

TITANIC INQUIRY BEGINS IN LONDON

Wreck Commissioner, Assisted by Five Assessors, Starts Investigation of Sinking of Ship.

SWEEPING IN ITS EXTENT

Twenty-Six Questions, Involving All Phases of Disaster Outlined.

ALL INTERESTS REPRESENTED

Hundred Lawyers and as Many Newspaper Men in Attendance.

SURVIVORS CALLED FIRST

Seamen Who Returned on Lapland Are Examined—Model of Titanic and Many Charts Are Among the Exhibits.

LONDON, May 2.—Lord Mersey, in his capacity as wreck commissioner, and five assessors who will advise him in his questioning of the technicalities of nautical affairs, held this morning the first session of the Board of Trade inquiry into the loss of the White Star steamer Titanic.

In point of interest to the public and the importance of its results on the laws governing the mercantile marine, the investigation promises to overshadow all previous tribunals of a similar character. From the series of twenty-six questions which the attorney general announced would be taken up it became evident that the inquiry would cover practically the same ground as the investigation by the committee of the American senate, but would be conducted more in accordance with the procedure of a court of law and deal definitely with stated cases. Eight questions, Sir Rufus Daniel Isaacs said, would relate to happenings before the casualty; six to warnings given to the Titanic and the resulting precautions taken; ten to the casualty itself and consequent events; one to the equipment and construction of the vessel; and the last to the rules of the merchant shipping act.

Model of Titanic.

A twenty-foot model of the Titanic carrying sixteen miniature lifeboats and a big chart of the north Atlantic were prominently displayed by the navigators. In front of the platform which they occupied were seated 100 members of the bar, representing various interests involved, and 100 newspaper men.

The only reference to the American investigation was Sir Rufus's announcement that owing to the detention of many witnesses for the senatorial inquiry in the United States the testimony would not be presented in a logical order.

The seamen who arrived from New York on the Lapland were called first as witnesses to the construction and equipment of the Titanic.

Lord Mersey recognized Thomas Scanlan, member of Parliament for the North division of Sligo, who appeared for the seamen's and firemen's union, and an attorney for the Merchants Service Guild, and took under consideration the application for representation of the Seafarers' union, the Ship Constructors' association and the mercantile officers' union.

An adjournment was then taken.

Senate Inquiry Held.

NEW YORK, May 2.—Senator William Alden Smith of Michigan, chairman of the senate committee investigating the Titanic disaster, announced today that he would hold no public hearing during the two days he will spend in New York, but expects to investigate chiefly the report that news of the Titanic disaster reached New York Monday morning, April 15. The fact that the Titanic had sunk was announced Monday evening by P. A. S. Franklin, vice president of the White Star line, who has testified that he did not learn of the vessel's fate until a few minutes before the announcement was made.

Minia Finds Fifteen Bodies.

The Western Union cable steamer Minia, which has been searching the scene of the Titanic wreck for bodies, is returning to Halifax with fifteen bodies and will dock Monday, according to a wireless message received here this afternoon by the White Star line. These means, officials of the line state, that the search for bodies has been abandoned for the present and may be postponed indefinitely.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Generally fair and cooler.
For Iowa—Unsettled, with probably showers; cooler Friday in west and central portions.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Deg.
6 a. m.	52
7 a. m.	53
8 a. m.	54
9 a. m.	55
10 a. m.	56
11 a. m.	57
12 m.	58
1 p. m.	59
2 p. m.	60
3 p. m.	61
4 p. m.	62
5 p. m.	63
6 p. m.	64
7 p. m.	65

Comparative Local Record.

Highest yesterday	1912	1911	1908
Lowest yesterday	52	45	35
Mean temperature	74	64	48
Precipitation	.00	.00	.10
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal:			
Normal temperature	58		
Total deficiency since March 1	15		
Normal precipitation	11.10		
Deficiency for the day	.12		
Total rainfall since March 1	3.81		
Deficiency since March 1	.29		
Deficiency for cor. period, 1911	24		
Deficiency for cor. period, 1908	4.23		

Reports for stations at 7 P. M.

