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Fundy's Good Name Free From Criticism

Finding of Court On Stranding of The Corinthian

"INDIFFERENT NAVIGATION"

Certificate of Captain Tannock is Suspended for Three Months and That of First Officer Simpson for Six Months—Rumor as to Liquor Dispelled

That the master and first officer of the ill-fated C. P. O. S. liner Corinthian, which was wrecked on the northwest ledge off Brier Island on Saturday, Dec. 14, had shown indifferent navigation was the verdict of Capt. L. A. Demers, Dominion wreck commissioner, this morning. He pointed out that the circumstances freed the Bay of Fundy from any stigma of criticism and in fixing the blame of the disaster he suspended the certificate of the master, David T. Tannock, for three months, and the first officer, B. B. Simpson, for six months. In a supplementary statement, Captain Demers said that he had heard rumors about the city that liquor had been responsible for the disaster, but wished to dispel that. He had carefully inquired into this during the proceedings and found that everything had been perfectly satisfactory. He fixed the loss of the vessel as a result of indifferent navigation. The finding in full is as follows: The Judgment. The court having carefully weighed the evidence adduced, finds that the loss of the S. S. Corinthian may be directly attributed to indifferent navigation on the part of the master and first officer, which indifference is given as pronounced aspect even at the outset when the circumstances seemed to demand the exercise of extra precaution, for the vessel is found settling out to sea under the guidance of compasses whose general susceptibilities to various unexpected agencies is well recognized, and the correction of which by the usual methods was precluded on the day of departure owing to adverse conditions. Periodical showers frequently obscured the land as the ship journeyed down the bay, but a course was nevertheless shaped to pass ten miles off Bear Head and when the latter was abreast a four point bearing obtained by the first officer recorded in the logbook, and the master, who had retired to his room upon being informed took a visual observation of the surroundings and, finding to his expressed satisfaction, the distance corresponded precisely with his previous calculations, again withdrew. A slight alteration had, however, been made in the course by the master for the purpose of passing two and a half miles from the buoy off Brier Island, and although it was then practically clear water, and it had been maintained by the captain that neither wind nor sea affected the vessel, no allowance was made for a possible increase of tide in view of the approaching flood. Under these circumstances the ship's voyage was destined to be prematurely terminated, for brief indeed was the interval of time that elapsed before ominous vibrations announced the melancholy fact that the vessel was riding on the reef, whereupon the master hastened to the bridge and forthwith reversed the engines, but too late, for the ship held fast and firm. The court holds that the master, in view of the uncertain weather should have personally verified the very questionable accuracy of the bearings taken, before attempting to navigate in such close proximity to the reef as two and one-half miles and furthermore that it was a physical impossibility for the ship to traverse a distance of eight miles, on the last stage, within the time specified. While tenaciously maintaining that the weather was clear from the periodical showers, the court nevertheless holds that the navigation methods which he, the master, adopted, were extremely hazardous. It must be adequately realized that his ill-considered actions have involved the total destruction of a costly vessel and of an equally valuable cargo, but while giving due weight to the grievousness of this, the court is not unmindful of the master's previous extended and untarnished record. This latter phase of the case has therefore entered into the court's deliberations and has tended somewhat to alleviate and temper the culpability in the present instance, but the master, David Tannock, cannot, however, be contended, and he is therefore held by this court to be in default and his certificate bearing No. 012325 is hereby suspended for a period of three months, dating from Dec. 20, 1918, and expiring March 20, 1919. With respect to the first officer, while it has not been shown that his observation of Bear Head was negligently or indifferently taken, yet if viewed from the standpoint of his subsequent actions, the accuracy of his work is brought into grave question, and cannot be accepted without due reserve. It is beyond the court's comprehension how he, fully conscious of the intention to pass two and a half miles from the buoy, instead of exercising every possible discretion at such a crucial period, seems, on the contrary, to have kept an absolutely indifferent or almost worthless lookout. A cadet, his companion on the bridge, first observed the buoy and promptly

DAVILIGHT ROBBERY IN EVERETT STREET; THIEVES GET \$12,000

Everett, Mass., Dec. 20.—Six men in an automobile held up Frank Brown of Lynn, paymaster of the steel foundry of the General Electric Company here today, shot and seriously wounded him, and escaped with the week's payroll, reported to amount to \$12,000. Brown and two companions were in an automobile when the hold-up men jumped from a limousine and stopped him. When Brown showed signs of resisting one of the men fired.

