

236 LIVES LOST WHEN STEAMER VOLTURNO BURNS AT SEA

STORM BLOCKS OFF TEN RESCUE SHIPS

Lifeboats With Human Freight Crushed Against Ships

521 RESCUED WHEN THE WIND ABATES

Frenzied Effort to Aid After Wireless Called Failed For Hours

By Associated Press.

Fishguard, Oct. 11.—Fire in a raging storm in mid-Atlantic on Thursday destroyed the steamer Volturmo on her voyage from Rotterdam to New York with a loss of life of either 136 or 236 of her passengers and crew. Ten other liners, called by wireless to the rescue, were standing by impotent to avert the tragedy owing to the mountainous seas.

Again the wireless played a leading part in the latest tragedy of the sea. By its means and through the heroism of those who responded to the call, the lives of 521 of those on board the Volturmo were saved. The Volturmo was owned by the Canadian Northern Steamships company but had been chartered to the Uranium line.

Officials of the latter company declared this morning that those on board included 24 cabin and 540 steerage passengers with a crew of 93, making a total of 657.

The wireless despatch received from the Carmania said that 521 had been saved and 236 had lost their lives. This makes a total of 757, or just one hundred more than the number on board as given by the company.

Checking from all available sources would indicate that an error in the wireless transmission of the figures has been made and that the lower total, 136, is correct.

Ten Steamers Respond.

Ten steamers responded to the wireless call for help and fought for hours during a raging gale to save the passengers and crew of the burning steamer, which eventually was abandoned. Occupants of six life boats were smashed against the steamer's side. They were probably drowned.

One report by way of Liverpool is that 236 of the passengers and crew of the Volturmo are missing.

The wireless from the Carmania said that the Volturmo caught fire in mid-Atlantic and that the flames raged so furiously in the gale that the abandonment of the steamer followed on Thursday morning.

The Volturmo sailed from Rotterdam on October 2 for New York by way of Halifax, where it was due to stop next Monday.

It is believed that the steamer carried 34 cabin passengers, 640 steerage and a crew of 93 men. The wireless reports 521 persons were saved, making 236 persons unaccounted for thus far.

Gets Distress Call.

Captain Barr, of the Carmania, received the distress call of the Volturmo when 73 miles distant. In latitude

48.25 north, longitude 34.33 west. The Carmania crowded on full steam and with extra stokers made over 20 knots an hour in the teeth of the gale.

When the Carmania reached the vicinity of the Volturmo at noon she found the forward end of the distressed vessel burning fiercely. The flaming ship was at the same time rolling heavily, while her propellers were fouled with boat's trucks used in lowering her six life boats.

It was learned by the captain of the Carmania that two only out of six life boats had succeeded in getting safely away from the Volturmo. The other four, crowded from stem to stern with passengers and members of the crew had been smashed against the side of the vessel and all their occupants, thrown into the sea, drowned.

In spite of the terrific gale, raging when she arrived near the Volturmo the captain of the Carmania had one of his lifeboats lowered to proceed to the Volturmo to help in the rescue. The boat was launched with much difficulty, for even on the lee side of the Carmania the sea was terribly rough, and it was only by extraordinary efforts that the small craft was prevented from being smashed or capsized as she left the side of the ship.

Lifeboat Falls to Make Ship.

The Carmania's lifeboat, in charge of First Officer Gardiner, made a gallant but futile attempt to get alongside the doomed Volturmo. After two hours' battle with the waves, during which the lifeboat lost all but three of her oars, the rest being broken or torn from the hands of the crew, First Officer Gardiner returned to the Carmania, which he succeeded in making without loss of life or broken limbs among the members of his boat's crew.

Captain Barr of the Carmania then maneuvered his big vessel very close to the Volturmo and finally got the Carmania's bow within 100 feet of the Volturmo's stern. It was found impossible, however, to cast a line on board the Volturmo or to get anybody off her.

It was a terrifying sight for the passengers and crew of the Carmania to see so close to them the hundreds of passengers, including women and children, in horror-stricken fear on the deck of the Volturmo and yet be unable to help them.

Most of the passengers got into the Volturmo's lifeboats but a hundred of them had gathered at the after-end of the burning vessel, whose crew at the same time continued in vain to fight the fire at her forward end.

Other Ships Arrive.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the Grosser Kuruzars and the Seydlitz came in sight and these two were joined later in the afternoon by the Kronland, the Devonian and Rappahannock, the Minneapolis, LaLauraine and the Aslan.

The gale moderated slightly toward night and each of the succoring ships, as soon as it was possible for her to do so, put out boats from her davits and lowered them to the sea.

