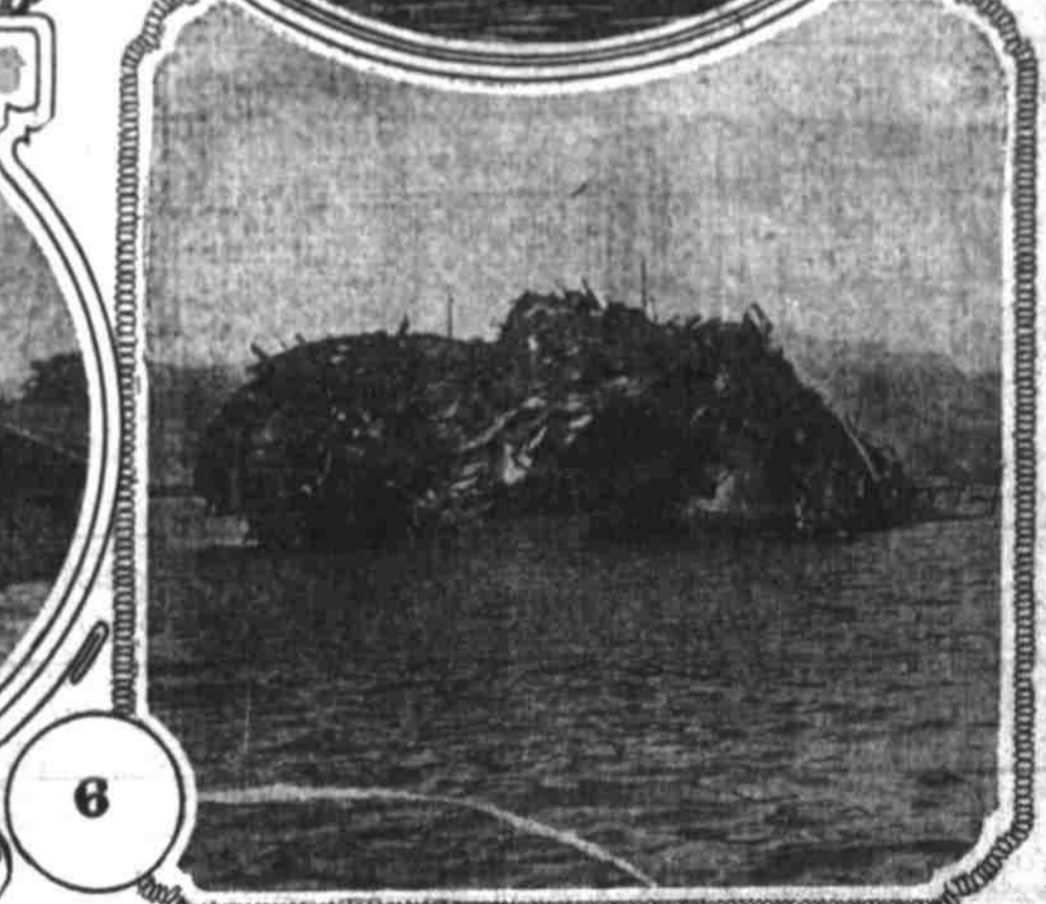
