

THOUSAND DROWN AS BOAT UPSETS

EXCURSION STEAMER CAPSIZES IN CHICAGO RIVER.

MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Pleasure Seekers, Bound for Trip Across Lake Michigan, Perish in Sight of Relatives and Friends.

Chicago, Ill.—A thousand persons lost their lives in the Chicago river by the capsizing of the excursion steamer Eastland while warping from its wharf with more than 2,400 employees of the Western Electric Co. and their relatives and friends on board, bound for a pleasure trip across Lake Michigan.

The Eastland, said by marine architects to have been top-heavy and ballasted in an uncertain manner, turned over inside of five minutes after it began to list, pouring its passengers into the river or imprisoning them in its submerged hull.

Every effort was made by thousands of persons on the river wharf to rescue the drowning men, women and children. But many drowned almost within grasp of the river bank. Mothers went to their death while their children were snatched to safety. Other children died in the arms of their parents who were finally saved. Hundreds of girls, freed for a day from their tasks of making telephones and other electrical apparatus in the factory of the Western Electric Co., dressed in their smartest white frocks, drowned miserably.

Kolin avenue, a small street near the factory of the Western Electric Co., is in universal mourning. Every house lost from one to all its occupants in the disaster.

Efforts to discover the cause of the accident were begun long before the work of rescue was over. Federal and county grand juries were ordered, a coroner's jury was impaneled and all the officers and crew of the Eastland were arrested.

W. C. Steele, secretary and treasurer of St. Joseph-Chicago Steamship Co., which owned the steamer Eastland, built on Lake Erie in 1903, and remodeled later because top-heavy, it is said, was arrested and locked up at a police station. The steamer was seized by the Indiana Transportation Co., whose officers said they were not responsible for the licensing of the ship and did not control the crew.

7,000 Off For Holiday.

Under misty skies, 7,000 men, women and children wended their way to the river wharf to fill five large lake steamers with holiday mirth in a trip to Michigan City. The steamer Eastland, brought to Chicago from Lake Erie, after an unsatisfactory career, was the first to be loaded.

Rain began to fall as the wharf superintendents lifted the gang plank from the Eastland, declaring that the government limit of 2,500 had been reached. White dresses peeped from raincoats along the shore rails, as those aboard waved good-bye to friends on shore waiting to board the other vessels.

Then the passengers swarmed to the left side of the ship, as the other steamers drew up the river towards the wharf. A tug was hitched to the Eastland, ropes were ordered cast off, and the engines began to hum. The Eastland had not budged, however.

Instead the heavily laden ship wavered sideways, leaning first towards the river bank. The lurch was so startling that many passengers joined the large concourse already on the other side of the decks.

The ship then heeled back. It turned slowly but steadily towards its left side. Children clutched the skirts of mothers and sisters to keep from falling. The whole cargo was impelled towards the falling side of the ship. Water then began to enter lower portholes, and the ropes snapped off the piles to which the vessel was tied.

Screams from passengers attracted the attention of fellow excursionists on the wharf awaiting the next steamer. Wharfmen and picnickers soon lined the edge of the embankment, reaching out helplessly toward the wavering steamer.

Ship Keels Slowly.

For nearly five minutes the ship turned before it finally dived under the swift current of the river, which owing to the drainage canal system, flows from the lake. During the mighty turning of the ship with its cargo of humanity, life boats, chairs

Will Inquire Concerning Ordnance.

Washington.—Formal inquiry will be made at the Berlin foreign office by American Ambassador Gerard for the German official version of the recent attack by a submarine on the British liner Orduna as it was bound for New York with a score of American citizens among its passengers.

A report on an investigation conducted by Collector of Customs Dudley Field Malone at New York was presented to the State department. It submits affidavits of officers, seamen and passengers, including Americans,

and other loose appurtenances on the decks slipped down the sloping floors, crushing the passengers toward the rising waters.

Then there was a plunge, with a sigh of air escaping from the hold, mingled with crying children and shrieks of women and the ship was on the bottom of the river, casting hundreds of its passengers into the water.

Many sank, entangled with clothing and bundles and did not rise, but scores came to the surface, giving the river the appearance of a crowded bathing beach. Many seized floating chairs and other objects. Those on shore threw out ropes and dragged in those who could hold those life lines. Employees of commission firms with houses along the river threw crates, chicken coops and other floatable things into the current, but most of these were swept away by the stream.

