

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1904.

HORRIBLE DEATH OF 600 MERRY SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNICKERS. Excursion Steamer With About 2,000 of St. Mark's Lutheran Church Congregation, New York, Aboard, Took Fire at the Mouth of Long Island Sound, Wednesday, and Those Not Burned to Death Were Drowned—500 Bodies Recovered So Far—Heart Rending Scenes.

New York, June 15.—One of the most appalling disasters in the history of New York, tragic in its immensity, dramatic in its episodes, and deeply pathetic in its tender age of most of its victims, took place today in the East River, at the entrance to Long Island Sound, within a short distance of the New York shore and within sight of thousands of persons, the majority of whom were picnickers minimizing the extent of the catastrophe.

By the burning to the water's edge of the General Slocum, a three decked excursion steamer, the largest in these waters, more than 200 persons, the majority of whom were women and children, were burned to death or drowned by jumping overboard or by being thrown into the whirlpool by the lurching of the vessel.

500 Bodies So Far Recovered. Approximately 500 bodies have been recovered and are now being tagged at the morgue of Bellevue Hospital and Harlem. Divers are still busy taking bodies from the hold of the vessel, which they say is choked with bodies and those of hundreds who leaped or were thrown into the river have not been recovered.

Hundreds of Merry Children Aboard. The scene on the decks of the steamer which proceeded up the East River was one of harmless merry-making customary on such occasions. The mass of flags on the vessel fluttered in the June breeze, the bands were playing and the children were singing or dancing or waving handkerchiefs and flags in answer to the salutations of those on shore or on passing steamers.

At the extreme eastern end of Randall's Island, off 133rd street, there is a stretch of water known as the Sunken Meadows. At this point, just as crowds were watching the general steamer from the shore, the General Slocum took fire and as the age of the vessel—she was built in 1891—had reached in the driving of the wood of which she was almost entirely built, she was soon a mass of flames.

The fire is said to have broken out in the lunch room on the forward deck, through the overturning of a pot of grease. The wind was high and all efforts to subdue the fire were futile.

At 12:48 street there are several lumber yards and oil tanks and as Captain William Van Schaick, in command of the General Slocum, started to turn his vessel towards the shore, he was warned that it would set fire to the jetties and oil so he changed his course for North Brother Island, one of the twin islands near the entrance to the Sound, some half mile away, where the boat was beached and after burning to the water's edge, sank at 12:25 o'clock, two hours and 25 minutes after the fire was first discovered.

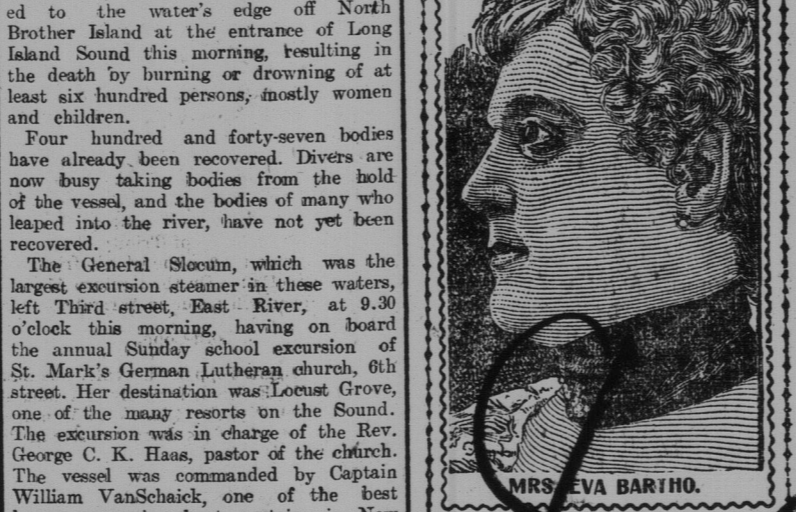
Life Preservers Beyond Reach. Meanwhile the passengers had become panic-stricken and those who were not caught by the flames rushed to the stern of the vessel where hundreds jumped overboard into the swiftly running water. It is alleged that the life preservers were too securely fastened to their holdings to be available, and stories are told of frantic efforts by strong men to cut them loose, but even if they could, have been torn down they were too high up for the children to reach them.