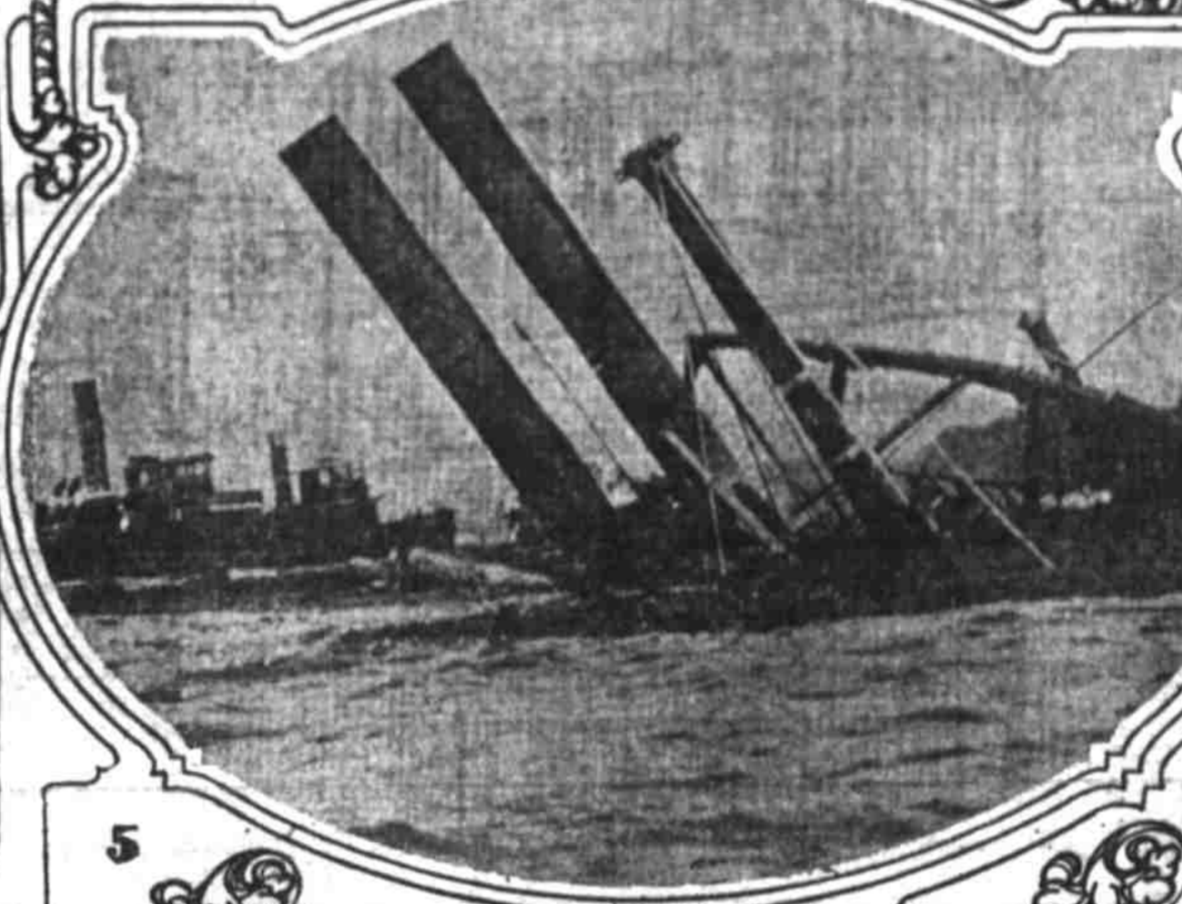
