

La Grande Evening Observer

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LA GRANDE, OREGON,

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1914.

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LINER SINKS WITH ABOUT 700 ABOARD

SHIP EMPRESS OF IRELAND HIT IN DENSE FOG SINKING IN LESS THAN 20 MINUTES

Collier Storstadt Rams Out-bound Liner Which Was Trying to Avoid a Collision

WIRELESS APPEALS END WITH CRY, SHIP IS GONE

Disaster Occurs Where Gulf is Forty Miles Wide and Relief Slow in Arrival With Boats

Quebec, May 29.—The Canadian-Pacific Trans-Atlantic liner Empress Ireland, bound from Montreal to Liverpool was sunk early today in a collision with the collier Storstadt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The ship had more than 1400 aboard and, according to some accounts received here early today, about 400 were saved. Other versions place the number as low as 337. Search of the survivors has not been abandoned.

The disaster occurred in a dense fog off Father Point. As nearly as could be learned from early reports, Captain Kendall of the Empress Ireland, hearing the Storstadt's siren, but being unable to locate the collier, gave the Empress to.

Soon after the Storstadt, deeply laden, crashed into the liner head on and the Empress keeled over heavily. According to messages from Captain Anderson of the Storstadt, she went down in 19 minutes. The Kendall flashed the distress signal by wireless giving hurried details of the accident but the message was interrupted with the two tragic words, "ship gone," and the wireless was silent.

The Storstad was badly damaged but she launched some boats hurriedly while the Empress succeeded in getting some away. These were all heavily loaded. Kendall was rescued from his own bridge.

In the meantime government boats, the Lady Evelyn and Eureka, speeded to the scene from Father Point, but the gulf is 40 miles wide where the disaster occurred and by the time they arrived the Empress had sunk.

Quebec, May 29.—Responding to wireless appeals for help, the tug Strathcona was dispatched to assist the Storstadt up the river. It appears that none of the crew on board the collier were hurt.

LAW OFFICER ACCUSED.

Justice of the Peace Pierce of Haines Placed in Jail.

Baker, May 29.—Charged with offenses of almost unmentionable character, Justice of the Peace Frank E. Pierce of Haines was arrested in this city last evening by Sheriff Ed Rand. A warrant for his arrest was issued early in the forenoon and the town marshal of Haines, came to Baker to consult with officials regarding the case, left last evening to place Pierce under arrest. Pierce, however, had come to Baker and early in the evening was taken into custody by Sheriff Rand. He was lodged in the county jail, where he will be held pending his preliminary hearing, which will be held before Justice of the Peace Hubbard at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Pierce is charged with contributing to the delinquency of two young girls and, according to the authorities, they have a very strong case against him, aided by the confession of the girls. The details of Pierce's alleged relations with them are unfit for publication and are of a most revolting nature.

Prof. Maxwell Improved.

Prof. Maxwell is reported to be so far improved that he can leave the local hospital and return to his home in Elgin tomorrow.

Shipped Home In His Own Casket

GEORGE W. ASHFORD DIED OF
MENINGITIS.

WAS TAKEN ILL MONDAY

Oregon Casket Company Salesman
Victim of Disease.

To be returned to Portland in one of the caskets which he left Portland to sell to local undertakers, was the fate of George W. Ashford, aged 61 of Portland. Mr. Ashford was taken ill while selling caskets for the Oregon Casket Company of Portland. He "made" La Grande last Monday, and was taken ill soon after, dying yesterday of meningitis.

A nephew, Mr. Niece, is to take the body back to Portland. Mr. Ashford was one of the best known salesmen in the state.

dileweight limit of 158. In two previous fights the Hoosier has won decision from Levinsky. One was in Rochester, a newspaper decision, and the other in Butte from the referee. Others on the card tonight are Chick Haves of Indianapolis and Johnny Sinclair of Cleveland, bantams, and Pat McMahan and Chip Murphy, fast local featherers. Following this card, the curtain will be again drawn on boxing here under the strict censorship of Mayor Bell.

Cochran Family Here.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Cochran and wife and children, and Mrs. Cople of Corvallis, sister of Mrs. Cochran, and Miss Ethel Rieth, scenographer in the legal department of the O.W., arrived in the city this morning and will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Cochran. Mr. Chas. Cochran will assist in the argument of a motion on the part of the attorneys for the defense in the case of Heuston vs. Dora and H. L. Underwood, which is up for argument this afternoon, and will also be a speaker tonight at the Commercial club luncheon which begins at 6:30 sharp.

No Baseball Tomorrow.

Owing to inability to get a team here for tomorrow there will be no baseball game here for Decoration day. But Union is coming strong on Sunday and promises to put up the best game of the year.

Bull Mooser Visits Portland.

K. Dyal, local Bull Mooser and furniture dealer goes to Portland, today to hob nob with Brother Moose Coe, look after business interests and for an outing generally.

"MEDIATION WILL SETTLE WHOLE MEXICAN TROUBLE", SAYS BRYAN

Washington, May 29.—Secretary Bryan stated positively today to the cabinet that mediation could not fail to settle the entire Mexican trouble. For the first time he went on record in making a statement saying that the danger of recourse to arms is past. According to this it may be taken for granted that the United States will not have occasion to invade Mexico.

He outlined the exact status of the ter.

MANY OFFICERS OF SALVATION ARMY DROWNED

OFFICERS AND DELEGATES ON
WAY TO LONDON CONFER-
ENCE ON SHIP.

MERE HANDFUL OF WOMEN
AMONG THE SURVIVORS

Ship's Crew Largely Rescued While
Many Passengers Are Rushed to
Death in Their Berths When Crash
Comes—Some Die from Exposure
After Being Put Into Boats.

