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# The Times.

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IMPORT AFTER MANY PERILS BARQUE CASTOR WAS SPORT OF ELEMENTS

British Ship, Tossed About for Six Weeks, Reached Esquimaux in Sad Plight.

(From Monday's Daily.) With her crew worried from loss of sleep and over work, several of her men damaged and many of her sails torn to ribbons, the British barque Castor, Capt. Vance, was picked up by the Seattle tug Pioneer off Tatoush yesterday morning and towed into Esquimaux harbor last night. The Castor was bound from Valparaiso for Portland in ballast, and was sighted off the Columbia bar on November 15th. No pilot was waiting to take the vessel to Portland, and she was blown out to sea. Since that time the vessel was battered by terrific storms, and the crew subjected to almost heart-breaking experiences.

From the time the barque first came up to the Columbia bar, until the captain, almost in despair, made for the straits, the Castor returned to the mouth of the river six times, but finding neither tug nor pilot waiting, was driven to sea again. Never for more than a few hours at a time did the wind blow steady, and the vessel was tossed about in a most fearful manner. On December 7th a hurricane drove the Castor, practically on her beam ends, nearly 100 miles from Esquimaux. She was carried to steady her during the height of the storm, a tank being carried away. James Larsen, an able seaman, while endeavoring to secure the tank, was thrown down the hold and badly shaken up, being confined to his bed for the remainder of the voyage.

On the 13th inst. the long battle with the elements was almost brought to an untimely close, a collision with the French barque Buffon being long distance from shore, struggling in a heavy gale with as little sail as possible on her when the Buffon came up out of the sea-darkness of the evening and drove across her bows.

In telling of the incident, First Mate Andrew Gibson said: "It seemed for a moment as if we were doomed. The Buffon came so close to our bows that I could have tossed a biscuit aboard her, and even now, when I think of it, my escape appears like a miracle. She passed us under two lower topsails, while we had scarcely anything but ribbons on our yards. If we had struck her I can't imagine how any of us could have escaped."

The Buffon carried the story of her hair-breadth escape to Portland, and the knowledge that she had sighted the Castor in sailing condition did much to allay the anxiety that prevailed in the Oregon port.

After this escape the Castor ran into the worst storm she experienced on December 16th. Her low-lying topsails were made, and Capt. Vance, wearied of his continued ill-luck at the Columbia bar, set sail for Puget Sound. The Castor limped wearily past Flattery in the early hours of yesterday, and the crew could scarcely suppress a cheer when the tug Pioneer placed a cheer on the Buffon's side.

This morning a Times reporter learned from P. O'Connell, the second mate of the Castor's many tales. "We had a fast passage from Valparaiso," he said, "leaving there on September 14th and meeting with good weather all the way. All on board were congratulating themselves on the good trip when we struck Buffon on the Columbia river bar on November 15th, but, while we were waiting for a pilot, the wind got up and we were driven out to sea. Dirty weather sprang up, and although we managed to get off the bar six times during the next two weeks, we were driven out each time till every man was thoroughly disgusted with his luck. What with the constant work and anxiety, the narrow escape from collision with the Buffon and the provisions running short, we were all sick and tired of life when we rounded Flattery and were picked up by the tug."

STORE AND STOCK DAMAGED. Fire in Selkirk, Fanned by Wind, Does Considerable Mischief.

Selkirk, Dec. 23.—Last night a fire was discovered in the two-story frame store at the corner of Main street and Main-Johns avenue, occupied by Chas. Horwitz, general merchant. A southwest wind was blowing and it was with great difficulty that the flames were controlled.

Both buildings and stock are badly damaged. The building was owned by J. K. Kenzie and valued at about \$5,000. He carried an insurance on it of \$2,500. Mr. Horwitz had an insurance of \$5,000 on the stock. The fire seemed to have started in the flour and feed warehouse, at the back of the main buildings. There was no sign of fire when Mr. Horwitz left the store at 11:30.

RUSSIAN AUTO CORPS. St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.—The Russian war office has ordered the formation of a military automobile corps to be based on the German model.

SCANDAL TRIAL MYSTERY DEEPENS. Harden Case Heard in Secret Session.

Military Court Ordered by Emperor Will Try Members of Nobility Implicated.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—The trial of Maximilian Harden still continues with the probability that it will last until after Christmas, owing to the large number of witnesses yet to be heard.

Canada's Part in Olympic Games. C. A. A. U. Outlines Proposed Arrangements—Recommendation to Athletic Bodies.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 23.—At a conference on Saturday night the board of governors of the C. A. A. U. adopted the following resolutions respecting the proposed arrangements for the organization of the Canadian Olympic committee and the furtherance of the objects of such a committee:

BUILDINGS BLOWN INTO FINE DUST. EXPLOSION WRECKED NANAIMO POWDER WORKS.

Terrific Shock Felt on Mainland—Loss Estimated at \$20,000—Town Terrified.

(Special to the Times.) Nanaimo, Dec. 23.—An explosion on Sunday morning at the Hamilton Powder Company's works at Departure Bay completely destroyed two of the mixing buildings, and did considerable damage around the works, twisting roofs into grotesque shapes, bulging out sides and doors and doing other damage.

