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**BIG LINER IS**

(Continued from Page One.)

In Marshfield and North Bend 423 passengers and crew, many clad in odds and ends, penniless and in some cases suffering from nervous shock, were distributed among the towns people, awaiting the arrival of special trains to carry them on to Seattle.

So far as is known now, not a single life was lost. Fire was discovered in the second steerage of the Congress at 1 p. m. yesterday. Captain Cousins decided to make a 30 mile run for shore. The race with death was won by a hair's breadth. When the burning liner cast anchor off Coos Bay, fire was roaring forward, herding terrified passengers toward the bow.

"It was women and children first," said Chief Steward Damden. "Captain Cousins ordered lifeboats lowered after the deck began to get hot under our feet. Before that thick volumes of smoke had driven us from the lower decks and we were all packed forward. As heat from the flames became more intense, some passengers began sobbing. Most of them kept their heads and those who broke down were comforted by others."

**Crew Was Heroic.**  
"The real wrench came began when we began lowering lifeboats and the order 'women and children first' was given out. Many women refused to leave their husbands. The men urged them to go but they would not. By this time the smoke and hot fumes were so dense and suffocating on the port side that all effort to launch boats there were abandoned and the passengers marched to starboard."

"In spite of the steadily gaining fire, there was no panic. We lowered seven boats as smoothly as if in practice. The sea was calm and passengers were carried immediately to the dredge Michie."

"After all passengers were saved we tried to rescue some of their clothing and other effects. Some had run from their staterooms at the first alarm half dressed, and failed to return for more clothes. But we had barely started this work when fire came crackling up through the woodwork and terrific heat began warping the deck."

Wearied deck hands, their eyes reddened from smoke inflammation, many with slight burns, were hailed as heroes today by the rescued passengers. These sailors fought the flames to the last. When nothing more could be done they tumbled into lifeboats as they were, many wearing only canvas pants, and streaked from head to foot with soot and grease. One oiler was overcome by smoke. There were several others injured.

Mrs. Margaret Reig, of St. Louis, was ill in bed when the order came to abandon ship. Fellow passengers carried her to a boat, and she was landed safely.

**Fought Fire Until Unconscious.**  
Not so much as a foot wetting was experienced by any seamen or passengers during the transfer, with one exception. The ship's baker, survivor of the Titanic disaster, tumbled into the water. He was hauled out immediately.

Chief Engineer Martland, Assistant Higgins and Steward Tyson fought the blaze until they fell unconscious. Tyson is in Mercy hospital, still unconscious. Captain Cousins was standing on deck, still hoping to save his ship when Martland, gasping and choking, was carried up. The order "to the lifeboats" was given at once.

Purser Holzer made several attempts to reach the ship's safe, but fire cut him off and he had to run for his life. This safe contained the ship's papers, \$10,000 in company money and about \$8,000 worth of passengers' valuables.

In the rush on deck, the crowding from port and starboard when pursued by billows of smoke, and the excitement of climbing into lifeboats, many families were torn apart. Some did not meet again until all had landed at North Bend. There were hysterical scenes of joy at the wharf.

**Dredge Michie Picked Them Up.**  
Flashing his "S. O. S." over the sea, the wireless operator stuck to his key until heat put the main apparatus out of commission. He then connected up his auxiliary plant and continued calling help until it collapsed and he was driven from his post by the scorching heat.

His call was heard at the Coos Bay station. Many boats hurried to meet the Congress. The schooner Tillamook and the dredge Michie were first to reach her and began receiving passengers.

Officers of the Congress remained aboard of the schooner A. M. Simpson, close beside the burning liner so they will be first to board it after the flames subsided.

Five thousand barrels of oil in the Congress fuel tanks were blazing today, vomiting a huge pillar of lanky smoke skyward. The Congress was the biggest of the Pacific Coast Steamship company fleet and one of the best liners on the Seattle-San Diego run. It was worth \$2,000,000.

**Wreck Is Roaring Furnace.**  
J. A. Smith, San Francisco silk dealer, declared the Congress crew worked without a hitch from the time fire was discovered until all passengers were ashore.

Some stewards tried repeatedly to dash through dense smoke over the after part of the steamer and rescue luggage. A number of passengers rushed on deck in their underwear. Stewards supplied them with blankets and shawls.

No sooner was the galley shift transferred to the Michie than it began preparing hot coffee. Darkness was falling, and the gloom brought outbreaks of hysteria. As the dredge started shoreward fire began shooting up from the doomed liner, which broke from its moorings and drifted.

The Congress became a furnace, radiating burning heat far over the water, while leaping flames threw a flickering glare over huddled groups on the dredge and throngs of spectators on the beach.

**To Inquire as to Cause.**  
San Francisco, Sept. 15.—James Guthrie and Joseph P. Dolan, federal steamship inspectors, are expected to begin at once an investigation of the fire aboard the steamer Congress which virtually destroyed that vessel last night. Although neither would discuss the matter today, it is expected that one of them will start immediately for Marshfield.

Simultaneously with this investigation, the inspectors are probing the mysterious fire a few days ago in the low-

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**Coos Bay Celebration**

See the Cherrians and Salem Special in the Movies.  
1000 Feet—Special Reel—1000 Feet  
Bligh Theatre, Sunday and Mon.

**WILL SPEAK HERE SUNDAY**

Rev. William L. Sullivan, minister of All Souls church, New York, devotes the month of September to liberal evangelism on the Pacific coast. He will speak at the Unitarian church corner of Cottage and Chemeketa, Sunday, at 7:45 p. m.

Mr. Sullivan is conceded to be the most stirring and inspiring speaker of our fellowship. He is a man of remarkable gifts of mind and heart and rare spirit, a great preacher with a broadly inclusive religious message.

When he goes to Goston its churches prove too small to hold those who wish to hear him. The Kim ought to keep up with the Hub.

Mr. Sullivan, born in Massachusetts, was thoroughly educated in the Roman Catholic schools and became a Paulist Father, which is the preaching evangelist body of the church. In this work he had extraordinary success. He also became a leading professor in a Catholic college. Through his reading and study and his own intuitions he developed into a liberal theologian and he was one of the 10 or 11 priests in this country who refused to sign the oath condemning modernists in the Catholic church. Though greatly beloved and respected he was dropped from its fellowship.

Unemittered he took up his life anew. After several years he concluded that his place was with the liberals and that he ought to preach. He quietly and modestly entered the Unitarian fellowship, taking charge of a small mission church. Through his remarkable gifts as a preacher and his deep religious spirit he won instant prominence, and after a year was called to the church at New York, to which he now ministers. He is greatly beloved by his fellow-preachers and crowds flock to hear him wherever he goes.

Mrs. W. I. Northup who won in the tennis tournament last week in Salem, beat Miss Harriet Johnson 6-4, 6-1 in the Irvington club championship yesterday in Portland. Miss Stella Frohman beat Miss Persis Pettis by default. Miss Stella Fording beat Miss Irene Campbell 6-4, and 6-4.

**To Day**

**ROBERT WARWICK**  
in  
**HUMAN DRIFT WOOD**  
World Feature  
**MUTUAL WEEKLY**  
**GEO. OVEY**  
Comedy  
**GREAT WILD ANIMAL**  
Comedy

**BLIGH THEATRE**

**Paramount Pictures**  
TODAY - TOMORROW  
OLIVER MOROSCO  
Presents  
**Rita Livinet**  
in  
**AN INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE**  
By George Broadhurst  
**PATHE WEEKLY**  
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