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TELEGRAM

284854

From THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS
To THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

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LONDON,

and therefore many officers and men were drowned before rescue could be organized from other vessels. The lists of survivors have already been made public and I deeply regret to inform the House that upwards of 800 officers and men have lost their lives. The Admiralty immediately announced the loss of this fine ship. Serious as this loss is it does not affect the margin of security in heavy vessels which remains ample. Meanwhile an intensive search of the anchorage has not yet yielded any results. It is clear, however, that after a certain time the harbour can be pronounced clear as any U-Boat would have to rise to the surface for air or perish. All necessary measures are being taken to increase the precautions which in the late war proved effectual. For the rest I must await the report of the Board which is now examining the event in full technical detail. Ends.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS.

*Read
M. King
21-10-39*

Received Ottawa: 7.10 P.M.