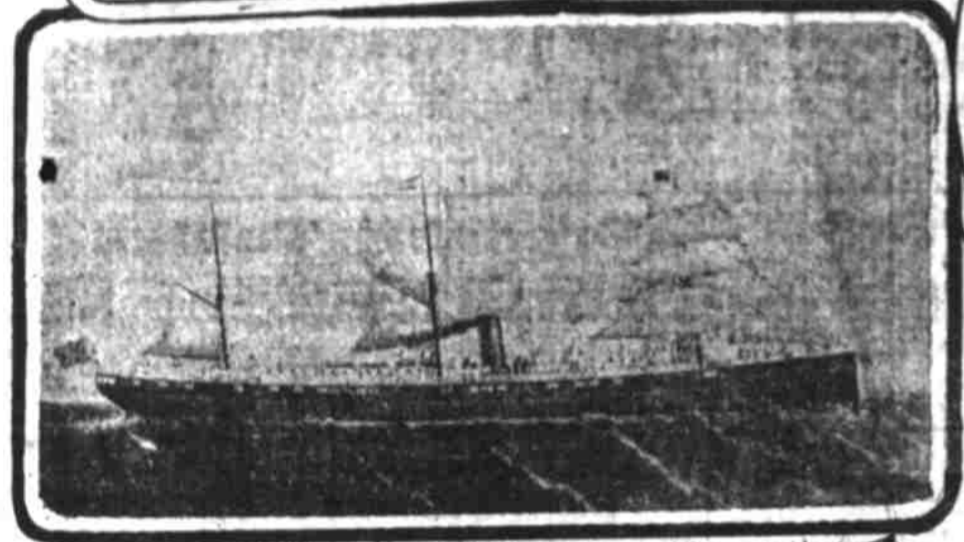
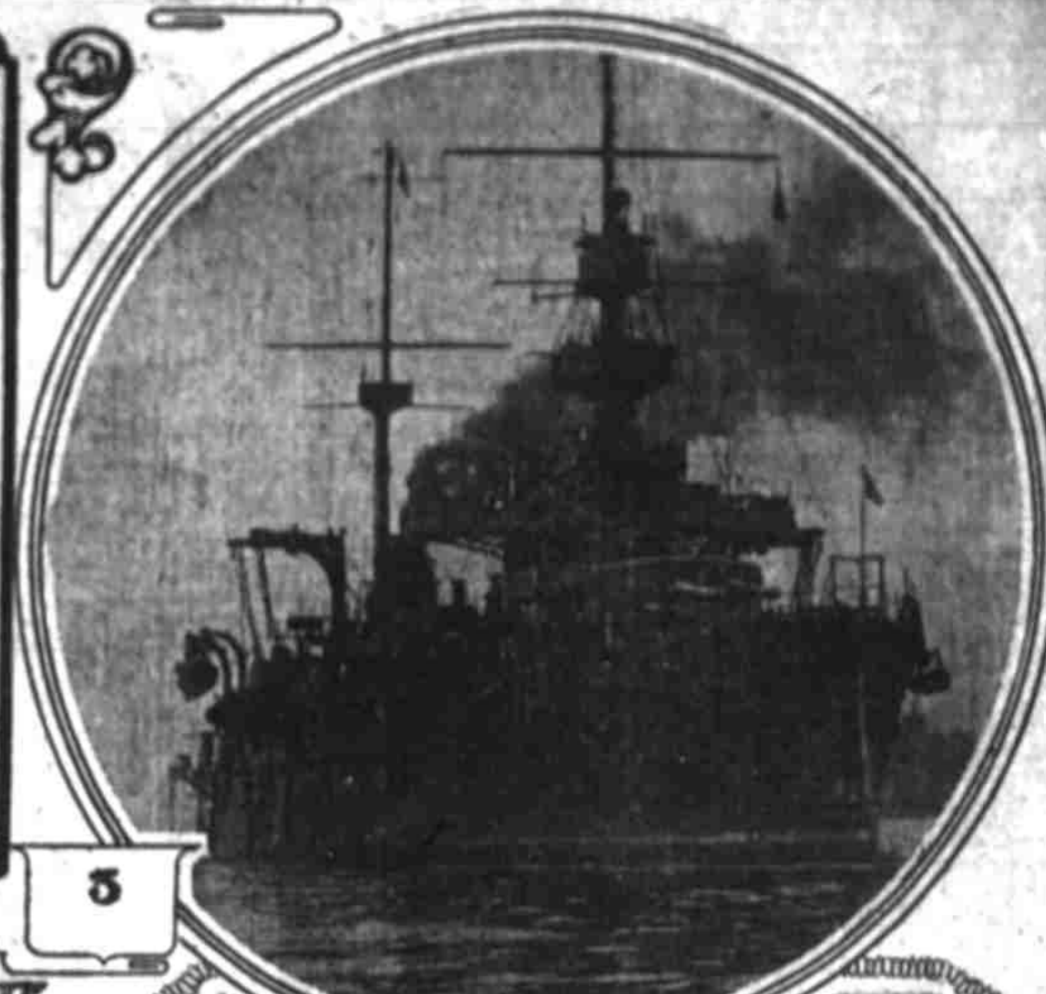