Boats were put out, tugs rushed to the scene with shrieking whistles and many men snatched off their coats and sprang into the river to aid the drowning. With thousands of spectators ready to aid, hundreds went to their death.

One mother grasped her two children in her arms as she slipped from the steamer into the water. One child was torn from her, but she and the other were saved. Fathers were drowned after aiding the wives and children to safety.

Ship Lacked Ballast.

Captain Pederson said that a broken "air chute" let in water that resulted in the boat careening. William J. Plamondon, nephew of the Lusitania victim, who was a passenger, laid the accident to the system of water ballast in vogue. This ballast, he said, was not to be taken until the boat had gone into the lake on her way to Michigan City.

The excursion was canceled, and the other boats disgorged their passengers, some of whom had relatives or close friends on the boat that went down.

An official of the Western Electric company declared that several departments, in which only girls were employed, had undoubtedly been wiped out. Most of the employees in departments where only girls and women were employed were assigned to the Eastland.

Relief Work Organized.

At a meeting of the mayor's advisory committee, called by Acting Mayor Moorhouse, it was planned to immediately raise a fund of \$200,000 by public subscription for the relief of the families of the Eastland victims. In addition to this sum officials of the Western Electric company, who attended the conference held in the mayor's office, announced that \$100,000 available for relief work.

The Western Electric company officials stated that not more than one-third of the victims were employees of the company, the others being members of the employees' families and friends.

Orders Rescuers Off.

"Hey! stop that! you'll spoil the boat!"

That was Captain Harry Pederson's greeting to the fifty steel workers called from work on a new skyscraper to cut holes in the side of the overturned steamer Eastland to rescue a thousand imprisoned men, women and children. The men, armed with powerful acetylene burners, were melting holes in the steel hull.

"Who told you to do that?" the captain demanded.

"The police," answered E. Nelson, a welder.

"Well, I don't want the boat spoiled—you get off here," shouted Pederson.

Just then First Assistant Superintendent of Police Hermann Schautler saw Pederson.

"Arrest that man and every member of his crew!" shouted the commanding police official. "This damned tub ought to have been burned before this happened. Spoil the boat!"

Wilson Orders Probe.

Cornish, N. H.—President Wilson has ordered that a complete investigation be made by the Department of Commerce into the sinking of the excursion steamer Eastland in the Chicago river with a consequent loss of many hundred lives. Acting Secretary Sweet of the department sent him word that the cause of the disaster would be looked into and the president directed that nothing be left undone to place the responsibility.

Alleged Drug Dealer Held.

Chicago, Ill.—John Davis, alias "Omaha John," together with two Chicago druggists, was indicted by the federal grand jury, charged with conspiring to furnish drugs to users in violation of the Harrison act,

declaring that the ship was attacked without warning.

Secretary Lansing will direct Ambassador Gerard to make his inquiry at Berlin for the information of the department.

Northern States Need Men.

St. Paul, Minn.—Farmers in Canada will not have much trouble, but in the northwest, in the United States, harvest hands are badly needed.

WILL DEAL DIRECT

FARMERS ARE READY TO SHIP TO CONSUMER BY MAIL.

FIFTY-ONE TOWNS NOW LISTED

Lincoln Postoffice Bulletin Shows Farmers Anxious to Build Up Producer-to-Customer Trade.

Lincoln.—Fifty-one towns are now listed in the Lincoln postoffice bulletin showing names of farmers residing thereat who are anxious to furnish people here with butter, eggs, poultry and fruit. The produce hat is prepared for the purpose of establishing a direct producer-to-customer trade. Fifty-six Osceola farmers head the local list and the number of producers at each of the towns varies from that number down to just a few who are anxious to build up this postage stamp dealing. Towns included are as far west as Benkelman, as far north as Dakota City, as far northwest as Lodge Pole and as far southeast as Rulo.

Designates Good Roads Days.

Lincoln.—A good roads proclamation issued by Governor Morehead reads as follows, in part:

"Realizing the excessive rains in Nebraska and lateness of the season, I have delayed asking the commercial clubs and other organizations to cooperate with me in devoting two days to the making of good roads in Nebraska.

"The travel by auto to the Pacific exposition through Nebraska is great and I am desirous of having the people who pass through our state, credit us with being as well as in legislation. And our roads are in constant use by all the people of Nebraska.

