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## MRS. THAW BREAKS DOWN UNDER JEROME'S FLAYING

### Prosecutor Willing to Grant Her a Respite But Defence Objects

### Prisoner's Wife Recovers and District Attorney Forces Her to Make Many Damaging Admissions—Not Such a Little Innocent as She Has Been Pictured—Trial Adjourns Till Monday, When Her Grilling Will Be Resumed.

New York, Feb. 21—Under the stress of cross-examination in which District-Attorney Jerome gave no quarter, Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw broke down today upon the witness stand. With blinding tears burning their way down cheeks which, from ashen white, had flushed to crimson, she admitted that after her first experience with Stanford White her relations with the architect continued for several months. But this was not all. There were other confessions which, while damaging to her own character, accentuated all the more the terrible personal sacrifice she is making in the effort to save her husband from death in the electric chair. The case has progressed to the point where the defendant has been all but lost sight of. His girl-like wife is the figure about whom the storm lashes its fury. She it is whose life is being searched out and who is being held up to scorn by the prosecuting officer.

At the close of the most eventful day of the trial, Mr. Jerome announced that he probably would keep Mrs. Thaw under fire for two more days. Adjournment was taken until Monday morning, although at one time Justice Fitzgerald said that, to accommodate out-of-town witnesses, he would hold court both tomorrow, a holiday, and Saturday.

**Mrs. Thaw Broke Down.**

When Mr. Jerome was flaying the witness with questions as to her relations with White, carrying her from place to place and demanding to know every detail, and while bitter tears were welling to her eyes, two newspaper women, accustomed to harsh scenes of life, left their places in the court room. At last the prosecutor himself relented somewhat and suggested that the proceedings suspend. Mr. Delmas thought he detected an unfavorable slant in this, and protested that the witness would be able to proceed. Mrs. Thaw wiped her eyes, stiffened up a bit and nodded to Mr. Jerome to proceed.

Mrs. Thaw made what was considered perhaps her most damaging statement to the defendant when she said he had showed her copies of cablegrams that were being sent to Stanford White from Europe, asking him to use his influence with a certain man in London to prevent Mrs. Nesbit from "raising a fuss" and interfering with Evelyn continuing in the company of Thaw.

Mrs. Thaw also was forced to admit that when she and her mother went abroad with Thaw in 1903 they were still drawing upon the bounty of Stanford White.

Mr. Jerome dwelt for a long while on the subject of the cablegrams which Thaw said to have sent to White. He brought out that the cablegrams were sent after Thaw knew of the relations which had existed between Mrs. Nesbit and the architect.

The prospect that District Attorney Jerome would develop more surprises this morning when he continued the cross-examination of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, brought another big crowd to the court room, where the trial of Harry K. Thaw for the murder of Stanford White is being held. Thaw entered the court room immediately after the jury without waiting to be formally called to the bar. His hair was mussed; his manner was eager and nervous. He carried a large piece of paper and after taking his seat prepared to make notes of his wife's testimony. When Justice Fitzgerald had taken his place on the bench there was a conference among the attorneys, and it was decided there would be no session tomorrow, Washington's birthday.

When Mrs. Thaw was called to the stand she gave her usual glance at her husband and smiled. Then she turned to Justice Fitzgerald and smiled at him but the judge failed to notice her.

Mr. Jerome called Mrs. Thaw's attention to her closing testimony of yesterday in order that she might pick up the strands of the story.

"Did you continue to believe all women were unchaste as Stanford White told you, until you talked with Thaw in Paris in 1903?" asked Mr. Jerome.

"Yes, sir, replied Mrs. Thaw, meekly.

"Do you know a place called the 'Dead Rat' in Paris?"

"Yes."

"Was it before or after Thaw proposed that you went to the 'Dead Rat,?'"

"After."

"How many times were you at the 'Dead Rat?'"

"I think only once."

"With whom did you go?"

"With Mr. Thaw and Mr. Shubert, a theatrical manager, and another man.

