

MANY MISSING IN ASTORIA FIRE?

The paper with a 15,000 daily circulation lead over its nearest competitor

The Seattle Star



HOME EDITION

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TWO CENTS IN SEATTLE

SEN. JONES TO PUSH DIVORCE AMENDMENT!

Proposed Addition to Constitution Is Fathered by Washington Man

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—National uniform marriage and divorce laws—embodied in a 20th constitutional amendment—will be sought thru the new congress. Ministerial and reform organizations are behind the movement to dig out of the archives of the senate judiciary committee a resolution buried there 19 months. It was introduced by Senator Wesley L. Jones of Washington. Some reasons advanced are: The United States grants more divorces than all other nations combined. Divorces in America increased 169 per cent in 20 years, while population increased 46 per cent. Forty-seven states have 47 different divorce codes and congress enacts another for the District of Columbia and territories. South Carolina alone does not allow divorce for any cause. New York and the District of Columbia grant divorce for one cause only—infidelity—while reasons for divorce elsewhere run as high as 14 in New Hampshire. Different codes make some people bigamists and their children illegitimate in one state and legally married with legitimate offspring in another. Figures to be presented to congress show divorces today are in excess of one to every nine marriages. The rate is growing. Los Angeles is at top speed; six years ago the divorce rate there was one to every five marriages, now five to 11. Women obtain seven of every 10 divorces. The movement for a 20th amendment aims toward a national standard below which no state may go, although any state may enforce more rigid standards. It has been suggested New York's law—permitting divorce for infidelity only—be made the national standard.

CHARLEY'S ROMANCE SEEMS OUT OF JOINT

BERLIN, Dec. 9.—Pola Negri, film star, reported engaged to Charley Chaplin, is still the wife of a Polish count, who refuses to divorce her, the Neue Berliner Zeitung stated today.

Mayor Says Folks Make Police Bad

Editor's Note: Marie Kiernan, 13-year-old girl reporter, was sent to interview Mayor Brown Saturday morning. She was instructed to give the mayor an opportunity to express himself on what he thinks ought to be done to make Seattle a neater city. The following is Marie's story of her talk with the mayor:

BY MARIE F. KIERNAN

What is the matter with that police department of ours? They're not worthy of anything. We want a department of men, not of babies that can be bribed with a penny. This is the complaint that comes to Mayor Brown day after day from some of the best families, financially, in the city. I went to see the mayor this morning. Mayor Brown notices that the complaint does not come from the men in overalls. Well, anyhow, he does not blame the policemen. He says that they should be put out of temptation with higher salaries to support their families and their name should not be policemen but peace officers. After careful observation Mayor Brown and W. B. Severns, the chief of police, have decided that it is not the common man that violates the law as much as the man of the richer class—and that it is the latter who bribes the officers and then complains to the officials. Now Mayor Brown says that if the police department is bad, it is because the people make it so. He is going to try with might and main to make Seattle worthy of the name.



Senator Jones

THERE BE ODD GOINGS-ON IN DUFFS' HOUSE

Wife Weeps While Household Head Slowly Becomes Nervous Wreck

Rivaling in interest the celebrated Antigonish "haunted house" mystery, the strange happenings in the home of Thomas J. Duff, 1314 E. Rose st., had fair today to draw the attention of the entire scientific world to this city.

The neighborhood in which Thomas Duff resides is aroused to a high pitch of excitement and a movement has been put on foot to invite Prof. C. Alston Filbrook, psychology professor at the University of Washington, to study the phenomena. In the meantime, Tom Duff, as he is known to hundreds of business men of this city, is fast changing from a healthy, ruddy-faced outdoors man to a nervous, debilitated wreck.

His wife, Helen Duff, a comely woman still in the early thirties, is distraught.

Their young son, Danny, the innocent victim of fantastic fate, mopes around the house and refuses to be cheered up even by the thought of approaching Yuletide.

The mystery of the Duff house was discovered by a neighbor who found Mrs. Duff weeping softly into the dinner dishes, after her husband had left abruptly after dinner without fixing the furnace. "Every night he leaves me," the lonely woman sobbed. "As the clock strikes 7, he rises from the supper table, seizes his hat, and without even waiting to put on his over-shoes, leaves his little family. Why? Why?"



