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CHARLOTTE, N. C., MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 17, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

SLOCUM DISASTER REPORT.

DAMNING REVELATIONS MADE.

Commission Finds the Barring of the New York Steamer Slocum, and the Loss of Over 900 Lives Due Solely to Wretched Equipment and Poor Personnel of Crew—Vessel a Fire Trap—No Serious Effort Made by Captain or Crew—Moral Guilt Placed Upon Owners—Dismissals and Prosecutions—The President's Comments.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The report of the United States commission on the investigation upon the disaster to the steamer General Slocum, appointed June 23, last, by the then Secretary of Commerce and Labor George B. Cortelyou, and consisting of Lawrence O. Murray, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Herbert Knox Smith, deputy commissioner of corporations; George Uhler, supervising inspector of the steamboat inspection service; General John M. Wilson, United States Army, retired, and Commander Cameron McR. Winslow, United States navy, was made public to-day.

In connection with the important findings of the commission, presented in the report, President Roosevelt, to whom the report was submitted, has written a letter to Secretary Victor H. Metcalf, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, briefly summarizing the report and directing him to carry into effect the recommendations of the commission.

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS.

The President's letter to Secretary Metcalf follows:

"White House, Washington, D. C., Oct. 15, 1904. My Dear Sir: I have received the report of the Commission of the United States on the investigation of the General Slocum disaster and the report of the Department of Justice on October 15th, regarding the criminal proceedings taken against various individuals because of their connection with the disaster. I send you herewith both reports. Punitive action by the government can, of course, only be taken after that of legal proceedings against those either within or without the service. It appears that the Department of Justice has already secured indictments against the master and captain of the Slocum and against the managing directors of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, the company the steamer belonged to, for misconduct, negligence, and inattention to duty by the captain, and for aiding and abetting therein by the managing directors. Furthermore, the Department of Justice has secured indictments against Henry Lundberg and John W. Fleming, the assistant inspectors of the steamboat inspection service, who actually inspected the Slocum, for fraud, misconduct, and inattention to duty. Lundberg had been appointed merely on probation in the service and had been dropped. There can be no question as to the action taken about Fleming, although it does not follow that an acquittal would prevent the Department from discharging him from the service. In addition, the Department of Justice has secured the indictments of the manager and three employees of the Nonpareil Cork works, of Camden, N. J., for putting upon the market compressed cork blocks for use in making life preservers, such of which blocks contained in its center a bar of iron weighing several ounces.

This last offense was of so heinous a character that it is difficult to comment upon it with proper self-restraint. It appears that the national legislature has taken prompt action in providing in set terms for the punishment of this particular species of infamy, doubtless because it never entered the head of any man that so gross an infamy could be perpetrated. I suggest that you report this whole matter to Congress, transmitting these two reports, and a that time calling special attention to the need of imposing an adequate penalty for the production or selling of defective life-saving appliances.

REMOVAL OF DELINQUENT OFFICIALS.

"So much for what the Department of Justice has done in reference to the disaster. But in addition to the men put on trial by the Department of Justice, action should be taken against those employees whose responsibility for the state of things producing the accident has been brought into the report of the commission. According to the report it appears that in addition to the two assistant inspectors who are now on trial, the supervising inspector of the second district, Mr. Rodie, and the two local inspectors of the port of New York, Messrs. Dumont and Barrett, should all three be removed for laxity and neglect in performing their duties. As regards the conduct of Mr. Rodie, Mr. Uhler dissects the various incidents of the four other commissioners. I agree with the conclusions of the other four. Laxity and neglect, where the consequences may be so terrible as they have proved to be in this case, cannot be passed over, even where there has been good conduct in other respects on the part of the man implicated. Accordingly, the three officials named have been removed from the service. Moreover, you will please direct their successors in office at once to conduct a thorough examination of the entire inspection force of the port of New York, with the object of ascertaining all the men whom such examination shall show to be unfit to perform the very arduous and responsible duties of their positions. The supervising inspector general has at present no headquarters for special agents, so that it is very difficult for him to exercise adequate and direct supervision over the various divisions of the inspection service. In each division he must rely chiefly on the fidelity and energy of the local heads, and when these fail to perform

A TRAGEDY IN DAVIDSON.

CLAY GRUBB KILLS O. L. DAVIS.

The Victim the Slayer's Brother-in-Law and Former Partner in Business—The Trouble Unknown, But of Some Duration—Grubb Claims Self-Defense and Surrenders Without Hesitation to the Authorities—Both the Men Well Known in the County. Special to The Observer.