The Volturmo was so high that although the small craft made some progress in the direction of the Volturmo it was impossible for them to get alongside and they returned to their ships in most cases doing this with the greatest difficulty, owing to the overwhelming seas and the darkness of the night.

The Carmania kept her searchlights going throughout the night, throwing their rays across the floating sea in the quest for possible stragglers.

mers or lifeboats from the Volturmo. Explosion on the Volturmo.

At about 9 o'clock in the evening when the darkness was at its blackest, flames burst through amidships of the Volturmo from her engine room and coal bunkers. As the fire lighted up the sky this was followed by an explosion which sent into the air burning wreckage like a flight of rockets.

The spectacle of the great vessel being consumed by fire with over 500 souls on board of her and surrounded by a fleet of huge, lighted hulls crowded with thousands of spectators, all anxious but unable to help owing to the mountainous seas, was heart-breaking.

All that could be done by the would-be helpers was to throw overboard from their vessels dozens of lighted life-buoys and stand by in the hope of picking up some of those who had been cast into the sea.

At 20 minutes past nine at night the wireless operator on board the Volturmo had to turn over the connection of his instrument to the reserve batteries, as the fire had reached the boilers and the engine room and had put the pumps and dynamos out of action.

A few minutes later cries for help were heard rising from the water near the Carmania and then a man, who proved to be a steerage passenger of the Volturmo, wearing a life belt, was located by means of the searchlight a short distance away, tossed about by the sea. He was rescued, but only after one of the sailors of the Carmania had been lowered into the water with a lifeline that he placed around the waist of the exhausted floating man.

Other cries were heard but these gradually died away and no further bodies or swimming people were seen. About midnight a ray of hope came, for it was seen that the flames were not making much headway aft of the engine room or the after bulkhead of the Volturmo.

By daybreak the Volturmo was still floating with her great human cargo huddled in masses on her poop. The sea had moderated considerably and a flotilla of boats gathered round the stern of the Volturmo.

SENATE PASSES HOUSE FREIGHT RATE MEASURE

Also Votes to Take Control of Matter out of Hands of Corporation Commission.

By Associated Press.

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 11.—Just before last midnight the senate of North Carolina passed the house measure which makes a big reduction in intrastate freight rates, variously estimated at from 18 to 40 per cent, and by an amendment took the control of this matter out of the hands of the state corporation commission by providing a special commission of three members. The railroads have vigorously fought this measure and it is said will continue the fight against the amendment by the house. The extra session of the general assembly is to adjourn Monday night.

MANY FOOTBALL GAMES STAGED IN EAST TODAY

Six Games Scheduled Have Important Bearing on Struggle for Supremacy.

New York, Oct. 11.—With the world's baseball championship not yet decided, the devotees of football sought to push their way to the front today with a schedule which called for about 30 intercollegiate games in the east. Many of the larger colleges were past the experimental stage of their work and ready to open a hard campaign.

The six games of the day regarded as having a most important bearing on the season's battle for supremacy were Harvard and Williams at Cambridge, Yale and Lafayette at New Haven, Cornell and Carleton at Ithaca, Rutgers and the Army at West Point, Pennsylvania and Swarthmore at Philadelphia and Princeton and Bucknell at Princeton.

M'GRAW'S MEN ARE DESPERATE

Giants on Home Ground Determined to Lessen Two Game Lead of Opponents.

GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY SPIRITED RALLY

Mackmen Confident of Ending Series—Giants Fight with Boston Red Sox Is Recalled.

By Associated Press.

Polo Grounds, New York, Oct. 11.—The New York Giants stood in their last line of entrenchments today and with their "big gun" Christy Mathewson wheeled into the breach faced the storming attack of the Philadelphia Athletics, who need but one more victorious charge to make them world's champions of 1913. With all his pitching artillery shattered by the Athletics' cannonading, Manager McGraw was forced to send his lone pitching star, Mathewson, to the firing line with only two days rest. The National league champions have won only one game in the series.

Thirty-five thousand or more persons, undimmed by the Herculean task of the Giants in holding in check the Philadelphia Athletics, came out to the Polo grounds to view the battle. The gloomy weather kept the Philadelphia crowd down to a small number, but those enthusiastic few sat behind the Athletics' bench and never missed an opportunity to cheer their team.

With heavy clouds drifting in from seaward there was a constant fear that rain would end the struggle. Canvas mats protected the inner playing field from the night's downpour and the ground keepers had the diamond in shape for smart fielding play.

