

STEAMER SIBERIA MAY BE LOST

Pacific Steamer's Distress Calls Ceased This Morning--It Is Feared Ship Foundered--Carried Over Seven Hundred Persons--Mrs. Harrison Was on Board.

Ship Reported Six Miles Off The Island Of Formosa

Consul Sends Report of Ship's Distress and Adds That it is Feared She is Lost—One Report Says That Chinese Pirates Might be Responsible.

List of the Passengers Boarding Vessel at San Francisco—Japan Rushes Warship Out But it Will Take Six Hours to Reach the Scene.

By Associated Press.

Tokio, May 1.—Wireless calls for assistance from the Pacific Mail steamer Siberia, heard on the Japanese coast today indicated that she was in grave peril off the coast of Formosa. The liner left San Francisco April 7 for Manila. She carries 71 saloon passengers including Mrs. Francis Burton Harrison, wife of the governor general of the Philippines.

Were Pirates Responsible? A dispatch from Formosa states Chinese pirates may have had something to do with the disaster.

The exact nature of the accident has not yet been determined nor have any details been received up to a late hour tonight.

Reported Sinking. An early report said the liner was "sinking" while a later message conveyed the information that she was "astore" six miles off the southeast mainland from Formosa Island.

The Japanese government dispatched the steamer Kanto Maru from Formosa to the succor of the Siberia as soon as the news of her trouble was received.

Prominent Persons Aboard. Among the passengers on the Siberia besides Mrs. Harrison is Mrs. John B. Rentiers, wife of the new British consul at Manila.

The Siberia left Yokohama April 27 and Nagasaki April 29 for Manila. She had a list of 71 persons in the first cabin, and 30 in the second and four stowed in the steerage. She is in command of Captain Zeeder and carries a crew of about 200 men.

The report current in Tokio that Chinese pirates may have been connected with the accident to the liner also was heard at Tai Pei Fu, the capital of Formosa whence it was conveyed in a cablegram.

Great Anxiety Prevails. The greatest anxiety prevails owing to the fact that the wireless calls for help from the Siberia have ceased. A. Williamson, the American consul at Tamsui, Formosa, telegraphs he fears this means that the vessel has gone down.

When the first wireless calls for help were heard the nearest ship was six hours away.

The Japanese navy department was inclined tonight to discredit the reports regarding pirates and expressed the opinion that they were an outcome of the recent looting of a British steamer.

The first wireless message regarding the disaster was received direct from the Siberia early today at the Japanese wireless station at Oseha, off the coast of Kiushiu Island. It conveyed the information that the steamer had met with an accident and was in distress. This message was mutilated and no further definite information could be gleaned from it.

The plight of the Siberia was communicated by wireless also to the steamer Minnesota of the Great Northern Steamship Company, which was making her way to Nagasaki, as well as to the British cruiser Minotaur.

The position of the Siberia is given by wireless as longitude 121.10 east, latitude 22.40 north. This location is about six miles to the east of the narrow cape which forms the southern extremity of Formosa Island.

Tokio, May 1.—A dispatch from Tai-Pe-Fu reports that the steamer Siberia is ashore in a perilous position

off the southeast coast of the Island of Formosa. She carries 80 saloon passengers, among them Mrs. Francis Burton Harrison, wife of the governor general of the Philippines.

Mrs. Harrison on Board. Mrs. Harrison came to Japan from Manila for a short visit. She embarked on the Siberia at Yokohama. The Japanese navy department has received and made public the following dispatch:

Many Distress Signals. "The governor general of Formosa cables that a Japanese cruiser, on her way to the Okinawa Islands off the Island of Kiushiu, reports that the Pacific Mail steamer Siberia met disaster this morning in longitude 121.10 east, latitude 22.40 north. She sent reported signals of distress which finally became indistinct. No details of the disaster are known. The Kanto Maru has been ordered to the scene."

