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THE DAILY MAIL.

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WEATHER REPORT.
Toronto (noon)—East Coast, moderate winds, fine to-day. Thursday: Easterly gales with sleet or rain. West Coast: Winds increasing to gales from Eastward with sleet or rain to-night and Thursday.

INQUIRY OPENED INTO TERRIBLE 'ICE' DISASTER

Captain Randall of the Resene Ship Bellaventure is Examined and Tells His Story.

SEVERAL SURVIVORS ALSO ON THE STAND

They Tell of the Events of the Two Days of Disaster and Death on the Floe.

An official inquiry into the circumstances of the Newfoundland sealing tragedy was opened at the Court House yesterday.

The Attorney General, Hon. R. A. Squires, K.C., and the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Hutchings, K.C., appeared on behalf of the Crown to assist in the enquiry; Mr. Warren, K.C., on behalf of Bowring Bros. and Capt. Abraham Kean; Mr. Morine, K.C., and Mr. Lloyd also watched the case on behalf of the men.

The Attorney General said Mr. Hutchings would assist the Magistrate in conducting the enquiry.

Capt. Robert Randall, Master of the Bellaventure, swore he had been prosecuting the sealfishery returning last Saturday, 4th inst. On Tuesday, March 31st, the Bellaventure about forty miles E.S.E. of Spiller's Ridge, Bonavista, Newfoundland and Bonaventure in sight, Newfoundland bore N.W. from us and about five miles away. Bonaventure about N. half W. about eight miles away.

Saw the Kite

We sighted steamer we took to be the Kite about 10 a.m. bearing W. Newfoundland and Bonaventure not then in sight. Before that shifted our position about fifteen miles South. Did not put crew out until 1 p.m. Weather conditions about 1 a.m. fine and clear, but sky was overcast. Very little indications of storm all the morning—not of severe storm. The barometer did not give any indication in the early morning. The barometer gradually fell towards noon and just slightly commenced to snow about noon.

The wind at this time was about S.E. all morning—but there was scarcely any wind. Slightly increased up to noon. The wind and snow increased considerably in the afternoon. It became had weather all at once between 2 and 3 p.m. At 4.30 p.m. it was a blizzard, could not see any distance. The wind about the same direction, S.E. it was a little frosty. There was not as much frost about eight or nine it became milder, the wind a little more Easterly and increased. After that I turned in—about 10 a.m.

Men Out in Afternoon

I put my own men on the ice between 1 and 2 p.m. They remained out about an hour. I picked them up, because there were no more seals there, not on account of weather. I was also anxious to reach position where the Red Cross boats and Bonaventure were. The ships were N. by W., but not in sight.

The ice was good where we were, but not loose. The men did not travel more than a mile from ship. I was up two or three times during the night and I could not see the length of ship owing to storm. The wind had changed mostly North, and it became quite frosty. That weather continued until

'NEWFOUNDLAND' IN PORT AFTER TRAGIC VOYAGE.

STORY AS TOLD BY THE CREW OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Some of the Twenty-Nine Men Who Turned Back on the Day of the Storm

TELL WHAT PROMPTED THEM TO THIS ACTION.

Their Caution Saved Them From the Fate Which Overtook So many Comrades.

To-day, all interest is centred in the Newfoundland, and attention is turned to her captain and her survivors.

The Daily Mail knowing that all eyes are centred on her, and that every one is anxious to hear the story of the survivors, devote considerable space to her.

We have told the story of the young commander, Capt. Kean, and we now tell of the 29 brave fellows who left on that eventful morn, but who would not court death and returned to the Newfoundland and escaped with their lives.

Some one may have called them cowards, but their conduct does not merit the term. We believe them heroes just as much as the poor fellows who died. They knew they were human, they were men of experience, they knew what it would mean to be out in a blizzard all night. The Greenland disaster was fresh in their

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9 a.m. on Wednesday. Then it cleared at intervals. About noon we could see about two miles, between the squalls. It gradually became better during the afternoon. About 3 p.m. the sky was quite clear but there was quite a ground drift on ice.