It is also alleged that no attempt was made to get out the fire apparatus at the first cry of "fire" though Captain Van Schaick says that he immediately rang the bells for getting out the apparatus. According to several statements, no attempt was made to lower boats or life rafts.

The race to North Brother Island was horribly dramatic. It was while the flames, which had now been fanned into a fury by the strong head wind, was consuming hundreds, both old and young, the scene was one of frightful panic, with men, women and children jumping overboard and being lashed by the whirlpools of the channel against the vessel's sides. Women and children were crowded together on the hurricane deck which soon burned away and fell, and it is believed that most of those on the deck were burned.

Children Found Dead Clapsed Together. The after-gale gave way and the passengers who had crowded against it were pushed and crowded into the river. Mothers and children became separated and frantically sought each other while in several cases fathers and mothers, getting their children together, jumped with

DOCTOR ADVOCATED OPERATION—PE-RU-NA MADE KNIFE UNNECESSARY.



Mrs. Eva Barrio, 133 East 124th street, New York, N. Y., writes: "I suffered for three years with hemorrhoids and operation of the knife I dreaded very much and strongly objected to go through. I had tried all the various remedies, but I felt no much improved I kept taking it, and I dreaded an operation so much. I am today in perfect health and have no pain or trouble of any kind."

From 1500 to 2500 on Board. The number of excursionists on board is variously estimated at from 1,500 to 2,500, but according to an official statement issued by the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, the number of passengers was 875, that being one-third of the vessel's rated capacity.

Thrilling Rescues of Drowning Persons. During her flame-enveloped run to North Brother Island the General Slocum's whistle kept blowing for assistance, but before the whistle began to blow several tug-boats, the captains of which had seen the outbreak of the fire—started after the vessel, joined by a yacht, while wharves put out from the shore. The number of these craft constantly grew, and not the least dramatic incidents of the catastrophe were the efforts of the people on these boats to rescue those who had jumped overboard from the General Slocum.

North Brother Island, where the vessel was beached, contains a scarlet fever ward. The patients who witnessed the disaster, were ordered indoors and the doctors hastened to the rescue of those who had washed ashore, but some scores of persons died while they were being attended to. Captain Van Schaick and two pilots, Edward Van Vort and E. H. Weaver, have been arrested.

Current Carried Many to Death. The point where the Slocum was beached was just off the Scarlet Fever ward on North Brother Island. The patients, who had been out on the porch and lawn watching the approach of the burning steamer, were ordered indoors, and the physicians on the island hastened to the assistance of those who were being brought ashore through the shallow water. Many of those who leaped from the Slocum were carried away by the current even here and were drowned.

On the beach of North Brother Island is described by a pitiful one. Body after body was washed ashore or brought in by boats and rowed to the beach. Fifty-three persons died there while the doctors were at tending them.

As the bodies of the living and the dead were taken to the hospitals on the island or sent across the river to hospitals in Manhattan. Here ambulances from almost all the hospitals in the city and every other sort of conveyance which could be found, were put into service.

Burned and Drowned Drifted Ashore for Hours. For hours the bodies of the burned and the drowned drifted ashore on the island and between 131st street and 133rd street in Manhattan. Some came ashore still alive. Many of these died while others will recover.

On the beach of North Brother Island hysterical women and frantic men had dived along the long row of canoes, rescuing all of those who came within the reach of their crews. Few of those who were saved had on life preservers.

