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The 'Florizel' Inquiry.

Thursday's Proceedings. David Griffiths, examined by Mr. Dunfield, said:—I am 24 years of age. I live at Long Harbor, P.B. I was a second class passenger on the Florizel on her last voyage. I was going to New York. I went to bed when she left the harbour and slept all night. I had a little seasick when I got up. I went on the smoking room deck. My room was No. 37. I came out to the room and somewhere. I did not know anyone on the ship, either passengers or crew. I came out on the lee side and saw the smoking room deck. About 40 people were there. I was the last to leave the smoking room deck. I was there about half an hour. There was a woman near me. I saw several others on the lee side. They were all washed away while I was there. There were three heavy seas came. I was washed to the lee side and down the gangway. I was taken off my legs. I was next washed forward. I was speaking to a man, he was I think a member of the crew, when I got up. I climbed over a boat that was across the deck. I was picked up and brought to the Marconi room where I came to. There was no confusion as far as I know. No one was refused admission to the Marconi Room.

To Mr. Warren: I was the last left on the smoking room deck. The man with a grey coat on was taken with the second sea. He was fairly tall and lightish. It was daylight. (Mr. J. S. Munn was the man described by witness.) There was also a woman. The woman was a short woman and about 35 years of age. I was fully dressed with the exception of my socks.

To Mr. Warren: I came up against a big crowd when I left my room. I did not have a lifebelt on.

To Mr. Warren: I did not know the man Daughines.

To Mr. Blackwood: There was a life belt in my room. I don't know how many life belts. There was a man from Torbay in the room with me. I do not know his name. I heard her strike. There was no one called me. I heard someone say the ship was ashore.

Alexander Fleet, sworn and examined by Mr. Dunfield, said: I am 24 years of age. I am a native of St. John's. I was a waiter on the Florizel for two years. I was in room 29 when she struck, balling water out which came through a broken port hole. I went to watch at 11 o'clock. A man named Daughines and Capt. Belliveau occupied the stateroom. Daughines was alone in the room. I went on the boat deck when she struck. I went to the boat where the carpenter was. He told me to get an axe. I got an axe but when I got back the boat was gone. I tried to get back to my room to get my coat. Gordon Ivany was my room

mate. Coming back I stood on the lee side of the smoking room. Gordon Ivany was with me. Several passengers were there. Some of them made an attempt to get forward. After getting forward I stayed outside the fiddley for while and then went to the Marconi Room. The fiddley was full when I got there. Thomas Hennesbury and I left for the Marconi Room together. I never saw him after. The Marconi room was filled it could not hold any more. There were two women in the Marconi Room. No one was refused admission to the Marconi Room.

To Mr. Warren: I did not hear Mr. Snow, the Purser, call the passengers. I was dressed in a pair of overalls at the time. I don't know of there being any women on the lee of the smoking room.

John Johnstone, examined by Mr. Dunfield, said: I am 22 years of age. I am a native of St. John's. I was pantry waiter on the Florizel. I came off duty at 8.30 and got up again at 4.30 to look after the storeroom, as there was work to be done there. On my way I met Stanley Squires, he said we had struck ice. I met Miss Denief and also Mr. Moore near the smoking room. I stayed in the lee of the smoke room till about 6.05 when I made my way to the Marconi Room. I did not see anyone inside the smoking room.

I was washed down among the crowd on the lee side of the smoking room. I cannot say if anyone was washed away at that time. I picked myself up again. Miss Denief asked me to look after her and I did the best I could. Harry Snow was on the lee of the smoking room and told me he was looking after two women. Miss Denief came along with me to the Marconi Room. There was lots of room in the Marconi Room. Timmons, the oiler, had the door in his hand when I got there. Miss Cantwell came alone to the Marconi Room as far as I know. I did not hear her make any remark. As soon as they heard her voice she was admitted to the room.

To Mr. Gibbs: Miss Denief was very lightly clad. Considerable water had come down stairs when I saw Miss Denief. She said, "Save me." I said "I will do my best," and helping her upstairs I assisted her to the lee side of the smoking room. I grasped the rail with one hand and Miss Denief with the other. In getting forward to the Marconi Room we encountered considerable wreckage such as broken awnings, etc. When about the centre of the engine room sky-light three seas overtook us, I grasped the sky-light with one hand and held Miss Denief with the other. We were both drenched with the sea. There was two blankets in the drawer of the Marconi Room, one was given to Miss Cantwell and the other to Miss Denief. The reason why Timmons held the door was to keep the water out. I know Mullenwey died in the Marconi Room, he was very lightly clad. I do not know what time he died. The carpet on the Marconi deck was tacked up to replace the broken door. I have no idea how the sea was between 2 and 4 on Sunday evening.

