

# The Semi-Weekly Messenger.

VOL. XXXIX No 20.

WILMINGTON N. C. MARCH 16, 1906.

\$1.00 PER YEAR

## 27 OF CREW LOST

### The Steamer "British King" Foundered at Sea

## DETAILS OF THE DISASTER

### Volunteers from Other Ships Did Heroic Work of Rescue

### Eighteen Men Were Taken From the Doomed Steamer by the Leland Line Steamer "Bostonian," and Eleven by the German Steamer "Mannheim." Then Darkness Fell, and the Gate Increased and No Further Efforts Could be Made to Take the Remainder of the Crew From the "British King"—For Three Days the Ship's Destruction Was Threatened.

Boston, Mass., March 14.—Suffering, mental and physical, from numerous acts of heroism in saving life rarely equalled in the record of tragedies of the sea attended the loss of the Phoenix Line steamer British King which on Sunday last, in a raging Atlantic storm foundered about 150 miles south of Sable Island, and caused the death of twenty-seven members of the crew. Thirteen men were rescued from the sinking vessel by the Leyland Line steamer Bostonian, bound from Manchester to Boston, and eleven by the German tank steamer Mannheim, from Rotterdam for New York. Five others who had been drawn down in the vortex into which the British King was engulfed, were picked up by the Bostonian from a frail bit of wreckage which they had grasped after a desperate struggle for life in the whirlpool. The Bostonian arrived here this afternoon and the details of the disaster became known.

Captain James O'Hagan, of the British King, died on board the Bostonian from the effects of terrible injuries sustained in trying to save his ship. The boats of the Bostonian were crushed to fragments, and the volunteer crews which manned them were thrown into the high rousing seas, while engaged in the work of rescue, but all were safely landed on board the steamer.

Volunteers from the Mannheim, after a heroic battle with the waves, had taken off eleven from the British King, but after this neither of the steamers, in consequence of the increasing gale, could make an attempt to reach the foundering freighter. Moreover, darkness fell, and it was an utter impossibility to do else but wait for the moon light to guide them. In the darkness the British King, which was then waterlogged and helpless, plunged to the bottom.

For three days her captain and crew, working against unconquerable odds, had tried to prevent, or at least, postpone their ship's destruction. Barrels of oil and wreckage forming into a powerful ram, were driven down upon her sides with crushing force, opening up the vessel's plates, allowing the water to pour into her holds.

The extent of the leak was not understood until the following day, however, and then, although all hands were placed at the pumps, the water gained considerably. The fires had been extinguished, and the engines rendered useless by the rising water. The only remedy at hand lay in repairing the damaged sections, and while personally superintending this work, Captain O'Hagan sustained a fractured leg and internal injuries. Although he was unable to stand, he continued to direct the efforts of his crew. At the end of three days, when all hands had labored ceaselessly without rest and with little food the Bostonian and Mannheim were sighted, and to these Captain displayed the signal for assistance.

Both the Bostonian and Mannheim stood by the scene of the wreck until Monday morning, but no bodies were recovered.

The British King sailed from New York last Wednesday bound for Antwerp, with a miscellaneous cargo and 150 head of cattle. The passage was uneventful until Friday morning, when the ship was struck by a strong northerly wind, which suddenly developed into a hurricane. Some of the hatches were torn open, great volumes of water poured into the ship's compartments, disabling the engines and soon the ship became absolutely helpless, the rudder also having been swept away. Realizing the necessity of quick action Captain O'Hagan himself went into the hold and strove to repair the most damaged sections.

It was while doing this that a barrel of oil fractured one of his legs in two places. The injury was so severe that a piece of the bone protruded

through the flesh. In spite of this, he ordered his leg to be bound up and when this had been done, resumed command and directed the efforts which were being made to plug up the hole in the ship's side. But all efforts at repair were fruitless. All hands were forced to take refuge on the main deck. The cattle were swept overboard, gradually by the seas and drowned. At 6 o'clock Sunday morning Captain O'Hagan sighted the Mannheim and shortly afterwards the Bostonian, both of which hoisted to. The British King signalled that she was waterlogged and would have to be abandoned. At 8 o'clock she sent another signal which read: "Do not abandon me."