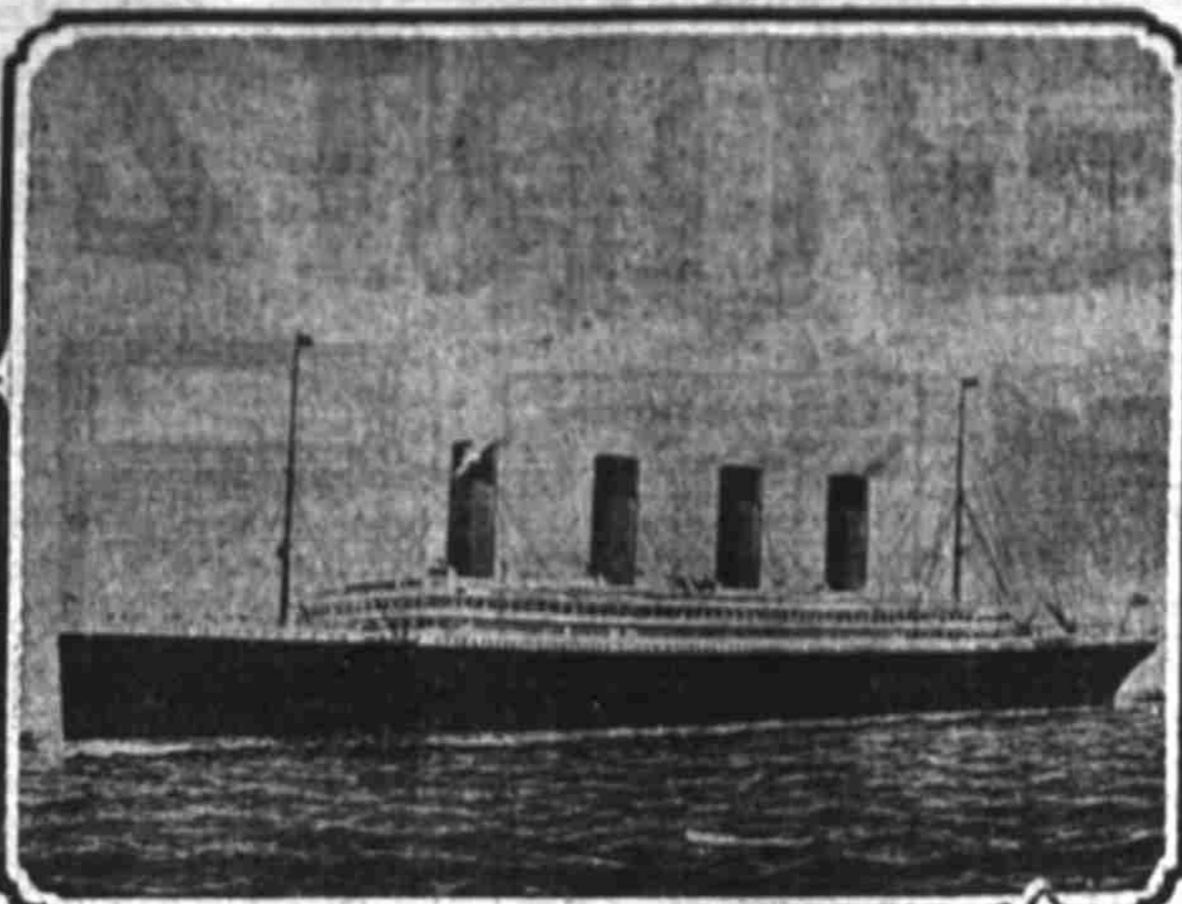
