

YOU'LL BE SURE TO FIND IT IN "THE DAILY MAIL"
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TOLL OF DEATH REACHES THE AWFUL TOTAL OF SIXTY-NINE.

Many Sad Scenes Marked the Arrival of The Big Ship With Her Awful Freight of Smitten Humanity.

BELLAVENTURE REACHES PORT WITH SURVIVORS AND THE DEAD

Joy and Grief Strangely Intermingle as the Living are Welcomed and the Dead Bitterly Mourned.

SURVIVORS TELL TALES OF ALMOST INCREDIBLE SUFFERING.

THE SURVIVORS OF SEALING TRAGEDY REACH PORT ON THE BELLAVENTURE A PATHETIC SCENE AT THE LANDING

Thousands of People Watched the Entrance of the ship and the Landing Operations.

HEADS REVERENTLY UNCOVERED TO THE DEAD

Splendid Local Organisations Put Without a Hitch.

Seldom indeed has St. John's City seen such a gathering of people as that which thronged the Eastern Water Street waiting patiently for the Bellaventure to arrive. Hour by hour they stood there in the cold slushy snow and were at last rewarded by seeing the big ship with her tragic freight steam in through the Narrows and berth at Harvey's premises below the Seamen's Institute.

As soon as the ship was tied up to the wharf scores of visitors clamored on board, being mainly officials charged with landing the sick and the dead and also sealers who had reached port but a couple of hours previously in the Boathouse.

Pathetic Scenes There was many a pathetic scene as friend clasped the hand of friend. Strong men wept tears of joy and muffled broken words of thanks to the Providence that had brought them safely through a terrible ordeal.

Without fuss, without noise, without delay, the Ambulance workers got busy and soon the sufferers were transferred to the Institute and the Hospital for treatment.

Then began the sad and gruesome task of conveying the dead on shore. Body by body the poor victims were removed to the Mortuary Chamber in the Institute. But let us draw a merciful veil over the scenes that transpired as the tarpaulin covering the bodies which lay on the hatchway was drawn back and death's terrible harvest was exposed to view.

At 5 o'clock the Bellaventure steamed through the narrows, watched by nearly twenty thousand men, women and children.

Through the kindness of Messrs Bowring Brothers who placed their launch at our disposal, The Daily Mail was the first to board the ship and bid the captain welcome home.

Having berthed the steamer and reported to Mr. Gerald Harvey and Hon. John Harvey, the captain very kindly and satisfactorily gave an interview to the press representatives.

Commenced Tuesday The blizzard which wrought such terrible havoc to the Newfoundland's crew commenced on Tuesday morning with a light fall of snow.

The Bellaventure had her men out after a patch of old seals. No ships were in sight then. The seals were driven off and the men were called in. Had there been seals around it was not too stormy for the men to work.

The glass in the morning did not indicate a storm was brewing. At 3 p.m. the storm came on severely, the wind starting from the South East or E. S. E. veering to the South at night.

The weather was mild, a little wet snow falling but not very wet. There was no rain. At 9 that night it became worse

and increased in violence as midnight approached.

Wind Veered Early Wednesday morning the wind went round to the North with keen roost and drifts. The thermometer was not down to zero, however.

The blizzard raged until 2 p.m. Wednesday, when it cleared. Up to that hour it would be impossible for men on the ice to see a ship or vice versa.

When the storm came severe Tuesday afternoon, Captain Wes Kean, of the Newfoundland, had his men out, as did also the Bellaventure, Stephano and Florizel, but the Newfoundland's men were further away from their ship. The Newfoundland signalled them to return but they could not see the signal, and when they did not return Captain Wes thought they had boarded his father's steamer the Stephano.

Saw the Men Capt. A. Kean saw the Newfoundland's men when the storm came on, as they were working between his ship and their own.

When the blizzard sprang up the Stephano turned round to pick up her own crew and her commander naturally was under the impression that the Newfoundland's men had returned to their ship.

Early Wednesday the Bellaventure steamed away 20 miles, but later got a message from the Bonavista that the Stephano had struck a patch of seals and was doing well, so he hurried back and put out his men.

During Tuesday evening's storm one of the Stephano's men went adrift and the ship could not find them. In the meantime the Florizel had picked them up, but the Stephano was still searching for them.

Many On The Ice Altogether that Tuesday there must have been eight or nine hundred men on the ice, as the Stephano, Florizel, Bellaventure, Bonavista and Newfoundland were in the neighborhood.

Captain Randell said that the Stephano went towards the Newfoundland's men and steamed a mile to where he thought they would be if they were hoping to board the Stephano for shelter in stead of going to their own vessel.

Big Gathering Judging from appearances the entire city has assembled near the premises of the King George the V. Seamen's Institute to witness the transferring of the bodies from the sealer Bellaventure to the various compartments of the spacious building.

The whole locality was patrolled by the local Constabulary, the Legion of Frontiersmen, C.L.B., M.G.B., C.C.C. and Highlanders.