MCADOO SAYS RATES CAN BE LOWERED WITHIN NEXT YEAR.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Director-General McAdoo said yesterday that with an assurance of five years of government control of the railroads, existing freight and passenger rates could be materially reduced within the next calendar year without any reduction of the existing wage scales.

CARRYING BROTHERHOOD OF BATTLEFIELD INTO COMPANY'S BUSINESS.

Summ, Dec. 20.—Hon. W. J. Hanna, president of the Imperial Oil Company, addressing officers and employees of the company, outlined the new "industrial relationship plan" the company has adopted. It was intimated, he said, that the lesson of the brotherhood of the battle field.

A BIG TIME FOR 40,000 CHILDREN OF TORONTO SOLDIERS.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Forty thousand invitations have been sent out to the children of Toronto soldiers by the Sportsmen's Patriotic Association in connection with a Christmas Eve celebration started yesterday in Massey Hall and to be continued until Saturday night.

SICK AND WOUNDED IN HOSPITALS OVERSEAS NUMBER 42,000.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—There are 42,000 sick and wounded men in the hospitals of England and France, as well as a great many in the hospitals of our own land, and the work of the Red Cross will not stop until the last man leaves the last hospital," said Kenneth Duman at the annual meeting of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

WATCH FOR COMMANDER THOMPSON OF OLYMPIA.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—Commander James Thompson, who shared with Captain B. F. Hayes the responsibility of commanding the Olympic throughout the war, was the guest of honor at a luncheon given yesterday by the Commercial Club and at which representatives of all prominent organizations of the city were present. Commander Thompson was made recipient of a very valuable watch. The address was made by the Archbishop of Nova Scotia.

FREDERICTON NEWS.

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 20.—Robert Peppers, of Lower St. Mary's, died last night at the age of eighty-five. The funeral took place today. A temporary hospital for influenza and pneumonia cases was made ready this afternoon under the direction of the board of health. Miss McGivray, formerly acting matron of the Victoria Hospital, is matron.

Honor Italy's King.

Paris, Dec. 20.—(Havas Agency)—During the visit of King Victor Emmanuel at the Mysse Palace yesterday President Poincaré bestowed upon him the bravery citation insignia belonging to the third regiment of Zouaves, in which the king is an honorary officer.

PROBATE COURT.

In the matter of the estate of Esther Myles letters testamentary have been granted to J. M. Freeman is proctor. In the matter of Charles Emsey Betson, letters testamentary have been granted to Margaret Bettison. J. F. H. Ford is proctor.

DEATH OF BEATRICE MOWBRAY.

After an illness of only a few hours, Beatrice Mowbray, aged eleven years, died on December 8 at her parents' home in Cuid, Victoria county. She was the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mowbray. She will be greatly missed at home and in the school, where she attended so faithfully and was a very bright pupil. The grief stricken family have the sympathy of the community in their hour of trouble. Interment was made at Arthurville. Services were conducted by Rev. M. Noyster. The hymns at the church were "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "Tender Shepherd Thou Has Stilled," and "Precious Peace."

REGINA IN AT HALIFAX; ST. JOHN MEN ARE ON HOME SOIL

Some 2,000 Returning Canadians Brought to Nova Scotia Port

HOME ON REGULAR TRAINS

Maritime Province Soldiers in Special Cars—Nursing Sister Floyd of St. John one of the Home-Comers—Former Times Man one of the Number

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 20.—H. M. troopship Regina, with upwards of 600 returning Canadians, under the command of Lieut. Col. Clegg, docked at nine o'clock this morning after an eventful passage. There were no officers on board except the conducting officers. The men are nearly all A2 or B2 men who at the time of the signing of the armistice were in training in England for service in France. These arrived with their full equipment, necessitating a considerable amount of extra work on the part of the disembarkation officers. Before the men will be allowed to proceed they must hand over their rifles and bayonets. The regular disembarkation staff has been supplemented by men from the ordnance department and it is hoped to clean up the work in the course of the day. Four trains are in waiting at the pier. Men for the maritime provinces will leave for their homes on special cars attached to the regular trains.

Plans for Government Employment Offices

Order-in-Council Gives Details—How Provinces are Affected by Some of the Arrangements

FARMERS ARE ROUGH ON CANADA'S SENATE

Also Stand for Total Prohibition in the Dominion

Toronto, Dec. 20.—One of the planks in the farmers' platform was "the reform of the federal senate." It was disposed of last night by the United Farmers of Ontario. "You can't reform the dead," said W. L. Smith, of Orono. "I move that the word 'burial' be substituted for the word 'reform.'"

