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The Toronto World

FOURTEEN PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 15 1913—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXIII—No. 12,127

WILDEST PANIC AMONG PASSENGERS ON VOLTURNO WHEN FIRE STARTED BUT OFFICERS ACTED LIKE HEROES

With Smoke Pouring From the Hatches, Foreigners in the Crew Brushed Everyone Aside and Swung Out in Lifeboats, Only to Be Drowned by Heavy Seas—Women and Children Fought for Safety and Repetition of La Burgoyne Disaster Was Threatened When Captain Inch and His Officers, With Drawn Revolvers, Quelled the Riot and Directed Work of Rescue.

(By Staff Reporter).
HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 14.—Nineteen of the five hundred and sixty immigrants who sailed for Halifax on the steamer Volturmo, reached their destination still shaken by their terrible experience of fire, explosion and gale, half naked and frantic over the fate of relatives from whom they had been torn in the confusion and excitement attending their rescue. They were brought to port by the Furness Liner Rappahannock, and constitute the first boat load taken off the burning Volturmo by the allied fleet of rescue ships. Fifteen of them are women; two, boys of seven and a half; and the other two infants in arms.

They could not speak a word of English, but in broken Russian, Yiddish and Polish, they bestowed heartfelt tribute on Capt. Francis Inch, the Volturmo's commander, and his officers. The stories they told of the terrible twenty-four hours from the time they were roused out of their berths early Thursday morning until they were finally rescued on Friday, place the names of the Volturmo's officers high on the scroll of honor of the British Merchant Marines.

Widest Panic.
For a brief period following the discovery of the fire all accounts agree the wildest panic prevailed. Then it was that a party of firemen, led by the British consul, rushed to the scene, and, jumping into a boat, swung out on the davits, were all upset ere the boat reached the water and perished alongside. Smoke was beginning to pour up from the hatches. Several boats had been lost alongside. Women and children, shrieking and praying, added to the confusion. Great seas were washing over the decks and the stage was set for another debacle such as marked the sinking of La Burgoyne.

In this dilemma Capt. Inch and his men soared from ordinary seamen

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LUND MISSING DINGHY FOUND COL. GRAVELEY DIED TUESDAY

Official of Provincial Experimental Farm at Vineland, Believed to Have Been Drowned.

ST. CATHARINES, Oct. 14.—(Special).—J. B. Lund, director of the vegetable department of the provincial experimental farm at Vineland, set sail in a dinghy from Jordan Harbor just before sundown last night and has not since been seen. Today the little craft, with sail set, was found between Port Dalhousie and Port Weller, the harbor for the new Welland ship canal, partly submerged, and it is believed that Lund was drowned. He was a fourth year student at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and a brother of Herbert Lund, a lecturer in bacteriology at that institution. His father is an Anglican clergyman in England. He was in his 29th year.

Judge Burke Dead.
NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—"Judge" Joseph Burke, the noted trial reporter and race track man, died at his home in Richmond Hill at 11:30 p.m. After an illness of two weeks the "Judge" contracted a heavy cold attending the race meeting at Cobourg track, Canada.

A GENERAL HOLD-UP



Disregarded Rule of Sea

ROTTERDAM, Oct. 14.—(Can. Press).—The steamer Czar arrived here tonight with 162 surviving passengers and members of the crew of the Volturmo. Officers of the Czar allege that the rule "women and children first" was not observed.

RAPPAHANNOCK FIRST TO AID

Furness Liner Reaches Halifax With Fifteen Women and Four Children Survivors.

HALIFAX, Oct. 14.—(Can. Press).—Captain Harneden, of the Furness Liner Rappahannock, which arrived tonight, told of his part in the rescue of the 15 women and four children, the first to be taken from the flames-swept Volturmo.

After hearing the Carman's report of the Volturmo's position, he gave orders to crowd on all steam. Captain Harneden said:
"At 10:30 a.m. Thursday, when the Carman's message was received, we were about 160 miles from the Volturmo, and various wireless messages exchanged, told us her situation was very desperate.