"Did you see many ladies of the demi-monde there?"

Mr. Delmas objected. "I am using the witness' own expression," said Mr. Jerome.

"I never said that," ejaculated Mrs. Thaw indignantly.

"Didn't you use the expression in a letter?"

Again Mr. Delmas objected and was sustained.

"Don't you know what I mean?" asked Mr. Jerome of the witness? when I say did you see many of the bunch from the Tenderloin there?"

"I think so."

Tears came into Mrs. Thaw's eyes as Jerome continued to question her intimately about her relations with White. One of the newspaper women left the room. Mrs. Thaw said the relations were continued against her will. She cried bitterly.

Thaw hid his face in his hands as Jerome bitterly attacked his wife. Once Jerome offered to suspend for a time. Mr. Delmas would not consent. Mrs. Thaw said she could not remember ever having gone to a doctor with Jack Barrymore.

(Continued on page 8, second column.)

## WHOLE FAMILY FROZEN TO DEATH IN SASKATCHEWAN

### English Settler Perished While Returning With Fuel—Wife and Three Children Died of Exposure.

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Estevan, Sask., Feb. 21—A farmer named J. Radcliffe, his wife and three children were frozen to death about two weeks ago under most tragic circumstances. Radcliffe was a homesteader, who came over from England last May and took up a homestead farm forty miles from here. He came to this place for coal and provisions, and it is thought lost his way in the storm on returning home. He was found, with his oxen, frozen to death on the ice of a neighboring creek.

A neighbor named McAlpine called at Radcliffe's home during his absence and found his wife and children frozen solid. There was no fuel or food in the house. Sergeant Lett, of the mounted police, confirms the report, and is making an investigation.

## REV. F. S. VANCE, BOUND TO HALIFAX, DIED ON TRAIN

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Ottawa, Feb. 21—Rev. F. S. Vance, a Presbyterian clergyman from Cape Breton, en route from Calgary to Halifax via the C. P. R., expired this morning on the train between Carleton Place and Ottawa, and Coroner Baptie was notified. There will be no inquest as Coroner Baptie decided that the dead man succumbed to consumption.

## FREDERICTON'S MAYOR INJURED BY FALL

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 21—Mayor McNally had the misfortune to fall near the entrance of his residence yesterday and fracture his right shoulder blade. The injury is a very painful one, and will confine him to the house for some days.

## 500 AT GOVERNMENT RECEPTION LAST NIGHT

### Guests Received by Governor, Executive and Some of Their Wives—Lumbermen in Annual Session.

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 21—The New Brunswick Lumbermen's Association had a meeting here this morning and elected officers for the ensuing year, as follows:

President, W. B. Snowball; vice-president, George McKean; secretary-treasurer, R. A. Lawlor. Adjournment was made to meet in St. John at the call of the chair, immediately after the close of the legislative session. It is likely that some action will be taken at the next meeting with respect to the renewal of timber licenses.

The reception given by the lieutenant-governor and members of the executive in the parliament buildings this evening was attended by between 400 and 500 persons, and was one of the most enjoyable social events Fredericton has seen this season. The guests were received in the assembly chamber by Governor Snowball, ex-Governor McClelan, Premier and Mrs. Tweedie, Hon. and Mrs. LaBillois, Speaker and Mrs. Robinson, Hon. W. P. and Mrs. Jones, Attorney-General Pugsley, Hon. Mr. Farris and Hon. Mr. Sweeney.

Dancing was carried on during the evening on the floor of the assembly chamber to music furnished by Hanlon's orchestra. Ices were served during the evening in one of the small rooms of the main hall, and refreshments of a more substantial nature were served in the library. The catering arrangements were in charge of J. J. McCaffrey, of the Queen hotel, and were carried out in a highly satisfactory manner.

**Four Trainmen Killed in Collision**

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 21—Four trainmen were killed and two others injured this afternoon when the fast American express train on the Michigan Central railroad, west-bound, collided with an ice train two miles west of Ypsilanti. The express train was composed of express and mail cars only.