Mrs. Duff denied that her husband was a drinking man, but admitted that he was not above a bit of home brew on occasion. She scolds the idea of "another" woman. Tom Duff admitted his wife's accusations but refused to explain his conduct. "I am a gentleman," he said. "I cannot divulge anything. Some day (Turn to Page 12, Column 5)

FIRE DESTROYS HOME OF GROUP

NELSON, B. C., Dec. 9.—Two big community houses and the entire group of auxiliary dwellings belonging to the Doukhobor community at Brilliant, B. C., were burned to the ground yesterday, rendering 70 people homeless and causing the death of an elderly Doukhobor named Stepanatky Troushaff, whose charred body was found in one of the center huts. It is supposed that the man had overdone his stove, which had become red hot, and started the fire while he slept.

Governor Upheld by Wife's Story

OXFORD, Miss., Dec. 9.—The "first lady" of Mississippi went into court here today to defend her husband, Governor Len M. Russell, named in a \$100,000 seduction suit of Miss Frances Birkhead, his former secretary. Mrs. Russell told of taking Miss Birkhead into her home in an effort to help her "lead a straight life." She substantiated other parts of her husband's testimony.

Pay of Rail Men Slashed by Board

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—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 employes.

SHIP SUBSIDY REPORT PASSED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—A ship subsidy bill—slightly revised as it passed the house—was ordered favorably reported to the senate by the commerce committee today. The senate will begin consideration of the measure Monday. The committee voted 11 to 5 for a favorable report on the measure. A minority report also will be filed by Senator Fletcher, democrat, opponent of the measure.

Raise Greek Loan for War Refugees

ATHENS, Dec. 9.—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 Capt. Nansen, the famous explorer, who telegraphed to the minister for relief here.

Crew Saved After Fight With Waves

After fighting the seas for 28 days, the crew of the fishing schooner Washington, of Seattle, which was wrecked in Yakutatka Bay, Alaska, while attempting to seek shelter from the violent storms, on the night of November 11, was reported safe, at Seward, Alaska. Capt. Oswald Pisen, master of the wrecked vessel, stated in his cable that the men were completely exhausted.

SEATTLE PLAYERS TO GIVE BENEFIT FOR ASTORIA SUFFERERS!

The Players' club, of Seattle, likely will be one of the first organizations here to give practical aid to the suffering hundreds made homeless by the Astoria fire. Members of the organization, which is made up of Seattle theatrical folks, will meet Sunday evening at the Northold Inn at which time arrangements will be completed for a benefit performance here for the Astoria sufferers. The Sunday night meeting is the monthly gathering of the club and it will be doubly important because of the subject under consideration.

RELIEF RUSHED TO CITY

Astoria Officials Probe Incendiary Report; 2,000 Homeless Following \$12,000,000 Loss in Disaster

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 9.—Unconfirmed reports were in circulation here today that several persons are missing following the disastrous fire of yesterday, which swept the business section to destruction. Several convivial parties in rooming houses of the lower class were reported in progress as the fire broke out, and it is feared that many of the participants were unable to escape. Millions of dollars worth of cash, jewelry and other valuables, lying in the ashes and debris here, were un-molested last night and today. Soldiers, sailors, National Guardsmen and special policemen, all under orders to "shoot to kill" any looters, have not reported a single case of attempted theft. One man, with an automatic pistol in hand, has stood guard over a million dollars in gold and greenbacks ever since the heat abated sufficiently to allow him to approach his vault in the smoldering basement.

Citizens, as they view the blackened oblong space that was their home, are today coming to the realization of their losses, caused by the fire which yesterday destroyed 24 blocks of the city. Two thousand people, residents of the downtown section, are homeless, but none is suffering. Every undamaged home is open to them. Beds were provided for all last night, and at several stations hot meals are being served. Relief has been arriving hourly since last night by train and automobile from Portland and other surrounding communities. A detachment of coast artillery from Fort Stevens was on duty last night and remained until relieved by the 162nd infantry National Guard. This morning the situation was as follows: All food supplies have been concentrated at a central distributing station, where they are distributed under the direction of a committee of 50 business men. The city is without any banking facilities, hotels or large stores. Two thousand people are homeless. Ten days' rations for 2,500 are required, and relief supplies are arriving are expected to cover the need. Today's estimate of the loss places it at \$12,000,000.