"At 9:30 p.m. we sighted the burning ship about twenty miles away, and when we came nearer the flames were rising above her funnel. At 11:35 p.m. we stopped the engines and manoeuvred the ship about into position to launch a lifeboat. The weather was heavy and rough, there being a strong wind and a heavy sea. At 12:15 that night we sent our first lifeboat to the wreck in charge of Chief Davies. About 3:30 a.m. the boat returned from the Volturmo and reported it was dangerous to approach within 100 feet of her. There were about 150 men on board then, but they appeared too frightened to jump into the sea and trust to being picked up by the boats. All had life belts on, but the women would not jump into the water. It was decided to wait until daylight.

"At 6 a.m. Friday I sent the boat away again and she succeeded in saving fifteen women and four children. All of whom were in a most pitiful state. The boat again returned to the rescue, but boats from the various other steamers had succeeded in getting all the people off.

"After all had been rescued, search was made over a wide area for the two boats reported to have left the Volturmo before any of the other steamers came to her assistance, and which were reported missing. Eleven steamers scattered and searched, but no bodies or people were found. Twelve of the nineteen Volturmo survivors, bound for the United States, sailed at midnight for New York on the Red Cross liner Floriole, and five of the remainder will leave for Cape Breton in the morning.

Mrs. Paraska Geduck, a young Polish widow, and her year-old son, will be sent to Hamilton, Ont., to join her sister.

By Your Mat. You Are Known.
Did you ever stop to realize the difficulty of choosing a hat in a store that did not carry the "good makes"? You simply don't like yourself in any of the half dozen shapes you try on. In the other kind of store, such as Dineen's, 140 Yonge street, you will find almost all hats that are attractive, attractive and becoming. What's the reason? Stylish lines—and these are more important than you imagine. For \$2.25 and \$3 you will dispose of more stuff at a low figure. He was placed under arrest and conveyed to the

JEWELRY THIEF WAS CAPTURED BEFORE THE GOODS WERE MISSED

Edward Renerson Made Easy Get Away With Big Haul From Apartment House, But Was Outguessed by Detectives.

With over \$2000 worth of stolen jewelry in his possession, Edward Renerson, a driver for Michie's, living at 78 Waverley road, was arrested on a theft charge last night before the rightful owners had missed their property.

Renerson's presence in half a dozen pawn shops on West Queen street aroused the suspicions of Detectives Sackett and Mitchell, who, upon making enquiries, found that he had disposed of one \$150 ring for \$35, and was endeavoring to dispose of more stuff at a low figure. He was placed under arrest and conveyed to the

WAS ANKO KILLED AND PLACED IN VAT?

Coroner Wigham and Detectives Are Working on the Theory That Foreigner Was Murdered and His Body Put in Washing Machine Several Hours Before Being Found.

That Antanas Thomas Anko was murdered in the dye works of Abraham White at 135 William street last Saturday night, and that his death was not due to suicide, as at first believed, is the opinion held by those who have been investigating the case.

Evidence secured tends to show that Anko was killed by a blow on the head and placed in the washing machine in a dying condition. City detectives are now working on the theory, with a view to arresting a foreigner, who is said to have threatened Anko some time prior to his death.

On Saturday last Mr. White, proprietor of the dye works, instructed Anko to look after the building during the day, as none of the employees would be down to work. A Jewish festival was being held. Anko was supposed to stay at the building until the afternoon and saw Anko walking about the works, some tools and a diving condition. City detectives are now working on the theory, with a view to arresting a foreigner, who is said to have threatened Anko some time prior to his death.

About 9 o'clock Sunday morning Mr. White went to the works and found Anko dead in one of the washing machines. Dr. W. J. Wigham, 1299 West Bloor street, was notified. The doctor found that the man had evidently died many hours previous to the discovery of the body. Much blood was spattered about the inside of the machine, but there were no traces of blood anywhere in the factory. Dr. Wigham ordered an inquest.

Assisting the Police.
The inquest was opened last Monday at the morgue and adjourned until more evidence could be secured. Little progress has been made in the case by the detectives. Friends of Anko have interested themselves in the matter and are assisting the police.