In readiness were the different divisions of the St. John Ambulance, under the direction of Dr. C. Macpherson, who immediately on arrival of the ship, despatched them to their various places.

The C.L.B. Ambulance Company No. 1, under command of Ambulance Staff Sgt. Reeves, accompanied by Drs. Pritchard and Capt. N. Alderdice, attending to the work of landing the sufferers and dead from the ship. The members of the Calypso also rendered valuable aid in this direction.

Willing Keepers The patients were taken and placed on the elevator, where rooms were waiting for them.

The Nurses of the General Hospital were in attendance and proved themselves capable attendants.

Going through the spacious hall, adjoining the bedrooms, one could hear in sympathetic tones: "Is there anything you want? A drink of cold water or some beef tea?"

Heartrending Scene The scene is indeed a heartrending one and won't be forgotten for years to come.

By the courtesy of one of these faithful Nurses we had the privilege of an interview with one young man, who gave his name as Simon Trask, son of Job Trask, of Elliston, whose hands were very severely frostbitten and who related to us the following story: "We left our ship at 7 a.m. on Tuesday morning and, on the hunt for seals, travelled out of sight of the ship. We left, the whole ship's company, but about twenty-nine returned to the ship.

At twelve o'clock the storm sprang up, and before it was possible for us to return we were unable to find our way so dense and blinding was the storm. Thirteen of my comrades from Elliston, but one, shared in the hardships, he being a cook, and only four of the number survived the storm."

Found Unconscious "I was found on Wednesday evening unconscious on the frozen pans. My clothing and boots having to be cut from my body. As far as I can say I was taken aboard ship and given restoratives.

"I am very grateful," he says, "to the doctor of the Stephano, whom I saw and who saved my life as well as the rest of those who are now surviving. I am thankful that I escaped so easily, and regret very much the death of my comrades.

"Fifteen members of the crew who are suffering very severely from the effects of their experience than the others, were taken to the General Hospital immediately on the arrival of the steamer, where every-aid will be rendered to relieve their sufferings.

Gruesome Scenes. The Institute is a gruesome scene and one which we sincerely trust will never again be witnessed in this County.

There are sixty-nine souls lying cold in death—a picture almost too horrible to realize. Some of these victims are frozen in exactly the positions in which they fell, and are not a pleasing sight to the eye.

Each body will be taken to the basement where they will be washed and dressed and finally placed in a coffin which lies waiting in the gymnasium of the building.

Clergymen of all denominations were present and attended the sick rooms of the unfortunate ones, offering words of cheer and praise to them for their pluck and courage and the brave way in which they fought against death.

SIXTY-NINE BODIES PUT ASHORE AND TAKEN TO SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR PREPARATION FOR INTERMENT

Prominent citizens and officials were also there and all are doing the most they possibly can to relieve the suffering in the hour of their distress.

Mr. Jones, Manager of the Institute, is and has been a busy man for the past three days, and through his courtesy we were able to gain much of the information we are now publishing for the benefit of the public in general. The large hall, where entertainments are usually held is laid out for the laying of the dead bodies.

White sheets being used to cover the whole table space.

Admission to the Institute was only obtainable on passes issued by those responsible for the proper carrying out of the work of the different classes aid professions necessary to do same justice.

Every member of the Ambulance Corps worked with a will and their work was criticised favorably by all. We have heard on various occasions condemnation of this work, but it is only in such cases as the present tragedy that the benefits derived from same are to be seen and appreciated.

First to the Rescue. "I was the first of the Bellaventure's men to get out on the ice, when we found out that disaster had overtaken the Newfoundland's men," said A. Crowley of Pouch Cove. "John Wall was with me and we discovered the first of the bodies.

"It was a terrible sight to behold. Men without any life in them lay sprawled about on the ice in all positions. Across one another and side by side they lay. Good God I hope never to see such a sight again."

Mr. Crowley said that the first man he saw was an old chum of his and a native of Pouch Cove and he was absolutely lifeless.

"I went on further," he said, "and found a young fellow who was almost dead. I had to prise open his jaws with my pocket knife and put some warm food in his mouth. He was blue and almost senseless but I lugged him aboard and he's getting on fine now."

Forty-Three on Three Pans. The fearful spectacle that met the eyes of the rescue crews from the Bellaventure may be judged from the fact that forty-three men were picked up from three pans and all within close proximity to the ship.

The remainder of the dead were found scattered widely apart all over the floes.

The story told by Thomas Groves, Hugh Moulard, Arthur Abbott and Alfred Hayward of Bonavista is a terrible one.

They left the Newfoundland with others on Tuesday morning at seven o'clock and tramped till eleven when they boarded the Stephano and had a mug-up.

Left Stephano They left the ship again about noon and shortly afterward the storm set in from the South East with clammy, numbing, drowsy snow. Just before dark the men camped behind a pinnacle of ice which afforded them some slight shelter and there they were forced to remain till morning.

