

# THE CAUSES OF MINE ACCIDENTS

## COMMISSION REPORT FULLY ON SUBJECT

### Under Various Heads the Precautions Necessary for Giving Increased Safety Are Described.

In their report the commissioners appointed by the provincial government to inquire into mining disasters have gone fully into the various explosions under different heads. The commission consisted of John Bryden, Tully Boyce and P. S. Langman.

It is pointed out that ventilation is probably the most important in connection with coal mining. With the mechanical appliances now in use in the various coal mines of the province, there is no reason why a sufficiently large supply should not be passed through the workings, providing proper attention is paid to the intake and return airways and the law relating to splits is carried out. It appears that the provisions of the rules of the special rules, forbidding the deposit of obstructions and rubbish in the air course and roads, do not meet with the strict observance their necessity calls for.

At some of the collieries the sectional area of the railways was rather contracted for efficient service, but extensive operations were in progress to remedy this defect. The dangerous practice of opening up what may become an extensive colliery with narrow and contracted intake and return airways is deprecated.

In extensive mines where mechanical haulage is employed, it would vastly improve the system of ventilation if the intake airway was divided into two parallel drifts or some other means adopted whereby there would be an intake airway independent of the main haulage way.

They recommend that the intake and return air pass through different mine openings; that the natural cross-cutting should separate them rather than the practice sometimes resorted to of having a board partition in the shaft.

While two fans are recommended, it is urged that in cases where this is impossible that there should be two engines, each capable of working the fan on opposite sides.

On the subject of dust, it is pointed out that now when a detected explosive even in the absence of gas.

Professor Galloway, an eminent authority on coal dust explosions, specifies five systems of watering mines, namely: 1. Water tanks, the water being pumped into the mine airways, provided with a pipe pierced with holes; 2. sprays produced from very small nozzles fixed to vertical pipes fixed to a water pipe laid along one side of the haulage way; 3. steam spray in which compressed air is employed for the purpose of pounding the water into very fine particles; 4. a water hose thirty or forty feet long attached at one end to a short stand pipe connected to a water pipe lying along the road; 5. the exhaust steam of a constantly working engine such as the engine of a ventilating fan, introduced into the intake air as it descends the downcast shaft.

Of the different systems most of the witnesses preferred the sprays as mentioned in clause two, and from our personal observation and from the evidence given before us, there seems no reason why such a system should not be adopted without causing any injurious effect to the roadways.

It is recommended that the watering should be carried to and around the working faces. It is at the working faces that a mixture of fire-damp and coal dust in suspension is most likely to be met with, and authorities are agreed, after a series of experiments and demonstrations, that a small percentage of fire-damp, say two per cent, or even less, which of itself is harmless, may, with coal dust in suspension, become highly explosive and especially dangerous in the case of a blow-out shot.

In connection with explosives the report says: "The ordinary black blasting powder now in use is generally admitted to be dangerous under certain conditions. In the coal fields of British Columbia an explosive of some kind is necessary. Where safety lamps are required the use of black powder should be prohibited. The many substitutes invented for getting coal, such as the fine cartridge, compressed air cartridge, the wedge, etc., would be useless owing to the nature of the coal seams; it therefore follows that where black powder is prohibited some substitute must be adopted. The government of Great Britain have adopted what is known as a permitted list of explosives, a system which we strongly recommend be introduced in this province. Dynamite should be taken in to the mine in a protected case only, and never when in a frozen condition; it should be wrapped so as to protect it from freezing after being brought in. Thawing in the mine should be strictly prohibited, unless proper appliances are provided for that purpose.

The danger from black powder is referred to. The use of clay or suitable shale for tamping is recommended. The firing of shots by electricity would do much to void danger. In a dry and dusty mine, giving off one shot, safety lamps are necessary, electric appliances such as motors, hoists and pumps should be prohibited.

It is recommended that only shot lights should fire shots. It is recommended that the rule with respect to inspection for gas should provide that the examination should be made not more than two and a half hours before the time of the workmen entering and less where deemed necessary. The rule should be applicable to all mines in the province, irrespectively as to whether or not inflammable gas had been found within the preceding 12 months. It should be an offence against the act for a fireman, or any one else, to attempt to remove a body of gas of any quantity by any means other than ventilation. To fully carry out the onerous duties of a fireman it is necessary that he should be

free from physical disabilities, and it is especially necessary that his eyesight should be good, and for this reason it is recommended that the examination of the act (19-01) governing the examinations be amended so that firemen and shot-lighters before being granted certificates of competency be required to furnish the examiners with a certificate from a competent person that their eyesight is in a good condition.