It was not until the funeral of Anko yesterday that the statement was made that he had been murdered. The narrative without the apparent omission of any salient fact, on to the point where the blazing ship was abandoned, the last remaining passenger taken off and the captain and crew, brought out all the more clearly, perhaps, because of the marked directness and simplicity with which the story is told.

From its beginning where the outbreak of the fire which spelled the doom of the Volturmo is recorded, the narrative runs without the apparent omission of any salient fact, on to the point where the blazing ship was abandoned, the last remaining passenger taken off and the captain and crew, brought out all the more clearly, perhaps, because of the marked directness and simplicity with which the story is told.

Convinced of Murder.
From a close investigation of the interior of the dye works and the washing machine in which the body was found, detectives are convinced that it would have been impossible for Anko to have committed suicide. Marks and bruises found on his body were evidently received during a fight. Death itself was due to meningitis and exposure to the cold. The man was probably beaten into unconsciousness and placed in the vat. He had suffered from a severe cold, and the exposure to the cold, resulted in the disease developing sufficiently to cause death. The man was probably beaten into unconsciousness and placed in the vat. He had suffered from a severe cold, and the exposure to the cold, resulted in the disease developing sufficiently to cause death.

It is said that wrenches were found near the washing vat and that marks on the body would indicate that Anko had been struck down by one of these. The story is being circulated by friends to the effect that the man was threatened by another workman some time ago, after the latter had been discharged and Anko engaged to take his place.

Another boat, described as No. 6, commanded by Fourth Officer Langsell, also got away filled with steerage passengers. Captain Inch knows nothing of the fate of these boats, and as far as known no one else does. Although a widespread search has been made for them by steamers that were on the scene shortly afterward and by others notified by wireless, no trace of them has been discovered, and they probably are lost with all on board.

Captain Inch describes the arrival, one by one of the rescuing craft, summoned by the wireless operators, who worked until 11 o'clock at night, when the fire had progressed so far that the magazines on the bridge, containing signalling rockets and lights, blew up, carrying away the aerial apparatus and compelling the wireless men to cease their efforts.

The Volturmo's master covers in a few words the progress of the fire from the night and how, when the rescue steamers came up and had failed because of the heavy weather to get boats to the burning liner, some passengers jumped overboard and were

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1.)

Billie Burke as Matinee Idol.
While the stars are quite common among the male stars of the stage, among the female sex, however, they are rare indeed. Miss Billie Burke, who is at the Princess Theatre this week in "The Amazons," is one of the exceptions, as she is a genuine matinee idol.

FOUR HUNDRED MEN ENTOMBED IN SOUTH WALES COAL MINE HOPES OF RESCUE SLIGHT

GREAT BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DISASTER

LONDON, Wednesday, Oct. 15.—(C. A. P.).—According to a Cardiff message, received in the early hours this morning, it is feared that 434 Welsh miners have perished in the burning pit at Singhenydd. They are entombed in passages that are utterly unapproachable, there being a mile of underground galleries between them and rescue. The great fire is still raging, and all hope of rescue has been abandoned. If all the men have perished, the disaster will have been the most colossal that ever occurred in a British mine. No further bodies will be brought up tonight. Those recovered include John Herring, underground traffic manager; Charles Anderson, head hatcher; Gr. Roberts, master collier; Jack Roberts, John Dillon, John Williams, Tom Richards, Edward Thorn, Alfred Furze, Richard Thomas, William Cecil, David Jones and William Henry.

VOLTURNO'S CAPTAIN TELLS STORY OF DESPERATE FIGHT WITH FIRE NO LIGHT IS THROWN ON ORIGIN

Members of Watch Burned in Forecastle Before Rescue Could Be Undertaken—Believing Steamer Doomed, Boats Were Filled and Lowered With Disastrous Results.

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—(Can. Press).—Capt. Francis Inch, whose steamer, the Volturmo, was burned at sea, with the loss of 135 lives, told his story of the disaster tonight. "It is a plain seaman's tale, but in it, line by line, the horrors of the disaster and the terrible ordeal thru which passengers and crew, brought out all the more clearly, perhaps, because of the marked directness and simplicity with which the story is told.