"I have designated Thursday and Friday, July 29 and 30, as 'Good Roads Days.' Traveling as I do, by automobile, it has been a surprise to me to find our roads in as good condition as they are, considering the wet weather we have had. If each person would spend a few days on the roads near their home the result would be good dirt roads in Nebraska.

"I ask all the farmers, business men, commercial clubs and other organizations to co-operate in this matter and I feel that every man should do his overalls and give at least the length of time stated, to putting our roads in good condition.

"It is just as essential to have good roads as it is to have good houses and barns and the people of the city use them as much in going to the country as the farmers do in coming to the city. We can all join in boosting and working for good roads as all are interested.

Relic Millions of Years Old.

In the discovery of a fairly complete skeleton of a prehistoric mastodon, together with a large number of horse teeth, bones of camels and probably what are the remains of deer, Nebraska scientists believe that one of the richest paleontological finds of the year has just been made at Bristol in the extreme northern part of Nebraska by Dr. E. H. Barbour and Prof. C. H. Eaton of the university museum. The mastodon is said to be of peculiar interest and value because of being probably nine million years old.

Most Babies Fed On Bottle.

Sixty per cent of the babies of Nebraska are bottle-fed—as nearly as the state authorities can gather the information. The figures are given to show the necessity of pasteurizing milk—and as Retiring State Veterinarian Kigin says: "There's greater need of combating the diseases that thrive in the milk we give our babies than fighting against the things that lead to war—for the mortality is greater in our peace pursuits, through our carelessness, than on the battlefields through our indiscretions."

Says Warehouse Law Defective.

The public warehouse law, passed by the last legislature, in the opinion of Attorney General Reed, cannot be enforced by the State Railway commission. He gives as his reasons that the railway commission was created for the purpose of supervising railroad rates and that it has no authority to take over any other matters not set out in the law which created the commission.

Kansas Wheat Crop Short.

Gustav Dilgert of Atchison, Kan., a cousin of Philip Ackerman, hotel commissioner, while visiting him, said conditions surrounding the harvesting of the wheat crop in his locality are alarming. It is estimated, according to the Kansas man, that the wheat crop of that state will be 90,000,000 bushels short this season.

7,689 Negroes in State.

Reports of the federal census bureau just forwarded to the state house show the residence of 7,689 negroes in Nebraska, of which 4,259 are males and 3,430 are females.

Apple Crop to Be Large.

The apple crop of Nebraska will be an immense one and the quality of the apples will be the best for many years, according to Ernest M. Pollard, president of the Apple Growers' association, who was in Lincoln recently.

CONDENSED NEWS

OF INTEREST TO ALL.

A new broom factory will be built at Peru soon.

A German picnic is to be given at Syracuse August 26.

Arlington Chautauqua will be held August 23 to 27.

Odd Fellows of Avoca will hold their annual picnic July 29.

A Community Interest club has been organized at Lyons.

A new municipal concert band has been assured for Hastings.

The New Era is the name of a new paper being published at Hebron.

The Adams county fair will be held September 27 to October 2.

Petitions are being circulated in Adams for a water works system.

Several hundred dollars damage was done in the town of Winslow by fire caused by lightning destroyed the electric light plant in Seward.

Colfax county has 671 autos this year, according to reports of assessors.

August 31 to September 4 are the dates of Omaha's Merchants' Market Week.

Lincoln county farmers say they are harvesting the finest crop ever known.

The \$2,000 barn of Ed Westphal, south of Elkhorn, was destroyed by lightning.

The cornerstone of the Masonic home for orphans at Fremont, will be laid August 1.

Fremont's watermelon and muskmelon crop suffered heavily as a result of hail.

Two large bridges were washed out by high water in drainage district No. 1, near Humboldt.

Thousands of dollars of loss resulted in the vicinity of Omaha from a severe hail storm.

Frank Lehmkuh's \$1,500 barn at Wahoo was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

Hebron citizens are agitating the question of curbing and gutting the business section of the city.

The first annual picnic of the Nebraska Knights of Pythias will be held in Ashland August 12.

Fire destroyed the Schwenk implement store at Beemer, the loss being estimated at \$10,000.

The overflowing of the Elkhorn river, Fairbury is to have a ladies' band with twenty-four members.

J. Herbert Riggs is succeeding his father, who died recently, as editor of the Waterloo Gazette.

H. E. Willis, formerly of Omaha, is now editor and manager of the Loup City Times-Independent.

Alfred Swanson, a farmer living near Craig, was struck and instantly killed by a bolt of lightning.