A better lamp for testing gas than that in use is urged. The one in use is useful only in detecting gas to the extent of two per cent.

Some of the safety lamps in use in the province were found to be unsafe. It is recommended that all safety lamps be tested in an explosive mixture before being given out to the workmen.

The report says: "Doubtless there were a few accidents from fire-damp explosions in this province, but in safety lamps were entirely used, but the accidents from other causes would inevitably be increased to such an extent that we hesitate to recommend their exclusive use. We see no reason why with an adequate supply of air properly conducted around the working faces, thorough examinations and supervision by the mine officials, discipline on the part of the workmen strictly enforced, safety explosives only used, roads and airways and working faces kept in a moist condition, that open lights could not be used with comparative safety."

On the question of shifts, three eight-hour ones each day was generally considered unsafe, except in leading places. There was little objection to a second shift, provided the mine was well ventilated. In mines, however, involving large quantities of inflammable gas, and where the coal is of a soft and friable nature, the working of two shifts in succession may be a source of danger.

The panel system is recommended, as it does away with the necessity of so many doors in conducting the ventilating current. Doors on main roads are considered a source of danger, and should be avoided as much as possible.

With abandoned workings where possible, the ventilating process should be used, otherwise secure and airtight stoppings should be erected.

Recommendations made by the commissioners urging stricter examinations for those having authority in the mines, and enforcing exact discipline in the works.

In concluding the reports says: "The conditions which render a mine dangerous may be summarized as follows: "The atmosphere gradually becoming saturated with inflammable gas; sudden outbursts of gas, and dry and dusty roadways, working faces and air passages.

The causes which would create an explosion where these conditions exist are naked lights, defective safety lamps, flame from shots, concussion from blowing out shots or volley firing, accidental ignition of explosives and lightning entering the mine.

"While it is generally conceded that the coal mines of British Columbia generally contain inflammable gas, yet the investigations into the different explosions which have taken place in the past point to the fact that coal dust and not fire-damp was the main factor in those catastrophes. With possibly one exception the gas was working as usual, and according to the reports of the firemen, were practically free from gas, the evidence showing that watering had been done in compliance with the rule in the act governing the same, yet a dangerous condition must have existed or the explosions would not have occurred. This shows that the precautions heretofore taken have been inadequate, but even were all precautions taken it is doubtful if we can ever become entirely free of explosions, and for this reason there are some appliances which we recommend should be provided so that they may be used in case of accident."

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portrait of the recipient. After tea there was varied amusement, the hiding and finding of most of eggs, for which prizes were offered; a guessing competition called "The Towns of B. C.," introduced by Mrs. Hardy, and for which prizes were given. After this for an hour a formal musical programme was rendered, which was of such a fine order as gave delight to everyone. The singers were Mrs. Launing (Ladner), Mrs. McIntyre, Mr. Gordon Hicks and Mr. Warne, Mrs. and Miss Griffin acting as accompanists. Mr. Griffin gave an amusing reading, and Mr. Townsend a recitation. Mr. F. J. Bailey was called upon by the chaplain to take the chair, and most efficiently discharged the duties of this office. The formal enjoyment was resumed and kept up until 11 p.m., when the happy gathering dispersed by singing "God Save the King," and three cheers for the ladies' committee, under whose management all these proceedings had been carried out. Mrs. Rutter, the president of this committee, and her hard-working associates, are deserving of much congratulation for the success attained.

The trustees, who were represented at Monday's gathering by Mr. Armon, Mr. G. Hicks and Mr. Bailey, have pursued a "pay-as-you-go" policy in establishing the Home. It has therefore been sower in reaching full equipment than anyone desired, but lately they have been steadily cheered by the generous donations of sympathizing people. In addition to the furnishing of the reading room by the W. C. T. U., as already mentioned, also the furnishing of bedrooms by men of the Shearwater and friends from Ladner (also already published), Mr. J. McLeod, of the fugal yard has furnished a bedroom, and Mrs. Frank Adams has promised to furnish one, while Messrs. Weller Bros. have shown great generosity in giving the window shades for the building, throughout, after giving a cash subscription and wholesale prices on a number of chairs supplied by them.