HINDENBURG IN NEW REVOLUTIONARY SCHEME IN GERMANY?

Paris, Dec. 20.—Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has telegraphed the Berlin government advising it of his intention to form a new front six miles behind the neutral zone fixed by the armistice, according to a despatch to Lc Journal from Zurich today.

BAR GERMANS FOR TEN YEARS

Singapore, Straits Settlement, Dec. 20.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuter's Limited)—At a great public meeting of British subjects of all classes here it was unanimously resolved that representations be made to the government that no German subject be allowed to land or reside in or trade with the Straits Settlements and Malay states for at least ten years after peace.

DIED IN VIRGINIA.

A telegram to relatives in this city announced the death of Mrs. Wm. Russell Moore in Lynchburg, Virginia, on Dec. 17. Mrs. Moore was the eldest daughter of Capt. J. W. and the late Minnie H. Gerow, formerly of St. John. Besides her husband and three sons, Mrs. Moore is survived by her father and two sisters, Mrs. Thomas Christian and Miss Ethel Gerow of Lynchburg. Burton L. Gerow and Atkinson Morrison are nephews of the deceased.

DEATH OF CHILD.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Collins, 14 Melton street, will sympathize with them in the loss of their infant son, Oliver James, aged one year and five months, who died on Wednesday.

POLICE COURT.

William Williamson was before the magistrate this morning on a charge of striking a woman in North Market street on October 9. Some evidence was taken and he was remanded.

FINED \$200.

Bernard Moore, recently arrested on a charge of having liquor in his possession, was fined \$200 in the police court this morning. William M. Ryan appeared in the interests of the defendant.

LITTLE ONE DEAD.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dibblee of 31 Elm street were called on today to mourn the death of their infant son, Joseph Blake. They will have the sympathy of friends in their bereavement.

Barry Back to Ball.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 20.—Jack Barry, former manager of the world's champion Boston American League Baseball Club, was honorably discharged today from the officers' military school at Harvard. He is still on the Red Sox roster, and said he expected to play big league baseball next season.

SOMETHING BIG IN RUSSIA?

Rumors of Advanced Policy Grow Daily

LONDON GIVES IMPETUS

Suggestion That This is Reason for Wilson's Visit to England Earlier Than Was Intended—Will Likely Leave Paris on Next Thursday

London, Dec. 20.—The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian suggests that President Wilson's sudden determination to come to England is due to his desire to consult the British government regarding the Russian situation before the preliminaries to the peace conference. The correspondent points to the presence in London of former Premier Kerensky and Paul Miliukoff, former Russian foreign minister and leader of the constitutional democrats. He also calls attention to Wednesday's statement by Viscount Milner, the secretary of war, on the Russian situation, which, he says, was "evidently intended to prepare the public for events to come."

HOLIDAYS FOR SCHOOLS

Christmas Exercises Carried Out This Morning

That Christmas is drawing nigh was evident in the schools of the city this morning when Christmas programmes were carried out. Yuletide songs and readings were given by the pupils. In many of the schools programmes were carried out in the rooms. There were special exercises in the High School and St. Vincent's.

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers of real estate have been recorded in St. John county as follows: Ida M. Burke et vir to W. T. Colwell, property in West street; Wm. H. A. E. Josslyn to E. J. Young, property in Simonds. S. S. McAvity to Frank Connors, property in Pine street. Elizabeth Wilson to Elizabeth Holmes, \$100, property in Great Marsh road.

TORONTO POLICE RIM TO CONTINUE STRIKE

Toronto, Dec. 20.—At 1.30 this morning it was announced that the police had voted unanimously to continue their strike until their union was recognized by the police commissioners.

FIVE KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.

Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 20.—Five persons were killed when a large touring car skidded on frost-covered plans and plunged through the wooden railing of a drawbridge near here today.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stuart, director of meteorological service

Synopsis—Pressure continues high over the eastern portion of the continent with a moderate disturbance has developed over the southwest states. The weather has been fair throughout the Dominion.

Fair; Warmer.

Maritime—Moderate westerly winds, fair today and on Saturday; somewhat higher temperature.

Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—West to southwest winds, fair today and on Saturday; somewhat higher temperature on Saturday.

New England—Partly cloudy and warmer tonight; Saturday, cloudy, probably rain or snow, warmer in interior; moderate south winds.