To Mr. Warren: My duty does not take me to any stateroom. Mr. Gardiner was in the Marconi Room, he had a wrist watch and told me the time. He said it was 6.05 o'clock.

James Dwyer, sworn and examined by Mr. Dunfield: I am 26 years of age. I am a native of St. John's. I was a waiter on the Florizel for the past 7 years. I got up about 4.15. There was a little leak in one of the rooms so I got up to see about it. I went to No. 1 room which was occupied by Mr. Munn to see if he wanted anything. Major Sullivan just came out. Major Sullivan was fully dressed. Mr. Munn was in bed. I asked Mr. Munn if he wanted anything. He said no, and remarked that the ship was rolling heavily. My duty is to clear away the Social Hall. While I was at work down the alleyway on the port side, the ship struck. Some one sang out it was ice. Afterwards I heard someone say it was the rocks. The Purser gave me orders to get the passengers out. I went to every room and told them to get lifebelts on and get out as the ship was on the rocks. I had ten

rooms to attend to. I then went down and got an overcoat for myself and came up on deck just as the lights went out. I went to the lee side of the smoking room. The three engineers were there and also Johnson. It was dark. I did not see any women or children. I got on top of the smoking room. There was two there I recognized Mr. Moore and Miss Barrett. They were fully dressed. I did not see any dead bodies. I saw the smoke room deck starting so I got down and hopped over to the Marconi Room. When I got there it was filled. The only person I saw near the fiddley was Mr. Burnham. The Marconi Room door was washed away. I was holding on to it at the time. There were only five men on the fiddley. I was on the fiddley from before noon on Sunday till rescued. It was very cold in the fiddley. We warmed ourselves with a tarpaulin. We started a watch for an hour on and an hour off. Mr. James and I took the first watch and Major Sullivan and Mr. Burnham took the other watch. When off watch we covered ourselves with the tarpaulin. At night we altered the watch to half an hour. Mr. James was on the job all the time. He kept us in good spirits all the time.

To Mr. Gibbs: I have been Captain's Steward ever since Capt. Martin has been on the ship. I was in his room last, shortly after the ship left. I usually found the Captain on the bridge at 10 o'clock at night and at 5 o'clock in the morning. It was my duty to bring him a cup of tea at those hours. Since the war began I have not known Captain Martin to take off his clothes while at sea. I saw Mr. Munn come out of his room and go to the room where his little girl and her nurse was. I did not see him after.

To Mr. Warren: Betty Munn's room was No. 18 on the starboard side. I did not see Mr. Munn on the smoking room deck. I notified all those in my section to put on left belts and get on deck. There are extra life belts for children kept in the locker of the wardrobe and are very easy to get at.

To Mr. Gibbs: I saw Johnstone with Miss Denief in the lee of the smoking room. Miss Denief would have no chance of getting to the Marconi Room without his help or the help of some one else.

To Mr. Blackwood: I did not see any one in the smoking room. I was not there. My rooms were 1 to 9 and room 20. Those who occupied the rooms in my section were:— No. 1. Mr. J. S. Munn. No. 2. Major Sullivan and Mr. J. P. Kieley. No. 3. Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Smythe. No. 4. Mr. A. Ledingham and Mr. R. Wright. No. 5. Mr. Daley and Mr. P. J. Larcy. No. 6. Mr. E. Froude and Mr. J. Miller. No. 7. Mr. T. McNeil and Mr. J. McCoubrey. No. 8. Mr. W. Moore. No. 9. Mr. W. Earle and Mr. M. O'Driscoll. No. 20. Mr. John Parsons, Corp. Snow, Mr. R. Burnham and Mr. Chown.

All were in their rooms at the time she struck except Mr. Kieley and Major Sullivan.

Henry Dodd, sworn and examined by Mr. Dunfield, said: My age is 21 years. I am a native of St. John's. I was mess-room steward on the Florizel. I was on her 7 or 8 months. I was turned in at the time she struck. I woke up at about 4.40 when she gave a heavy roll. She hit just shortly after. Faddy Lynch was in the room with me. I went to the kitchen and saw the baker and just reached there when she struck. I looked down in the engine room and saw it fill up with water. It was about ten minutes after she struck. I

