

SECHelt WRECKAGE IS PICKED UP IN STRAITS

Life-Boats, Doors, Planking and Other Articles From Ill-Fated Vessel are Found—Number of Dead Uncertain.

(From Monday's Daily.)

DROWNED

Among the drowned are:
J. W. Burns, aged 50, of Sooke, and Mrs. Burns, his wife.
George King Newton, aged 26, of Victoria, a surveyor.
J. I. Henderson, aged 26, of Victoria, lieutenant for Messrs. Grant, Smith & Co.
Capt. H. V. James, aged 27, master and part owner of the Sechelt.
Hugh Young, of Vancouver, engineer of the Sechelt.

Ranking as one of the unfathomable mysteries in the history of shipping on the Pacific Coast, the marine disaster of last Friday afternoon, when the steamer Sechelt sank, carrying an unknown number of persons to their death, is only rivaled by the foundering of the steamer St. Denis last December and H. M. S. Condon, several years ago. Not twenty miles from Victoria the vessel met her fate and every person aboard was drowned long before the slightest intelligence of the catastrophe had reached this city.

With not a solitary survivor the details of how the steamer met her fate will never be known, although shipping men along the waterfront advance different theories based on the scant reports received from the Indians of Church Point, who are stated to have been the only eye-witnesses of the appalling tragedy.

According to D. Helmcken, K. C., who went out to the scene of the disaster yesterday, two pairs of oars, a peak cap, two life-buoys, one life-belt, double-edged axe driven into a piece of wood, two life-boats, bearing the name of the Sechelt, and to one of which was attached a set of davits, have been cast up by the sea in the vicinity of Church Point. The two boats were badly smashed when discovered, but as to whether they were broken when battered on the shore or before they got loose from the wreck is not known.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

Premier Asquith to Preside at Opening and Hon. Lewis Harcourt Later

London, March 28.—Sessions of the Imperial conference will be held at the foreign office and will cover four weeks. Premier Asquith will preside at the opening session and Hon. Lewis Harcourt subsequently.

In deference to the expressed wish of the visiting delegates, the government is not accepting of their behalf any outside social invitations, but there will be a foreign office party and several banquets.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE

Man Believed to Have Been Murdered and Body Thrown Into River

South Bend, Wash., March 27.—Wallace Stuart, former state representative from Pacific county, president of the Takelard Oyster Co., and one of the best known and most largely interested oyster men of Washington, has been missing since last Wednesday night and fears are entertained today that his body lies at the bottom of the Willapa river.

to see the vessel sink, although they noticed that she was faring badly in passing the Race.

Additional wreckage was picked up yesterday afternoon by Richard Jackson, of Admiral's road, who was out cruising in the straits in his launch. He picked up a door and a life-belt, the former at the entrance to the harbor and the latter in the vicinity of Albert Head. Word was received from the William Head quarantine station this morning that one of the long seats which were situated on the upper deck of the steamer had been found there.

For the first time since the disaster the telephone wires between this city and William Head have been in working order late this afternoon, but the residents there could give no further information regarding the foundering of the Sechelt. Nearly every person who witnessed the departure of the steamer from the station for Sooke has a different opinion as to how many passengers there were aboard and how many left the vessel at the station.