Ships Hear Help Calls. The Siberia, Captain Zeeder, belongs to the Pacific Mail Steamship Line and plies between San Francisco, Honolulu, Yokohama and Hong Kong. She left San Francisco on April 7 and on April 29 put out from Nagasaki for Manila by way of Hong Kong. The Siberia is of 5,655 tons burden and was built at Newport News, Va. She is supplied with wireless.

According to advices here the vessel is six miles from the mainland. A wireless station on the Japanese coast picked up distress signals sent from the Siberia by wireless to the American steamship Minnesota which was on the way to Nagasaki.

The Siberia also was in communication with the British cruiser Minotaur.

Battleship Dispatched. George W. Guthrie, the American ambassador to Japan, as soon as he heard the condition of the Siberia, requested the Japanese foreign office to send a warship to her aid. He was informed that the government, having already learned of the accident, had sent the Kanto Maru from Formosa. The Kanto Maru got under way early today.

Were Pirates Responsible. Tokio, May 1.—A dispatch received here tonight from the capital of Formosa conveyed the alarming intimation that Chinese pirates may have had something to do with the reported disaster to the liner Siberia.

No details of the accident to the steamer off the coast of Formosa had been received here up to 10 o'clock last night.

Ship May be Lost. Washington, May 1.—The state department here was informed today from Tamsui, Formosa, of the Pacific Mail steamer Siberia's distress.

Consul Williamson sent this report: "Formosa government informed Siberia signalled repeatedly for aid from latitude 22.40, longitude 121.10. Ceased this morning. Vessels sent from Kanton will take six hours to reach scene near Kasho Island, six miles off Taito. Fear Siberia foundered."

List of Passengers: San Francisco, May 1.—The following passengers boarded the Siberia here for the Orient:

For Manila: W. B. Beard, George M. Egan, Miss Eleanor Gillisey, Arthur Hallberg, Miss Amelia P. Klein, Howard Long, Mrs. Jane G. Palmer, Lieut. V. C. Reys, O. C. Whitaker, Mrs. O. C. Whitaker.

For Hong Kong: J. Donald Demarest, Bruce D. Ellis, Mrs. Bruce D. Ellis, Danforth B. Ferguson, J. St. C. Hunt, John Hunt, Miss Lulah Hunt, Miss Grace C. Lawton, Francis H. Love, W. D. Whitmore, Mrs. W. D. Whitmore, Dr. Wong Him, Miss Catherine A. Wong Him.

For Honolulu: Mrs. P. L. Cherry, Miss Adelia Morton Murphy, Miss Frances D. Murphy, Mrs. L. B. Pierce, Henry Russell. The following passengers boarded the Siberia at other points: Yokohama: J. W. Dorris.

Kobe: Mrs. H. G. Guttridge, Miss Harriet Guttridge, O. H. Guttridge, Mrs. D. H. Greenbaum, Miss Katie Dukes, Mrs. M. Bremner.

Nagasaki: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Richardson. Yokohama: Mrs. Francis B. Harrison, Miss Amelia P. Klein is a Presbyterian missionary in China. She has been on a tour of the United States. Her home is in California.

Prominent Persons Aboard. Washington, May 1.—George M. Egan, who is one of the Siberia's passengers, has recently been reinstated as Governor of Batanes, in the Philippine Islands, and is on his way to his post. Arthur Hallberg is an aide in the coast and geodetic survey.

Another passenger reported to the bureau here is Miss W. F. Bryant, who it is understood, was enroute to the Philippines to be married. The bureau is attempting to locate the home addresses of these passengers.

Addresses of Passengers. Washington, May 1.—Addresses of some of the passengers on the Siberia who were sent out to Manila by the insular bureau of the war department, are given here as follows:

Miss S. W. Bryant, sister of one of the teachers on the islands, Columbia, Missouri; Howard Long, Angola, Indiana; Vincente C. Reyes, Philippine Islands, constabulary; W. B. Beard, teacher, Waxahie, Texas; George M. Egan, governor of Batanes, Newark, New York; Captain O. C. Whitaker, Philippine constabulary, Mrs. Whitaker and infant, Franklin, Pa.