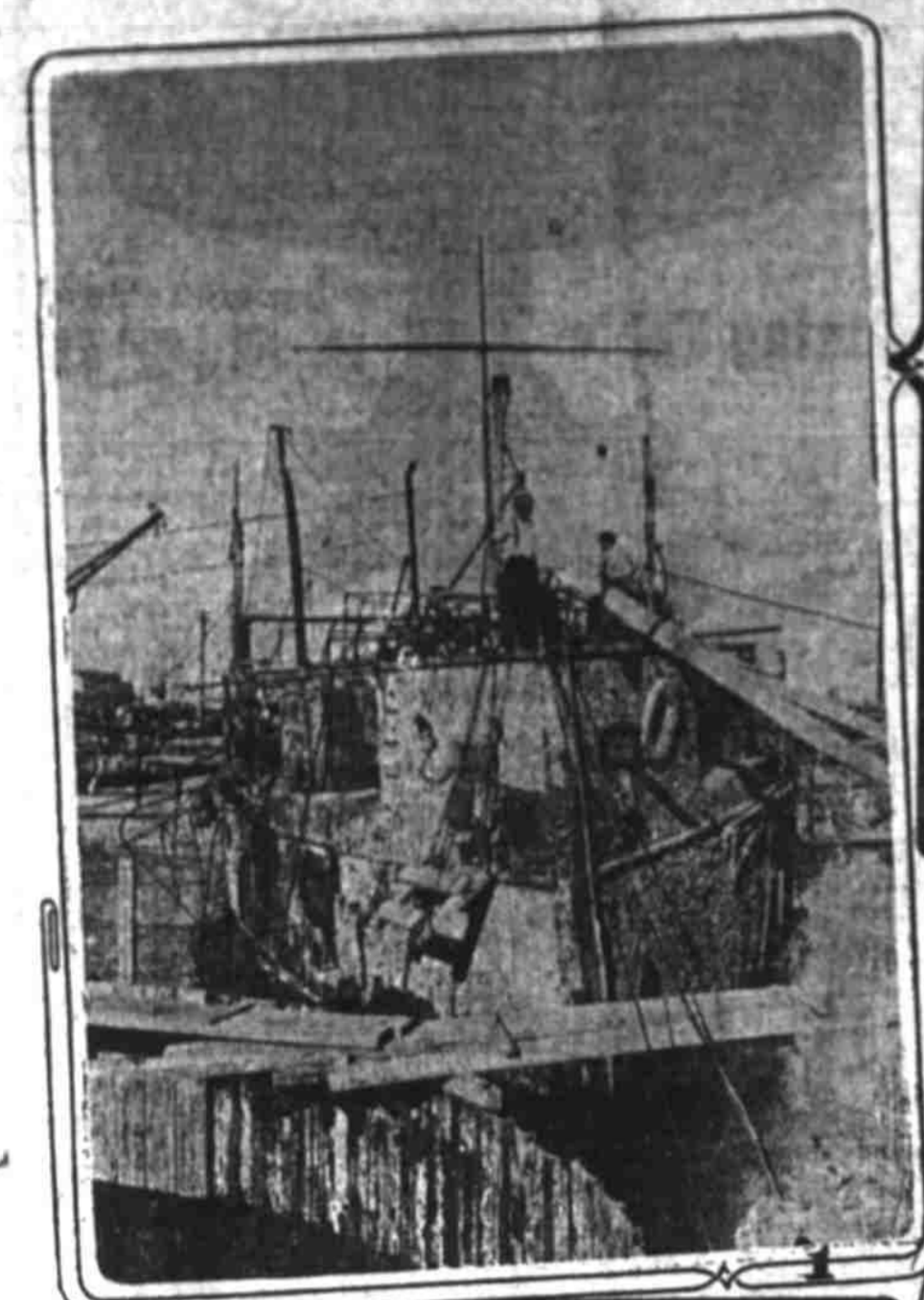


