

Astoria to Celebrate the Centennial of an Historical Event



PANORAMA OF ASTORIA AND COLUMBIA RIVER



HUNDRED YEARS, when one attempts to peer into the future, appears to be a long, long stretch of road; yet, facing backward, it measures but a short space between the beginning and now. The year of our Lord 1811 is not what is commonly called ancient history, yet the changes which have taken place during the past ten decades are wonderful to behold in this astonishingly fertile land we are proud to call our own.

Had John Jacob Astor, the first, have been born in the twentieth, instead of the eighteenth century, he would have been known as a "hustler," a "live wire," an in-advance-of-the-times young man. He was one of the captains of industry of early days, but has not been given nearly the credit due him for the part he took in preserving as United States territory that wonderful country known in an early day as the Oregon region, comprising what are known now as the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, the northwest Pacific country being that portion washed by the great ocean.

John Jacob Astor was born in Germany, in 1763, spent part of his youth in London and when about 26 years old sailed for America, taking up his permanent residence in New York City. It is recorded that during his first six years of residence in his adopted land this young man accumulated \$200,000, which placed him prominently among the wealthy men of that period. His shrewdness enabled him to see great possibilities in the fur trade and he became the founder of an organization known as the American Fur company, which, despite strong competition from English companies, continued to prosper and extend its operations.

Astor's Two Expeditions.

In the first years of the nineteenth century, Astor conceived the idea of extending his operations to the Pacific coast and with this object in view, fitted out two expeditions, one to proceed overland, the other to go by water to the objective point, the mouth of the Columbia river, the fame of which wonderful stream with its many fish had already reached the Atlantic coast. The history of each of these expeditions is replete with thrilling tales, the one with the onslaught of the wind and waves, the other from opposition by both red men and white, for the British trading companies were contending for the territory almost as strenuously as were the Indians for their hunting grounds. In the spring of the year 1811, the Astor people built a fort and established a trading post upon a part of the present site of the city of Astoria. At first the little community was most prosperous and all went "merry as a marriage bell," then came open conflict with England known as the war of 1812, which for a time made it "hard sledding" for the American pioneers and at one time threatened the very existence of the settlement.

The great Columbia rolling in magnificent grandeur to the sea remains the same, while on its broad waters the craft of all nations float; the canoe of the Siwash, the steam yacht of the multi-millionaire, the dreadnaughts of powerful nations are to be seen; but "men may come and men may go, I go on forever," as the song recites—old Columbia flows onward as in the beginning.

A century ago the red men with uplifted spear stood watching, from mid-stream rock, with keenest of eye, for the wary fish, that kippered salmon might land in his tope; today the yield of these waters to commercial fish channels spells thousands of dollars annually and the employment of a host of people. Columbia river salmon stands for the best in the world and, although they are not all canned in Astoria, or even on the Columbia river, perhaps had they not been caught the fish would sooner or later have gone there. At any rate, Astoria is a nice place to go for fun or fortune.

Astor Money for Astoria Centennial.

In 1848, at the ripe old age of 85, John Jacob Astor passed from earth, leaving behind him the then considered stupendous fortune of \$3,000,000, much of it invested in New York real estate which today constitutes the bulk of the wealth of the house of Astor. A liberal donation was made by the estate toward defraying the expenses of this centennial celebration which will occur at Astoria from August 10 to September 9 of this year.

In 1811 the Indian canoe, light as a feather, graceful as a swan, was the only light craft known to the inhabitants of the woods on the banks of the Columbia. In 1911, at the centennial of Astoria, motor boats, those swift-moving craft of the water, will compete for prizes aggregating \$12,000. On it Atlantic seaboard cities, and even Peoria, Ill., will enter in the free-for-all class, in which a \$5,000 cash prize will be the particular attraction. Not only will there be demonstrated during this centennial celebration the superiority of the motor boat over the canoe, but that intrepid navigator of the air, Mr. Glenn Curtiss, will demonstrate that Darius Green was at least on the right track when he said:

"I'll light on the liberty pole and crow.
An' I'll say to those rappin' fools below,
'What world's this ere
'I've come so near?'"

Mr. Curtiss may not attempt to light on a liberty pole or crow but according to the program he will, with a hydro-aeroplane, on three different and distinct days "play duck," by starting from the surface of the Columbia river, soaring in the air o'er land and sea, returning to near the place from which he started and alighting again on the



ASTORIA LIGHT HOUSE

"This new wonder of the air," writes Mr. Curtiss, "is popularly called 'The Triad,' meaning the union of three. It takes this name from the fact that it represents the conquest of three elements, viz., air, water and earth. The Triad can fly sixty miles an hour, skim the water like a racing boat at fifty miles an hour, and run over the earth at thirty-five miles an hour. It can rise from the earth and alight upon the water, start from the water and come down on the land, or be used exclusively on either land or water. The hydro-aeroplane is safer than an ordinary aeroplane and for this reason it is bound to become the most popular of all aerial crafts. The beginner can take it out on his neighboring lake or river or even great bay and skim it over the water until he is sure of himself and sure he can control it in the air. He can fly it six feet above the water for any distance with the feeling that even if something should happen to cause a fall he would not be dashed to pieces."