The navy department today reported the cruiser Galveston, commanded by R. H. Leigh, leaving Manila for Shanghai. The Galveston should be about 250 miles from the Siberia's reported position. She is equipped with wireless.

Ship to the Scene. Tokio, May 1.—The British cruiser Minotaur, proceeding under all steam to the succor of the Siberia, was reported here late tonight to have reached the scene of the accident.

The Siberia communicated her distress to the Minotaur by wireless.

GRAVE SITUATION AT TAMPICO

Washington, May 1.—Gravity of the situation at Tampico growing out of the fast accumulation of oil from the flowing wells in the interior which constitute a great menace to the town itself, vast financial loss as a result of the overflowing of the tanks and finally the interference with neutral commerce by the constitutionalists as exhibited in the firing upon the Ward line steamer Antilla at port, prompted Sir Cecil Spring-Rice the British ambassador, to confer today with Assistant Secretary Osborne at the state department in a further effort to create a neutral zone in the oil field vicinity.

CARRANZA WILL PROTECT OIL FIELDS

Chihuahua, May 1.—Gen. Carranza is determined to use every effort to protect the immense oil properties at Tampico, owned by foreigners, principally British, and he telegraphed the British ambassador at Washington to that effect today.

Agents of the constitutionalists in Washington today sent messages to their military leaders at Tampico to do all in their power to protect the oil properties there and assurances that extra precaution would be taken to prevent damage to the properties were conveyed to Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador.

WEATHER FORECAST. Forecast for North Carolina: Fair tonight and Friday. Fresh northeast winds.

LABOR CONDITIONS WERE NEVER BETTER THAN NOW

By Associated Press. New York, May 1.—As May day is the date that most of the contracts between employers and union employees in the East expire, much significance is attached to opinions expressed by labor leaders that never before have labor conditions been better than today.

They based their statements, they said, on the fact that there are no labor troubles of consequence in the East and that the large army of unemployed a few weeks ago has been reduced to a minimum by the opening of much new work.

In New York city today was signaled by an unusual large number of parades and demonstrations by socialists and their allied trade unions as "international day." These parades found thousands of garment workers in line and each ended with park mass meetings at which the speakers discussed the eight-hour law and demanded better working conditions for factory employes.

MADAME NORDICA'S HUSBAND ANXIOUS

By Associated Press. New York, May 1.—George W. Young, a banker of this city, is anxiously awaiting further news today of the condition of his wife, Madame Lillian Nordica, the prima donna who is critically ill in Batavia, Java.

The first news of the singer's relapse came to Mr. Young on Wednesday in a cable dispatch from E. R. Simmons, Madame Nordica's accompanist. The cable said: "Have postponed departure. Madame Nordica's condition serious. Physicians in consultation. Very anxious. Advise later."

Yesterday Mr. Young received another cable message from Mr. Simmons that Madame Nordica was sinking rapidly and that the physicians held out little hope.

WILL BRING BACK BODIES OF DEAD MARINES.

Washington, May 1.—Admiral Badger reported to the navy department today that within two or three days he would send the battleship Montana to New York with bodies of sailors and marines killed at Vera Cruz. The vessel would sail, he said, as soon as it became certain that her services were no longer needed for refugees work. The bodies will be shipped from New York to the homes of relatives.

CRITICAL CONDITION IN STRIKE ZONE

Washington, May 1.—A war department bulletin issued today said that conditions at Walsenburg, in the Colorado mining district, where Captain Smith is in command of United States army troops, were reported "critical" but that the work of restoring order in Trinidad and Canon City districts was going forward.