There is a good deal still needed for furnishing and cash for putting in the laths and other connections, and on behalf of the trustees the Times is again asked to state that the chaplain, Rev. J. P. Hicks, will most gratefully acknowledge contributions for these purposes.

A. J. McMurtrie, of Ladysmith, is in the city for the purpose of attending the ceremonial session of the Mystic Shrine, to be held to-morrow night. He is at the Victoria.

The amendments to the Children's Protection Act of British Columbia, introduced by A. E. McPhillips, provides for the raising of the age of those coming under its provisions from 15 to 10 years, and for further protection to children having no home or guardians.

The bill introduced by Mr. McPhillips, entitled "An Act respecting the Support of Illegitimate Children," makes provision for the recovery from the father for food, clothing, lodging and other necessities furnished to any illegitimate child. In case the mother of the child sues for the value of these necessities, it provided that the fact of the defendant being the father shall be proved by other testimony than that of the mother. To take advantage of these provisions the mother of the child shall deposit an affidavit with the clerk of the peace, or with the clerk of the council, not more than six months after the birth of the child, declaring that the person afterwards charged in the action is really the father.

Mr. Gardin's amendment to the Special Surveys Act, 1890, makes provision for a special survey to be made of any lands in a city for the purpose of correcting any error or supposed error in any existing survey. This order shall also direct in what proportion the costs of the survey shall be charged against the city and against the land affected.

W. R. McKenzie, of Nanaimo; W. G. Thomson, Jas. Xanthi and C. J. Godfrey, of Vancouver; Mrs. Frohman, of Portland; Geo. McLean and E. Turbayne, of Toronto; and W. R. Falls, of Montreal, are at the Vernon.

## GRAFTON ARRIVED FROM SOUTH TUESDAY

### No Stoppages Were Made En Route from Acapulco—Torpedo Boat Destroyers Left Wednesday.

With ratings for the two torpedo boat destroyers which leave here en route to Hongkong to-morrow, H. M. S. Grafton, returned to Esquimalt this morning from an extended cruise in southern waters. According to the original schedule of the ship, prepared prior to her sailing, the vessel was not to be back before the first of May, but in view of the Sparrowhawk and Vindex going away no stoppage was made on the way north from Acapulco. Coming along at a 12 knot speed, she made the passage in just ten days. Having received the men necessary to complete their complements, the destroyers will now sail at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

They will be escorted by the Amphion, which will tow each five days, it being expected that the voyage to Honolulu will occupy just ten days. The Amphion will be gone a little over three weeks. The trio are ready for sea, and many will regret seeing the trim little craft, which have been such an attraction to tourists, leave port. On the China star-

Phil Smith, on behalf of the transportation committee, said that as yet the report was not complete. Some 46 localities had been heard from, but there were 176 places yet to answer the inquiries of the committee.

Mr. Smith read a number of replies to the circular sent out by the committee. They were from all districts of the province, and varied and numerous suggestions were made for the improvement of the trade relations of this city with other parts of British Columbia.

Of these communications "that which caused the most discussion" was from New Westminster. The question, "Have you any suggestions for an improved service and better trade relations between your place and Victoria?" was answered as follows: "Communication with Victoria steadily growing worse. With Vancouver steadily improving.

Mr. Houston corroborated this statement. He was in Westminster a few days ago, and was given an order only on condition that the goods be sent via Vancouver. Some improvement in the transportation facilities between Victoria and the Royal City was urgently required.

Mr. Houston, reporting on the work of the home industries committee, said that the instructions of the chamber were being carried out. Subscriptions would shortly be solicited from the merchants for the collection and maintenance of a permanent industrial exhibit. Before the work could be carried out successfully he thought a committee should be appointed to take into consideration the securing of a place for this exhibit.

Mr. Morley said that a number of merchants had already expressed their approval of the idea. The exhibit should be placed in the same building.

Mr. Houston's suggestion was put in the form of a motion, and carried. The committee appointed consisted of Messrs. Levy, Christie and Price.