Deckhand's Story Of The Horror. Peter J. Tremble, a deckhand, was arrested by the police wandering aimlessly about the beach. He told the following story: "I left the Third Street dock at 10 a. m. I was polishing brass-work aft on the port quarter, when a deckhand called my attention to smoke coming out of a forward hatch. I ran forward and helped the first assistant engineer to stretch hoses. We could not get any water. The fire spread so rapidly that we were driven to the forward promenade deck which was crowded with panic-stricken women and children. I pulled down an armful of life preservers and distributed them. I then put a life preserver around my own shoulders and jumped overboard with them."

Rescue Boats Have Narrow Escapes. Among the boats that were hurried to the succor of the stricken passengers, were several tugs of the New York Central and Hudson River R. R. Co., the auxiliary cutter East Times, the health department tug Franklin Edison and the Charity Department's Massachusetts. These with a swarm of rowboats manned by willing hands, approached as near the blazing vessel as was possible and rescued scores of people.

The Franklin Edison was so close to the burning steamer that her own paint was scorched. The crew of the tug, however, stuck bravely to their work and managed many women and children from a ter-

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"On the 8th day of June, 1904, the attention of the minister of militia was drawn to a despatch in one of the newspapers of Ottawa purporting to give a report of a speech made by Lord Dundonald at a dinner in Montreal, in which he as Hon. Mr. Fisher, minister of agriculture, in relation to their action in military affairs, said as follows:—

"On the same day, the minister of militia addressed a letter to Lord Dundonald, calling his attention to the report, and inquiring whether it correctly stated the utterances and the attendant circumstances. To this a reply was received from Lord Dundonald, admitting the substance and correctness of the report in question. Lord Dundonald's general remarks as well as those in relation to the particular case which he mentions, instigated on his part a regrettable failure to appreciate the principles of British constitutional government. Lord Dundonald's recommendation of any gentleman for appointment as an officer of the militia would, in itself, have no force or effect. It could only become ineffective after receiving first the approval of the minister of militia, secondly the approval of his excellency the governor-general-in-council. The power of approval on the part of each of these authorities must necessarily carry with it the right of inquiry and rejection."

BAD OUTLOOK FOR N. B. LUMBERMEN. Over-production Has Caused a Great Depression in the Trade, and the Logs May Not Be Cut This Year.

Newcastle, June 14.—Shipments of lumber in New Brunswick are now being made simply on sales made previous to the British depression. This will probably take us through June and July, but after that shipments may cease altogether. Such are the statements of Hon. Allan Ritchie, Minister of Agriculture, in a speech made at a dinner given for the benefit of the lumbermen at the Hotel Victoria, Newcastle, N. B., on the 13th inst. Ritchie said that the lumbermen are now considering the advisability of storing their logs, and of course if they do this they will necessarily carry with it the risk of the depression in the lumber trade. The iron and steel industry is more or less the barometer of all other industries.

"What has been the decrease in prices?" was asked, and Mr. Ritchie answered:—"Well, an idea may be found from the fact that bank logs on the St. John wharf last year sold for \$15 a cord, and now they are selling for \$12. Another contributor to the depression has been the attitude of the Baltic lumbermen. Last year they held off in the hope of still better prices, but now they are flooding the market with lumber at greatly reduced prices."

KINGS COUNTY, EAST, L. O. A., IN SESSION. Meeting Was Held at Waterford on Tuesday—Next Meeting at Sussex in February—Scarlet Chapter Elects Officers.

Sussex, N. B., June 15.—The semi-annual meeting of the county lodge of Kings East, L. O. A., No. 78, at Waterford, on Tuesday, the 14th inst., after the business of the county lodge was disposed with the lodge adjourned to meet in annual session with Admiral Nelson, L. O. A., No. 24, Sussex, on the first Tuesday in Feb., 1905.

The Scarlet Chapter of Kings East was also opened and one member advanced, after which the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows: Nelson Jefferies, W. C. in C. Nelson, E. C. in C. in C. Dawson Richardson, Comp. Chap. Jas. A. Moore, Comp. Scribe. W. S. D. Moore, Comp. Treasurer. Geo. S. Dryden, Sir H. K. at Arms. Joseph Lynch, L. H. H. Hamon, Sec'y, O. H.