Harvey Ward, son of J. M. Ward of Tecumseh, was run over by an automobile in Falls City and killed.

Twenty-three bushels to the acre of 60½ test wheat were threshed from B. B. Mills' field west of Hastings.

A picnic will be held at Crab Orchard August 19, under the direction of the Commercial club of that town.

C. H. Musselman's shoe store at Alma was badly damaged by fire. The loss on stock and building is \$2,500.

N. P. Uppike of Omaha has purchased J. S. Hamilton's one-third interest in the Hastings Milling company.

Seventeen head of cattle, valued at \$800, were killed in a storm on the A. B. Cornelius farm, near Humboldt.

Work has begun on the construction of a new St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church at Daykin. The church will cost \$8,000.

John McGuire received twenty bushels to the acre from wheat near Inland thought to have been damaged one-third by hail.

Samuel Dickey, a wealthy farmer living near Ponca, was killed when his automobile crashed through a bridge railing and fell into a small stream.

Hans Anderson, a farmer residing north of Malmo, sustained injuries that may prove fatal, when an automobile in which he was riding ran off a bridge.

William Ferguson, who resides near Fremont, lost five valuable hogs when a herd of forty was swept down stream several rods during high water.

A display of Lincoln county products for the state fair and for the Lincoln county fall festival is to be arranged by John Gilman, Leavenworth, Kas., an expert.

The total assessed valuation of Gage county according to the returns made to the county assessor, is \$11,727,687, a gain of a little over a hundred thousand dollars over that of last year.

A coroner's jury found that the death of Francis B. Robbins, 3-year-old boy, who drowned in a pool at Elmwood park, in Omaha, was due to negligence of the park commissioner.

Humidity in the atmosphere, with the thermometer 98 in the shade, resulted in death to three horses near Hastings.

Boy scouts are to camp on the Hastings Chautauqua ground this year. They will keep the ground in good condition.

The Ord Chautauqua will open August 3. William J. Bryan, Senator Gore and Opie Reed are among the headliners on the program. The county fair will be held the last day of August and the first two days of September.

FOR THE BUSY MAN

NEWS EPITOME THAT CAN SOON BE COMPASSED.

MANY EVENTS ARE MENTIONED

Home and Foreign Intelligence Condensed into Two and Four Lines Paragraphs.

WAR NEWS.

Germany contemplates a new war loan in September, says an Amsterdam dispatch.

The new Russian ministry of munitions, with power to mobilize all industries, is to be created.

It is reported that an enormous mass of war munitions is pouring into Vladivostok port for the Russian armies.

The Russians are said to be suffering from lack of artillery and ammunition and a shortage of officers to command their forces.

A second Italian cruiser has fallen victim to an Austrian submarine. The Gueseppe Garibaldi, one of a squadron of four which bombarded Cattaro, was torpedoed and sent to the bottom.

The allies total casualties of the Dardanelles expeditionary forces to date in killed, wounded and missing have been 42,434 officers and men, Premier Asquith told the House of Commons.

The Swedish bark Capella and the Norwegian bark Nordlyset, both timber laden and bound for England, were set on fire in the North sea by German submarines.

The American note to Germany, which is declared to be the final word of the United States government with reference to further transgressions of its rights, has been dispatched to Berlin.

It is reported in Berne, Switzerland, that the German government has issued an order prohibiting the export of all German beer. The motive suggested is that production already has been reduced by the war to 60 per cent.

A new vote of credit of £150,000,000 (\$750,000,000), was introduced in the British house of commons. This second supplementary vote will bring the sum actually appropriated by parliament for war expenditures to the total of £650,000,000 (\$3,250,000,000).

A Bulgarian ministerial order was issued, says the Times' Sofia, Bulgaria, correspondent, definitely suspending railroad communication with Turkey. The step appears to have been taken in consequence of continued Turkish interference with traffic.

Labor troubles are affecting the nations at war. The stocks of war munitions of Great Britain and France are likely to be considerably courtalled through a strike of the Remington Arms and Ammunition company at Bridgeport, Conn., where large contracts are outstanding.

Alberta, Can., voted dry, in a recent election, two to one.

Theodore Roosevelt told a crowd at Portland, Ore., he will speak on subjects of national interest, but not for sapheads and mollycoddles.