Quebec, May 29.—Salvation army ranks suffer terrific losses by the disaster to the Empress of Ireland. On board the ill-fated ship were large crowds of officers and delegates en route to the London conference, and a big majority of the drowned, are Salvation Army officers and members. Local headquarters of the "army," were consequently the hot-bed of anxiety this forenoon, and great crowds gathered at ship headquarters and at the army barracks to learn definitely about the wreck. The "army" rank and file of much of Canada was represented by delegates aboard the ship.

Commissioner Rees of Toronto was aboard the Empress of Ireland. He was head of the Salvation Army in Canada and New Foundland.

Washington People Aboard.

Tacoma, May 29.—Miss Eva Earle of Tacoma was a passenger on the boat. Her fate is not known.

Bellingham, May 29.—Two Bellingham men were aboard the liner—Nels Erickson, bound for Bergen, Norway and Peder Bjordal, for Gotenburg, Sweden.

Prominent Personages Die.

Quebec, May 29.—Nearly all of the most prominent Salvation Army officials in Canada were aboard. Laurence Irving, son of Sir Henry Irving, Sir Henry Seton Kerr, are among the ship's passenger list. Their fate is unknown, for they have not been reported rescued.

Few Women Are Saved.

Montreal, May 29.—Women principally make up the death list it is said. A dispatch received here affirms that few women, only 12 in fact—were rescued, yet this is hardly believed here. The number is entirely too small, out of proportion it is reasoned, to the probable number saved.

Crew Principally Saved.

The same dispatch asserts that most of the survivors are members of the crew. They were on duty, most of them, and were in position to get into the few boats that were launched, while those below and in their berths had little time to get on deck and find boats.

Many Die in Berths.

Survivors say that many were crushed to death or injured seriously in their berths when the crash came. The collision was so terrific that the waters piled into the hold drowning men and women in their berths where

JOHN L. BILLARD, MYSTERIOUS
MILLIONAIRE.



John L. Billard, aged seventy, a mysterious millionaire, was called to the witness stand in the Interstate Commerce Commission investigation of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in Washington, the other day. He told little about himself.

Mr. Billard had made a profit of \$2,743,000. He swore that no officer of the New Haven shared in a cent of this. Asked for the books of the Billard company, he said he didn't know where they were. Asked for his personal books, he said he had burned them.

CITY TO HALT ITS BUSINESS

HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED BY
PUBLIC OFFICES.

Old Soldiers to Carry Out Program
and Strew Graves of Heroes.

La Grande is laying preparations for a fitting observation of Decoration day.

Individuals will tomorrow remember relations dead with flowers and visitations to graves, but what is of a more public nature will be the ceremonial in honor of soldiers dead Banks, the courthouse, postoffice and land office go onto holiday schedule. The main observation will center around the activities of the veterans.

The postoffice will send out neither rural nor city deliveries and the office will be open from 9 to 10 a. m. The G. A. R. post and the W. R. C. will meet at the I. O. O. F. hall at 9:30 and start to the cemetery at 10 o'clock. They will return to the hall at noon and the W. R. C. will give the "old boys" a "feed."

In the afternoon, at 2:30, the veterans, their wives and friends in general are to meet at the M. E. church and there the decoration day program will consist of the following numbers: A pipe organ solo; Star Spangled Banner, by the audience; opening prayer by J. W. Oliver, post adjutant; Lincoln's Gettysburg address read by Harold Nutter; solo by Mrs. J. F. Corbet; address by Rev. I. B. Self of Wallowa; solo by Miss Eileen Pearce; recitation, a tribute to the unknown dead, Miss Mildred Bush; song, America, by the congregation.

LATE FIGURES PLACE DEATHS AT UNDER 700

ESTIMATES OF RESCUES IS
REACHED WHEN RESCUE
BOAT TOUCHES SHORE.

MANY OF THE RESCUED
MANGLED BY THE CRASH

Fourteen Hundred and Thirty-seven
on Board and One Boat Brings
About 400 Ashore While the Col-
lier is Said to Have Big Crowd of
Rescued Passengers on Her.

Quebec, May 29.—Late this afternoon doubt arose about the number of survivors aboard the Storstadt which has not yet landed. If the report saying there were 360 survivors on her is not true, the total death list will be brought up just that many.

Quebec, May 29.—Information at 3 o'clock this afternoon was to the effect that the Empress of Ireland took 678 down with her. According to the Canadian Pacific officials, the ship had 77 first, 206 2nd and 504 3rd class passengers, and a crew of 650, a total of 1437.

The Lady Evelyn and the Eureka landed 399 survivors at Rimouski and the Storstadt is reported to be bringing 360 here. It is surmised that the figure of 650 and 678 is roughly correct.

Of the survivors, many are said to be badly mangled by the collision.

CHIEF NURSE ILL.

Miss Helen Foster in Critical Condi-
tion in Local Hospital.

Miss Helen Foster, head nurse and superintendent of the Grande Ronde hospital, is critically ill. She underwent an operation last evening. Miss Arnes, a Good Samaritan hospital nurse is taking her place during her illness.

LEGISLATURE WON'T CONVENE

RUMOR CONCERNING CALL FOR
SPECIAL SESSION.

Governor Denies Any Such Intention
and States Surprise.

Saelm, May 29.—Governor West denied that he intended to call a special session of the legislature. How the information became voiced abroad was a mystery to the governor, who declared he had not dreamed of it.

He was reported to have intended calling the solons together for some special amendments to the constitution and to enact laws which he is said to have considered especially im-
portant.

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