The half hundred or more men of the wrecked steamer were in plain view of those on board the Bostonian and Mannheim who could, however, do nothing at that time in the way of rescue on account of the sea that was running.

At 1:30 p. m. the British King signalled: "Help us, we are sinking."

A slight moderation of the weather permitted the Mannheim to lower a boat in charge of a volunteer crew which, after a perilous and most difficult row to the British King, rescued eleven of the crew.

The men of the British King were brave for they pushed one another forward, all apparently willing to wait for the last chance of being saved.

Sailors of the Bostonian vied with each other for the honor of sitting in life boat and were not deterred from this when the first boat was dashed to pieces against the steamer's stern. First Officer William Brown and the six seamen with him were left struggling in the water, but they were saved by means of lines thrown from the Leyland boat. The men were all badly bruised.

A great cheer went up from the Bostonian when at 4 o'clock the starboard life boat was successfully put out in charge of Second Officer Cromwell. The steward and four sailors went with him, and the encouraging cheers were kept up as the little crew gallantly struggled to reach the sinking steamer. This boat took off 13 men, including Captain O'Hagan, who was tenderly, but hastily lowered by his men by means of a line from the stern. The Bostonian was reached and the rescued seamen placed on board. But before the life savers could climb to the deck, a quick forming sea hurled the fragile craft against the side of the steamer, forcing her apart, and then the water receding carried the volunteers some hundred feet distant from their ship. Cheering cries reached them to cling to the wreckage while the engines of the Bostonian started and the ship manoeuvred to a point near the struggling seamen. Again were the lines used with skill and success, for all volunteers were hoisted to the ship, though Officer Cromwell was almost drowned.

Captain Barry deemed it imprudent to send another boat to the wreck, as darkness was setting in and decided to wait until the moon arose before continuing the work of rescue. About 11 o'clock, when the gale was running with apparently reinforced velocity, the British King was seen to stagger in the trough of the sea, raise herself, plunge down. Both the Mannheim and the Bostonian steamed to the point where the ship had foundered and it had just been decided that all those on board had perished when a feeble cry from the darkness told that some at least had not been drowned. Half an hour later Captain Parry of the Bostonian located a small section of a cattle rack to which five men were clinging. These were Second Officer Flanagan, Chief Engineer Crawford, Arolphus Beck, fourth engineer and two cabinmen. They had been carried down with the steamer, but after coming to the surface, had, after mighty efforts, succeeded in swimming beyond the whirlpool, and in finding a temporary refuge upon the wreckage.

All night and until 7:30 a. m. on Monday both the Mannheim and the Bostonian stood by searching for bodies and then both ships resumed their passages.

Yesterday, after terrible suffering, Captain O'Hagan died.

Fifty six men, including a stowaway were on board the British King and 27 of these, it is deemed almost certain perished with their ship.

### TO CLUB DR. PARKHURST

Such Plot Said to Have Been Discovered in New York City.

New York, March 14.—The report of an alleged plot to kill Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst was made public today. Dr. Parkhurst has been prominent for years as a police reformer. It is understood that the district attorney's office has prepared to summon several witnesses in connection with this plot, which is said to have originated because of a raid made upon a disorderly house by agents of the Parkhurst society some time ago. District Attorney Jerome when asked about this report today refused to discuss it. Police Magistrate Wahlke said that Assistant District Attorney Hart yesterday obtained from him several blank subpoenas, which, he added, might have been for use in uncovering the alleged plot. According to the report a man has been hired to club Dr. Parkhurst on the first opportunity presenting itself. Dr. Parkhurst today refused either to confirm or to deny the report.

### Everybody

Recognizes the superiority of Gas for Cooking—Gas solves the servant question.

