

THE OROMOCTO DROWNING.

EVIDENCE GIVEN BEFORE A CORONER'S JURY SATURDAY.

Oliver P. Simpson of Boston Tells of the Manner in which John Runciman Lost His Life While Attempting to Board the Victoria On Thursday Last.

Oromocto, July 29.—The coroner's jury to inquire into the sad drowning of John Runciman here on Thursday morning last, sat from 10 o'clock this morning till 4.30 in the afternoon hearing the testimony of witnesses. On Friday the jury empaneled by Coroner W. M. Thurott, empaneled by Coroner W. M. Thurott, sat and heard the evidence of Dr. Sheriff White, of Sanbury, who testified to having identified the body recovered from the river as that of John Runciman.

Today's sitting was fixed for 9 o'clock but the opening was delayed till 10 to await the arrival of the steamer from Fredericton with Capt. Stacey, the deck hands of the steamer and others interested. At 10 o'clock Coroner Thurott opened his court on the veranda of the Riverside Hotel. Mr. Daniel Murphy, barrister, of St. John, was present in the interests of the relatives of the deceased, and Mr. A. L. Sipp, who practices at Oromocto, was the first witness to call. Also present from the Star Line Company were Mr. Robert Orchard, the secretary-treasurer, Mr. F. Merritt, the agent at Fredericton, Vice-President Taylor and Capt. Stacey.

Dr. James F. Peake, who practices at Oromocto, was the first witness to call. He told of viewing the remains. Did not hold an autopsy. Did not consider one necessary. Concluded that death came to his death by drowning. There was some froth bubbling from deceased's mouth, a symptom of drowning. Noticed peculiar position of the limbs, indicating extreme muscular exertion immediately preceding rigor mortis, noticeable in most cases of drowning.

Oliver P. Simpson was called. He said he was Boston manager of the banking firm of Johns Brown & Co., of New York. He had been spending his vacation at Oromocto. Arrived a week ago last Thursday, stopping at the Hotel Hotel. First met John Runciman on Tuesday night at about 10 o'clock. He came to the hotel. Was with him the following day, and stated that his purpose in coming was to accompany his brother George home to St. John. Witness was aware that George was ill and deceased considered his presence was necessary to the welfare of his brother George. Because of his illness it was decided to go in a buggy to the wharf and the expectation as expressed at the time was to board the steamer at the wharf.

At the moment of starting from the house, Mrs. Stocker, who keeps the hotel, called attention to the small boat which usually meets the steamer in mid-stream, and which, at the time had left the wharf and was in sight from the boat. She suggested that we immediately go in the row boat which was in the river opposite the house and meet the steamer. We did so, and I, George Runciman, John Runciman and myself went in the small rowing boat together, I being the pilot and steering with the row boat. Mr. George Runciman hailed the steamer by waving an umbrella. The officials gave evidence of nothing this by repeated requests to hurry up. We reached the steamer, which at that time was slowly drifting. A deck hand who was on the step reached with his foot, catching the bow of our boat to bring us alongside. Mr. George Runciman stepped upon the steps of the steamer and got safely to the deck. The deck hand still remained on the steps. When John stepped from the boat on the steps of the steamer, which at that time had just begun to move, I noticed his right arm and his left hand, he clutched the rope leading down the side of the steps. His left foot was that moment on the lowest step of the stairway and seemed to me partly in the water.

The wash from the paddle wheels came strong against the steps and the boat, and I noted John Runciman still clinging to the rope, his right foot being still upon the row boat and before he lifted his right foot from that position the deck hand, who had been holding the boat with his foot at the bow, took away his foot and the steamer started at the same moment. The backwash from the paddle wheels washed the small boat away, leaving John Runciman still clinging to the rope. He seemed to be torn from his hold on the rope by the action of the backwash from the paddle wheels, and in a moment was struggling in the water. My boat was affected by the wash and drifted in the same direction with deceased. I attempted to reach him with the boat before he disappeared, but he had gone beneath the surface before I was near enough to reach him.