Mr. Hanna reported that the committee on incorporation had interviewed the government, and had been received most courteously. Immediate action was promised towards the amendment of the Benevolent Societies Act so that the chamber may incorporate under its provisions.

The question of the appointment of a board of harbor commissioners was next considered. Mr. Sorby spoke at length. He explained what the duties of the commissioners would be if appointed.

The meeting shortly after adjourned.

The general offices of Wells, Fargo & Co., which have been maintained in San Francisco since the establishment of the company of half a century ago, are to be removed to New York next month. The removal is said to be due to the Southern Pacific interest in New York.

## BUSINESS MEN IN REGULAR SESSION

### TRANSPORTATION WAS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS

#### Chamber of Commerce Consider the Best Way of Developing Trade With Other Parts of Province.

There was not a great deal of business transacted at the regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday. A partial report of the transportation committee was received, and from present indications when the full report is forthcoming it will prove invaluable. The appointment of harbor commissioners was again discussed.

In the absence of the president, G. C. Carter, and the vice-president, J. Kingham, both of whom were ill, R. Mowat was unanimously voted to the chair.

The post office department of Canada acknowledged receipt of a motion of the chamber relating to the delay of Eastern mails en route to Victoria. The matter will receive consideration. Received and filed.

Mr. Smith, on behalf of the transportation committee, said that as yet the report was not complete. Some 46 localities had been heard from, but there were 176 places yet to answer the inquiries of the committee.

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**The Paterson Shoe Co. Ltd.**  
(WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.)  
**Boots and Shoes, Rubber Boots, Etc.**  
We are the largest exclusive dealers in Boots and Shoes in the province, and carry complete stocks of every description of Boots and Shoes, Rubbers, Rubber Boots, etc., etc., in each of our five large stores. Minors' Footwear a Specialty. Letter orders promptly and carefully filled. Write for Catalogue to  
**The Paterson Shoe Co. Ltd.**  
VICTORIA, B. C.  
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Is being builded for the long future, not for to-day only. We cannot afford to sell a single article at a price higher than a quoted elsewhere. We can afford to do so in many instances every day, and goods at prices decidedly lower than similar quantities are sold elsewhere. A trial order will convince you of these facts.  
**For 3 Days Only**  
Preserves, in Glass, 1 lb. each ..... 15c.  
Sausages, Huntley & Palmer's, Marie, Alberta and Water, per lb. .... 20c.  
Zinfandel, per bottle ..... 25c.  
The finest Wines now being used are A. L. de Turk's; every bottle guaranteed pure.  
**The Saunders Grocery Co., Ltd.**  
Phone 28. 39-41 Johnson Street.

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40c Lb.  
IS UNSURPASSED—ALWAYS FRESH.  
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Cash Grocers.

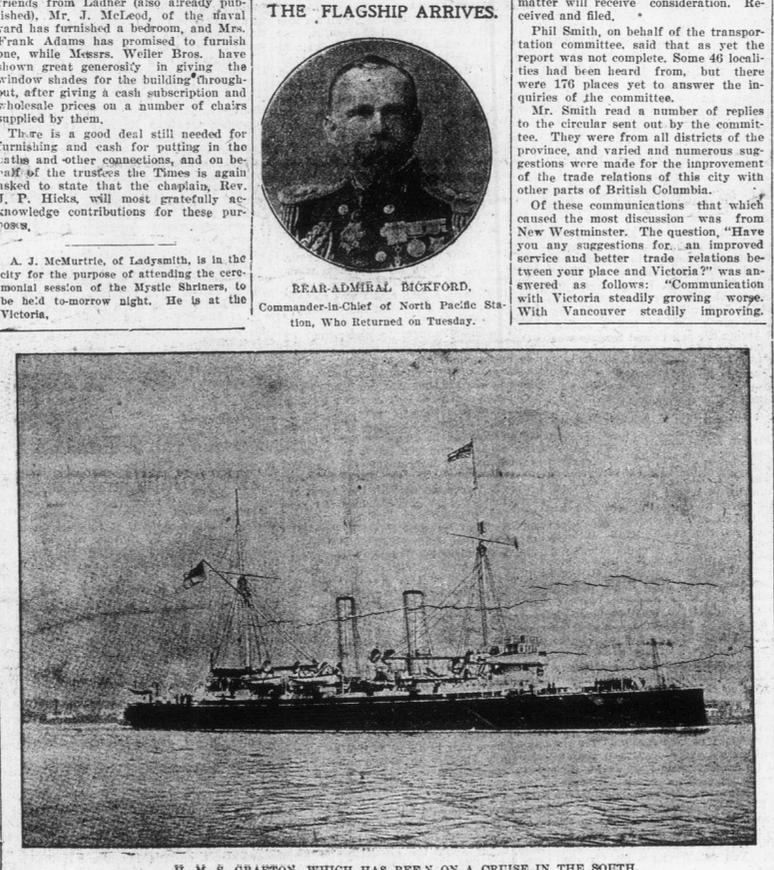
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SMELTING WORKS AT LADYSMITH  
Prepared to purchase ores as from August 1st. Con- venient to E. & N. or Sea.  
CLERMONT LIVINGSTON, MANAGER.

