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G. KNOWLING, Ltd., AGENTS.

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Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, Proprietor

SATURDAY, March 2, 1918.

The Florizel Inquiry.

While we agree entirely, as we must, with our contemporaries as to the necessity of the fullest and most authoritative inquiry into the Florizel tragedy—it would be compulsory in any case, without need of urging—we should like to utter a mild protest against the tendency we have observed, though it is natural enough, to place the blame on someone or another, without considering whether any blame in fact exists, and of judging the case beforehand. The message from Ottawa bluntly charging those in authority over the Florizel with a disregard of warnings from the meteorological office is a good illustration of both these things. It would be absurd to suppose that the warnings in question were needed on Saturday night. It has yet to be shown that the storm of that night, bad as it was, has the slightest bearing on the case or was in any way responsible for the disaster. We do not say that it was not of course, but if the mere fact that a ship puts out in a storm is sufficient to charge Ottawa as to the cause of such an occurrence, it is certainly not sufficient to satisfy those who knew the Florizel and her crew.

All this, however, will be elicited with the greatest possible thoroughness at the investigation. All we have to say at this stage, is that if the investigation stops with the navigation and stranding of the Florizel and does not inquire into the truly appalling conditions revealed by the subsequent events, it will omit the most important service it can render. Fixing the responsibility, if any exists, for the loss of the ship will not restore either the ship herself or the lives lost with her; but to expose the criminal negligence which for fifty years and more has left this hideous coastline unprotected with the most elementary life-saving device may result in the preservation of no-one knows how many lives in the future. It happens in this case that all the survivors, probably, who might have been rescued on Saturday were in fact rescued the following day. For that we can only thank a merciful providence and the fine work of those who built the ship so staunch and strong. For the actual work of rescue we can only thank the ships and their crews who performed it so well, remembering that it is not their business, whatever their ability, to stand by wrecks. That is the business of persons who simply do not exist, using appliances which simply do not exist, in this country, which stands in more need of both daily than any other in the world. It is a terrible indictment, to which the whole community must, with a burning shame, plead guilty.

Court of Enquiry.

The Marine Court of Enquiry into the loss of the S. S. Florizel, we are informed, will be constituted as follows:—

James P. Blackwood, K.C., presiding with Commander McDermott (R. M. S. Briton), Captains Edward English, Sr., and Geo. Spracklin as assessors. The Crown will be represented by the Attorney General and Mr. Brian Dunfield, and the first sitting will be held in the tower room of the Court House at 2 o'clock this afternoon. This Court of Enquiry is called for under the Marine Court of Enquiry and Merchant Shipping Acts of Great Britain. In addition the Government contemplates instituting an enquiry of a larger scope.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES GARDEN IN COWS.

Sensational News. Honor to Whom Honor is Due. Victims of the Florizel Tragedy.