then made for the deck going over the smoking-room stairs. I got Mr. Cantwell and Miss Denief were in the Marconi room when I got there. I remained there till I was taken off. To Mr. Blackwood—I worked with Mr. Butler before I went to sea. I was speaking to him before we sailed. The three of us went out on the deck. I was washed away from them. I had hold of Mrs. Butler's hand and Mr. Butler had hold of the other hand. To Mr. Gibbs—They were starting to dress when I went to their room. I did not have life belts on. Mrs. Butler did not have much clothes on. Jacob Finsett, ship's carpenter, examined by Mr. Dunfield, said: I am 32. I belong to Safe Harbor, near Greenspond. I am ship's carpenter of the Florizel. I have been five years with the Red Cross line and was on the Stephano and the Florizel. I came off duty at 8.30. It is my duty to stand by the anchor and windlass when leaving the dock. I was called at 4.40. I was in bed in the meantime. The cargo was loose in No. 2 hold. I did not do anything with the cargo as I did not have time. By the time I got dressed she struck. Dooley called me and told me the cargo got loose. I went on the saloon deck after leaving my room. The bosun left the room with me. I heard the captain say to get the boats ready. I was cutting away the cover off a boat when the sea took her away. I then held on to the rail around the Marconi room. I hung on there for quite a while and watched a chance to get on the bridge. The lee side was blocked with boats so I had to go to the port side to the bridge. I saw the chief mate, Mr. Crocker and others there. I went down to the captain's room and went back again to the bridge. A sea then came and knocked me down; when I got up everyone was gone but Mr. Ledingham. I then went forward on the main deck to the oilers' room in the forecastle and stayed there till I was rescued. Joseph Bird was there. Mr. Ledingham came there after. I did not hear Mr. Ledingham say he was going to follow me forward.

To Mr. Gibbs—My duty is to stand by the windlass till she was out of harbor, and then go around and examine the hatches. I am on watch all day. The ship was going all right when I turned in. The water was covered with sash or slob. I have been on her 3 1/2 years. I was ten springs to the sealfishery. The slob would not interfere with the speed of the Florizel.

Albert Fagan examined by Mr. Dunfield: I was born at Brookfield, St. John's West near Bowring Park. My room was No. 38. I was in bed at the time she struck. I thought she struck ice. I did not get out of bed. I heard some one say she was ashore. R. J. Fowler was in my stateroom. I said to him she is ashore. He said she is going through ice. I got up about 5 minutes after. When I got out the lights were gone and about a foot of water was in the alleyway and in my room. There was something blocking the companion way. I held to the rail that runs across the ship. I got to the lee of the smoking room. I held on for 15 or 20 minutes. There was a lot of people there. I saw one woman and a man. I took him to be her husband. The man was washed off his feet and taken away. Shortly after the woman was taken away. I got forward to the fiddley and found it was filled up. I went to the Marconi room. Outside it were 3 or 4 men holding on to the rail. I held on there for a while; when they went in I followed them. It was not quite daylight when I got to the Marconi room. I saw two women there on Sunday. I heard some one try the door. I heard some one say "the place is filled up," but I think the party who applied was let in after.

To Mr. Blackwood—I am quite sure some one said "the room was filled up," or something similar to that. The door was opened about a minute after. I do not know who was on the door. I am not sure if the two women were in the room at the time. I was not called by any of the officials at the time the ship struck. I did not put on a life belt. I knew it was there; we had been talking about it during the night. Two life belts were there.

Alfred Thomas Hatchard, examined by Mr. Dunfield: I am 33 years of age. I am a native of Poole, England. I was gunner on the Florizel. I belonged to the British Royal Naval Reserve. I joined the Florizel Nov. 21, 1917. She carried two gunners. We had all daylight watches of four hours at the guns and also kept watches at night. My first night watch was 12 to 4 o'clock on the last voyage. I am 18 years going to sea. I was in the trawler section in 1916 and came to Portsmouth in Jan. 1917 and was sent to Halifax in June last year. I was yachting and sometimes steamboating prior to the war. I had

the 1 to 2 o'clock lookout and the 3 to 4 lookout. I was standing by in the other two hours. When I came on watch it was blowing hard and snowing. She was making her usual course. She was not taking spray over the bow. I did not see any lights during my watch. There was something we thought was a light. I could see about a mile. It was not snowing about the time I supposed I saw a light. The second officer said he thought he saw the light. I told the captain I thought I saw a light, but as I did not see it the second time I thought I must have been mistaken. Both the second and I thought we saw the light. The reason I did not report it at first was because I thought it was imaginary. I observed the light about abeam. I heard the captain ask the mate if he saw a light. He also asked me and got the glasses and looked himself. I took it that the captain was making his usual enquiry. I did not catch the exact words the captain said. I don't remember seeing Mr. King with the glasses.

At this juncture adjournment was taken till 3 o'clock this afternoon when the further hearing of Mr. Hatchard's evidence will be resumed.

Patriotic Fund.

Adopts Resolutions on Death of Late J. S. Munn.