## SIX ROUND FIGHT

### Bout Between "Battling" Nelson and Terry McGovern

## CROWD WAS DISAPPOINTED

### Fight Classed as a Draw, But Nelson Deserved Decision

### In the First Three Rounds Scarcely a Half Dozen Good Blows Were Struck and the Crowd Plainly Showed its Disappointment—Beginning With the Fourth Round, However, the Men Went at Each Other in Earnest and the Fight Became a Hard One. Neither Man Was Knocked Down, and the Referee Rendered No Decision.

Philadelphia, March 14.—"Battling" Nelson had the advantage of Terry McGovern in their six round bout which took place at the National Athletic Club tonight. For the first three rounds the fight was a disappointment to the 5,000 persons who had paid fancy prices to witness the bout. There were scarcely half a dozen solid blows struck, the men wrestling from one end of the ring to the other with the referee powerless to separate them. It had been agreed that the referee was not to lay his hands on the men, but simply warn them to step back when they rushed to a clinch. The repeated warnings had no effect on the fighters, and the crowd hissed, groaned and cried "fake" and "Take them out of the ring."

At the beginning of the fourth round the men began to fight as though they meant business. Nelson kept right after McGovern and used a straight left to advantage. McGovern frequently countered with hard lefts and rights, but his blows, while they appeared to have great force behind them, failed to make an impression on the sturdy Dane. At the close of the fifth round McGovern went to his right elbow and when the men came up for the final round Nelson sent a left to the jaw, and McGovern rushed to a clinch.

His seconds cried "Hold on Terry, hold on," and never were instructions carried out more thoroughly. Every time that Nelson could land a stiff blow, McGovern would grab him around the body and hang on until Nelson would throw him off by sheer force. It is doubtful if McGovern could have stood the grueling for another round. There was some rough work in the early rounds by the Dane. He frequently used his right elbow and bore in on McGovern repeatedly with his head. Nelson deserved the decision, but as no decisions are rendered when both men are on their feet, the fight is classed as a draw. Neither man was knocked down during the fight, but McGovern slipped to the floor in the fifth round while trying to escape from the Dane.

McGovern entered the ring at 10:05. He was given a tremendous ovation. Nelson came in at the same time. The cheering for the Dane had scarcely ceased when the referee called the men to the center of the ring and gave them instructions. A moment later the fight was on. Jimmy Gardner was also in Nelson's corner.

The fight began at 10:40. Nelson missed a left but both clinched, and it was 20 seconds before they separated. The crowd hissed and Nelson led with left to head. They again clinched, and the referee warned McGovern for holding. There was another clinch and McGovern sent a hard left to the head. They were clinched at the bell and as they went to their corner there was nothing but hisses.

Round 2. McGovern missed a left for the wind, and then they began to wrestle. McGovern's left to wind and left to head. They rushed to a clinch and then McGovern drove a right to the head, which barred the battler. Nelson was cautioned for using his shoulder. Nelson missed a straight left and again they clinched. The boys did not move six feet from the center of the ring and were still clinched at the bell. Groans and hisses greeted the men as they went to their corner.

Round 3. McGovern tried left to wind twice but was broken in both attempts. They clinched and the referee could not get them to break. Nelson drove two lefts to face and there was the same old clinch. McGovern drove a left to the jaw and missed a hard right. McGovern's uppercut with a hard right and then sent a right to the jaw. Nelson sent another left to the face and the men were clinched at the gong.

Round 4. McGovern swung wild with his right but drove a left to the head. Nelson sent a left to the face and then they clinched and wrestled across the ring. Nelson pounded McGovern's kidneys in the clinch. Nelson sent a left left to face and McGovern missed a swing for the jaw. Nelson was growing stronger while McGovern seemed to be weakening. Nelson sent a hard left and a right to the jaw and

McGovern was weak as he went to his corner. It was the first round in which there was any real fighting.

