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OREGON SEAPORT LAID IN RUINS BY FIRE

MURDER AND REPRISALS FOLLOW CLOSE ON EACH OTHER SOUTH IRELAND

Fifteen Million Dollar Blaze Devastates Sixteen Blocks in Business District of Astoria

ASTORIA, Oregon, Dec. 8.—The business district of Astoria was laid in ruins by a fire which broke out shortly after 2 o'clock this morning and, despite the efforts of the fire department and reinforcements from Portland, the flames swept fifteen blocks causing loss which is estimated early at between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

So far it is known that one life was lost as a result of the fire, Norris Staples, president of the Astoria Bank, having dropped dead.

By nine o'clock, the fire had swept the entire district between Astor Street and the river front, south to Exchange Street and north and south between Eighth and Sixteenth Streets. Between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets it penetrated as far as Franklin Street.

The fire got out of control because the flames took hold underneath of buildings and burned through the piling on which the city is built. The streets collapsed with the burning of the piling.

All the docks were saved.

It is expected that the fire will burn itself out at the east end of the city as only a few buildings remain in its path.

The port of Astoria is one of the most important seaports on the Pacific Coast of the United States. It is located at the mouth of the Columbia River, nearly 100 miles from Portland, and is the entrepot of the great volume of shipping that passes into the river. It is also a fishing and lumbering port of importance. It is an old city and was established over 100 years ago as a fur trading post, receiving its name from the famous Astor family. Its population is given as 15,000.

CHINESE CITY IS TERRORIZED

Bandits Threaten to Loot Tsing Tao and Kidnap all Foreigners

TSING TAO, China, Dec. 8.—The city is in terror following a threat by Chinese bandits, reinforced by 200 Japanese ruffians, that they will loot the place and kidnap the foreigners. British and United States warships have been appealed to by the foreigners and prominent Chinese have all left town. Banks are closed with the exception of a few Japanese institutions which are opening half time. City officials tried to buy off the bandits who came back at the last minute and demanded more.

PREMIER MUSSOLINI OF ITALY COMING TO LONDON PARLEY

LONDON, Dec. 8.—Premier Mussolini of Italy has accepted an invitation to come to London and attend a conference of premiers at the week-end. The meeting will be preliminary to the Brussels conference on reparations. Mussolini started from Rome yesterday.

Premier Mussolini dined with Lord Curzon at Lansdowne yesterday. He said that Italy would back the Allies in their Turkish policy. He hoped a settlement would be reached for, otherwise, there would be war.

ELECTIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

Government, 39 Seats; Liberals, 19; and Labor, 17.

WELLINGTON, N.Z., Dec. 8.—The latest returns from the New Zealand elections show that the government has thirty-five seats, the Liberals have nineteen and Labor, seventeen. There may be changes when the late returns are received as the voting is very close. So far the government have won two seats and lost seven. Labor has won some seats while the Liberals lost five and won four. The Labor gains are principally due to splits in the voting in certain towns. Returns from the licensing referendum so far show a majority against prohibition.

PROHIBITION TURNED DOWN BY NEW ZEALAND

South Sea Dominion Gave a Big Vote Against It in Plebiscite

LONDON, Dec. 8.—New Zealand gave a big vote against Prohibition in the plebiscite taken concurrently with the general elections in Australia, says a despatch to the Daily Express.

WIRELESS REPORT

8 a.m.
DIBBY ISLAND.—Clear, north-west, light; barometer 29.74; temperature 27. Sea smooth. 10 p.m. spoke Argo ahead Lowe Inlet, northbound.

BULL HARBOR.—Snow, south-east, fresh; barometer 29.64; temperature 31. Sea moderate. 9 p.m. spoke Princess Beatrice ahead Pine Island, northbound. 11.15 p.m. spoke Ghelousin left Ocean Falls, northbound.

DEAD TREE POINT.—Overcast, calm; barometer 29.60; temperature 25. Sea smooth.