The loss will be about \$20,000, and will be repaired within a month or so. The explosion was felt in Vancouver and New Westminster. At Ladysmith it was felt as strong as in Nanaimo.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS. Officers of Northwest Association Elected at Annual Meeting in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Dec. 23.—At the annual meeting of the Northwest Commercial Travelers Association, the following officers were elected: President, J. W. Wilson; vice president, A. S. Lock; treasurer, L. C. MacIntyre; secretary, F. J. C. Cox; directors, J. E. McRobbie, retiring president; C. W. W. D. J. Dyson, F. W. Adams, H. W. Lethbridge, A. E. W. W. McAllister, G. W. Barrett, J. A. McTaggart, E. L. Thomas, J. W. Holland, J. Brockton, vice president for Calgary, H. W. Whittier, vice president for Edmonton, F. M. Morgan; vice president for Regina, Peter Cooper; by acclamation; vice president for Vancouver, L. D. Birely; by acclamation; director, C. P. Egan; vice president for Victoria, H. Erb; by acclamation; director, R. A. Creech; director for New Westminster, F. J. Lynch; by acclamation; director for Kootenay, H. Wright; by acclamation.

Freight Trains in Collision. Brakeman Killed in C. P. R. Smash Up.

Accident Occurred Near Bocket, Alberta—Two Fatally Injured—Operator Fled.

Vancouver, Dec. 23.—A head-on collision took place at 6 o'clock this morning between two freight trains near Bocket, 20 miles west of MacLeod, on the Crow's Nest branch of the C. P. R.

FROM THE NORTH. K. D. Munro Is Satisfied With Conditions and Looks Forward to Good Business.

(From Monday's Daily.) K. D. Munro, a director of the Victoria & Vancouver Stevedoring Company, who for the past year has been looking after the company's business in Prince Rupert, is visiting the city.

Mr. Munro expresses strong faith in the future of Northern British Columbia and says that his firm has nothing to complain about in the advances made thus far. Mr. Munro is secretary of the stevedoring company which operates the Caledonia line on the Skeena river. This venture proved fairly satisfactory during the past season, and promises to prove one of the permanent and successful enterprises in the northern country.

Mr. Munro will return to the north after the first of the year.

SUBSIDY FOR MERCHANT MARINE. OBJECT TO BUILD UP U. S. FLEET OF SAILERS.

Congress Will be Asked to Donate \$700,000,000—Ships Entitled to Assistance.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 21.—United States senators, congressmen, high government officials and representatives of many business interests gathered here to-day in the interest of a ship subsidy. Harvey D. Gould, president of the Merchants' Marine League, under the auspices of which the convention was held, expressed the opinion that the subsidy would not only have good results, but the attendance and enthusiasm shown by the delegates from various parts of the country indicated that the general public was taking a greater interest in the subject of the merchant marine and a subsidy for sea-going craft.

The convention was in a degree the beginning of a campaign of education, but the greatest efforts of the league will be directed toward congress this winter in the interest of a United States mail subsidy for ocean steamers. This, the supporters of the subsidy believe, will result in a subsidy for general shipping interests and will build up an American fleet of sailing vessels.

It is estimated that the government will have to donate about \$700,000,000 to place the merchant marine in a position to successfully compete with merchant marines of other nations where a subsidy exists. It was asserted by the advocates of the subsidy that the measure would not only be of interest to the vessel-owners, but of direct benefit to every citizen of the United States, and that the ships were entitled to this assistance as much as the rivers, harbors and railroads.

GAUNT POVERTY IN BERLIN CITY. CHILDREN STARVING IN THOUSANDS.

In One Week 11,947 Attended School Breakfasts—No Prospect of Midday Meal.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—The municipality is face to face with a very serious problem in connection with the supply of food to thousands of virtually starving children attending the primary schools in Berlin, whose numbers have been greatly augmented this year in consequence of the industrial inactivity. Hitherto the Children's Canteen Society has been able to cope with the task in a fairly satisfactory way by means of subscriptions from private sources, but the call on its funds are this year so great that it will be unable to supply many of the children.

In the first week of December according to official statistics from 245 out of the 255 primary schools, no fewer than 11,947 children attended school, in most cases without breakfast and in all cases without the prospect of obtaining a midday meal at home. Of these 4,449 received a simple daily meal from the 14 canteens belonging to the above mentioned schools, the other 7,498 are totally unprovided for. The question of the city's responsibility for the children has now been raised by the Socialists in the municipal council who propose that the council should in future undertake the task.

The society will be able this winter to dispose of the sum of \$3,421.50 (together for the feeding of the 12,000 starving little ones during the winter. This course is suggested in order to obviate the loss of civic rights, entailed by the children's parents should their off-spring be directly fed by the authorities. Parents who do not send their children to school are fined unless they can give medical authority for keeping them home. Therefore poor parents must send children to school, though foodless and miserably clad.

MAURETANIA ON MISCHIEF BENT. Giant Liner Broke From Moorings—Crashed Into New York Fleet of Barges.