Chief of Police Carlson believes the fire was the work of firebugs, and is investigating the activities of a group of radicals who are under suspicion. A dozen citizens have come forward, who were in the vicinity of the Bee Hive department store at the time the fire broke out, who declare when the conflagration started two restaurants, one on each side of the department store, which was a large, wood frame building, were burning fiercely, while no fire was to be seen in the store building. The proprietor of the store says he made an early investigation and that there were no fires on his property, although both restaurants were burning. "I am certain that the fires were incendiary," said Mayor Bremmer, "and there will be a thorough investigation, and when it is over I am (Turn to Page 12, Column 3)

BUSINESS MEN HEAVY LOSERS

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 9.—Losses by merchants were especially heavy owing to the fact that Christmas stocks were practically intact. The following were some of the heaviest losses, about 70 per cent of which are covered by insurance: Bee Hive department store, \$250,000. Skalleruds store, \$125,000. J. C. Penny Co., \$75,000. Owl Drug Co., \$50,000. Astoria Hardware Co., \$75,000. Fisher Bros. Co., \$100,000. Harrison & Lusk, \$50,000. Burk & Co., \$50,000. Numerous smaller losses, ranging from \$20,000 downward. Among buildings destroyed, probably covered by 40 per cent insurance, are: Astoria National bank, \$60,000. Astoria Savings bank, \$75,000. Elks Lodge, \$75,000. Lovell Motor Co., \$100,000. Andrew Young, \$50,000. Weinhard hotel, \$90,000.

Portland Sending Relief to Astoria

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 9.—Mayor George L. Baker, in a proclamation to citizens today calls attention to the immediate need of all kinds of supplies in Astoria and urges manufacturers, wholesalers and all others to contribute, so that the flow of relief supplies, started yesterday, may be maintained as long as necessary.

FIGHTS HORSE HEAVEN "RING"

Development Association Wars on Management

Charges that the Horse Heaven irrigation project—the largest private irrigation project ever attempted—is being blocked because the directors of the district refuse to consider anything except their personal interests, are made in a letter which was sent out Saturday to all land owners in the district by Charles B. Hall, manager of the Horse Heaven Development Co. The letter was written, Hall explained, in an effort to defeat the directors, who came up for re-election next Tuesday. Hall's principal charges are: 1. That in spite of the fact that responsible bond houses have expressed their willingness to market the \$2,000,000 bond issue authorized for the project, the directors refuse to consider any offers. 2. That, although Howard S. Amos has permitted his contract for bringing water to the district to lapse, the directors have refused to furnish specifications to other contractors who would be able to do the work. 3. That the directors have permitted their personal affairs to influence them in conducting the business of the district; that A. C. Amos, brother of Howard S. Amos, who holds the contract, has a mortgage on the home of Claude Young, one of the directors, and that George N. Hughes, who has an option on the entire \$2,000,000 bond issue—bringing him a profit of \$640,000—is a (Turn to Page 12, Column 3)



Home Brew

Howdy, folks! The snow has gone—oh, slush!

Dr. Henry Suzzallo's pay has been raised to \$18,000 a year. But the instructors are still eating hash three times a week.

Why pay Dr. Suzzallo \$18,000 a year? A good football coach doesn't get that much!

THEATER NOTE

"Now and Then," the Koh and Hill offering at the Met, is said to be propaganda for light wines and beer. Would you call it tank drama?

"I ask you," said Clemenceau to one of his Chicago audiences, "what did you fight for?" There ought to be some kind of answer to that, but hanged if we know what it is.

Who will head a campaign to provide a Fund of Christmas Cheer for Destitute Bootleggers?

SOCIETY ITEM

Petting parties have been definitely transferred from the flivver to the davenport.

Lui Gin Gong, the Chinese Bur-bank, has invented a grapefruit that gives off a perfume. But is that a new idea? How is about garlic?

Mayor Brown is still looking for those 5,000 volunteer policemen. Considering the popular idea of the big money made by cops, it seems as if the one shouldn't have much trouble securing recruits.

Talk About Music WCV!!! Come and Hear Doc Brown Play His Mammoth Mouth Organ

At any rate, the mayor has withdrawn his criticism of the dance dresses worn by the university girls. "Why argue about trifles?" says Doc.