Lexington, Oct. 16.—About noon today at Piney Church, in Boone township, Clay Grubb, a well known distiller, shot and killed O. L. Davis, his brother-in-law and former partner in business. Grubb says that just as he drove up near the church, where a protracted meeting was going on, he saw Davis attempt to draw a pistol, and believing his own life to be in danger, he shot Davis to save himself. He did not know how many times he shot, nor whether Davis was dead, but said that three chambers of his revolver were empty. Davis lived about ten minutes after being shot, but never spoke.

MANY WITNESSES.

Several hundred people were present and several of them witnessed the fearful homicide. As the three shots rang out on the Sabbath stillness, the crowd gathered around Davis and saw at once that he was shot in the breast, and they looked on while streams of blood flowed from the nose and mouth of the dying man, forming a pool where he lay. Grubb, who had fired the fatal shots, left the crowd in silence and went to the house of Bill Simeron, a magistrate, close by, and asked that he appoint deputies to bring him to Lexington. Accordingly, Boon Wilson and Clarence Thompson were appointed and they accompanied Grubb to this place, where he surrendered to Sheriff Dorsett, about 3 o'clock this afternoon. The prisoner at once retained Capt. E. C. Robbins, Emery E. Raper, S. E. Williams, Walter W. Waiser, M. C. Cray and Ruark, of the local bar, and phoned to the lawyers, Mr. C. B. Watson, to defend him as counsel. He remained in consultation with his local attorneys for a long time.

THE CAUSE UNKNOWN.

Both Grubb and Davis being so well known, the news of the killing spread like wild-fire and caused a sensation in Davidson county. The cause of the homicide is not known exactly, at this date, but supposed to be over some business transaction. It is said that the men had exchanged threats to kill each other, and that for the last few months feeling has been high between them. Some say the trouble arose over a lot of whiskey which was stolen in Boone county, but supposed to be over some business transaction. It is said that the men had exchanged threats to kill each other, and that for the last few months feeling has been high between them. Some say the trouble arose over a lot of whiskey which was stolen in Boone county, but supposed to be over some business transaction. It is said that the men had exchanged threats to kill each other, and that for the last few months feeling has been high between them.

DANGEROUS MEN.

Both Grubb and Davis have been in trouble several times before, but never with each other. They have the reputation of being dangerous men to be kept with, but have never attacked any one until, as they said, their business was being interfered with. For many years the people of Boone township have been slow to open their mouths about either of the two men, fearing the consequences.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Lexington, Oct. 16.—Rev. Jeff Lanning, who preached to-day at Piney church, where Davis was killed, arrived here to-night and gave another account of the homicide. He said he did not see the affair, but that several eye witnesses. It seems that Davis and his wife had come to preaching at Piney church while Davis was outside talking with Sam Grubb. Grubb drove up, it is alleged, unseen by Davis and shot the latter three times. It is said that Davis did not attempt to draw a weapon. When Davis fell the bystanders rolled him over and a pistol dropped from his pocket. Davis' small brother took this pistol. A horse to one side of Grubb is said to have been reined up, and he fired through the neck, breast and thigh. Grubb is in jail here to-night. He is very calm and expresses great regret over the affair.

SIDE LIGHTS ON TRAGEDY.

Some Interesting Features Develop in Salisbury—Remains of Harvey Atwell Buried—A Week of Political Activity. Special to The Observer.

Salisbury, Oct. 16.—Side lights upon the terrible tragedy to-day in which Henry Clay Grubb, of Davidson county, shot and killed his brother-in-law, Oth Davis, develop here in Salisbury. It is in Salisbury that the absolute truth about the matter. A Mr. Leonard of Salisbury, was an eye witness to the affair, but he was unable to say how the trouble began. It is to be hoped that the Lexington correspondent has succeeded in obtaining the account of the killing. Leonard says services at the Piney church had just begun, it being a few minutes past noon. He heard a shot and upon looking out the window, he saw Grubb shoot Davis the second time and the wounded man sank in his tracks and died. He was shot the third time, one ball entering the right breast, another the face and the other his leg. There seems to have been no immediate preliminary quarrel. Mr. Grubb drove up near the church and was helping his wife (Davis' sister) out of the buggy. Dr. Davis drew his revolver and was attempting to shoot Mr. Grubb, but Mrs. Grubb was in the way. Grubb drew his own gun and shot with the result mentioned above. Davis fell upon his pistol. What led to the shooting cannot be learned

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General Kuropatkin's report to Emperor Nicholas depicts the desperate character of the fighting and praises the valor of the troops, indicating, however, that he is hard pressed, with the result still in the balance. All hope of success for Port Arthur this season has been abandoned. St. Petersburg has an unconfirmed report that the Japanese General Nodua has been seriously wounded. A question of interest in St. Petersburg, is the fate of General Kuropatkin as a factor in the Russian military situation.

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