11 p.m.
DIBBY ISLAND.—Clear, north-west, light; barometer 29.74; temperature 31. Sea moderate. Princess Mary due 2.30 p.m. southbound.

BULL HARBOR.—Overcast, southeast, light; barometer 29.60; temperature 36. Sea moderate.

DEAD TREE POINT.—Clear, northwest, light; barometer 29.60; temperature 25. Sea smooth.

Both Houses in Ulster Decline Acceptance of Irish Free State Bill

BELFAST, Dec. 8.—Both houses of the Ulster parliament have adopted an address to the King contracting out of the Irish Free State as permitted under the Anglo-Irish treaty just adopted by the British House of Commons, House of Lords, and signed by the King. They decline to take part in the commission which is to define the boundaries between the North and the South.

Premier Sir James Craig, of Ulster, has gone to London with the address which formally registers Ulster's protest against the establishment of the Free State.

TWO DEPUTIES ARE ATTACKED

Sean Males is Killed and Patrick O'Malley, of South Irish Parliament, Wounded

DUBLIN, Dec. 8.—President Cosgrave announced to Parliament yesterday afternoon that Deputy Sean Males had been shot and killed and Deputy Patrick O'Malley, who is also deputy speaker, had been wounded while they were on their way to a session of parliament. They were on a jaunting car proceeding along the quays when they were attacked by men carrying revolvers.

FOUR CHILDREN ARE BURNED TO DEATH

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—Four children named Budak were burned to death and their father and mother and two other children were injured when fire destroyed the Budak home.

Reprisal Quickly Follows on Shooting of Irish Deputies Four Executions this Morning

DUBLIN, Dec. 8.—Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellowes, together with Joseph McKelvey and Richard Barrett, Irish rebels, were executed in Mount Joy prison this morning, it was officially announced today. The official army report states that the four men were executed as a reprisal for the assassination of Sean Males, the deputy shot yesterday, and as a solemn warning to those associated with them in the "conspiracy of assassination against representatives of the Irish people."

O'Connor and Mellowes were leaders of a band of Irish insurgents that held the Four Courts building in Dublin in the stand against the Free State last June. They were tried by the military court martial during the night and found guilty, then sentenced to death.

The executions caused a great sensation.

O'Connor who was an engineer by profession held an appointment in Western Canada until the outbreak of war when he went back to Ireland.

INDIAN CHIEF ON WAY TO ENGLAND TO SEE THE KING

PORTLAND, Maine, Dec. 8.—Chief White Elk, head of the British Columbia Indian tribes, has arrived here enroute for England where he will lay Indian grievances before the King.

POWERFUL BOMB WAS THROWN AT MILITARY CAR CORK THURSDAY

CORK, Dec. 8.—A powerful bomb was thrown at a military car yesterday afternoon. It did not reach the mark but exploded nearby wounding two men and two women. The thrower of the bomb escaped.

HARTLEY BAY COUPLE WERE MARRIED TODAY

Miss Edith Clifton Becomes Bride of Walter M. Bates, Rev. G. G. Macker Officiating

Walter M. Bates and Miss Edith Clifton, of Hartley Bay, were united in marriage at the Methodist Church at 1 o'clock this afternoon by Rev. G. G. Macker. The witnesses were L. P. Buxton and Mrs. L. Douglas.

The bridal party reached the city yesterday and will spend a week here before returning to Hartley Bay.

WILL FIGHT TILL DEATH

Irish Republicans Describe Healy as Enemy of Nation

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The Irish Republicans, says a despatch to the Evening Standard from Dublin, have issued a manifesto describing Timothy Healy, the governor-general of the Irish Free State, as a lifelong enemy of the nation. The manifesto adds, "The fight will go on as long as there is a man in Ireland. It is a war to the death."