Five deaths resulted from the heat in Philadelphia and a sixth man committed suicide while temporarily insane from oppressive weather.

Ten dictographs have been installed in the Illinois penitentiary in an effort to detect the murderer of Mrs. Odette M. Allen, wife of Warden Edmund M. Allen.

Nebraska has suffered at least \$1,500,000 hail damage to crops this year, in the opinion of C. O. Talmage, manager of the Columbia Fire Underwriters, an Omaha firm.

Germans working in American factories producing war munitions which may be used against Germany are liable to prosecution for treason, according to an official declaration published in Berlin.

Revenge prompted Christian P. Berthache to turn informant, according to his own story as related in the trial of bribery charged against former Detective Sergeants Walter O'Brien and William Egan at Chicago.

Leo M. Frank, whose death sentence for the murder of Marj Phagan recently, was commuted to life imprisonment, was attacked by another prisoner at the state prison farm at Milledgeville, Ga., and seriously injured by being cut in the throat.

Colonel Roosevelt, in discussing United States preparedness for war, at San Francisco, said he believed that this country should have military training for young men similar to the Swiss method.

Naco, Mexico, has been occupied by Carranza troops in violation of agreement with the United States.

The Wabash railroad property was sold at auction to a creditors' committee for \$18,000,000, in St. Louis.

Chicago real estate increased in value during the last year \$311,708,124, according to figures announced by Paul H. Wiedel, real estate expert of the Board of Assessors.

Walter J. Petersen, former chief of police at Oakland, Cal., offered segregation as a solution of the social evil in cities to the delegates of the ninth international Purify congress at San Francisco.

P. Clay Ford, 72, formerly of Baltimore, who was resident manager of Ford's opera house at the time President Lincoln was shot, died at St. Mary's hospital in Pasaic, N. J., following an operation, recently.

Hiram Maxim predicted in Harrisburg, Pa., that the United States will be invaded following the European war. The invader, he declared will be the one which first sees the weakness of our navy and lack of national defenses.

The Disciples of Christ Church Extension society has loaned altogether \$2,974,103 to 1,776 needy churches and has lost \$1,996 of this amount. G. W. Muckley of Kansas City, Mo., corresponding secretary of the society, reported at Los Angeles at the church's international missionary convention.

Maurice E. McLoughlin, world's champion of singles, won the Pacific-Panama exposition tennis championship, in San Francisco, in men's singles.

Joe Stecher, Nebraska wrestling phenom, is booked to meet Baba anagaf, one of the flock of terrible Turks who are in this country, at Des Moines on the night of July 31.

With the disposal of Eddie Murphy to the Chicago White Sox only eight of the members of the Philadelphia Athletics who participated in the world's series games with the Boston Nationals last year remain with the club.

Jack Ness of the Oakland team, in the Pacific Coast league, hit in his forty-ninth consecutive game. At Los Angeles, Ness established a new world's record for hitting in consecutive games on July 13 when he passed the previous record of hits in forty consecutive games, made by Ty Cobb.

The interstate commerce commission has ordered a hearing held at Omaha on September 21, on lumber rates from Helena, Ark., to Omaha, Des Moines and other points.

The interstate commerce commission decided that the revenues of the principal express companies of the United States are inadequate and modified its former orders in order to provide additional income.

Satisfactory progress with the new school for the training of submarine officers was reported to Secretary Daniels by Captain Albert W. Grant, recently designated as chief of the submarine service afloat and ashore.

Suits are about to be brought by the government against American citizens who, though apparently able to do so, refuse to repay money expended for their relief when they were stranded in Europe at the outbreak of the war.

James M. Sullivan, American minister to the dominican republic, has tendered his resignation to President Wilson and it has been accepted. Mr. Sullivan's resignation is the consequence of an investigation conducted for the state department by Senator Phelan of California.

President Wilson has called for reports on the subject of national defense. These will be made to him personally by the heads of the war and navy departments. He particularly wishes the navy to stand upon equality with the most efficient sea force maintained by any power.

Shipping interests' agitation for an extra session of congress to repeal the "seamen's labor law" is useless, it is stated at the White house. The president will convene congress for no cause except an acute diplomatic crisis.

Large increases in exports of explosive, iron and steel manufacturers, automobiles, leather, cotton and woolen goods, chemicals, all classes of metal goods and foodstuffs are shown by detailed department of commerce statistics for May.