In a moment I saw him struggling in the water, seemingly five feet beneath the surface. I should say I was about five or six feet from him. I immediately removed my hat and coat and made a dive for him. I am a strong swimmer and in cases of unusual excitement am cool and collected. I reached deceased, whose face was upturned, and grabbed him by the shoulders. Immediately on my touching him he grabbed me with both hands round my neck. I came to the surface with him and freed his hold from my neck but his hands simply slipped down from my shoulders and clutched my arms. I spoke to him, saying "Breathe deep." He replied weakly "Yes, I was drowning water and could not release my arms to enable me to swim. I was forced to break his hold from one of my arms in order to keep from going down with him, and I had one arm free—my right arm.

My first thought was to reach the steamer, which had stopped and, I think, started to back up when we were struggling in the water. I should say

we were not more than 100 feet from the steamer at this time. We floated together toward the boat. Runciman's head being partly under water, I could see an attempt to launch a boat from the side of the steamer, but they were too late, as we had by that time reached the side of the steamer where the boat was, and I could feel the clutching of deceased at my legs, as he seemed to be gradually going down. Two men in rowboats reached for me, taking my arms and assisting me to the boat. At the moment I was lifted out of the water I felt Runciman clinging to my leg. I asked, "Did you get the man?" Some one replied "Yes," and I was assisted on board, refusing no attention from the officials of the steamer in any way after being taken on board. I spoke to George as I went on deck, saying "Runciman is all right." No one gave me—George or I—any attention except a passenger who, I since learned, to be a Mr. Elliott of Fredericton. He and he attended George Runciman while I made repeated requests to the purser to send me ashore at Oromocto. The gentleman who was asked to attend to me, but was told by the purser that he would piece me ashore at Marguerville. Mr. Elliott assisted me to procure a boat or boatman for a row to Oromocto. A gentleman standing near told me the boat had a boat in the water above the wharf at Marguerville. I went with him, got in the boat and was safely returned to the wharf. The boat across is here—Mr. Wm. H. Bent.

To Juror Morrow—The bow of the boat was drawn about three feet abreast of the steamer. Foreman Gilmore—At the time Mr. Runciman was clinging to the rope, did any of the deck hands have hold of him? Witness—There were as usual two hands on the steps, one on either side. One of them, however, seemed to be holding on above the other. The lower deck hand could have reached his arm at least, but did not do so. Seen any of the deck hands, or any of the crew, he received no assistance from the deck hands.

Juror White—When the man was in the water did any one throw a life buoy, or anything of the kind? Witness—There was absolutely nothing sent or thrown from the steamer. The boat was lowered, but never left the side.

Foreman Gilmore—What was the cause of his falling into the water? Witness—I should say he was thrown from the steps by the action of the steamer's wash caused by the quick starting of the steamer. Juror E. H. Kimball—At the time you were assisted into the boat, did you mean to get the man, did you mean to get him out of the water? Witness—When did you find out that that was not the case? Witness—I did not positively know it until I reached the wharf at Marguerville.

Juror Ward—Did you see any man give a bell or hear a bell given before deceased was thrown from the steps? Witness—Yes, I did. I only know of the actual fact of his starting. Mr. Simpson was subjected to a keen cross-examination by Mr. Elliott, who was the prosecutor. He examined deceased from three to five minutes in the water before he (witness) jumped, and during half the time deceased was in the water he said that he would estimate the time he, himself, was in the water at about eight minutes. Mr. Elliott produced a copy of the St. John Sun in which a copy of the St. John Sun was published.

Referring to an alleged interview with Capt. Stacey reported in the St. John Telegraph, it is correct as stated there that George Runciman called out as he was going aboard, "Good bye, boys!" This was objected to by Mr. Sipp and after a lengthy argument by counsel, was ruled out by the coroner. The foreman of the jury stated to the coroner that one of the jury wished to know if the jury might not ask that question, and was informed they might. Juror Morrow then put the same question to witness, who replied that he heard nothing of the kind. Mr. Sipp also cross-examined the witness at some length, he being in all some hours on the stand. When his testimony was concluded the witness was withdrawn till Tuesday morning at 9.30 o'clock.

There are eight or ten witnesses yet to be examined. Mr. Simpson left by evening train for his home in Boston.

Peace in South Africa Again.

PRETORIA, July 25.—Amicable relations between the volksraad and President Kruger have been restored. The conspiracy case against ex-British officers has been withdrawn, and the remaining prisoners were released today.

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HENRY CLEWS & CO.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF TRADE AND COMMERCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Stock Market Taking Its Summer Rest—Paper Currency Will Be Scarcer in the Autumn—Manufacturers Are Trying Hard to Catch Up With the Demands.