New York, Dec. 23.—The Cunard turbine Mauretania broke loose from her moorings at the foot of West. Thirtieth street during a light gale to-day and crashed into a small fleet of barges, scows and canal-boats, one of which she sank.

A member of the crew, who was on the forward deck to the pier parted and the big vessel's nose swung round to the north into the little craft. It happened so quickly that it was impossible for the smaller boats to get out of the way. The Mauretania was finally drawn back to her berth.

HEAVY REMITTANCES. The Chinese have been strongly represented in the banking business of Victoria during the past few days. This is not unusual. It is not due to the Christmas season. It is merely due to the incentive which they may have received from the example of their white brethren during the holiday time to let loose a few dollars heavenward.

TRAGIC SUICIDE AT BANNOCK CITY. Prospector Hanged Himself From Rafter of Cabin—Had Been Drinking Heavily.

Grand Forks, Dec. 23.—Dick Winchester, a prospector at Bannock City, twelve miles from here on the North Fork of Kettle river, has committed suicide by hanging himself in his cabin. His body was found hanging from a rafter by a short rope about his neck, while his toes touched the floor.

Coroner Kingston did not consider an inquest necessary. Prior to his taking his life the dead man had been drinking heavily. His body was first discovered by his old friend John Anderson. This terrible tragedy has cast a gloom over Bannock City and the vicinity, as the dead man had many friends among the prospectors.

AGONY PICTURED ON FACES OF DEAD. Victims of Darr Mine Explosion Found in Praying Posture—39 Bodies Recovered.

Jacob's Creek, Pa., Dec. 23.—Six more bodies were taken from the Darr mine to-day, making a total of 39 to date. The condition of the six bodies brought to the surface was good, with the exception of a picture of agony on their faces. No mutilation was evident.

Rescuers state that a number of the men were found on their knees, showing their faces to the sky in prayer when the black dust caused death. Perhaps 50 per cent of the dead will never be identified. The unidentified bodies were placed in a large tent near the mine, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily friends and relatives will be allowed to visit and view the bodies in the hope that some will be recognized.

ATLAS LOAN COMPANY. Final Dividend of Defunct Institution Declared—Realization Better Than Expected.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—A final dividend of 4 per cent on the dollar has been declared by the liquidator of the defunct Atlas Loan Co. of St. Thomas, which collapsed over four years ago. This makes the total amount realized by eleven hundred depositors 4 per cent. The realization was much better than was expected.

CRUSHED TO DEATH. Horse Falls on 14-Year-Old Lethbridge Boy, Killing Him Instantly.

Lethbridge, Dec. 23.—Geo. Salmon, a 14-year-old boy was killed at Raymond yesterday. A horse he was driving got into a place in a large tent near the mine, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily friends and relatives will be allowed to visit and view the bodies in the hope that some will be recognized.

RETURN OF B. C. MINES. Ore Shipments and Smelter Receipts of Southeastern District During Past Week.

Nelson, Dec. 23.—The ore shipments and smelter receipts of the mines in southeastern British Columbia districts for the past week and year to date in tons are:

Shipments	Week	Year
Boundary	21	1,141,973
Rossland	7,427	278,052
East of Col. River	3,421	180,011
Total	10,869	1,599,036

Mexico Jail Stormed by Townspeople Egged on to Release Imprisoned Priest.

Mexico City, Dec. 23.—Riots at Sihuautlan, a village near Guadalajara have resulted from the arrest of a priest on a charge of fighting with a townsman.

The priests and nuns called upon the townspeople to avenge this insult to the priest. Several hundred women and boys armed with clubs and a few revolvers attacked the town lock-up and released the padre. The priests have fled to the country fearing that they will be punished. The nuns known as Sisters of Mercy took a prominent part in the disorder. The disturbance was finally quelled.

PRIVATE BILL NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the legislative assembly of the Province of British Columbia, at next session, for an act to incorporate a company with power to build, equip, maintain and operate a line of lines of way of standard gauge from a point near Port Simpson, in Work Channel, in the Coast District, British Columbia, by the most feasible and practicable route to a point on the eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia, via south-west side of Work Channel, to Skeena River, thence up the north side of the Skeena River to a point near Selkirk, thence to the junction of the Skeena River, thence up the right bank of this river eight (8) miles to the Skeena River, thence up this river by a low tide to the head of Babine Lake, thence northwesterly to the head of Piney Summit Lake to Pine River Pass, thence northwesterly to the head of Moberly's, and down this river to Moberly's, and thence by the Peace River to easterly boundary of the said Province of British Columbia, with authority to construct, equip, maintain and operate branches from any point on the above line or lines not exceeding in one case twenty (20) miles in length, with power to construct, acquire, own, maintain, operate and control, and to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of, any lands, rights, or other interests in aid of the construction of the company's line of way, with power to use, own and operate, and to construct, equip, maintain and operate, any other lines of way, and to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of, any lands, rights, or other interests in aid of the construction of the said line of way.

J. P. WALLS, Solicitor for the Applicants, Station Square, Victoria, B. C.