Round 5. McGovern sent a left to the head and Nelson countered with a left to the wind. Nelson sent a light left to the stomach. McGovern rushed to a clinch and refused to break when ordered by the referee. McGovern sent three lefts to the face but the blows did not have any appreciable effect on Nelson. When they broke Nelson drove a terrific right to McGovern's jaw, which made the Brooklyn boy wobble. They clinched and as they broke away the bell rang.

Round 6. Nelson missed a right swing and they rushed to a clinch. McGovern missed a right for the wind and then sent a right upper cut to the wind. Nelson sent a light left to the face and then missed a terrific right for McGovern's chin.

Nelson drove McGovern into a neutral corner and landed two hard blows on the wind. McGovern was almost out when the gong sounded. It was Nelson's fight.

## THREATENED TO KILL MORGAN

### Mrs. G. B. Williams Has Annoyed the Financier Off and On for Five Years. Given a Hearing for Disorderly Conduct and Will be Examined as to Her Sanity.

New York, March 14.—At a hearing in the private chambers of Magistrate Wahlke, in the Tombs police court today, Mrs. G. B. Williams, an English woman, who resides at the Hoffman house, was committed to Bellevue hospital to be examined as to her sanity.

Mrs. Williams was arrested this afternoon in front of the officers of J. Pierpont Morgan and company. The charge was disorderly conduct.

She protested when ordered to the hospital and said she was the victim of a plot planned by J. P. Morgan. When removed from the magistrate's chambers she struggled desperately and gave the five policemen who had her in charge all they could do to get her into a carriage. It is said that the name Williams is probably a fictitious one. She is about 40 or 45 years of age and is reputed to have been at one time a very wealthy woman, but is said to have lost considerable property by bad investments. Since March 9 she had been daily to the office of Morgan and company, demanding to see Mr. Morgan, who is in Europe, or his son, J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr. On the occasion of each of her visits, it is alleged she has threatened to shoot and kill the financier and his son. At the office of J. P. Morgan and company, it was stated by a prominent official, that Mrs. Williams has been annoying Mr. Morgan on and off for about five years. She told Mr. Morgan that she believed she had an interest in some Boston estate, and asked the financier to look up the matter for her. Mr. Morgan did investigate and found that at one time she had been interested in it, but that she sold her interest. The official stated that it is the general belief of Mr. Morgan's associates that the woman is not in her right mind.

## IN FAVOR OF THE FOSTER BILL

### Hearing Before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Measure to Admit High Class Chinese into the United States.

Washington, March 14.—John Foord, secretary of the American Asiatic Association and representatives of commercial interests in prominent cities of the United States, appeared before the house committee on foreign affairs in support of the Foster bill to amend the Chinese exclusion act in such a manner that high class Chinese may be admitted with less inconvenience.

The American Asiatic Association, said Mr. Foord, is interested in the proposed modification in the exclusion law because of the importance to American commercial interests in China's trade.

D. A. Tompkins, of Charlotte, representing the National Association of Manufacturers, said his association had no desire to admit Chinese coolies. He said class distinctions were made in China and must be recognized by the United States. The coolie was so easily recognized that it was desirable for this country to say that all Chinese but the coolies, may enter our ports. He urged that there was no desire among manufacturers to bring Chinese laborers here to compete with American labor, for, he said, intelligent labor using improved machinery excels cheap labor.

In response to questions as to the effect of the Chinese boycott on the machinery in cotton trade in which he is interested, Mr. Tompkins said the effect has been very injurious and threatens to grow if conditions are not relieved at once.

Figures were laid before the committee indicating that the trade of Southern cotton mills with China was reduced nearly 70 per cent by the boycott and that trade is not rallying from the blow received.

## New French Ministry Outlines its Policy.

Paris, March 14.—The new ministry presented itself to the chamber of deputies today and outlined its policy, as follows:

"The government intends to carry out the church and state separation law with inflexible firmness and establish the responsibility for resistance to the taking of inventories.