Mr. Fisher states that so far as his interference related in any way to politics, it was not to give the new regiment a political color, but to guard against the possibility of its being used for the purpose of the promotion of any political party. He had no objection to the organization effective, he was not merely exercising a right; he was changing a duty to the people of the district and to his colleagues in the cabinet, who would expect him to inform himself of all the facts and advise them before approval by the cabinet of the proposed arrangements.

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A Great Physician's Word of Warning

Dr. Hamilton Emphasizes the Necessity of Selecting a Remedy Free From Mercury When a Laxative is Required

The people are too thoughtless. With a few exceptions, the consequences we are apt to use the first medicine presented to us. It may be a pill, so harsh and drastic as to excite violent inflammation of the bowels and give no permanent results. Above all, it is dangerous in selecting your laxative. Nothing suits the purpose like Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butternut which contain only the choicest vegetable medicines known to science. No evil effects follows their use. In preparing the formula for these famous pills Dr. Hamilton was careful to avoid using any minerals. He discovered a happy combination of vegetable extracts which, without question, make the most satisfactory laxative ever compounded. Dr. Hamilton's Pills have a direct action on the kidneys and liver. They tone up these organs and compel them to eliminate the poisonous wastes which cause a yellow unhealthy condition of the skin. They restore normal action of the bowels and promptly cure constipation, headache and all diseases of the stomach, due to the track of my friends. I discovered a happy combination of vegetable extracts which, without question, make the most satisfactory laxative ever compounded. They restore normal action of the bowels and promptly cure constipation, headache and all diseases of the stomach, due to the track of my friends. I discovered a happy combination of vegetable extracts which, without question, make the most satisfactory laxative ever compounded.

If you want to loosen the bowels and cure your headache and bad taste in the mouth there is no remedy like Dr. Hamilton's Pills of Mandrake and Butternut. One trial will prove this. Price 25c. per box or five boxes for \$1. at all druggists. See that you get the genuine. Sent prepaid to any address on receipt of price to N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont., or Hartford, Conn., U. S. A.

METHODIST STATION SHEET, FIRST DRAFT.

Fredericton, N. B., June 14.—(Special)—A large number of delegates for the New Brunswick and P. E. I. conference have arrived in the city, and the remainder are expected by train tomorrow morning. A ministerial session will be held tomorrow, and on Thursday morning the conference will open to the public. A meeting of the stationing committee was held this afternoon, and this evening

the following draft of station sheet was given out:— Bathurst—R. Opie. Bayfield—Wm. Lawson. Moncton, Wesley Memorial—William Penna. Alma—J. Laird. Peticodiac—A. Innes. Salisbury—Isaac Howie. Boxboro—E. A. Jewett. Deer Island—Jas. Strathairn. Cornwall—Wm. Harrison. Little York—George F. Dawson. Mr. Townell—W. B. Thomas. Zion—Dr. Wilson. Carleton Place—C. W. Hamilton. Springfield—J. Finckson. Grand Lake—A. C. Bell, S. T. B. Boscawen—W. J. Currie. Antigonish—Mr. Hudson. Richmond—J. K. King. Thoburn—W. E. Weeks. Buctouche—J. Goldsmith. Lawrence—B. J. Macdonald. Tryon—Thos. Stebbings. Souris—A. E. Chapman. Mount Stewart—A. Hartman.

The Fredericton laymen are Abinmah Coakley, Dr. Chapman, M. E. A. Burpee, H. Rogers, Alfred Rowley, Dr. Inch, J. J. Weddall, Dr. Scott, W. J. Osborne, C. A. Sampson, A. Melville, W. F. Day.

The Historical Society will probably consider theirs at its next meeting for raising a public subscription of \$2,000 to supplement a government grant for a Champlain monument. The monument will probably be erected on Queen square.

Major Phillips, of the local branch of the Salvation Army, is editing the War Cry at Toronto in the absence of the regular editor, who has gone to England.