New York, Oct. 11.—It was under far more difficulties than those that prevailed on the occasion of their previous meeting here that the Philadelphia Athletics and New York Nationals prepared today to play the fifth and possibly the last game of the 1913 world's series. Then the count in games won and lost was even and it was a toss-up as to which would prove the ultimate victor. Today the Mackmen needed but this world's laurels they have been fighting for, while to those for the Giants it was one more defeat which would spell their finish and compel them for the third successive year to be satisfied with the losers' share of the world's series purse.

It was with confidence that the Philadelphia fans this morning set about preparations for the fray of the day, but not, their adherents declared, with an over-confidence that would make them play carelessly. The spirited rally of the New Yorks in yesterday's game at Philadelphia, when, apparently overwhelmingly beaten, they landed on "Chief" Bender and hammered out enough runs to make the issue doubtful up to the last moment, had taught the Athletics thorough respect for their opponents' gameness and powers of recuperation.

Fandom prepared to make the most of its chance—possibly the last chance this year—to see the champions of the two big leagues in action, should the weather permit a game. Had the Giants been utterly swamped in that game of yesterday, as it seemed for a time they were to be, possibly the feeling that it was no use—that the American league champions were bound to win a game and the series—would have prevailed. Encouraged by the brilliant stand of the National league standard bearers toward the close of the struggle in Philadelphia, however, the hope existed among the supporters of McGraw's men that history would repeat itself—possibly, from their standpoint, better itself.

It was recalled that last year after the Boston Red Sox had tucked away three games of the series to the Giants' one, the latter had rallied and taken the next two, forcing the series to go to the limit and only losing the deciding contest by reason of the fatal muff by an outfielder that permitted the winning Boston run to be tallied in the tenth inning.

UNCERTAINTY PREVAILS OVER SULZER VERDICT

Nervousness and Suspense Marked about the Capitol at Albany.

By Associated Press.

Albany, N. Y., Oct. 11.—Pending the final decision of the high court of impeachment on the question of the guilt or innocence of Governor Sulzer, uncertainty prevailed at the capitol today. The uncertainty and feeling of nervousness and suspense was not by any means confined to the governor and his immediate family, friends and advisers. It was noticeable among all heads of departments and department employes.

The state's business has been practically at a standstill since the inauguration of the impeachment proceedings. When the knowledge that the governor's fate will be announced early next week, department heads and employes not protected by civil service were worrying about the permanency of their tenure of office.

THE WORD "LIE" CAUSED EXCITEMENT IN HOUSE

Mr. Barlett of Georgia Took Exception to Statement of Mr. Mondell.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Oct. 11.—The house had a moment of excitement today when the unparliamentary word "lie" figured in the debate. Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, said that the position taken by Representative Bartlett of Georgia as to commerce legislation "gave the lie to his protestations."

Mr. Bartlett jumped to his feet with a demand that Mr. Mondell withdraw the word "lie."

"Oh, I am not excited," shouted Mr. Bartlett to his colleagues who gathered about him. "I don't intend to break any rules of the house."

Mr. Mondell admitted that his choice had been unfortunate, but insisted that Mr. Bartlett's attitude did not accord with his statement in regard to certain legislation. Mr. Bartlett accepted this form of criticism and the incident was closed.

MANY CHILDREN ON THE VOLTURNO

Eighty-Two Aboard, Including Several Infants—Few Cabin Passengers.

By Associated Press.

New York, Oct. 11.—The Uranium line was without direct information concerning the loss of the steamer Volturmo up to 9 o'clock this morning. They stated that according to their information she had on board 24 cabin passengers, 278 steerage passengers for New York and 262 for Halifax, and a crew of 93 men. They had received from Rotterdam a list of 16 of the cabin passengers.

The Volturmo was commanded by Captain Inch, who has been five years in the service of the Uranium line.

The Volturmo was built by Fairfield & Co. at Glasgow in 1906. She was 340 feet long with a 43 foot beam. Her gross tonnage was 2381, net 2295.

On this voyage she carried a cargo of 591 tons, consisting of non-combustible chemicals, manufactured cotton goods, mineral waters and liquors.

When Edward O. Thomas, general manager of the line's office here, and Carl F. Forman, general passenger agent, reached their desks shortly after 9 o'clock this morning they found the offices were besieged by reporters, but were without any advices whatsoever. They sent a cablegram to their general agent at Halifax asking if he had received any word of the disaster, and at 9:30 were waiting for a reply.

Of the steerage passengers bound for Halifax, 210 were adults, 41 children and 10 infants. Only one cabin passenger was booked for Halifax. Of the steerage passengers bound for New York, 212 were adults, 31 children and 10 infants. The total number of young children and babies aboard was 82.

