

# Calendar No. 1178.

67TH CONGRESS, }  
4th Session. }

SENATE.

{ REPORT  
No. 1179.

## RELIEF OF THE CITY OF ASTORIA, OREG.

FEBRUARY 24, 1923.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JONES of New Mexico, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany S. J. Res. 280.]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the resolution (S. J. Res. 280) for the relief of the city of Astoria, Oreg., having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the same do pass with the following amendment:

On page 4, after line 3, insert the following:

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized, for the planting of 1923, to make advances or loans to farmers in the drought-stricken areas of New Mexico, where he shall find that special need for such assistance exists, for the purchase of wheat and pinto beans for seed purposes, and, when necessary, to procure such seed and sell same to farmers. Such advances, loans, or sales shall be made upon such terms and conditions and subject to such regulations as the Secretary of Agriculture shall prescribe, including an agreement by each farmer to use the seed thus obtained by him for the production of grain. A first lien on the crop to be produced from seed obtained through a loan, advance, or sale made under this section shall, in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, be deemed sufficient security therefor. All such advances or loans shall be made through such agencies as the Secretary of Agriculture shall designate. For carrying out the purposes of this section there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$250,000, to be immediately available, and not more than \$10,000, may be used in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, by the Secretary of Agriculture in the administration of this section.

SEC. 4. That any person who shall knowingly make any false representation for the purpose of obtaining a loan, advance, or sale under the foregoing section upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

### REASONS FOR REPORT.

On December 8, 1922, 34 blocks, comprising the entire business area of the city of Astoria, Oreg., were destroyed by fire. The value of this property exceeds \$11,000,000. Included in this loss are streets, viaducts, sewer system, etc., and because of this loss the city of Astoria is practically bankrupt.

It has long been the policy of the United States to aid cities and communities overtaken by disaster, both at home and abroad, and in view of the terrible devastation resulting from this fire the committee is of the opinion that this is a proper bill and recommends that it do pass.

The committee also recommends that the amendment to Senate Joint Resolution 280, providing for an appropriation of public moneys to aid the drouth-stricken area of New Mexico, be also favorably considered. New Mexico has been visited by drouth conditions for several years past, and due to crop failures the farmers in certain sections of said State are practically facing bankruptcy. It is the opinion of the committee that the amount called for in this amendment will go a long way toward relief of this stricken area, and in view of the great financial losses suffered by this section this would seem to be the only practicable relief.