## FOWLER MUST PROVE CHARGES OR RETRACT

### Sir Wilfrid Laurier Says His Threats Cannot Go Unchallenged

### Member for Kings Pleads Anger as an Excuse for His Billingsgate Language--Says He Would Attack a Goliath When His Scotch Blood Was Aroused--Many Members Condemn the Disgraceful Scene and Deprecate the Low Tone of Debate.

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Ottawa, Feb. 21—Henri Bourassa brought up in the house today the speech of Geo. W. Fowler in the house the other day when he referred to wine, women and graft.

There was an interesting debate.

Mr. Fowler admitted he was aroused and angry at the time, otherwise he would not have said what he had done, although he was not going to change his position.

Mr. Foster made a rather pathetic appeal to the house and premier against insinuations being thrown at him.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that he was willing to do all he could, but no members in the house were so bad as Foster and Bennett for insinuations. The premier was anxious to have the insinuations stopped, but they were not confined to the Liberals.

Bennett attacked Carvell of New Brunswick for something he had said by way of reference to his land deals and Carvell, after giving a very neat dressing down, to the member for Simcoe, was generous enough to say that Bennett was by no means the worst sinner in the Northwest land deals.

Lefurgy gave an explanation of his connection with these deals and Duncan Ross said that the insinuation that he had any connection with Jim Hill beyond taking charge of the bill to build a railway through his constituency was utterly without warrant and without the slightest foundation of fact.

**Bourassa Starts the Trouble.**

Henri Bourassa said: It seems to me that it is essential to the dignity of the house that such language (Fowler's) should not be left on the record of this house without something more being done in the matter. It is not sufficient, in my humble opinion, that one member of this house —.

Mr. Foster—I wish to put a question, if the honorable member will allow me, so as to know just where we stand in this matter. As I understand it, strictly according to the rules of the house, the hon. member would not be allowed to discuss it. I have no objection to his discussing it, but I want to know just where we stand because we must be on a level in the discussion of this matter.

Mr. Bourassa—I simply wish to define the ground on which I intend bringing up this question. I was about to say that for my part it is not sufficient that one member of this house should say: If I am accused of improper things then I will prove that members of this house, of this government and ex-members of this government are capable of things that should make them unworthy of having a seat in this house. The ground of accusation has been rather broad. Reference has been made to several acts which might have been done by members of this house. Wine, women and graft have been mentioned. As far as the first two heads of accusation are concerned—.

Mr. Speaker—It seems to me that a matter of this sort is ordinarily brought up in the presence of the members, whose conduct may be called into question, and as a general thing, by courtesy, after notice to them, and at this time, in their absence, it would seem to be a little irregular to enter upon the discussion of the matter.

**Wants Graft Charge Investigated.**

Mr. Bourassa—The direct accusation of graft, formulated by one member of this house against other members of this house should be investigated.

Some hon. members—Hear, hear.

Mr. Bourassa—I claim that it is against the dignity of this house that matters of this kind should be settled as election protests are settled by saw-offs. I think it pertains to the dignity of this house that the government should take the matter into their hands and force it to be made clear, so that if the accusations are true they shall be probed and if not that they shall be withdrawn. Therefore I give notice at this time to the house and to the honorable member for Kings (N. B.) (Mr. Fowler) and to the honorable member for Carleton (N. B.), (Mr. Carvell), also, as he has referred in a previous debate to the holding of lands in the Northwest by other members of this house, that I intend bringing this up and I hope the question will be fully dealt with by this house.

Mr. Foster—I would ask the member to prosecute his investigations further and he will find that a number of others have used the same insinuations since the session commenced.

Mr. Bourassa—Quite so.

**Bennett-Carvell Tilt.**

Mr. Bennett complained of the statement made against him by Mr. Carvell several weeks ago in which Carvell said that if he, Bennett, would have patience he would "hear all he wants about his connection with lands in the Northwest." In this connection Mr. Bennett quoted what a Montreal newspaper had said about Carvell being a bully, coward, etc., for his action in this matter.