Sighted Stephano

We saw the Stephano about 1 p.m. about E.N.E., three miles away. We saw no sign of any ships in the ice. After 3 p.m. there was a drift, not so much, which prevented us from seeing any distance. Our men went out at 2.30 and remained out till dark. Some going two miles and perhaps a little more. Wind was N.W. all night and part of next day, gradually dying out. The drift gradually decreasing until dusk there was scarcely any. Wednesday night continued fine, but very frosty.

On Thursday we got under way about dawn. The ice was very tight and heavy. We steamed S.W. a little distance, about a quarter of a mile, and we turned S.E. As soon as it was daylight a barrel-man named Newhook reported he saw some men on ice, about two miles S.E. He said two men were coming towards us, and the others I lost sight of.

Staggered Along

By this time the barrel-man reported the men appeared to be staggering, as if something was wrong. We concluded the men had been out all night. We gradually drew near to one man because we were butting and he was

CAPTAIN KEAN IS OVERCOME BY TRAGEDY

Deeply Affected by the Disaster Which Swept Away Sixty-Nine of his Crew.

NEWS CAME TO HIM AS A THUNDERBOLT.

Thought All Along His Men Were Snug and Safe on Board His Father's Ship.

At 9.30 last night the S.S. Newfoundland steamed into port. She was expected and the night being fine hundreds of eyes were watching her as she came through the narrows.

Slowly she came along until she reached the centre of the harbor, off A. Harvey Co.'s premises, where the anchor was dropped and her voyage which has caused so much sadness and bereavement was brought to a close.

All on board were glad to be in port once more. They sailed away a merry lot, but the return was vastly different. Hardly a man spoke, and then not above a whisper, for the terrible strain of the past week had its effect on them.

Boarded by Doctor

Dr. Campbell first boarded her, followed shortly after by newspaper men and others.

Dr. Campbell examined the men, gave the ship a clean bill of health, and then compared the roll call with the former list, and also that of the dead and suffering.

When Capt. Kean met friends from home the terrible tragedy became uppermost in his mind again and he broke down.

In fact ever since the fateful storm he has thought of very little else, and one could not but have the greatest sympathy for him.

Ever in His Mind

He is young to hold such a responsible position, but since the tragedy he has thought of nothing else. Everyone in the city was anxious for the captain's account of the accident, but he has little to tell that

walking towards us. When he got near to the ship, I could see he was in bad shape. I sent two or three men to help him on board.

He reported one hundred men out from the Newfoundland since Tuesday morning. He also said there were fifty men dead. We knew some of them must be in bad shape by that time. The ice being so tight the ship could not get to them. I sent out three or four men to help the second man, who was then nearing the ship. I think one of the two was Jesse Collins, but I am not quite clear.

All Hands Out

The second hand suggested we turn out all our men to search. We immediately did this, and gave the relieving party spirits and blankets. The second-hand men returned and

(Continued on page 4.)

NO UNIONIST CANDIDATE TO BE PUT UP.

London, April 8.—The official announcement is made that the Unionists will not permit any candidate to oppose Asquith in the election in East Fife.

YOUNG CHINAMAN HAS CONFESSED TO BRUTAL CRIME

Struck His Mistress With a Chair and Then Choked Her to Death.—Buried Body in the Furnace and Told Husband Wife Had Gone Out.

Vancouver, April 7.—Jack Kong, a 17 year old Chinese, suspected of the murder of Mrs. Chas. J. Millard, confessed to-day. He told the police he committed the crime at breakfast Wednesday last. Mrs. Millard found fault with him, and he struck her with a chair, stunned her and then choked her to death. Later he took the body to the basement where he cut it up and placed it in the furnace piece by piece. He hid the clothing in order to convince Millard his wife had gone out in the morning.

It was not already been published. The Newfoundland struck the hoods on the 14th of March, and a barrel was thrown over to mark the spot. The ship steamed around a few miles but the next morning the barrel could not be located.

It will be remembered that messages were sent in that the Newfoundland was doing well with the seals, but the large patch which she saw on the 14th could not be located again and she secured only about 500.