"LUCILE LOVE, THE GIRL OF MYSTERY"

This fascinating and thrilling story will appear in serial form in THE CHARLOTTE NEWS—the first installment next Sunday morning. The public will have the opportunity of seeing this story dramatized in moving pictures, the week following, at the following theatres:

THE MAIN, Salisbury, Monday, May 4. THE OTTOWAY, Charlotte, Wednesday, May 6. OPERA HOUSE, Rockingham, Thursday, May 7. DREAMLAND, Chester, Friday, May 8. THE GRAND, Rock Hill, Saturday, May 9. THE IDEAL, Gastonia, Monday, May 11. THE PASTIME, Concord, Tuesday, May 12.

This is the first opportunity ever given THE NEWS patrons to read one of the most thrilling stories, ever produced, with the opportunity of seeing it in moving pictures.

Follow the additional announcements to appear in THE NEWS this week and be sure to read the first installment of this interesting story in next Sunday's issue.

ALL OF THE 172 ENTOMBED MINERS PROBABLY LOST

By Associated Press. Denver, Colo., May 1.—Governor Ammons today telegraphed Secretary of War Garrison, requesting additional federal troops, on being informed by Major W. A. Holbrook that he would be unable to spare any men from his present command for duty in the northern Colorado coal fields, where 200 militia under General Chase still are on guard.

Eccles, W. Va., May 1.—Federal rescue crews entered mine No. 5 today to clear away the litter in the galleries and aid in the recovery of the bodies of 172 miners killed by the explosion last Tuesday. As soon as they descended the work of hoisting bodies to the surface began. Twenty were at the bottom of the shaft, but it was expected night would come before they could be brought up, as the cage can only carry one body at a time and the round trip is almost a fifth of a mile.

Eccles, W. Va., May 1.—Rescue crews had assembled thirteen bodies at the foot of the shaft in Mine No. 5 of the New River Coal Company when they resumed their work today of exploration in the hope of locating all of the 172 men who it now seems certain lost their lives in the explosion last Thursday afternoon.

Pumps were kept going during the night and by dawn the mine was comparatively free of water.

Rockefeller Has Hopes. New York, May 1.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., it was said at his office today, feeling that he has been forced to bear the brunt of the criticism growing out of the strike in Colorado, hopes in the near future to devise some plan by which he may relieve the situation so far as the demonstrations against him are concerned.

Just what he purposes to do was not made clear.

Mr. Rockefeller spent the day at his home in Pocantico Hills, transacting all his business over the telephone.

"Mourners" were again marching up and down in front of the Standard Oil building at Broadway. A threat to keep a hearse on the scene did not materialize during the forenoon.

Among the marchers were Sarah Greenwood and Elizabeth Freeman, English suffragettes. Miss Freeman was released this morning from the Tombs prison against her will. With Upton Sinclair and another woman she had gone to a cell rather than pay a fine of \$3 for disorderly conduct. Some one paid the fine and she was released.

CONFERENCE ON COTTON TRADING

By Associated Press. Augusta, Ga., May 1.—Between 100 and 150 people are expected to gather in Augusta on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week when there will be held two important conferences on the question of cotton trading. The conference called by the Augusta cotton exchange and board of trade, will be convened on Monday morning at 11 o'clock. There will also be a session in the afternoon. On Monday night the delegates will be entertained with a smoker. On Tuesday there will be business sessions morning and afternoon and on Wednesday the cotton conference called by President W. C. Lawson, of the Texas Cotton Association, will be convened. Mr. Lawson is calling the meeting for the purpose of forming a Southern association of cotton exchanges and the majority of delegates to the Augusta exchange conference will also be delegates to the conference called by Mr. Lawson.

Acceptance for the Augusta conference have been received from every important exchange in the country and each exchange will send three delegates. The keynote of the conference is expected to be the improvement of cotton trading conditions for the benefit of the legitimate trader. On Wednesday afternoon the delegates to both the Augusta conference and the conference called by Mr. Lawson will be the guests of the Augusta cotton exchange at a barbecue.