F. B. Carvell (Carleton, N. B.)—There are some sources, sir, from which the vilest words which can possibly be framed are more a credit to those against whom they are directed than a charge against them, and I think the honorable gentleman from East Simcoe fully answered that description. I said nothing against the gentleman, I made no charge [illegible] Mr. Foster or Mr. Bennett did not object to his statements when made.

Mr. Foster—What does the honorable gentleman (Carvell) purpose to draw from a statement of that kind. Is there any rule in this house, which compels me, as a member, to take part in any debate in which I do not wish to take part?

Mr. Bennett—It is a low, mean insinuation.

Mr. Speaker—I think the honorable gentleman (Mr. Bennett) should withdraw that, I call upon him to withdraw it.

Mr. Bennett—I said it was a low, mean insinuation.

Mr. Speaker—Yes, that should be withdrawn.

Mr. Bennett—Very well, I withdraw it.

**Carvell Serves Notice.**

Mr. Carvell proceeding: "I will tell the honorable member for East Simcoe that whenever an opportunity presents itself while I am member of this house to discuss the connections of these gentlemen with land deals in the Northwest Territory and in British Columbia, I for one will be only too happy to meet the occasion and I will tell the people of this country my views on that transaction. But I am bound to say here—I do not know that I ought to say it, I do not know that I ought to be generous enough to say it—but I am bound to say that of the gentlemen whom I referred to, I do not think the honorable member for East Simcoe stands in the worst light of the three. There is another matter to which I hope the house will pardon me if I refer to, and that is the matter to which my honorable friend from Kings (N. B.), (Mr. Fowler), felt called upon to refer to.

Mr. Speaker—I think the honorable member is travelling beyond the subject under discussion.

Mr. Carvell—I was not going to discuss what took place on Tuesday afternoon, far from it. I was simply going to say this, that if the honorable member for Kings had reference to me as one of the members supporting the government, then I give him the fullest opportunity to discuss my private character as well as my public character.

Mr. Bourassa put his case briefly. So far as private character was concerned he had nothing to do and he thought it bad taste for anyone to refer to the conduct of any member. With their public conduct it was different and that should be enquired into. The dignity of the house was important and the tone of debate was not improving. The argument of Bourassa was that Fowler must go on with his charges and prove or retract them. That was imperative upon him.

**Sir Wilfrid Laurier.**

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—Since I am leader of the house it is no doubt expected that I should express an opinion on this matter. Two instances have been mentioned today in connection with this matter. One was an incident which took place on the 7th of February, and which has been fully ventilated by the member for Simcoe, and the member for Carleton. The other was the incident which took place on Tuesday last between the member for Yale-Cariboo (Duncan Ross) and the honorable member for Kings (N. B.), (Mr. Fowler.) Both of these incidents arose everybody knows it, out of evidence which was given some months ago in the city of Toronto before the insurance commission. The name of my honorable friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster), the name of the member from Simcoe, and the name of the member from Kings (N. B.), were referred to in that evidence and they have been discussed more or less in the public press.

I say frankly that to me it is a matter of regret that this matter was at all discussed by the press because I think that until the report of the commission has been laid before parliament there should have been no comment. I am not prepared to express any opinion at this moment on the allegations which have been made in the press with regard to the conduct of any of these gentlemen. I may have my own judgment upon it, but I do not know that I can say I have a deliberate judgment on the matter. I read the report from day to day, as it appeared, but in my opinion it would be unfair to these gentlemen to pass any judgment whatever upon charges at the present juncture. Perhaps I should not use the word "charges," I had better say, "conduct" of these gentlemen which has been under discussion.