Mr. Curtiss expresses himself as believing that the Triad will become the great seagull, the greatest factor in the development of aviation. He seems to think that the day is not far distant when a trip via the atmosphere across the Great Lakes will be but the jaunt of a summer day, while one will soon be able to go from New York to Paris by an air line.

Proposed Show is Well Planned.

To make this centennial a success the state of Oregon puts in the pot \$50,000, Clatsop county \$25,000, Colonel Jacob Astor \$10,000, Astoria business men \$50,000, transportation companies and Portland business men \$15,000, total \$150,000; certainly enough to insure a good show. The Oregon National guard will hold its annual encampment at this time and place while at Fort Stevens, not far away, the United States regular army artillery men will hold yearly target practice and drill. There will be battleships, great and small, galore, for not only will the United States be represented by the full Pacific squadron, but England, South American republics, China and Japan have signified their intention to take part in the celebration.

Old Fort Astor, just as it looked in the days of 1811, before the Indians owned "fire guns" or had quit taking scalps, will be there, life-size, as it is to be rebuilt for the occasion. Parades almost without number will as a matter of course be given on land and water.

Last but not least, if the reader is thinking of coming to the Pacific northwest for the purpose of home-seeking or investment, will be the annual meeting of Oregon Development league. This organization has associated clubs in 118 different towns in the state and a man with a tongue in his head can find out about every part of the commonwealth by just giving his talking machine an opportunity to work overtime if necessary. Besides, the secretary of the organization, Mr. C. C. Chapman, manager of the publicity bureau of the Portland Commercial club and one of the best blowhards, alias boosters, in the northwest (Canada included), will be there with the glad hand and cheerful grin and the stranger is sure to feel at home inside the gate of any yard where C. C. C. chances to chase himself.

Columbia a Great Food Producer.

Astoria is far famed for its fishing industry, the salmon having for unknown ages found favorite spawning grounds in the Columbia river. More than 3,000 fishing crafts make this city their home port and one of the most interesting sights for the tourist, is a fish cannery in operation. As the season does not close until August 25, visitors to the centennial celebration will have an opportunity to see these great fish, often weighing seventy pounds each and averaging about twenty pounds, taken from the native element and placed in the cans which preserve them while being transported to all parts of the globe. If one is a lover of fish no difficulty will be found in fully appeasing the appetite during the days spent in the city located at the mouth of this great river.

Speaking of the river reminds one that the Columbia surpasses in scenery any other stream in seven states. To the lover of the beautiful nothing in nature can be found grander than is to be seen from the deck of a steamer ascending the river. To the east are the lofty Cascades crowned with eternal snows, Mt. Hood, the monarch of them all, looming up in magnificent grandeur. A mantle of green covers the country as far as the eye can reach, for where the forests have passed away an almost perpetually green grass has filled the gaps, fruits and flowers making brilliant patches on the landscape. Along the banks of the rushing river are many picturesque rocks, the delight of every artist's eye and the despair of the amateur painter who endeavors to produce their likeness. The passenger service from Astoria to the Dalles is excellent, the meals being first-class and well served, hence the trip is enjoyable in every sense of the word.

Recently a prominent weekly publication in the far east which, if I may be allowed to publicly express a private opinion, is fast developing symptoms of the swelled cranium, asked for articles advising how best to invest capital for the benefit of one's children. An acquaintance of the writer, who has no living children, but knows pumpkin pies from plum duff, sent a communication reading about as follows:

Chances for Investments to Grow.

"Be it understood in the beginning that the author of this article is in no manner or form directly or indirectly interested financially in the real estate of the region described. That for nearly a half century he has observed the westward progress of civilization carrying with it a steady, staple advance in land values in every locality where agriculture or horticulture can be successfully undertaken until the

so-called 'jumping off place,' the northwest Pacific coast, has been reached.

"Look backward but a generation. The father of a man today of middle age, would not have dreamed it possible that in so short a time New York City could attain the great eminence now held in the world, nor that every quarter section of good land in eastern New York state for example, if held by the heirs of the original owner would make them well off ere they reached man's estate.

"No man one hundred or even fifty years ago could see that Fort Dearborn, surrounded by a slough, would become the center of a wonderful city which, passing through fire and financial panics, has become the greatest metropolis but one of the Western hemisphere.

"Greater than all these happenings will be the development of the Pacific northwest. It would seem as if here Dame Nature did her last work and, in commemoration thereof, more perfectly laid the foundation for future greatness.

"First, the wonderful forests were made to grow, covering this great expanse of country with a mantle, as it were, worth millions of dollars. Numerous are the men who by reason of these timber lands have become very rich, for one average merchantable tree is worth in the market today as much as an acre of such timber would have cost three decades ago.

"The forests are disappearing but the land with its almost incredible fertility is certain for all ages to remain. There are millions of acres of the land that can be purchased almost for a song and thousands of acres which may be had practically for the asking, providing one is willing to live for a little while the life of the frontier.

