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sat carelessly in various cabins, some smoking, others quietly talking.

Then came a grinding crash. The floating hotel had staggered, seemed to recover, and plunged forward again. A shower of ice masses fell on her forward part, crushing to death steerage passengers and members of the crew stationed there. For a moment or two things were quiet; then came shouts of alarm. From their cabins rushed men and women in the flimsiest of night attire. Some were panic stricken; but the alarm did not last. The Titanic was "unsinkable," all had been assured of this fact. Most of the men and women aboard believed this statement made by the line officials and owners. A few of the stronger minded went back to bed.

But within five minutes Captain Smith realized that his great charge

was wounded unto death.

"Man the lifeboats," came the order from the bridge. The great steel plates of the hull had been started. Rivets and bolts had been sheared off as a grocer's knife passes through cheese, and the water-tight bulkhead doors were useless.

The water was rushing into the hull from many wounds as Wireless Operator Jack Phillips, on orders from Captain Smith, pressed down his great key and by wireless far aloft sent this frantic appeal

"Come quickly! We have struck an iceberg and are sin'ing." The message went flashing through the air. The deck stewards rushed through the corridors rapping frantically on the doors of occupied cabins. All were told that danger was imminent; some heeded, and,

grasping the first clothing they could find, they rushed on deck. Others refused to come out. They would not believe there was danger.

On deck, boats' crews were at their posts; big lifeboats had been shoved around ready to be put over the side. Women and children were picked up bodily and thrown into them. The rule of the sea,—Women and Children First—was being enforced.

One after another the boats went over the side. Then a cry was set up. "There are no more boats," was shouted. Consternation seized upon all that remained. They had believed there would be room enough for all. Uncontrollable terror seized many. They fought for life belts. Some frantically tried to tear loose the deck fittings, hoping to make small rafts that would sustain them until help would come. But every!