APPALLING MARINE DISASTERS OF RECENT YEARS HAVE COST THOUSANDS OF LIVES



1—Hulk of the battleship Maine as it appeared after having been raised, 14 years following the disaster which destroyed the vessel and cost 237 lives. 2—Steamship Titanic sunk off the Newfoundland Grand Banks after collision with iceberg last Sunday night with a loss of approximately 1500 lives. 3—French battleship Liberté as she appeared before the explosion that destroyed her September 25, 1911, killing 333 officers and men. 4—Steamship Rio de Janeiro sunk at entrance to San Francisco bay, February 22, 1901, with 131 persons on board. 5—Wreck of the excursion steamer General Slocum, burned in Long Island sound, June 25, 1904, causing a loss of 1200 lives. 6—Twisted frame of the French battleship Liberté in Toulon harbor. 7—French liner La Bourgoigne rammed and sunk by the British sailing ship Cromartyshire July 4, 1898, costing 565 lives.

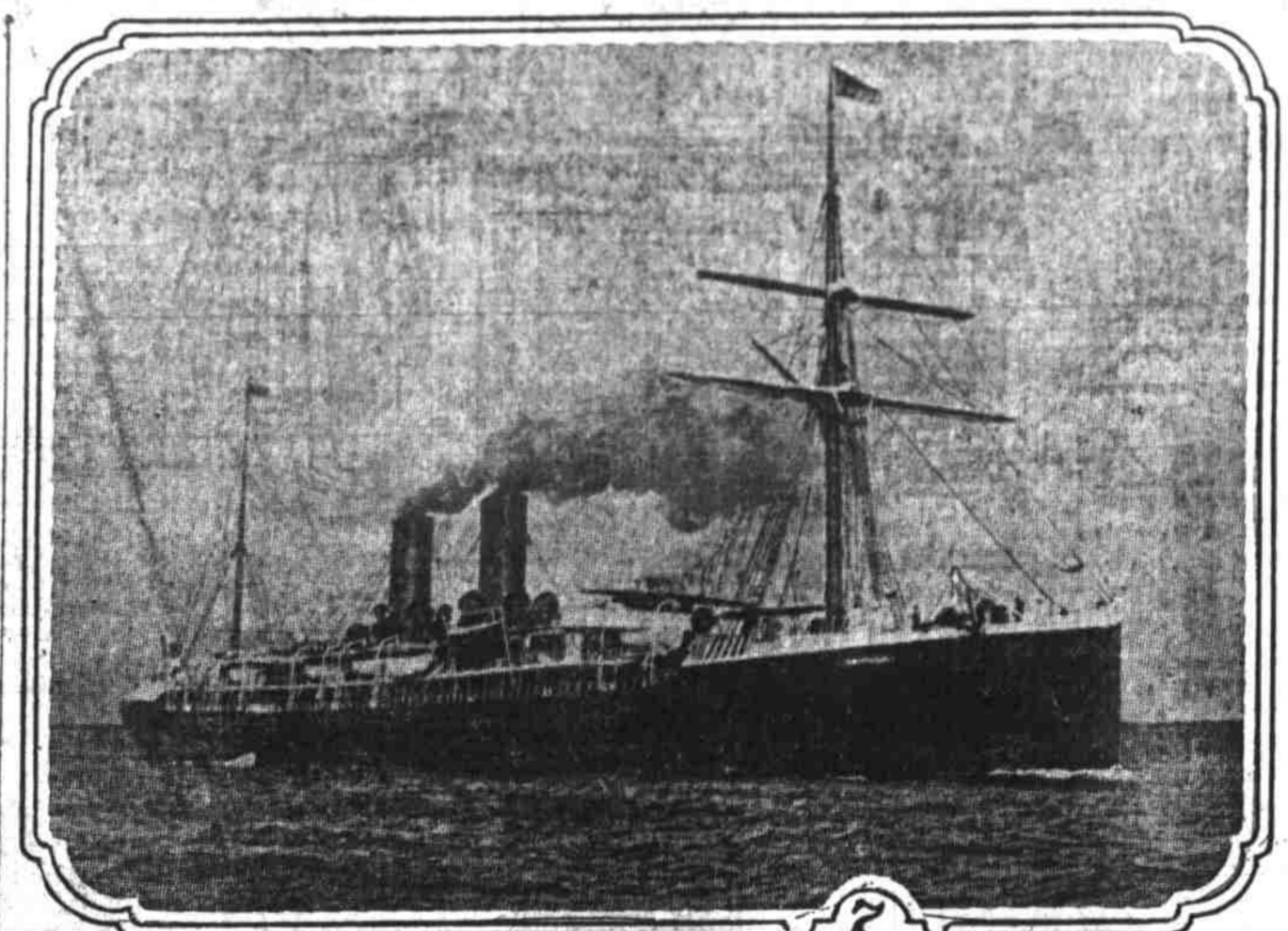
Since the battleship Maine was blown up in Havana harbor February 15, 1898, there have occurred 15 sea disasters, in each of which more than 100 lives have been lost. The death toll of the entire 15 approximately 6000 men, women and children. Over half of this number was killed in the Titanic, General Slocum and La Bourgoigne disasters. In the number of lives lost and the wealth and prominence of the victims and the financial loss involved in the wreck of the vessel and its contents the Titanic wreck of course exceeds the others.