On the morning of the storm the Newfoundland's men started out early for the seals which were believed to be some miles from the ship. The captain could see the Stephano and other ships, and he remarked that it was hard to see the other ships in the seas and the Newfoundland jammed and unable to budge.

The second hand remarked "we can walk to them," and with that the men set out.

Started Early

It was shortly after 7 a.m. when the men set out, and there was not the slightest indication of the storm. The sealers took their supply of provisions as is customary.

As the distance from the ship to the seals was considerable, he told the men to go to the Stephano if anything happened.

All left the ship, over a hundred and fifty in number, with merry hearts, and the captain and the few others left on board watched them run along on their journey which to many was the road to death.

About 11 a.m. he saw a number of them stop, and then noticed that they were returning.

He saw the others continuing on and going up to the Stephano. It was then spitting snow a little, but even at that time there were no indications of a big storm.

Twenty-nine men returned and

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WILL NOT OPPOSE ASQUITH IN THE EAST FIFE ELECTION

GREY WAS ABSENT FROM THE SECOND READING OF BILL

Suggestion That Federal Scheme Be Considered at Public Convention.

GOVERNMENT HAS MADE LAST CONCILIATION OFFER

Unionists Must Accept Six Year Exclusion or Swallow Bill as a Whole.

London, April 7.—Many ministers avoided taking part in the Home Rule debate. The strangest thing was the absence of Sir Edward Grey, who has gone north for a day or two, leaving Lord Morley in charge of the Foreign Office.

L. S. Amory suggests that the proposed Federal system be considered at a National convention to which M.P.'s would come as citizens, not as party politicians.

It appears certain that the Government has made its last offer at conciliation, and the Unionists must either accept the six year exclusion proposals or the whole Bill.

\$750,000 Damage Done by a Fire.

Decatur, U.S.A., April 7.—A fire this morning destroyed Linn and Scruggs department store and Powers' theatre, and many shops and offices. Loss \$750,000.

2 Bank Robbers Killed in Fight.

New Hazelton, April 8.—Two bandits were killed in a battle between robbers and a posse of citizens following the hold-up of the Union Bank of Canada ranch here.

Six men held up the bank and four have escaped. The quartette secured \$1100.

Jap. Politics In Confusion

Tokio, April 7.—The Japanese empire is thrown into a condition of utter political confusion by the inability of Viscount Kiyoura to form a cabinet under the premiership of Count Yamamata. The Viscount informed the Emperor to-day he had been compelled to give up the task entrusted to him. All political groups as well as the navy have gone on strike. The elder statesmen whom the newspapers refer to as the surviving remnant of old Japan were again summoned to the Palace to-day by the Emperor.

Advertise in The Daily Mail, the Brightest and Best Paper in Newfoundland.

GOVERNMENT IS REGARDED AS STRONGER

Debate of Monday Has Put it in a Much More Favorable Position.

UNIONISTS REMINDED THEY ARE NOT IN POWER.

Liberal Paper Declares Irish Difficulties Can Not Be Solved by Ballot Box.

London, April 8.—The Westminster Gazette, Liberal, considers the position after Monday's debate is relatively more favorable to the Government. It takes the Conservatives to task for forgetting that they are in opposition and not in the Government, adding that in these days no leader of the opposition ever comes to the table to make a speech without assuring himself he is master of the situation.

The Gazette declares that the difficulties of the Irish question have not been made by any party and cannot be removed by the ballot box.

It expresses the hope that in the interval of comparative repose now ahead, the Irish-unity sentiment will be strong enough to solve the six years' problem.

(Continued from 2nd column)

minds. They knew the viciousness of the storm and rather than take the chances of their lives, they returned.

Result Justified Them

Had the storm left no deadly results in its wake, they would have been stigmatized as cowards, but who will call them such now.

Life was sweet to them, as it is to most of us. Wives, children and parents depended on them, and rather than jeopardize themselves they returned to their vessel.