**Old Things Made New**  
**Our Furniture Polish, 25c**  
APPLIED TO OLD FURNITURE BRIGHTENS AND RENEWS.  
**CYRUS H. BOWES,**  
CHEMIST,  
88 Government St., Near Yates St., VICTORIA, B. C.

**NOTICE**  
"Little Bantam" Fractional Mineral Claim, situate in the Victoria Mining Division of Chemsunus District, located on Mount Sicker.  
Take notice that I, George R. Elliott, agent for the owners, Free Miner's Certificate No. 172468, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.  
And further take notice that action under section 37 must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.  
Dated this 28th day of March, 1903.  
GEORGE R. ELLIOTT.

**NOTICE**  
Public notice is hereby given that 60 days from date I intend to apply to the Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase 100 acres of land situated on west side of Work's Canal, and south of mouth of Gunter Bay, as follows: Commencing at a stake marked "R. S. N. E. Corner" planted at shore and adjoining last surveyed claim on the peninsula on the south side; thence west along section line 40 chains or thereabouts; thence east 40 chains or thereabouts; thence north along shore line to point of commencement, containing 100 acres more or less.  
Staked 7th March, 1903.  
D. A. ROBERTSON.

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that sixty days from date I intend to apply to the Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase 140 acres (more or less) of land at Solander Island, thence commencing at a post planted on the south-east point of Solander Island, thence following the shore of the land to the point of commencement, including the whole area of Solander Island.  
Per His Agent, H. H. V. KOEHLER.  
Dated Victoria, B. C., March 15th, 1903.



H. M. S. GRAFTON, WHICH HAS BEEN ON A CRUISE IN THE SOUTH.

## NEW BILLS IN HOUSE

Features of Some of Latest Enactments (Which Are Sought in the Legislature.)

The bill introduced by the Attorney-General, Esquimalt, on Tuesday afternoon amending the Benevolent Societies of the province, chamber of commerce, mining institutes and associations. The enactment of this will allow of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce becoming incorporated, as was asked for a few days ago.

The amendments to the Children's Protection Act of British Columbia, introduced by A. E. McPhillips, provides for the raising of the age of those coming under its provisions from 15 to 10 years, and for further protection to children having no home or guardians.

The bill introduced by Mr. McPhillips, entitled "An Act respecting the Support of Illegitimate Children," makes provision for the recovery from the father for food, clothing, lodging and other necessities furnished to any illegitimate child. In case the mother of the child sues for the value of these necessities, it provided that the fact of the defendant being the father shall be proved by other testimony than that of the mother. To take advantage of these provisions the mother of the child shall deposit an affidavit with the clerk of the peace, or with the clerk of the council, not more than six months after the birth of the child, declaring that the person afterwards charged in the action is really the father.

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tion they can be used to better advantage than on this coast. There they will be in charge of a battleship, it being customary for a ship of so large a type to be provided with such craft.

The voyage of the Grafton was not an exciting one. The Shearwater was passed the first day out from Acapulco, and should arrive here in about a week. The new cruiser Flora, which has just been added to the Pacific squadron, will remain south for another month. Her officers are looking after the paying off and disposal of the old store ship Lafayette at Coquimbo, and until this has been done she will not come north. The Grafton left Coquimbo on March 18th.