HUERTA TAKES DRASTIC ACTION

POSTOFFICE MADE ANOTHER RECORD

Receipts for Quarter Closed Largest in History of the Office.

By Associated Press.

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WASHINGTON UNEASY OVER THE SITUATION

By Associated Press.

Mexico City, Oct. 11.—Provisional President Huerta's coup last night, whereby he rid himself in a spectacular manner of the legislative bodies of the government and constituted himself dictator of the Mexican republic, has left the city today in a state of tense expectancy.

The dissolution of the national congress was not wholly unexpected in political circles, but the manner of its accomplishment served to demonstrate the lengths to which the executive was prepared to go to maintain his grasp upon the administrative affairs of the nation.

The capital was alive with rumors this morning, one of them being to the effect that three deputies arrested last night who were most active in precipitating the clash with General Huerta had disappeared. This report was not given much credence. President Huerta, before the arrests were made, had given his word that none of the deputies would be harmed.

Mexico City, Oct. 11.—Both branches of the Mexican national congress were formally declared suspended at a late hour last night by Provisional President Huerta.

The declaration was made after 110 members of the chamber of deputies had been arrested and lodged in the penitentiary for signing resolutions of warning to General Victoriano Huerta because of the disappearance of the senator for Chiapas, Dr. Belisario Dominguez.

A proclamation was issued just before midnight calling for new elections of senators and deputies on October 25, which date is coincident with the presidential election.

Washington Anxious.

Washington, Oct. 11.—Provisional President Huerta's arrest of 110 deputies of the Mexican congress, followed by the prorogation of both houses of that body, has put administration officials here in a state of anxiety. No attempts are made to disguise the view that the developments of the last 24 hours in Mexico City have precipitated what probably is the most serious situation since Huerta took office.

It was pointed out that conditions were similar to those immediately preceding the abdication of Porfirio Diaz. The greater part of the large body of troops that have been maintained in the capital have been sent north against the rebellion and thus Mexico City is left with a comparatively small garrison.

To Declare Martial Law.

The situation is regarded here as warranting the United States in maintaining a considerable naval force at Vera Cruz and Tampico, where Rear Admiral Fletcher has sailors and marines ready for eventualities in case a situation should develop beyond the capacity of the Mexican authorities. Huerta's action in suspending the sessions of Congress is regarded merely as preliminary to a declaration of martial law which will make almost unlimited his power over the capital.

The weakening of Huerta's control over his original safe majority has been observed here and it is understood that aside from serving warning upon his enemies that he will brook no opposition in the development of his plans, General Huerta has dissolved the present congress with the purpose of seeking, through a new election conducted simultaneously with that for the presidency, a strong and capable parliament party to support Gamba, Huerta's candidate at the elections October 25.

Many officials regarded the developments as bearing out predictions that no election would be held October 25. At the White House it was stated that President Wilson was studying the situation carefully but was not ready to announce the next step in the American policy.

Huerta's Control Weakening.

It is believed, however, that Huerta's action toward the congress will be regarded as an evidence of his inability to control the situation and that there was little likelihood of the United States recognizing the choice of the (Continued on page 3)

WILSON TO ASK REPEAL OF TOLLS EXEMPTION

London Hears the President Will Seek to Relieve Discrimination.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Oct. 11.—Reports published in London that President Wilson soon would ask Congress to repeal the exemption of American shipping from tolls in the Panama canal brought from the White House today the brief statement that any announcement of the administration's policy on that subject at this time was unauthorized. Officials declined to amplify that statement.

In other administration quarters, however, the belief was expressed that later such a repeal would be recommended to congress, but those who spoke disclaimed any official knowledge of President Wilson's intentions. Those closest to the president predicted that any announcement of policy would not be made until the legislative situation in congress was opportune.

Last negotiations over Great Britain's diplomatic protest against the alleged discrimination were conducted by former Ambassador Bryce last February. He relinquished his post here after announcing he would not do so until the question was on the way to settlement. The new ambassador has taken no steps in the question and diplomats here have construed his inaction as an indication that satisfactory assurances have been given by Washington to London, of a settlement of the dispute.

NEGRO WHO FIRED ON COURT CROWD ESCAPES

By Associated Press.

Lavonia, Ga., Oct. 11.—Police today renewed their search for Hack Curry, a negro who yesterday fired into a crowd of white men, wounding four. The mayor of the town, J. R. Dorich was seriously wounded. The others' injuries were slight.

Curry's brother just had been sentenced in police court by the mayor for stabbing a white man. When sentence was pronounced, the negro bolted for the street. Every man in the room gave chase. Curry, standing outside the building, emptied a shotgun into the crowd as it poured from the room, and fled after his brother. Neither has been arrested.