On the 7th of Feb. last, Mr. Carvell, in answer to a question interjected in his speech made some remarks, but as I understand it, he did not make any insinuation, he simply said to the member for Simcoe: You will have an opportunity to hear about certain things. A similar incident occurred when the member for Yale-Cariboo was speaking yesterday and he made a similar answer. I think the house should not, at this moment, discuss the matter. The report of the commission must be brought down at an early date and then it will be the duty of the house to discuss the matter, accuse or excuse the gentlemen whose names are mentioned in it. It may be that when the report of that commission is presented, there will be no occasion for any discussion, and it may be that it will be our duty to discuss it.

Now, in connection with another matter, the hon. member for Kings (Mr. Fowler) made some very severe statements and some very grave insinuations. He did [illegible]

[illegible] on page 8, fourth column.)

## McGILL BOUT MAY PROVE FATAL

### Arthur Neville Foster of Alma, N. B., Unconscious from Blows

### TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

### Professor Stopped the Contest After Student Had Been Knocked Down Four Times and Seemed in Distress—Have Hopes of Saving Him.

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Montreal, Feb. 21.—Rendered unconscious from the effects of a blow received during a boxing bout in McGill University gymnasium, Arthur Neville Foster, second year medical student, was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital last night and for a time the hospital surgeons considered the case a critical one.

Foster, who is twenty-three years of age and a native of Alma (N. B.), participated in the boxing and wrestling tournament which took place in the gymnasium, Manfield street, under the auspices of the McGill boxing and wrestling club. He was entered in the welterweight class and it was in the final bout that he was injured. Foster's opponent was a student named Haskell.

In the bout Foster, who is a well built and cleanly proportioned youth, looked strong enough to win from Haskell, the latter being sparse and not showing signs of especial ability.

Haskell had all the better of the first round, sending Foster to the floor with a stiff punch to the jaw. Foster regained his footing and was put down again by a half arm jolt and reached the end of the round plainly showing signs of distress.

At the opening of the second round Haskell landed a hard blow on Foster's temple, staggering the latter to the ropes. Foster came back gamely but at that juncture the referee stopped the bout and give the decision to Haskell.

**Taken from the Ring Unconscious.**

Foster was removed from the ring and when he reached the dressing room it became evident that he was suffering. It was decided to secure medical attention. Accordingly an ambulance was called from the Royal Victoria Hospital and Foster was removed to that institution. The student was unconscious when he reached the hospital and remained in that condition until 2.30 when he showed signs of regaining consciousness.

Today Foster's condition was considered favorable and the chances for recovery are considered good. Some of the students claimed today that Foster's condition was brought on by overstudy, but Prof. Edwards, of the university, who was referee, said: "In my opinion it was from the three or four blows he received on the jaw and which quickly followed one another, that he became so dazed that I felt it was time for me to stop the bout. We always try to prevent knockouts at these exhibitions if we can and when he clutched the ropes I called a halt."

Haskell, who received the decision, left the ring but Foster, apparently dazed, staggered to his corner and sat down. "He stayed there for about three minutes," said Haskell, "and then left the ring with his second. I spoke to him but he was apparently too dazed to hear what I said or to understand it. I heard afterwards that he had fainted. He seemed quite strong and healthy when he first entered the ring."

## SCHEME TO BUILD CHEAP HOMES FOR TORONTO WORKMEN

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Toronto, Feb. 21.—The Toronto branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association this afternoon took up the workingmen's house proposition in a practical shape. A statement was presented, worked out on an actuarial basis and if the required capital can be secured, building will commence at once.

The proposed company is to be capitalized at $1,000,000, and if 25 per cent of this amount, $250,000, can be obtained, the officers of the association say the cheap house problem will be solved immediately. A large amount of the required capital has already been secured and arrangements are being made to have the best financial institutions in the country underwrite the debentures of the company when $250,000 has been raised.

**Schr. Arizona Abandoned and Saved.**

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 21—(Special)—Schooner Arizona, from Halifax for Lockeport, was abandoned by her crew on Tuesday, leaking. The crew were taken off by the Gloucester schooner Elmer E. Gray. The Gray afterwards put a prize crew on the Arizona, and brought here into Liverpool. She is coal laden.