New York, July 29.—The stock market apparently taking its usual summer rest, and more of the prominent leaders are absent on vacations than in general; presumably enjoying the profits of the last bull campaign and waiting developments before inaugurating another. What the future of the market will be during the next six weeks is not easy to determine. Generally speaking, the conditions are highly favorable to an advance; but any forward movement is likely to be held more or less in check by apprehensions concerning the money market. Our bank reserves are low, and an active demand for money is expected very soon to meet crop and trade requirements, so that borrowers generally seem unable to forecast the future with real confidence. A little stringency on this score will do no harm; for the creation of a bull movement at this time would probably precipitate an undesirable reaction in the money market. Should moderate bounds be kept no reason for alarm about the money market. Firmness in rates are both probable and desirable, being a natural sequence of prosperous times. A good demand is likely for crop purposes; but it should be remembered that every year the West becomes less dependent upon the East on this account. A bull movement, however, owing to trade activity; but here, too, there are offsets from the fact that merchants have better resources than ordinarily, and the big trusts which generally carry heavy cash balances will supplement large quantities of commercial paper that formerly came upon the market. Added to these offsets are the facts that very considerable amounts of time loans will be made in the money market, and any sharp rise in money rates would probably have gold imports from Europe. Nevertheless, the money market is not a bull factor for some time to come.

Indications point to a scarcity of paper currency during the summer months. As currency reform is still a question of the future, it is imperative that the treasury department take some steps for relief. As a matter of fact, the treasury department has not been able to do so. When Secretary Carlisle doubted his right to issue gold certificates the reserve was below the \$100,000,000 mark. An increase of \$246,000,000, and increasing daily; and that what might have been practical in the early part of the year is now a thing of the past. Mr. Gage, however, is a practical financier of high reputation; and it is hardly likely that he will make any such mistake. Some relief may be had in the form of bank circulation, but this is problematical while present restrictions remain.

The general business situation is highly promising. Nearly all the principal industries are actively employed and the iron trade is experiencing a boom beyond all precedent. An extraordinary amount of comparative absence of speculation. Our mills are crowded with orders for goods that are wanted for actual consumption; and for once in history anticipations are not unfavorable. There is every likelihood of our having an average amount of production for home and foreign consumption, with prospects of a good demand on the latter account. Our promises well. Railroad earnings show very handsome gains. The Grangers are carrying enormous quantities of grain, and the great revival in industrial and commercial activity materially swells their revenue. The political future contains many perplexing questions; but they are not of a sort that will seriously affect business. The next session of congress will be viewed with much less concern than its predecessors; not the least because both parties will avoid giving offence previous to a presidential election.

What activity there was in the market during the week was principally in the south-western properties, most of which secured a considerable rise, due largely to the fact that the corn crop falls to be the largest on record, besides which most of these stocks have not had an advance in keep with the prominent dividend payers. Other than this the movement of the general market was narrow and reactionary. The higher rates for money and the absence of most of the prominent operators were the principal reasons for the dullness prevailing. The group of industrial properties in most instances was not only very weak, but they scored conspicuously lower quotations. Sugar and tobacco, however, took a contrary course and advanced. The market for wheat broke in the rate of foreign exchange yesterday is an exceedingly favorable feature, as it will have an important influence on the money market; besides it denotes a diminished money strain by the Bank of England.

Eastbound shipments were 129,000 tons as against 47,000 tons for the corresponding week of last year. This was

backing the stock market, as it is a potential legitimate factor on the bull side; it is this kind of property which makes the position of the bears on railroad shares an unpropitious occupation at the present time.

DROWNED IN THE HARBOR. James Sinclair, a Fisherman, of Navy Island, the Victim.

Another drowning accident occurred Saturday night, the victim being James Sinclair, a fisherman, of Navy Island. He was 59 years of age and lived alone. He came to the city in a small boat Saturday evening, and made fast his craft to the wharf at Walker's slip. About 7.15 he returned to the wharf and the boat was in the water. He lost his balance and fell overboard. A young daughter of Patrick Cotter was near at the time and saw the man fall. She says the painter slipped from his hand and it was in the effort to recover it that he lost his balance. When the steamer was in the water, James Sinclair and Thomas Barrett, who were near by, rushed down. The tide was on the ebb and Gregory climbed down to the boat taking post in the stern. Sinclair had sunk, risen and gone down again. As he again rose to the surface, Mr. Gregory caught hold of him and held his head above water. Patrick Cotter, from the wharf above, called to Gregory to hold on and he went in search of a rope. He secured one and returned. By this time an Italian sailor from the barque Galeppini, lying at the end of Walker's wharf, had run over and climbed down. He swam towards the boat and was joined by Thos. Barrett. The latter, unfortunately, catching the arrival of the boat, caused it to overturn and Gregory was thrown into the water, losing his hold on Sinclair, who sank to rise no more.