We take exception to a portion of the news dispatch of yesterday, in which it is stated that the ill-fated liner Florizel put to sea on Saturday last ignoring the storm signals, and that consequently the disaster and its accompanying terrible loss of life must be attributed to the sailing of that ship in face of the warning of the Meteorological Service. On what authority or evidence this grave accusation is made, we are at the present moment, able to conjecture. Sufficient for our subject however that it has been advanced as a hypothesis, by some person or persons, in an obvious attempt to lay blame on either the master or owners of the unfortunate vessel, as to the superficial reader it would appear that the Florizel was literally forced out of port in the teeth of a storm. That this news comes from Ottawa in a semi-official guise does not detract from the serious nature of its contents, nor does it help to soften the sorrows of those whose dear ones were taken away. It re-opens the wounds caused by grief and again uncovers the faces of the lamented dead. Not only that, but it opens up an avenue of thought which might lead the imagination toward unpleasant things. We are steadfastly opposed to such a quality of news intelligence, and at no time will we have any hesitation in using the strongest terms in condemnation of it. Newspapers are purveyors of knowledge to their readers, but yesterday, in the light of recent events, we would not admit this portion of the dispatch to print. In the loss of the Florizel, shock has succeeded shock and the magnitude of the catastrophe has dealt the community a stunning blow from which it has not yet recovered. The real gravity of the item lies in its direct assertion that the storm warnings were deliberately ignored, thereby leaving it to be assumed that those in charge of the ship and its precious human freight were heedless of weather conditions; or that some persons interested directed that she put to sea and take the chance of weathering the storm, which, the signals announced, was then brewing. It is not within the province of any person or persons to determine the cause of the disaster until such time as proper and competent authorities sit in their official capacity and hold both an enquiry and an investigation. Then all will be revealed, but till such time as their report is issued it does not become any irresponsible person to offer any comments upon a matter which has been fraught with dire consequences. We are sure when that enquiry is completed everything will be brought to light, but for announcements to put forward any opinions, during the holding of such enquiry, is not the essence of wisdom, nor yet in the best of good taste. It is not yet a week since the sad occurrence, but numerous rumours have been set afloat, and dozens of absurd theories advanced, as to the causes, which have not the slightest basis. The Telegram supports the suggestion made in the other city dailies that the enquiry be enlarged in scope, and given opportunity to recommend (we could wish that it had power to insist) to the marine authorities the prime necessity of establishing at once further aids, to navigation on a stretch of coastline which has picked up more shipping than any other part of the Dominion. But to recommend it easy; to act, sometimes difficult, but the people of Newfoundland will not be put off with vague promises. They will demand that a complete life saving system be established somewhere on the Southern Shore and an increased number of light-houses, fog alarms and automatic whistling buoys placed at other danger points. This country has been trusting too much to luck. Time and again it has been advocated that our coast guides are entirely inadequate to the demands of our shipping, but very little improvements, in certain sections, have been effected. Now that grim tragedy has been brought so closely home, everything possible should be done to obviate a recurrence. With so many R. N. R. men coming back from the Navy, the first thing to be taken in hand should be the inauguration of coastguard stations at various points, with time expired Naval Reservists in charge of each post. We do not intend to let this vital matter drop out of sight, but shall return to it again.

Of the 31 lives saved by these men, No. 1 dory has 23 to the credit of its crew. In addition this boat also rescued one of the crew of the s.s. Gordon C., when that ship's boat upset, and brought him to shore, at a place where he was treated by the doctor. The crew of No. 1, Cloutier, Penny and Murphy were right to the fore, and it is due to their heroism, skill and courage that the tale of lives saved was so great. The crew of No. 2 dory, Shanahan, Gallagher and Westcott, is to be highly commended. These accounted for eight souls from the wreck and only gave up the rescue work when their boat was swamped. No. 3 dory containing Dan, Moore and Murphy, filled with water while attempting to get alongside the wreck. They afterwards went on board a s.s. where Murphy who had swallowed some salt water and was ill from the effects, was replaced by another R.N.R. man, Ash. This boat, notwithstanding the efforts made did not save any life, but the conduct of the crew was evidence of their determination to do their duty to the end. This was a most gallant occasion on which the body of a girl or woman ever rested within the walls of the Masonic Temple, St. John's.

Reid's Boats.

The Argyle is sailing Monday for the West Indies.

The Ethie arrived at Port aux Basques at 10.10 a.m. yesterday.

The Glouce is at St. John's.

The Meigle is due at St. John's to-day.

Here and There.

WILL MEET.—The ex-pupils in connection with the Bro. O'Hurley Memorial, will meet as usual to-morrow.

ZYLEX—Best for scurvy. At McMurdo's, 50c.—mar2,1f

WEATHER REPORT.—The weather across country is light N.W. wind and rain; temperature to zero to 25 above.

When you want something in a hurry for tea, go to ELLIS'—Head Cheese, Ox Tongue, Boiled Ham, Cooker Corned Beef, Bologna Sausage.