**Chicago Labor Leader Acquitted**

Chicago, Feb. 21—After being out nearly four hours, the jury in the Shea trial returned a verdict of not guilty tonight.

## REVISE THE LUMBERING POLICY OF PROVINCE

### Forestry Association Formed and Adopts Plans of Great Importance

### Recommends Law to Prevent Export of Saw Logs and Pulp Wood Cut on Crown Lands—To Establish Chair of Forestry at the U. N. B.---Effective System of Fire Protection to Be in Force May 1---To Bring Up to Date the Law Affecting Survey and Exportation of Lumber---Meeting Full of Matters of Great Import.

*(Special to The Telegraph.)*

Fredericton, Feb. 21—A New Brunswick Forestry Association is one of the most important results of the forestry convention which adjourned sine die this evening after holding a series of meetings which brought together men interested in forestry from all parts of the province, besides distinguished visitors from the United States and upper Canada.

During the morning session several interesting papers were read and the report of the committee on the formation of an association was adopted. In the afternoon many instructive addresses were delivered, and some important resolutions were passed. The government were asked to provide funds to establish a chair of forestry in the University of New Brunswick. It was also recommended that the government prohibit the export of saw logs and pulp wood cut from crown lands; that an effective system of fire protection be provided to come into force on May 1 next; and that a new act should be prepared dealing with the survey and exportation of lumber, as the present one is antiquated.

**The Morning Session.**

At the morning session of the convention, Hon. J. P. Burchell, as convenor of the committee appointed to consider the advisability of forming a forestry association for the province, reported as follows: "We recommend the formation of a New Brunswick Forestry Association in affiliation with the Canadian Forestry Association on terms to be hereafter agreed upon and having for its object the obtaining and disseminating of information with the view of protecting the lumber lands of the province from undue and unnecessary exhaustion in the process of lumbering therein, from destruction from fire and to promote generally throughout the country the reforestation by private owners of lands, not only for the growth of trees, but the planting of shade trees, the growth of trees on the banks of rivers and along the sides of highways and also to influence the department of education to introduce lessons whereby the scholars may be taught the need of forest protection, reforestation and things necessary to be done in preserving the trees of the country for economic and picturesque purposes." (Sgd.) A. P. Burchell, chairman.

Speaker Robinson made a short address and also read an interesting communication from Prof. Andrews of Mt. Allison University, approving of the forestry convention. Mr. Robinson expressed the opinion that the province of New Brunswick did not derive sufficient revenue from its crown lands.

James Beveridge read an able paper on "the dependence of business interests on forests," making a strong plea on behalf of the pulp industry.

W. B. Snowball, who also read a paper, and quoted figures to show that the lumbering industry was worth directly ten millions a year to this province.

H. M. Price, of Quebec, spoke enthusiastically on the lumbermen's interests in the preservation of the forests. He felt sure that the convention would awaken great interest in forest preservation.

William Power, M. P. for Quebec West, delivered an impromptu address and was given a hearty welcome.

The forenoon session closed with a paper on the protection and preservation of forests, by A. E. Hanson.

**Method of Cutting.**

The premier commenced the afternoon session by reading a paper by Chas. E. Oak of the Miramichi Lumber Company.

Mr. Oak said he had followed closely the methods in vogue in foreign countries and also all the data published by forestry schools, but he regretted to find that while many valuable points might be gathered the bulk of the information was not applicable to New Brunswick. In giving certain suggestions Mr. Oak indicated that it should be compulsory on all wild land owners as well as lessees that 75 per cent or more of trees should be felled by saws rather than axes, and that stumps should be cut as low as the swell of the roots would allow. When once felled it was the duty of the lumberman to take all the lumber out that could be made valuable for any purpose. Yarding and hauling trees to the main roads should be done by means of one horse and should be embraced in all contracts. This would save the baby growth and remove moss from the mineral soil.