From its beginning where the outbreak of the fire which spelled the doom of the Volturmo is recorded, the narrative runs without the apparent omission of any salient fact, on to the point where the blazing ship was abandoned, the last remaining passenger taken off and the captain and crew, brought out all the more clearly, perhaps, because of the marked directness and simplicity with which the story is told.

Trapped and Burned.
All at once to subdue the fire, the captain's story shows that it was even then too late to save the watch below. The men were trapped in the forecastle and burned to death there, their fellow sailors helpless to aid them.

Then came explosions which wrecked part of the midship section of the steamer. The situation was plainly becoming desperate. The call for help by wireless had gone out as soon as the flames shot thru the forward hatches, and the crew was doing its best to stay the progress of the blaze until assistance should come. It looked then as if there was no possible chance to save the steamer, and all the crew were running high and the Volturmo was rolling heavily the captain had boats provisioned and swung out. "Boats No. 12 and 13 were lowered," is the simple way Captain Inch describes the first result of the attempt to launch the life craft. But Chief Officer Miller's boat got away, and also the ship's lifeboat, throwing everybody out, she eventually righted herself and Miller and several of the crew got into her.

Another boat, described as No. 6, commanded by Fourth Officer Langsell, also got away filled with steerage passengers. Captain Inch knows nothing of the fate of these boats, and as far as known no one else does. Although a widespread search has been made for them by steamers that were on the scene shortly afterward and by others notified by wireless, no trace of them has been discovered, and they probably are lost with all on board.

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Disaster Due to Explosion, Probably Greatest Known to Welsh Collieries—Forty Thousand People Surrounded Pit Head All Night, Waiting for News of Missing.

CARDIFF, Wales, Wednesday, Oct. 15.—(Can. Press).—A disaster, possibly the greatest in the history of the South Wales coal fields, whose annals are bristling with terrible catastrophes, occurred yesterday thru an explosion in the Universal colliery near here. Shortly after the day shift of 921 men entered the mine a great explosion shattered the works. During the day and the early part of the night, about 500 miners were brought to the surface alive. After midnight the rescuing parties began to get the fire under control, and at 3:50 o'clock this morning 20 more men were found alive at the bottom of the pit. This gave hope that others may be found, but there is still a probability that nearly 400 men and boys perished.

Including the bodies recovered and those killed at the pit head the known death toll numbered 18. Doctors with oxygen and medicaments descended the shaft at an early hour this morning. A crowd of 40,000 distressed persons surrounded the pit head all night and another 5000 waited for news at the Cardiff station.

Desperate Fight.
The day shift of 920 men descended yesterday morning in the cages at five o'clock. An hour afterwards a deafening report brought the inhabitants in the vicinity to the mine, running to the pithead, where they found the ventilating and hoisting machinery at the top of the shafts had been blown to atoms by an explosion of great violence, and a man who had been working twenty yards away had been decapitated by the force of the blast.

Thirty-five rescue parties of miners, belonging to the night shift, were soon on the scene making preparations to enter the mine in an endeavor to save their comrades.

An entrance was found, however, by way of an adjacent shaft, and on descending in this manner the rescuing parties came across some 3000 of men huddled together in portions of the mine where the ventilation was still good.

Soon 327 living miners had been gathered together and taken up the shaft with the bodies of the six of their companions, who had been killed by being dashed against the uprights supporting the galleries, by the explosion.

The rescuers in the meantime continued their search in remote galleries of the pit for others who might still be alive, and by noon had picked up and brought to the surface altogether 500.

Recalls Old Disaster.
The same pit was stricken by an explosion 13 years ago, when 120 miners lost their lives and only one of those below at the time was rescued alive.

The rescued miners, the members of the life-saving gangs and the officials of the mine declare that they could not hold out much hope for those of the miners below.

The men brought to the surface were found on the east side of the mine, where the ventilation remained fairly good, while on the west side, where the explosion occurred, fire soon added its terrors to the deadly afterdamp, and the rescue parties were unable to make any progress.

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