TRAIN MOVEMENTS.—Thursday's outgoing express arrived at Port aux Basques at 6.15 a.m. to-day. The incoming express is due to-morrow at noon.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.—Yesterday, we are informed, some farmers from nearby places were asking five dollars per barrel for potatoes, which is an advance in the past few weeks of one dollar and fifty cents. If this is the case the Food Control Board and some authorized person should at once take steps to regulate the price, otherwise the people will have to do without the succulent tuber, or find a substitute.

Our Volunteers.

The following young men joined the colors during the last two days:—Ernest Brown, Port au Gal, Burin.

Geo. Murlay, Marystown.

Hayward Bradbury, Bay Roberts.

John Russell, Bay Roberts.

Percy Green, Burlington, N.D.B.

In Memory

OF PRIVATE DAVID SCANLAN, KILLED MARCH 3rd, 1917.

God bless you who have answered Duty's call

And proudly joined the gallant boys of One

God bless you!

God help you who are fighting far

Fighting that those you love may never know

War's greatest horrors. Be it ours to pray

God help you!

God rest you gallant lads beneath the sod.

Than yours no nobler deed was ever done.

You gave your lives for us—your souls to God—

God rest you!

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES GARDEN IN COWS.

GIVEN MASONIC FUNERAL.

A most impressive and unique ceremony was witnessed at the Masonic Temple this morning when a large number of Masons assembled in the main Lodge Room to pay tribute and attend the funeral of the late George Massie and his little 11 year old daughter, Catherine, both victims of last Sunday's great marine tragedy. The remains of father and daughter were enclosed in beautiful caskets with brown and white plush corduroy velvet coverings respectively and silver mountings and rested on trestles in the centre of the Lodge Room. On the top of the caskets were beautiful floral tributes presented by Ladies of the Lodges mentioned above, and St. Andrew's of the Masonic Order, also one from the St. Andrew's Society. At 10.30 the officers and brethren of the Lodges mentioned assembled in the Temple where a short funeral service was conducted by Rev. Gordon Dickie, M.A., pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, to which faith the deceased belonged. Rev. Canon Bolt, Chaplain, and Rev. Dr. Fenwick read the lessons. Following the service of the Lodges, the remains of the deceased were placed in the various Masonic Lodges, in full recognition of the services of the St. Andrew's Society and a large number of citizens, left the Masonic Temple and proceeded to the railway station where the last respects due the sacred dead were solemnly given. The caskets and floral offerings were then enclosed in hermetically sealed coffins and placed on board the outgoing express en route for Chicago, the former home of Mr. Massie. Mr. P. E. O'Herlihy, representative of the St. Andrew's Society, was one of the principals, acted as chief mourner and also arranged for the sending of the bodies to Chicago. Undertaker A. Carnell attended to the funeral arrangements.

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A GREAT WAIST STORE. Values from 95c. up to \$4.80 each. Difficulties seemingly insurmountable have been overcome, and for the new season this Store still maintains its supremacy of style with a stock of Waists that are second to none.

Two Special Waist Groups for Next Week Only. A group of Ladies' White Lawn and Striped Voile Blouses, also Striped Linen Blouses suitable for morning wear. Here you will find a most elaborate display of the choicest styles with the latest collar effect. Special Price, per pair 89c.

Items of Interest—Round the Store. WHITE FLANNELETTE. Here you get a well fitting Flannelette that will give you comfort and service. An opportunity that you should take advantage of. Worth in the regular way 25c. per yd. Special Price, per yard 23c.

WHITE TOILET COVERS. Size 22 x 36 inches, in White Marcella, with fringe. These were purchased at special prices. Don't wait until these are all gone. Special Price, each 33c.

LADIES' HOSE. In Black Llama finish, with hem at top; full length Hosiery that will give satisfaction in wear. Special Price, 48c per pair.