Fire in the lumber regions in this latitude had done as much or more injury than the axe and there was danger in the future unless proper care was taken. Mr. Oak urged the convention should discuss ways and means for best controlling fires. His company expected to locate patrols at their own expense each season at exposed points on their fee as well as on their leased lands which, while directly to their benefit would also indirectly benefit the province in a great measure.

Hon. Mr. Burchill said personally he was in favor of taking the minimum size of lumber by the butt rather than at the top.

Robert Connolly did not agree and urged that the only practical method was to take the size at the top. He contended that no stumpage should be paid on the tops.

Charles Fish, of Newcastle, mentioned the case of an operator who left the tops in last year but brought them out this season and from his experience found the latter course paid better.

**Prof. Carey of Harvard.**

Prof. Austin Carey, Harvard University, read a paper on "The Forest Policy of the United States and Other Countries." The policy of government ownership, he said, of a large share of the wooded area existed in those countries in which forestry held a place and was administered under a system which combined the principles of science and good management in one. The objects of that policy were first revenue, secondly the production of the raw material of industry, and thirdly the securing of those beneficial influences on climate, water flow and the fertility of the soil which bodies of forest lands scattered through a country were believed to render. Along with that policy went some kind of supervision over the handling of privately owned forests. The things likely to prove serviceable in the conditions in New Brunswick were, in Mr. Carey's opinion, government ownership of the tracts of the permanent forest, skilful and businesslike administration, and well directed lines of public education. After elaborating on these points Mr. Carey urged the employment in the organization

(Continued on page 2, fourth column.)

## 143 PASSENGERS LOST IN MAIL STEAMER BERLIN SUNK NEAR ROTTERDAM

London, Feb. 21—The worst disaster for many years in the history of the busy cross-channel traffic between England and the continent, occurred during a violent gale shortly before 6 o'clock this morning, when the Rotterdam mail steamer Berlin, from Hardwick to Hook of Holland, having safely weathered the hurricane, was suddenly wrecked as she was entering port. Altogether 143 persons are now dead or clinging to wreckage.

The terrific seas broke up the steamer with such awful suddenness that all efforts to save life appear to have been utterly hopeless. At a late hour this evening it was reported that some few survivors are still clinging to the wreck, but as the heroic efforts all day long of the life boat crews had failed to reach them, little hope that they will be saved remains.

The story of the disaster is told with dramatic intensity by the following brief but pregnant messages reaching Harwich from the agent of the Great Eastern Railway Company at Hook of Holland. The first message was handed in at the Hook at 6.30 this morning, and ran as follows:

"The Berlin is stranded at the north pier. Her position is very dangerous. There is a heavy gale blowing. Tugs and life boats are going out to her assistance."

The second message was sent off at 7.30, and said:

"The position of the Berlin is still very dangerous. The heavy gale still is blowing. We have tried to take off the passengers with tug boat and life boat, but without success up to the present."

The third message was timed at the Hook at 7.52 and reached Harwich at 8.40. It said:

"The Berlin has broken in two, and very probably will prove a total loss. Her crew are still on board. Life boats and tugs are trying to save the passengers."

The fourth message came through the London office of the railway company. It was timed at the Hook at 8.10, and said:

"It is impossible to reach the Berlin tonight to save the passengers. We will do the best we can. The poop of the ship is under water."

Then at 10.36 came the fifth and last message:

"The Berlin is a total loss with all her crew and passengers. Nobody has been saved."

No cause yet has been assigned for the terrible accident, and it probably never will be known how the steamer came to miss the channel which, although 300 yards wide and well buoyed and lighted, is always difficult of access in rough weather. It is conjectured that some derangement of the engine or steering gear may have rendered the vessel uncontrollable. Captain Precious, of the Berlin, had a good record of fourteen years' service. The list of passengers on the ill-fated steamer was lost, and all the names of those who were on board have not yet been learned, but so far as has been ascertained there were no Americans among the passengers.