"The first settlers of the eastern coast had a



JOHN JACOB ASTOR

vigorous climate with which to contend; those who dwell on the Pacific coast live in a climate simply sublime.

"Even as the automobile is swifter than the ox cart, the telephone surpasses the pony express and progress in general of the present age is more rapid than that of a hundred years ago, so will investment in land in the northwest more rapidly make the children of today wealthy and there will never be the least danger of loss."

Tomorrow's Children Can Be Rich.

This reasoning is entirely correct and the man who is looking for a safe investment that will place his children on Easy street cannot do better than spend a couple of weeks in the Astoria, Ore., vicinity next August. The photographs from which the pictures on the page were made are good as far as photos go, but do not show the beauty and grandeur of the great Columbia any more than the picture of John Jacob Astor shows that he died a multi-millionaire. The panorama does not show that Astoria is a modern city of more than 10,000 inhabitants, full of energy and vim, surrounded by a country of unsurpassed fertility, the point where Oregon soil was first touched by a white man.

When the good ship Tonquin first entered the mouth of the river her captain, as needs he must, saw the beauty and wealth of the land, wherefore he ordered preparations made for a permanent trading post and a fort built. The original fort no longer exists, but at the centennial celebration a reproduction of the original structure will be shown, giving those who see it perfect knowledge of how the pioneers prepared for protection against the people of the forest.

There will also be a series of pyrotechnical displays, consisting of a water pageant of two hours' duration in which a ballet of 200 foreign vaudeville artists will perform, exhibiting what will be known as the early days of Astoria or the destruction of the Tonquin, which will make even the salmon in the Columbia sit up and take notice.

On exhibition will also be, it is said, a number of state governors, with their staffs and other evidences of greatness. One of two of these exalted personages are real curiosities and will be worth crossing the mountains and wind-swept plains to behold.

Thus it will be seen that the Astoria centennial will be a regal affair replete with pleasure and opportunities to gain valuable information as free as the ocean breezes and as beneficial.

JAMES MYERS.

Would Whip More and Imprison Less



IN A RECENT issue of the New York Tribune appears an interview with Governor Simeon E. Baldwin of Connecticut. He comes out firmly in favor of whipping for many petty offenders, and for mutilation of confirmed prisoners for certain offenses, as a new law now provides for in New Jersey. His long experience as judge of the superior and supreme courts and as chief justice of the state has made his field of observation extensive and his recommendations have the advantage of the combined study and observation of more than half a century.

Governor Baldwin has been a delegate to three international conventions on penology and is an international authority on penological methods. When asked for a statement of his views on the subject in detail, he said:

"Relief that pauperizes; punishment which confirms criminality and disseminates it; these have not always been unknown in the administration of governments, even in the twentieth century.

"Humanity readily sinks into humanitarianism. Humanitarianism readily sinks into sentimentality. The great danger (I am tempted to say all the danger) in our day is in the direction of excess in lenity, in openhandedness, in sympathy.

"One effect is that the inmate of a public charitable institution today in Connecticut is better fed and housed than he ever was in his life before. The dietary is made up as well to tempt as to satisfy the appetite, and very often so as to overload the stomach and foment disease.

"Modern investigations as to processes of nutrition satisfy our best physiologists that we all eat too much. A good many well-to-do people believe they are right and act accordingly, but I see little consideration given to their advice in the kitchens of our charitable or of our penal institutions.

"Another point to which I would call public atten-

tion is the right way of dealing with children who are caught in crime. In Scotland if a boy commits a criminal act he is not let off with an apology or a suspended sentence. An appropriate penalty is provided. It is a sound whipping administered by order of the court. That is a deterrent to other boys, and to him when temptation comes to him the next time.

"I believe whipping, hard enough to be a thoroughly unpleasant experience, but not hard enough to break the skin, is a far more appropriate penalty to impose than sending a boy to the reform school. It would leave plenty of room for the probation officer. He could supplement the whipping, but his work, I believe, should not displace it altogether.

"Putting the wrongdoer in confinement, to be supported at public expense, after applying the fruits, so far as they may go, is a very costly kind of a punishment for the state. It was much cheaper to dispose of him as they did a hundred years ago. They generally fined or flogged him and let him go, unless it was a state's prison offense. Very few were sentenced to confinement in jail. In 1830 we abolished the whipping post. Before that our courts had sent only about fifty to jail each year. The next year, 1831, there were ninety-two commitments, and five years later they had risen to 270.

"One of the persons most closely connected with the state reform school of Connecticut stated a year or two ago that of the boys kept in the principal building of the institution not one, as far as they could discover, led an honest life after his release. A better showing is made by the statistics put forward by the Elmira reformatory, but I do not hesitate to avow my conviction that whipping would often furnish a mode of punishment far more appropriate than fine or imprisonment for young offenders and for some minor offenses by full grown men. It might also be as useful a substitute for or addition to imprisonment for certain graver crimes."