The next most appalling marine disaster of recent years was the burning of the excursion steamer General Slocum on June 15, 1904, when approximately 1200 persons, mostly women and children, met death by drowning and burning. The boat had been chartered for the annual Sunday school excursion of the St. Mark's German Lutheran Church of New York. The destination was Locust Grove, Long Island. When opposite Hell Gate, fire was discovered on the boat. Instead of running for shore the captain continued up the sound. The wind fanned the flames, which an incompetent and ill organized crew made no efforts to check. The hundreds of excursionists became panic stricken. Frenzied mothers threw their children over the rail and jumped after them. Others remained aboard and were burned to death when one of the decks collapsed as the boat was beached. The boat's supply of life preservers was useless. Boats and tugs that came to the assistance of the burning vessel succeeded in rescuing 185 passengers. This was the worst harbor disaster in the history of American catastrophes. Five hundred and sixty-five persons

lost their lives when the French liner La Bourgoigne was run into by the British sailing ship Cromartyshire about 60 miles south of Sable Island and sunk. This was July 4, 1898. The collision occurred in a fog. The Cromartyshire struck the La Bourgoigne amidships and then withdrew not knowing that the La Bourgoigne had met with injury. The latter sank within 10 minutes after having been struck. Of the 750 souls on board less than 200 were saved, and only one of these was a woman. The survivors asserted at the time that the crew behaved in a brutal and cowardly manner, leaving the launching of the life boats to the passengers and then trampling women under foot in a frantic effort to find places in them ahead of the passengers. The Cromartyshire rescued those on rafts and in boats. None of the first class passengers were saved, and these numbered several persons of social prominence at least.

The recent burial of the remains of the 57 sailors whose bones were recovered only when the bulk of the battleship Maine was raised served to freshen the public mind concerning that disaster which shocked the world on February 15, 1898, and precipitated the war with Spain. In all 227 men lost their lives in the Maine explosion.

The loss of the French battleship Liberté, which was sunk by explosion September 25, 1911, cost 333 lives. Other notable sea disasters since 1898, each of which have reaped a large toll of human life, include the Clara Nevada, a Klondyke gold vessel that was sunk in Lynn canal, Alaska, 119 dead; City of Rio de Janeiro, Pacific Mail steamship, sunk at the entrance to San Francisco bay February 22, 1901,



131 dead; Misaka, Admiral Togo's Japanese flagship, September 13, 1905, explosion, 600 dead; Aquidaban, Brazilian battleship, sunk by explosion, January 21, 1904, 213 dead; steamship Valencia, off Vancouver island, January 23, 1908, 117 dead; Italian emigrant ship Strio, struck rock off Cape Palos, August 4, 1906, 250 dead; French battleship Jena, explosion at Toulon, March 12, 1907, 117 dead; Japanese steamship Mutsu Maru, sunk in collision near Hakodate, March 21, 1904, 208 dead; Matsushima, sunk off the Pescadores following an explosion April 26, 1908,

200 dead; and the British steamship Natal July 26, 1909, with 300 persons waratah, last heard from leaving port on board.

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KINGCRAFT IS EASY BUSINESS NOWADAYS

(By the International News Service.)
Berlin, April 20.—Shakespeare's words, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown," are no longer quite up to date. The kings and emperors of today, having been reduced to about the same importance as the king in the game of chess, are having a comparatively easy time of it, unless they are of a philosophic turn of mind and ponder over their own absolute uselessness. Today it is the chancellors and prime ministers whose heads lie uneasy, while their irresponsible masters have nothing to do but to enjoy life in idleness. The Kaiser is at Corfu, enjoying himself very much, occupying his mind with nothing more serious than planning his annual Norwegian cruise for this summer, but poor Bethmann-Holweg has been left here to face the music and the tunes he has to listen to are neither harmonious nor pleasing to the ear.