LADIES' HOSE. Also a line of Cotton Hose of a good black colour, with a fleece lining. These we are offering at an unusually low figure. Special Price, per pair 39c.

BOYS' HOSIERY. Strong, sturdy Hosiery for boys who are hard on their Stockings and require Stockings stronger than usual. Of extra heavy cotton yarn in the durable one in one rib; assorted sizes. Special Price, per pair 35c.

NIGHTGOWNS. A very special selling of Nightgowns, made of fine sheer Nainsook in half a dozen styles; elaborately trimmed with val. laces and handwork. When you see these garments you wouldn't think of making them yourself at this price. Special Price, each \$1.17.

WHITE UNDERSKIRTS. A job line of Nainsook Underskirts, trimmed with embroidery, laces, etc., yet thoroughly following the straight line being prevalent in spring outer apparel styles. Special Price, each \$1.67.

REMNANTS. Our Remnant Counter is again loaded with bargains in Fleece Calico, White, Grey and Striped Fleece, White Shirting, Shirt Goods and White Lawns, etc., etc. Most of these goods come by the pound but we have made them up in convenient lengths for easy handling. Come early and get your share.

Store Opens 8.30 a.m. ALEX. SCOTT, Store Closes 6 p.m. 18 New Gower St.

For Spring 1918. SEE OUR WINDOWS FOR The Newest in Ladies' Ready-to-Wear AMERICAN Millinery Only the Very LATEST SHOWING. S. MILLEY.

At the Cathedral. A Memorial Service will be held at the Anglican Cathedral to-morrow (Sunday) morning, and at Evensong (Sunday) evening, for the late Bert Dickson (Rev. Canon White) will refer specially to the Florizel disaster. In this way the Church will attempt to give expression to that sympathy which is being felt for the many sorrowing hearts among us and will be a record of our sense of loss at the passing of so many of our citizens in such a tragic and sudden manner. Special psalms and hymns will be sung at the morning service.

MILLINERY ECONOMY Worth While. You can't get a better deal than this. You can't get a better deal than this. You can't get a better deal than this.

To-Day's Messages. AMERICANS AGAIN VICTORS. With the American Armies in France, To-day—American troops captured a strong German attack to the north of Toul. There were many American casualties, one of those killed being a captain who graduated from Westpoint in 1917.

PARIS, To-day. Five arrests have been made on charges of maintaining relations with the enemy. These who are held, are Henri Gay, dealer in antiques, of Dijon, Marie Tremblay, bank employee and recently arrested in London, and Gullier's wife, Simey Depsey, a minor actress at Sarah Bernhardt's theatre.

NOT COMING WITH SHIP. OTTAWA, To-day. The Naval Department has received a telegram from Vikhamar, Stefanson, Arctic explorer, which was probably conveyed from his winter quarters to Dawson City by a Royal Northwest Mounted patrol. The telegram contains information that Stefanson's ship, Polar Bear, will come south as soon as navigation opens, but that he will not come with it. He intends taking an ice trip along with four other members of his party. How long he proposes to remain away is not stated.

MAY BENEFIT THE ALLIES. VOLOGDA, Russia, To-day. The interior of Russia, following the example of Moscow, declares strongly against separate peace with Germany. Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils in many provincial centres are issuing mobilization orders proclaiming a fight to the finish in behalf of the revolution.

SENSIBLE RESOLUTION. BELFAST, To-day. The Belfast Branch of the British Empire League has adopted the following resolution: Owing to the sinking of the steamer Lusitania with American troops on board, urgent steps should be taken to have all enemy submarines neutralized or not removed at once from every coast town and seaport, and prohibited from approaching within ten miles of the coast. The resolution asks all important civic bodies in Belfast to take similar action and to forward their resolutions to the President.

WHOLESALE SURRENDER. VIENNA, To-day. Ten thousand British soldiers have laid down their arms and come to terms with the enemy.

A Stubborn Cough Loosens Tight Up. This medicine is a wonder for quick relief of coughs and colds.