It now became a question of rescuing the three men in the water. A rope was got from a tug, and the sailor and Gregory were hauled safely to the wharf. A harder time was experienced in bringing Barrett to land. He was clinging to the overturned boat and managed to secure the end of the rope under his arms and was finally brought ashore. George Bridges of the water boat's crew, went to Reed's Point for grappling irons, and on a telephone message Mr. Knox's chandler store was opened and some books rigged on a bar of iron. These after some delay grappled for the body was begun by Patrick Cotter, Joseph Hunsaid and Patrick Lenthau, while the Italian sailor and two mates got a ship's boat and pile-poles and probed about in an effort to locate the body. The grapples turned over the body once, it is thought, but being pulled not up. The search continued till 9.50 when the tide having receded considerably, the body was found by Michael Dimovian, who, with others, went to the bottom with the aid of lanterns. The body lay in about a foot of water there in a depression formed by waves.

The body was taken in a boat to the wharf and placed on the wharf and covered, awaiting the arrival of Coroner D. E. Barryman, who was summoned. The coroner viewed the remains, and gave permission for their removal to the residence of the deceased. The body will be held at the corner of Union and Duke street. Deceased was a fisherman, and was well known on both sides of the harbor. He was born in Scotland and visited the old country about 10 years ago. It is not yet decided whether there will be an inquest or not.

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HALIFAX NEWS.

Henrietta Soon to Return—The Portia Will Be Sold—Captain Charter Picked Up by His Old Ship.

HALIFAX, N. E. July 25.—The Portia, a schooner, which has been at work on the Portia, will leave for St. John again in a day or two. The Portia is to be sold on Friday.

The disabled steamer Almore will not be put into dry dock. She is being tipped at the Forster wharf, where her mast and propeller will be replaced as soon as possible. A week hence the steamer will be ready to continue her voyage to St. John.

It is a curious circumstance that Capt. William A. Charter of Almore was for three years commander of steamer Dartmouth, which towed him 400 miles to this port. Captain Charter left the Dartmouth from sea life and only returned to the bridge a short time ago. On this trip he is accompanied by his wife, and neither of them has any wish to repeat the experience of being adrift in mid-ocean on a disabled and helpless steamer. The band of the Lester regiment is going to the Toronto exhibition on a day's engagement.

Death at Fredericton. FREDERICTON, N. B., July 30.—Mr. Tupper, an aged lady, who has resided with her son, Mr. Charles Tupper, on Northumberland street, died last evening.

Woolen Mills Closed. WOODSTOCK, July 29.—The Woodstock woolen mill closed down on Thursday, and, it is rumored, will not be opened again. It is to be hoped this report is not correct, as the town cannot afford to lose any of its industries.

FIRE AT ST. MARYS. The New Saw Mill of Donald Fraser & Son Soon to Begin Sawing. FREDERICTON, N. B., July 25.—The United Teachers Institute of York, Queens and Sanbury counties will be held in this city October 5th and 6th. The residence of Joseph Smith, located near St. Marys village, was totally destroyed by fire at noon today. The loss will be about \$1,000. No insurance.

The new saw mill erected at Calhoun's on Lake Temigon, by Donald Fraser & Son, of this city, is approaching completion, and will commence sawing in about a week. It is the intention of the Messrs. Fraser to run the mill night and day, and they expect to turn out fully 200,000 feet of deals, 200,000 shingles and 16,000 lathboards. They will employ upwards of 300 men. The advent of so large an industry has given the locality quite a boom, and a large number of new houses are going up.

Home is usually a clochman's last resort. GOLD PLATED. One who will do so with your watch and seal. It is a safe and reliable remedy for all ailments of the female system. Price, No. 1, 50 cents; No. 2, 75 cents. Sold in all drug stores.