TWO BIG ROADS DEFAULT PAYMENT

By Associated Press. New York, May 1.—The stock exchange today officially announced the default of semi-annual interest payment on the four per cent gold bonds of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company and the general issue five per cent bonds of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad Company.

The Frisco is in the hands of receivers and the affairs of the Rock Island system, are admittedly precarious. The prices of both of these issues for some time past have pointed to suspension of interest payment and the notice issued by the exchange was chiefly in keeping with legal requirements.

It is expected that the report of the expert, recently engaged by the bondholders' committee of the Rock Island Company, will be submitted shortly. On this report hinges the future financing of the road.

Mediators Await Anxiously Word From Carranza

REFUGEES FROM PUERTO, MEXICO

By Associated Press. Vera Cruz, Mexico, May 1.—Refugees from Puerto Mexico who arrived last night on the Leland steamer Dictator and on the transport Hancock have been transferred to the steamship Monterey which will take them to New Orleans.

All of the Dictator's forty-three passengers were from the oil fields and districts about Minatitlan, state of Vera Cruz.

The transports Sumner, McClellan, Meade and Kilpatrick which brought Funston and his fifth brigade to Vera Cruz sailed at daybreak for Galveston.

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Peace Negotiations Will Proceed Regardless of Rebel Attitude But All Hands Are Hoping Carranza Will Agree to an Armistice Covering Whole Ground.

Huerta Has Agreed to Maintain Peace During the Negotiations of the Peace Envoys—Bryan Held Conferences Until Late in the Night.

By Associated Press. Washington May 1.—After receiving a message—said to have come from the Huerta government—from the Spanish ambassador Mr. Riano the South American envoys seeking to mediate in the Mexican crisis entered upon their conference today with more apparent confidence than ever.

After their conference with Secretary Bryan last night when they were informed that General Huerta had consented to an armistice the Brazilian Argentine and Chilean diplomats worked diligently on proposals for mediation to be submitted to this government and the Huerta regime as the next step in the negotiations.

Representatives of the constitutionalists here insisted that General Carranza's acceptance of the principle of the mediation would not be followed by acceptance of the principle of the mediation would not be followed by acceptance of an armistice and insisted that the international dispute in Mexico would not be included in the negotiations if cessation of hostilities is insisted upon in the meantime.

While the mediators continued their conferences President Wilson and the cabinet were in session considering mediation proposals. At the state department Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador conferred with officials in further endeavor to have created a neutral zone at Tampico in order to avert disaster to the extensive oil fields there as a result of continued fighting between the Mexican federalists and constitutionalists. It was stated on good authority that this matter had been taken up with mediators.

Another matter said to have been taken into consideration was the firing on the Ward liner Antilla at Tampico by the constitutionalists.

It was learned that the mediators have submitted in confidence to all the Latin American diplomats a resume of their work.

Washington, May 1.—The Spanish ambassador, Mr. Riano, representative of the Huerta government in the United States visited the Argentine legation at 11 o'clock today and held a conference with the Argentine minister, Mr. Naon. The ambassador is said to have delivered a message to the mediators from the Huerta authorities. No statement was made as to its contents.

To what extent intermediation between the United States and Huerta would be affected by a refusal of the Carranza element to suspend military operations against Huerta pending mediation was the chief question confronting the South American mediators when they resumed their sessions today.

The midnight conference between the mediators and Secretary Bryan, lasting for more than two hours had established definitely that the United States and Huerta would suspend military operations, the only reservation made by the United States being that it would be free to repel any attacks, but Carranza still held aloof from any suspension of hostilities between him and the Mexican federal forces. All efforts, therefore, were directed to have the truce include the warring elements in northern Mexico as well as those of the United States and Huerta.

Carranza's Attitude. The work of the mediators, it was learned in authoritative quarters would proceed steadily, no matter what the final attitude of Carranza was on the question of an armistice, although an adverse decision by him would necessarily restrict the intermediation to future financing of the road. (Continued on Page Nine.)