Knowing that the city and outports is waiting for the story of these men The Daily Mail reporter interviewed them, and gleaned the following from Tobias Cooper, Bayly's Cove, Bonavista; John Conway and Jeremiah Conway, brothers, of Turk's Cove, T.B.

They are ordinary sealers and the account they give, marks them as early witnesses for the enquiry. They had already prepared a statement for Mr. Morine, the solicitor.

"We believe that justice will be done us," said Cooper to The Mail, "and we are all glad that Mr. Morine is with us to look after us."

"We are human and the conditions at the icefields must be changed in future or it will not be an easy matter to get men to go in the wooden ships, at least," he continued.

For the Enquiry

Much of their story we will not publish. Let it be made known first at the enquiry before Judge Knight, to whom the sealers, The Daily Mail, and the general public have every confidence.

The men left the ship at 6.45 a.m. (Continued on page 6.)

MEETING HELD TO ORGANISE RELIEF FUND

Big Gathering Crowded the Court House to Capacity—Practical Steps Are Taken.

MEETING ADDRESSED BY PROMINENT MEN.

Sympathy the Keynote of the Proceedings—Fund Organised on Permanent Basis.

PRACTICAL SYMPATHY.

Ottawa, April 7. Hon. J. R. Bennett, Acting Prime Minister, St. John's.

With the consent of your Government I propose submitting to Parliament an appropriation in aid of the families of those lost in the recent calamity, and of the survivors.

Kindly let me know whether your Government will approve. I hope you have news of the Southern Cross.

R. L. BORDEN.

The Court House was crowded to capacity last night with a representative gathering. An interesting sympathetic tone pervaded the whole evidence and business, and professional men as well as citizens in general showed a wholehearted desire to do something practical on behalf of the widow and the orphan.

Notable Gathering.

The Administrator, Sir W. H. Horwood, presided, and among the others present were His Lordship—Bishop Jones, Rev. Mons. Roche, V.G., Rev. Dr. Cowperthwaite, Hon. J. R. Bennett, Acting Premier; Hon. M. P. Cashin, Hon. S. D. Blandford, Mr. J. M. Kunt, Deputy Mayor Martin, Mr. J. S. Mun, Hon. J. R. Harris, Hon. R. A. Squires, Mr. Gerald Harvey, Mr. J. C. Hepburn, Hon. W. C. Job, R. B. Job, Rev. P. Fenwick, A. B. Morine, G. Shea, P. Knowling, J. C. Calder, W. Woodford, Councillor Mullaly, Rev. Dr. Curtis, J. A. Clift, H. E. Cowan, H. Brownrigg, Rev. Dr. Greene, William Cook, R. C. Smith, Brig. Morehan, Adj. Cdr. Capt. W. Winsor, W. A. Ellis, Hon. M. P. Gibbs, W. Campbell, Hon. C. Emerson, R. J. Devereaux, C. Hutton, E. M. Jackman, J. T. Lamb, S. J. Foote, W. McNeill, F. Bradshaw, J. V. O'Dea, F. W. Angel, J. J. Fenelon, Harold Bishop, W. M. Clapp, R. G. Winter, J. A. Winter, F. W. Ayre, S. O. Steele, J. B. Mitchell, J. C. Calver, J. Sellars, M. F. Sullivan, Arch Macpherson, H. D. Carter, H. Macpherson, Dr. Fraser, Judge Johnson, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Macpherson, Capt. E. Dawe, A. W. Miller, D. Baird, Jr., G. Neal, A. W. Martin, A. C. Goodridge, E. A. Bowring, Rev. G. R. Godden, Rev. G. H. Hewitt, Rev. J. Brinton, W. W. White, S. G. Collier, Colin Campbell, W. F. Carter, C. Marshall, Rev. C. A. Whitmarsh, Leo Carter, F. J. Morris, H. Blair, F. MacNamara, F. B. Wood, P. J. Summers, Rev. Canon Bolt, J. Meehan, Soper (2), Moulton, J. W. Grant, A. Findlater, A. W. Miller, Burgess, A. McDougall.

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The Horse Did Not Appreciate The "Delicacy"---But Willie Got 10c. Worth of Movement