Concerning Morocco, we intend to follow the policy of the preceding ministry, hoping that the equity and dignity of our position will permit an early and satisfactory solution."

The chamber of deputies by a vote of 305 against 195 approved the ministerial statement.

## RIGHT TO FIX RATES

### Argument of Senator Rayner on Railroad Bill

## OUTLINES AMENDMENTS

### Wanted to Dispense With Suspension Provision

### Several Senators Were Aroused by Remarks of the Speaker, and Exceptions Were Taken to His Contention That the Railroads Have Interfered in Framing the Bill—Knox Declared That the Measure Would be Unconstitutional Without a Provision for Court Review—Rayner Argued for the Rights of Congress to Fix Rates.

Washington, March 14.—The railroad rate bill today reached the controversial stage in the senate. The question came up in the regular order of business shortly before 2 o'clock and held the floor until the doors were closed for a brief executive session a few minutes after 5 o'clock. Mr. Rayner was the chief speaker of the day and the debate that took place was provoked by some of his utterances. Among the senators who were aroused by him were Messrs. Foraker, Lodge and Dooliver.

Both the Ohio senators and the Massachusetts senator took exception to Mr. Rayner's contention that the railroads have interfered in the framing of the bill, and Mr. Foraker also expressed himself as dissatisfied with the intimation that the railroads are represented on the floor of the senate.

Mr. Dooliver expressed displeasure with the plea for amendments and went so far as to say that the help of such friends as Mr. Rayner could very well be dispensed with.

Other senators who participated in the debate were Messrs. Aldrich, Tillman and Knox.

Mr. Knox freely expressed his opinion that the bill would be unconstitutional without a provision for the review of the commission's findings by the court, and Mr. Aldrich stated his belief that he and Mr. Rayner were not greatly at variance in their views. He declined, however, to agree to accept amendments which were outlined by the Maryland senator.

Mr. Tillman reiterated his objection to the bill and indulged in some characteristic phrases in stating his position, concluding with the remark that he believed that the bill could be so amended so as to make it acceptable.

The argument of Mr. Rayner was directed in favor of the general proposition that congress has the right to fix rates, but that the bill should be so amended as to dispense with the suspension provision. He also advocated other amendments.

## RUSSIAN DIABOLISM

### Plot to Assassinate Jews—Work of Official Cabal to Give Excuse for Severe Repressive Measures.

St. Petersburg, March 14.—At today's session of the cabinet Premier Witte, who was warmly supported by Prince Alexis Obolensky, procurator-general of the holy synod, and Count John Tolstoy, minister of education, insisted on the suppression of the organization known as the League of the Russian People, through which the agitation of the reactionary "Black Hundreds," is propagated. It is reported that he was forced to arrive at this decision, but this is not absolutely confirmed. The police prefect, M. Von Der Launetz, was summoned to the meeting and asked to explain how it happened that the publication of the proclamation calling for the extermination of the Jews was printed in the official printing office attached to his department. The prefect denied having any personal knowledge of the printing. However, it was established that there is constantly accumulating evidence that the plot to produce a counter revolution in the hope of sweeping away the reforms outlined in the manifesto of October 30th had its origin in a court cabal. The plan is to provoke riots and massacres of Jews and revolutionists over as wide an area as possible in order to justify still more terrible repressions and thereby prove to the emperor that the people are not ripe for any sort of self-government.

## Swedish Steamer Aground.

Hartlingen, March 14.—The Swedish steamer Wermland from Pensacola and Newport News for this port, is aground at Eluslenk. It will be necessary to lighten the vessel before she can be floated.

## WOMEN FOUGHT WITH MOROS

### Dispatch From General Wood as to the Killing of Moro Women and Children in the Recent Fighting on Mount Dajo—His Account, Says the President, is Entirely Satisfactory.