One of their number succumbed to the exposure just before morning and then when the wind chopped to the North West on Wednesday fatalities happened in quick succession.

Some of the men fairly went insane, shouted and brandished their sheath knives. Others dropped off into a drowsy state and died as quietly as if they were falling asleep.

Some of the poor fellows went wildly delirious and beat their faces on the ice so badly that their bodies are now almost unrecognisable.

Others again muttered prayers until the icy clutch of death silenced them forever.

Wildly Delirious "Some of them," said Mr. Groves to The Mail, "called for their wives, their children and other loved ones. It was awful, awful, who we were all too stupefied at the time to think much of these scenes. Now, however, we are beginning to realise the terrible things we saw and heard there on the ice."

The Dead Were Piled-High on One of the Hatches of the Sealer Bellaventure.

QUICKLY TRANSPORTED TO MORTUARY CHAMBER.

Every Respect Paid to the Mortal Remains of the Unfortunate Sealers.

At 8.30 to-night The Daily Mail visited the death chamber at the Seamen's Institute. The sight was a terrible one.

There were rows of frozen bodies everywhere. Some had their arms as if appealing for help. Some had legs drawn up as if in fearful agony.

From one the doctors removed the swollen mits, while another had his Nansen Cup frozen to his flesh.

One cup rested the form of a strapping young fellow just blooming into manhood. Next to him was one who had passed the middle age with probably a young family awaiting his return.

The eyes of one were wide open; another had his goggles frozen to his face.

A splendid type of young man with a ruddy complexion lay motionless. Oh! what they must have suffered. It is terrible to think of. Never did we gaze on such a fearful sight, and it is little wonder that some of the spectators were overcome.

All Night Vigil Crowds paraded the streets till a late hour last night anxiously looking for the arrival of the Bellaventure or of further news as to her movements.

It is seldom indeed that thousands of people are to be found abroad after dark from twilight to daylight and the fact that Water Street presented a scene of unusual activity during hours when it is usually deserted, testified to the great strain of anxiety under which so many of our people are laboring.

Thousands of people waited round the bulletin boards at the Postal Telegraphs and other offices. Grief gripped the big crowds. Sorrow was evidenced on every hand.

Scene of Great Activity. The Seamen's Institute was a scene of the greatest activity all through the long night. Visitors were continually dropping in at the building to glean the latest news. Squads of ambulance workers arrived, were put through their paces and thoroughly instructed in their work, so that there should be absolutely no delay in getting the survivors and the bodies of the victims ashore from the ship immediately after her arrival.

Men came and went about the grim business of finalizing preparations for decently disposing of the remains of the unfortunate sealers. Several times the big folding doors of the Institute swung open to admit detachments of men laden with caskets which were stowed away in the Gymnasium down stairs.

Sad and Solemn. A solemn hush fell on the scores present as the narrow abodes of the departed arrived. Every voice was hushed; every face became solemn as the grim reminders of the harvest of death passed along.

(Continued on page 6)

COMPLETE LIST OF THE SURVIVORS ON THE BELLAVENTURE

- S. Trask ... Elliston
W. Collins ... Newtown
R. Moulard ... Fogo District
T. Dawson ... Bay Roberts
J. Keels ... Bonavista
B. Percy ... New Perlican
W. Lundrigan ... Peter's River
W. Conway ... Turk's Cove
C. Martin ... Bonavista
H. Moulard ... "
J. Kelloway ... "
J. Fisher ... "
J. Evans ... "
W. Cuff ... Fogo
H. Moulard ... Bonavista
J. Howlett ... Bay Bulls' Road
S. Andrews ... Bonavista
H. Kelloway ... Bay de Verde
M. Tobin ... Bonavista
S. Street ... "
T. Ryan ... Turk's Cove
Cecil Moulard ... Fogo
P. Abbott ... Bonavista
Jesse Collins ... New Harbor
Cecil Tiller ... Bonavista
Fred Hunt ... Wesleyville
A. Hayward ... Bonavista
T. Templeman ... "
Phillip Templeman ... "
Hedley Payn ... "
R. Hicks ... Fogo
Arthur Abbott ... Bonavista
T. Groves ... Bonavista
Jaco Dalton ... Catalina
J. Donovan ... Petty Hr. Road
Thos. Moulard ... Bonavista
J. Hiscock ... Carbonear
B. Leary ... Carbonear
R. McCarthy ... Carbonear
S. Jones ... Newtown
Thomas Sheppard is from the Stephano. He is suffering from pneumonia.
Messrs. Collins and Keels are seriously ill and were landed from the steamer first.
Mr. Smith of the Bellaventure and Dr. Wallis of the Stephano, who transferred to the Bellaventure, looked after the sick while on the Bellaventure.

INCORRECT

Colonial Secretary Bennett requests The Daily Mail to say that no arrangements have yet been made for a public funeral on Monday. Those bodies which can be sent home will be forwarded.

Even the advertisers are beginning to realise that The Daily Mail is now fast becoming The Home Paper. The answer is simple—A square deal to all!