At San Jose some little excitement was created through threatened hostilities between the government of that country and Nicaragua. The prospective trouble was over the non-payment of a loan which in time was duly paid. A large number of troops were gathered at San Jose, it being said that 70,000 men could there be mustered if the occasion demanded. They presented a curious appearance to the well drilled and disciplined men of the Grafton. They were poorly clad and poorly armed, and the Grafton will now remain in port until some time in December next.

**BASTARD CARNIVAL.**  
Successful Entertainment By Pupils of Metropolitan Methodist Sunday School at the A. O. U. W.

There was a large attendance at the eastern carnival given by the children of the Metropolitan Methodist Sunday school at the A. O. U. W. hall Tuesday. Flowers, flags and bunting adorned the hall. The programme was composed largely of performances by the children, which were all done in first class style. Miss Stone, of the Royal Alexandra College of Music, is to be congratulated upon the results of her training. For some time past she has been instructing the children, and to her ability and energy is the success of the carnival largely attributed. Every performance was accorded appreciative applause.

**CUP CHALLENGE WAS DIS**  
**ONE MAN DROWNED**  
SIR T. LIPTON  
Yacht Was Caught by Squall  
paring for a Race With Shamrock.

**Weymouth, April 17.**—Sir Thomas's gaw challenge for the cup, Shamrock III, was dissuaded to-day shortly after harbor preparatory to another race with Shamrock. Her main-boards, carried several days, and all the gear and canvas, including Sir Thomas's, were knocked down a hatchway, or otherwise injured. The man who was drowned, brother-in-law to Capt. W. Thomas at the time he was on board. One of Sir Thomas's injured, but not seriously. The yachts were manoeuvring, jibs, foreails and masts prior to the start. Her main-boards were blowing, but nothing in the nature of a squall seemed to carry their well as they fetched the she breakwater. Shamrock III, was leading apparently with the intention of the strength of the wind out breeze had just weight enough to keep her from being blown down. Before the start Sir Thomas Rater, the sailmaker, and man Crawford, the commodore Royal Ulster Yacht Club, by knocking down a hatchway, a picture as under her cloud, drove past Northhead. The taken up a position to send away around a triangular course everything seemed to promise a Shamrock III, then made a dash on the port tack, dragging the heavy squall with her lee deck. At about 10.30 a.m., when the breeze was blowing, but nothing in the nature of a squall seemed to carry their well as they fetched the she breakwater. Shamrock III, was leading apparently with the intention of the strength of the wind out breeze had just weight enough to keep her from being blown down. Before the start Sir Thomas Rater, the sailmaker, and man Crawford, the commodore Royal Ulster Yacht Club, by knocking down a hatchway, a picture as under her cloud, drove past Northhead. The taken up a position to send away around a triangular course everything seemed to promise a Shamrock III, then made a dash on the port tack, dragging the heavy squall with her lee deck. At about 10.30 a.m., when the breeze was blowing, but nothing in the nature of a squall seemed to carry their well as they fetched the she breakwater. Shamrock III, was leading apparently with the intention of the strength of the wind out breeze had just weight enough to keep her from being blown down. Before the start Sir Thomas Rater, the sailmaker, and man Crawford, the commodore Royal Ulster Yacht Club, by knocking down a hatchway, a picture as under her cloud, drove past Northhead. The taken up a position to send away around a triangular course everything seemed to promise a Shamrock III, then made a dash on the port tack, dragging the heavy squall with her lee deck. At about 10.30 a.m., when the breeze was blowing, but nothing in the nature of a squall seemed to carry their well as they fetched the she breakwater. Shamrock III, was leading apparently with the intention of the strength of the wind out breeze had just weight enough to keep her from being blown down. Before the start Sir Thomas Rater, the sailmaker, and man Crawford, the commodore Royal Ulster Yacht Club, by knocking down a hatchway, a picture as under her cloud, drove past Northhead. The taken up a position to send away around a triangular course everything seemed to promise a Shamrock III, then made a dash on the port tack, dragging the heavy squall with her lee deck. At about 10.30 a.m., when the breeze was blowing, but nothing in the nature of a squall seemed to carry their well as they fetched the she breakwater. Shamrock III, was leading apparently with the intention of the strength of the wind out breeze had just weight enough to keep her from being blown down. Before the start Sir Thomas R