Washington, March 14.—A cablegram from General Wood regarding criticisms of the recent battle of Mount Dajo on the island of Jolo, together with correspondence between the president and Secretary Taft on the subject were made public today. General Wood's cablegram was in answer to one sent to him at the direction of Secretary Taft who called attention to the criticisms of "wanton slaughter of Moros," and asked him to send all the particulars. General Wood's reply denies that there was any wanton killing, and says a considerable number of women and children were killed in the fight because they were actually in the works when assaulted, that Moro women wore trousers and that children were used as shields. The reply was sent by Secretary Taft to the president, with a note in which the secretary says that General Wood's answer seems to him to show most clearly that the unfortunate loss of life was wholly unavoidable, to which the president replied that General Wood's answer "is of course, entirely satisfactory."

General Wood's dispatch and the president's reply to Secretary Taft's letter follows:

"The Military Secretary, Washington, D. C.

"In answer to secretary of war's request for information March 12th, I was present throughout practically entire action and inspected top of crater after action was finished. Am convinced no man, woman or child was wantonly killed. A considerable number of women and children were killed in the fight—number unknown, for the reason that they were actually in the works when assaulted, and were unavoidably killed in the fierce hand-to-hand fighting which took place in the narrow inclosed spaces.

"Moro women wore trousers and were dressed, armed, much like the men and charged with them. The children were in many cases used by the men as shields, while charging troops. These incidents are much to be regretted, but it must be understood that the Moros, one and all, were fighting, not only as enemies, but religious fanatics, believing paradise to be their immediate reward if killed in action with Christians. They apparently desired that none be saved. Some of our men, one a hospital steward, were cut up while giving assistance to wounded Moros, and by those feigning death for the purpose of getting this vengeance. I personally ordered assistance given wounded Moros, and that food and water should be sent them and medical attendance.

"In addition, friendly Moros were at once directed to proceed to mountain for this purpose. I do not believe that in this or any other fight any American soldier wantonly killed a Moro woman or child, or that he ever did it except unavoidably in close action.

"Action was most desperate and was impossible for men fighting literally for their lives in close quarter to distinguish who would be injured by fire. In all action against Moros, we have begged Moros again and again to fight as men and keep women and children out of it. I assume entire responsibility for action of the troops in every particular and if any evidence develops in any way bearing out the charges will act at once.

"Very sincerely yours,  
"WM. H. TAFT."  
The president's reply follows:  
"White House,  
"Washington, March 14, 1906.

"My dear Mr. Secretary: I have received your letter of March 13th, with accompanying cable of General Wood answering your inquiry as to the alleged wanton slaughter of Moros. This answer is, of course, entirely satisfactory. The officers and enlisted men under General Wood's command have performed a most gallant and soldierly feat in a way that confers added credit on the American army. They are entitled to the heartiest admiration and praise of all their fellow citizens who are glad to see the honor of the flag upheld by the courage of the men wearing the American uniform.

"Sincerely yours,  
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."  
"Hon. WM. H. TAFT."  
"Secretary of War."

## FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT

### Hon. Oliver H. Dockery Taken to Rex Hospital Raleigh for Treatment.

(Special to The Messenger.)  
Raleigh, N. C. March 14.—Hon. Oliver H. Dockery, republican nominee for governor of North Carolina in 1888, was brought from his home at Mangum, N. C., to Rex hospital, Raleigh, for special treatment.

## CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

### Sessions to be Held in Richmond and Asheville in May.

Asheville, N. C., March 14.—An official order to be issued Saturday by United States Circuit Court Judge Goff, at Richmond, Va., will direct that a session of the circuit court of appeals be held at Richmond, Va., beginning May 1st to hear appeals from northern and southern districts of West Virginia, district of Maryland, and the eastern district of Virginia, and that a session of the court be held at Asheville, N. C., commencing May 21 for hearing of appeals from district of South Carolina, eastern and western districts of North Carolina, and western district of Virginia. It is also provided that with the assent of counsel the cases assigned for hearing at Richmond will be heard at Asheville, it being understood that they are to be heard after the cases assigned for Asheville are argued and submitted.