His position was anything but easy when Winston Churchill, just before the Kaiser's departure, made his famous navy speech in the English house, which created a panic in Germany, and nearly put an abrupt ending to the Chancellor's political existence.

The Kaiser is away enjoying himself. His presence is not necessary here, as he exerts no influence and has no vote. When the most important questions are decided he is no better than an alien.

FRENCH DEPUTIES TO ENCOURAGE ATHLETES

(By the International News Service.)
Paris, April 20.—More sport is needed in France. This is what a number of deputies (think who have formed themselves into a committee at the chamber for the purpose of legislating for an encouraging sport. They assume that in France nothing can be done unless there is a law to that effect. As soon as the law is passed French deputies will at once feel themselves obliged to cultivate a sport.

The parliamentary committee intends first of all to patronize athletics. Foot racing, football and all kinds of open-air sports are to be legally encouraged. So one of their spokesmen says, but he does not go into details as to how it is to be done.

There is one good point about the new parliamentary group, and it is that none is entitled to be a member unless he can box, run, jump, or prove that he is athletic and fond of open air sport.

Eighty lives were lost in the wreck of the passenger steamer Cachapual, off the west coast of Peru, on the night of March 31, according to advices just received. It is believed the vessel's boilers blew up as not a trace of the ship has been found and not a soul was saved.

TO REWARD WOMAN 16 OF WHOSE SONS FOUGHT FOR UNION

Sen. Pomerene to Ask \$100 Pension for Interesting Old Woman Who Is Truly the "Mother of the Civil War."

Washington, April 20.—As a belated reward for the service rendered her country during the Mexican and Civil wars by her husband and sons, a bill providing for a pension of \$100 a month is being prepared for presentation into congress by Senator Alton Pomerene of Ohio. For Mrs. Sarah Branon-Sweeney of Belmont county, who is 114 years old and the mother of 12 children, 16 of whom served their country

in the Civil War, and one in the Mexican War.

Mrs. Branon-Sweeney is without a doubt one of the most interesting women in the state of Ohio, because of her age and home record. Unable to read or write, but well versed in things in general, she lives with her son, Ivan, aged 83, on a farm across the Ohio river from Wheeling, W. Va.

With her son and his wife, who is 79 years of age, the old woman lives the peaceful and contented life of a middle west farmer. The son fought in the Civil War and attained great accuracy as a marksman. He makes use of his talent, and is considered one of the best hunters in Ohio. In fact, he makes a living for his wife and aged mother by the use of his rifle.

Little does the old mother think of walking three miles to town to purchase necessities for the household, and then the three miles back home. When the weather is good, she says she enjoys the walk.

"If it hadn't been for tobacco, I'd have been dead long ago," says old Mrs. Sweeney. Since "a young woman," or when she was only 20 years old, she has daily smoked a clay pipe. But the pipe doesn't appeal to her so much any more, and for the last few years she has been smoking only one pipeful of tobacco a day. Whether it is tobacco, or something else, it is a fact that the old

woman has not suffered a day's sickness in the last 50 years.

Mrs. Sweeney was first married when only 13 years old. Her first child was born when she was still a girl of 14. Her husband and her oldest boy served as privates in the United States army during the Mexican war. Later when the Civil War broke out, 16 boys of the family were old enough to "go to the front." Because she has furnished so many fighters to her country, the old woman is known as "The Mother of the Civil War" to officials of the war department at Washington, where a large picture of her hangs in an honor position.

Three new breaks in the Mississippi levee during the week allowed the flood waters to sweep over large sections of southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana. At least 50,000 persons were made homeless. It is estimated that the recent floods in the Mississippi and its tributaries have destroyed 100,000 homes and caused greater loss and destitution than any previous flood.

The floor collapsing as they knelt in prayer, 600 people were precipitated in a shrieking and mangled mass into the basement of the new church of Our Lady of Victory at Harrington Park, N. J. Two were killed and 50 suffered broken legs and arms.