FISH ARRIVALS ARE HEAVIER AND PRICE IS LOWER TODAY

A heavy catch of fish was disposed of at the Fish Exchange this morning. Six boats brought in 204,000 pounds which sold as follows:

Tahoma, 26,000 pounds, at 11.8c and 7c, to the Booth Fisheries.

La Paloma, 40,000 pounds, at 12.6c and 7c, to the Pacific Fisheries.

Tom and Al, 60,000 pounds, at 12.4c and 7c; Kinnmount, 2000 pounds at 11.5c and 7c, to the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co.

Constitution, 43,000 pounds, at 12.7c and 7c, to the Altin Fisheries.

Mildred H., 30,000 pounds, at 11.7c and 7c, to the Royal Fisheries.

Legislature Approves Liquor Importation Resolution With Vote of Thirty to Fourteen

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—After a final debate in the legislature yesterday afternoon, Attorney General Manson's motion, asking the Dominion government to give the provincial government the sole right of importing liquor, was carried by a vote of 30 to 14. All the Independent and Labor members voted with the government.

Canon Hinchcliffe, member for Victoria, said he had changed his mind since Hon. J. W. deB. Farris' speech and would vote against the motion. He was apposed to the provision in form. The cleric member complimented the Attorney General on his efforts to enforce the Moderation Act to the best of his ability but feared that conditions were too strong for him.

David Whiteside, member for New Westminster, intimated that he did not think any form of government control would ultimately succeed. All were in earnest in giving the Moderation Act a fair trial but it was his conviction that the people would come to their senses and not allow a thing which had cursed the world since the days of Noah. He regretted reliance being placed on liquor profits by the exchequer. The curse was honey-sucking provincial institutions every day. Perhaps, this state of affairs would soon be overthrown. He lauded the Attorney General for his sincere efforts towards enforcing the Moderation Act but feared that he might succumb to opposition from an uncontrollable traffic. The alternatives to the Moderation Act were bone dry Prohibition or open bars.

NEW TRIAL FOR HINDU CONVICT

Two Women Tell of Seeing Man Dragging Boy's Body But He Was Not Terlochin Singh

VANCOUVER, Dec. 8.—On the evidence of two women who claim they saw a Hindu dragging what is believed to have been the body of 14-year old Hukma Singh on the day the boy was murdered, application has been made for a new trial for Terlochin Singh recently convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence. The two women, who were too frightened at the time to report their encounter with the mysterious Hindu, insist that Terlochin Singh is not the man they saw with the boy's body.

SUGGESTION IS MADE BY TURKS

Have Counter Proposal Concerning Control of Dardanelles

LAUSANNE, Dec. 8.—The Turks today presented to the Near East conference a counter suggestion concerning the control of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. The Turks ask, first, a guarantee against surprise attacks from land and sea and, second, a limitation of the naval forces bound for the Black Sea. The third interdiction upon the maintenance of warships in the Black Sea is the liberty of passage for merchantmen in time of peace or war.

FRANCE'S GIFT TO CANADA CONFIRMED

Speaker Lemieux, at Present in France, is Authorized to Officially Accept it

PRESSING FOR IRON RESEARCH

Minister of Mines Asks Legislature to Ratify Agreement and Advance \$50,000

VICTORIA, Dec. 8.—Hon. William Sloan, minister of mines, is asking the legislature for \$50,000 with which to examine iron properties in the province under agreement with the Dominion government. Dr. Young has already spent four months examining properties and will continue in the spring, Mr. Sloan said. The minister pointed to what had been done in the maritime provinces and asked the House to ratify the agreement with the Dominion and give the government the right to enter on properties and develop them, charging the work against the property without the permission of the owner.

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LUMBER SHIP AT BLAINE HAD FIRE

Willie Higgins Threatened With Destruction—One Sailor Injured

BELLINGHAM, Dec. 8.—Fire which broke out yesterday morning threatened to destroy the steamship Willie Higgins loading lumber at Blaine. It is reported that an explosion occurred in the hold of the ship and one sailor was injured.