A meeting of the Trustees of the Patriotic Fund was held in the Board of Trade Rooms Wednesday afternoon, there being present Mr. John Browning, Acting Chairman; Hon. Dr. Lloyd, Prime Minister; Hon. Mr. Justice Kent, Hon. W. J. Ellis, J. Harvey and Mr. G. Winter, Mr. J. R. Bennett, Minister of Militia; Dr. V. P. Burke, M.B.E.; Messrs. C. P. Ayre, E. A. Bowring, A. Macpherson and W. S. Monroe, and Sir P. T. McGrath, Hon. Secretary. The latter, in the absence of the Chairman, Sir Edgar Bowring and the Vice-Chairman, Hon. Mr. P. Cashin, both out of the Colony at present, called the meeting to order and proposed that the chair be taken by Mr. John Browning, who has been acting as Chairman of the Executive Board for some time past, which motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Browning, on taking the Chair explained that the meeting had been called for the purpose of taking some fitting action in relation to the death of the late J. S. Munn, Honorary Treasurer, and stated that appropriate Resolutions would be submitted to the meeting for consideration. Hon. Dr. Lloyd then moved the following Resolutions:

WHEREAS the late John Shannon Munn was, from the beginning of the war until his untimely death in the recent Florizel disaster, associated with this Board as Honorary Treasurer of the Patriotic Fund and as Honorary Treasurer of the Finance Committee;

AND WHEREAS his performance of his duties in these capacities was marked by unselfish devotion to the task he had thus undertaken, and by an administrative efficiency which won general recognition, as well as by wise and prudent counsel, sound judgment, and courteous recognition for all claimants, and unremitting attention to all calls on his time and energies;

AND WHEREAS his demise deprives the Board of one of its most capable and energetic members, to whose co-operation in its work for years to come it had looked forward with confidence;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Board hereby places on record its deep sense of appreciation of the admirable services rendered by the late Mr. Munn in the performance of the laborious, exacting, and highly responsible duties attaching to his office in connection with this Board, and its heartfelt sorrow at the untimely decease of one who was a foremost worker in the Colony's war effort;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board tender its sincere sympathy to his relatives in their bereavement.

He prefaced this by a brief but apt address, in which he reviewed with much feeling the career of the late Mr. Munn who, when he (Dr. Lloyd) came to the Colony 25 years ago as a teacher in Bishop Field College, was one of the pupils there, being for a time in his class, and whose career he had followed both as a schoolboy, young man, and principal in the business community with the closest interest, and whose splendid qualities he extolled. He paid special tribute to the self-sacrificing labors of the late Mr. Munn as Honorary Treasurer of the Patriotic Fund and the Finance Committee, and felt that even now it would be dimly realized what a loss he would be both to philanthropic effort in the Colony and to its business interests as well.

Hon. Justice Kent, seconded the motion in another appropriate address in which he, too, spoke of the many admirable traits of the deceased gentleman, reviewed his excellent services in connection with the Colony's war endeavors since the opening of hostilities and spoke especially of the sympathetic and kindly spirit exhibited by the late Mr. Munn toward all whose circumstances required them to see him in the presentation of their cases for assistance or in regard to matters arising out of the expenditures under the Colony's auspices. The motion was then carried unanimously.

The Chairman next invited nominations for the position of Hon. Treasurer rendered vacant by Mr. Munn's tragic death, and intimated that his associate in the firm of Bowring Bros., Mr. E. A. Bowring, who had been acting as assistant to Mr. Munn, would be willing to assume the position, and he (the Chairman) thought that in view of the experience already gained by Mr. Bowring regarding the work, no better choice could be made; whereupon it was proposed by Hon. Justice Kent, seconded by Hon. Dr. Lloyd and carried unanimously, that Mr. E. A. Bowring be appointed Hon. Treasurer.

A vacancy on the Executive Board having been caused by Mr. Munn's demise, and the experience the past year or two having shown that owing to the absence of some of the members at various times it was desirable to have an additional nominee thereon, it was proposed by Mr. C. P. Ayre and seconded by Mr. A. Macpherson that Hon. M. G. Winter and Mr. W. S. Monroe be appointed thereto; which motion was unanimously adopted.

The fact that the Chairman, Sir Edgar Bowring, is absent from the Colony part of the year, and that the

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A vacancy on the Executive Board having been caused by Mr. Munn's demise, and the experience the past year or two having shown that owing to the absence of some of the members at various times it was desirable to have an additional nominee thereon, it was proposed by Mr. C. P. Ayre and seconded by Mr. A. Macpherson that Hon. M. G. Winter and Mr. W. S. Monroe be appointed thereto; which motion was unanimously adopted.

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