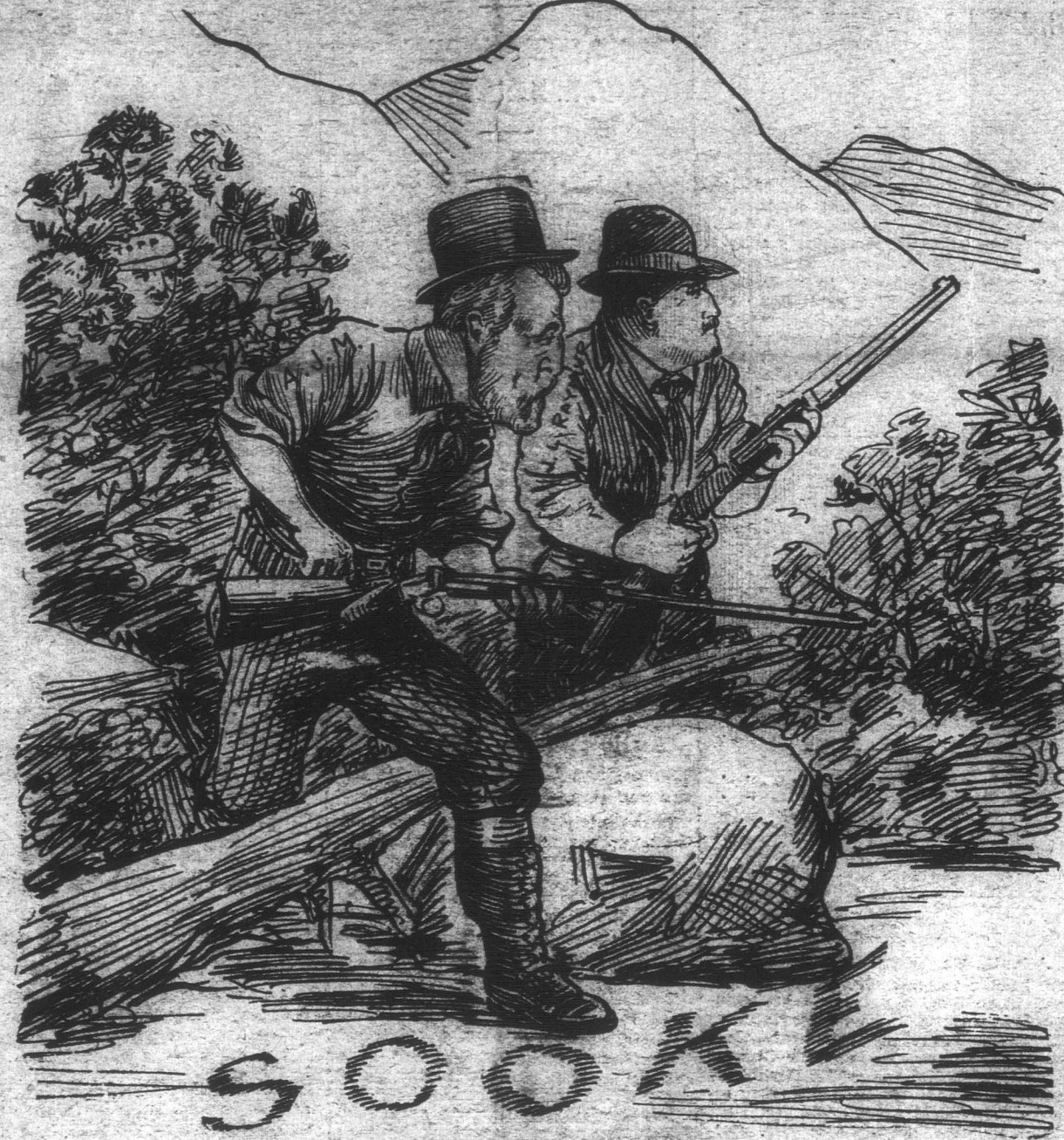
It is doubtful whether the exact number will ever be known, as the books kept in which the number of passengers aboard was entered were on the ship when she foundered in the straits. The names of the fireman, two deckhands and Chinese cook also cannot be learned. They are believed to have come here from Vancouver on the vessel.

None of the boats which were out yesterday, nor the patrol which was instituted along the beach, were successful in discovering any of the bodies. A rumor was afloat on Saturday evening that a launch cruising in the vicinity of the disaster had sighted two bodies in the tide eddies, but owing to darkness was unable to recover them. It is looked upon as almost an impossibility that any of the bodies will have come to the surface yet, as the majority of those aboard were in the cabin at the time and were caught like rats in a trap. It takes at least eight days for a drowned person to come to the top, and as the passengers were inside the bodies will not rise until the vessel breaks up.

ABANDONS PROPOSED TRIP TO FAR NORTH

Earl Grey Will Not Travel to Mouth of Mackenzie River

Ottawa, March 27.—Owing to his departure from Canada early in September just prior to the coming of the Duke of Connaught, Earl Grey has decided to abandon his proposed trip to the Mackenzie river to the Arctic Ocean and thence around through the Behring Straits to Victoria on the cruiser Rainbow. Preliminary arrangements for the trip had been made but His Excellency has concluded he would not be able to finish this trip through the Canadian hinterland in time for the carrying out of the usual arrangements of having the departing Governor-General pass the incoming one on the Atlantic. The proposed visit of His Excellency to the West Indies has also been abandoned.



A MUNICIPAL FARGO-COMEDY. "Has anybody here seen Topp?"

NEW YORK HOLocaust CLAIMED 143 LIVES

Four-Fifths of Victims of Conflagration Were Girls—District Attorney Will Make Thorough Investigation Into Horror.

(Times Leased Wire.)
New York, March 27.—One hundred and forty-three blackened and mangled bodies, of which all but 59 have been identified, with 14 in hospitals, of whom five will die, was the final death toll this afternoon of the victims of the Triangle Waist Company's fire in the Asch building. Four-fifths of the dead were girls.

BOUNDARIES OF REGINA EXTENDED

Area Increased to Thirteen Square Miles—Population Exceeds 20,000

Regina, Sask., March 27.—A proclamation issued by the lieutenant-governor-in-council increases the area of Regina city from three square miles to thirteen square miles. The new parliament buildings, mounted police barracks and some eighteen annexes and sub-divisions are now included within the city boundary. The population of the enlarged city is estimated at upwards of 20,000.

MINISTERS DEFEND RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

Hon. W. S. Fielding and Hon. Sydney Fisher Speak at Montreal—People Beginning to Realize Benefit of Freer Trade.

(Special to the Times.)
Montreal, March 27.—Windsor Hall was crowded on Saturday evening when a representative gathering heard Hon. W. S. Fielding and Hon. Sydney Fisher defend the reciprocity agreement.

UNIONIST FISCAL POLICY ATTACKED

CABINET MINISTERS SPEAK IN LANCASHIRE

Hon. L. Harcourt Says Government Will Not Criticize Canada's Actions

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