TODAY'S HAPPY THOUGHT

What's the use in trying to stir up Christmas spirit when the last installment of the income tax is due December 15?

After reading the papers about the various Christmas funds for the needy, Little Homer Brew, Jr., says he wishes he was an orphan.

"The Lord must love the poor—he made so many of them," said Lincoln. And love 'em or not, Banty Claus has to provide for them.

At that, we'd hate to be down and out, without money or friends, and get a can of beans for Christmas.

BOUNCING BABIES

The 150 wives of the stranded sultan have been offered jobs by Ziegfeld's Folies. Will they be paid by the month or by the pound?

"Varsity Students Stage Shine Party."—The Star. Moonshine?

Mrs. Clara Phillips is said to be in Mexico. Down there her hammer will be of little use. Won't someone please send her a pile driver?

We don't know anything about this healthful ice cream, but when we were small there was nothing could touch a dish of snow, flavored with vanilla.

MAYOR FIGHTS NEW CAR FARE

Free Transfers Not Practical, Brown Asserts

Condemning the five-cent fare with free transfers as "utterly impracticable," Mayor Brown announced Saturday morning that he will request the city council by letter at the Monday session to reconsider the original plan of the Fitzgerald ordinance for a five-cent fare, with 6 1/2-cent transfer tokens. The council, in a joint session of the utilities and finance committees, Friday afternoon declared in favor of the nickel fare with free transfers, and amended the Fitzgerald ordinance to that effect. "I do not wish to be viewed as an opponent to as low carfare as we can safely have. I am firmly convinced that Councilman Erickson's plan for a three-cent fare will some day come—but when it does we must be in a position to abolish transfers," the mayor said. "Just now, the municipal railway cannot function on a lower fare than the 5-cent fare with a charge of 1 1/2 cents a transfer, which Councilman Fitzgerald and myself decided upon." The mayor accused councilmen who have fought for the 5-cent fare with free transfers of "playing politics." "It is high time that the control of the municipal lines be placed where it will not be subject to the whims of nine individual councilmen," he said. As a substitute for the various carfare reduction plans now in the field, Brown suggested that the charter be amended to put the municipal railway control in the hands of the board of public works. "In that case, a sliding scale of fare could be worked out and put into operation by the board," Brown explained. "Prices of other commodities rise and fall with business conditions, why not that of street car rides? When revenue falls off, the rates could be boosted for a period, then lowered whenever revenues warranted."

SIX KILLED IN POWDER BLAST

23 Are Injured and Four Buildings Wrecked

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 9.—An explosion at the Black Diamond Powder company's mills at Suscon cost six lives today, according to information reaching here. Twenty-three persons were injured. Four buildings were destroyed. The cause of the explosion is unknown. All wire communication with Suscon has been severed.

GERMANS PROTEST Land Occupation

BERLIN, Dec. 9.—Voicing unanimous protest against French occupation of the Ruhr valley, all classes in Germany were represented at a monster mass meeting here today.

Deep Snow Stops Clallam Man Hunt

PORT ANGELES, Dec. 9.—The hunt for Charles Butt, convicted murderer, under life sentence, who sawed his way out of the county jail here last Monday, has practically been abandoned. The snow is so heavy in this region that the man-hunters are unable to get out of town and, outside of sending out circulars, the sheriff's office has been unable to continue the hunt. It is the general belief now that Butt has escaped into Canada.

Tom Makes a Get-Away

BY ALLMAN

SAY, HELEN, I'M GOING OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT I'LL BE HOME EARLY!

BUT, TOM WAIT—YOU DIDN'T HAVE YOUR DESERT!

OH, DADDY TAKE ME ALONG?

OH, WHERE YOU GOING TOM?

NO, I'VE GOT TO GO RIGHT NOW—I WON'T BE GONE VERY LONG—

TOM, DO YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?

HUH—QUITE EXCLUSIVE!

HE NEVER TAKES ME!

OH, TOM! HE'S GONE! NEVER EVEN KISSED ME GOOD BYE!

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE GOT INTO HIM TONIGHT? I NEVER HEARD HIM PULL ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!

SOMETHING SEEMS RATHER STRANGE ABOUT HIS MANNER TONIGHT!

TO BE CONTINUED