession of Astoria. Captain Black ordered the hauling down of the American flag and the running up of the British Union Jack and re-christened the place Fort George after the present British monarch, King George III, the same ruler who presided over the British defeat in the American War of Independence.

Prior to this occurrence, partners in John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company sold their interests to the British North West Company, turning over the fort and storehouses at Astoria. Only several weeks later, British forces arrived ahead of U.S. military reinforcements hoped for. Under the present circumstances of hostilities between the United States and Great Britain, further changes in the city's status are anticipated.

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