Station and State	Temp.	High	Low
Omaha	65	70	55
Chicago	60	65	50
St. Louis	60	65	50
Denver	50	55	40
Des Moines	50	55	40
Indianapolis	50	55	40
St. Paul	50	55	40
Portland	50	55	40
San Francisco	50	55	40
Washington	50	55	40

Proposed Scale for Anthracite Miners Rejected

NEW YORK, May 2.—The full committee of anthracite operators and miners this afternoon voted down the agreement that was submitted to them by the subcommittee of the operators and miners to settle the controversy over the question of increased wages and other questions in the anthracite region.

The proposed agreement provided for a four-year contract, an increase of 10 per cent, abolition of the sliding scale, indirect recognition of the union and other concessions to the miners, but contains no mention of a shorter working day.

NEW YORK, May 2.—William Green acted as spokesman for the miners in place of President White, who is ill. He said the miners were not prepared to ratify the plan. The operators indicated that the agreement was acceptable to them and further stated that the whole controversy could be referred again to the surviving members of the anthracite commission. This proposition probably will be acted upon by the miners later.

After adjournment of the joint conference, Mr. Green and his associates hurried away for a conference.

"I have nothing to say now," Mr. Green said, "although there may be a statement later in the day."

No date, it is said, has been agreed on for a future conference of the two committees. The agreement, which has been approved by the subcommittee of miners, was signed by John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers; John T. Dempsey, John Fahy and Thomas Kennedy, while the members of the operators' committee who signed the report were S. D. Warriner, W. J. Richards, R. A. Phillips and Morris Williams.

Italian Battleship Driven on Rocks by Storm and is Sunk

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 2.—A dispatch has been received here from Tunis saying that the Italian battleship Re Umberto has been driven by a storm on the rocks and sunk at a point on the coast near Zouara.

The foregoing dispatch from Constantinople has not been confirmed from any other source.

The battleship Re Umberto has been engaged in conveying landing expeditions undertaken by Italian troops to Tripoli. Built in 1887, the Re Umberto carried 20 men. It was 80 feet long seventy-seven feet wide and drew twenty-eight feet of water. Its armament included four 12-inch guns.

Zouara is on the northwest coast of Tripoli near the Tunisian border. The coast in that vicinity is dangerous.

Chicago Papers Are Delayed by Strike of Web Pressmen

CHICAGO, May 2.—Early editions of Chicago afternoon newspapers were not printed today because of a dispute between the pressmen of Chicago Newspaper Web Pressmen's union No. 7 and the Chicago local of the American Newspaper Publishers' association.

The difference arose on the expiration of the pressmen's contract with the Hearst newspapers and the failure to agree on terms of renewal.

Meetings of the executive committee of the Pressmen's union and Publishers' association were held throughout the morning and hope was expressed that the difficulty would be adjusted in time for the later editions of the afternoon papers.

Hole Torn in Warship by a Sailing Vessel

LONDON, May 2.—The British battleship Empress of India was in collision with a German sailing vessel early today at Spithead. The battleship received a gaping hole in its side above the main deck, while the merchantman lost head-gear and foremast.

The Empress of India was in mid-channel in tow of the cruiser Warrior at the time of the crash.

The Empress of India was launched in 1891 and is now classed as obsolete. It is kept in the special reserve for emergency use. It has a displacement of about 14,000 tons.

Homer Davenport, Cartoonist, is Dead

NEW YORK, May 2.—Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, died today in this city of pneumonia. Mr. Davenport had been working on the Hearst newspapers in this city. He was 44 years of age.

WINNEBAGO CITY BANK CLOSED BY EXAMINER

WINNEBAGO CITY, MINN., May 2.—The Bank of Commerce of this city was closed today by the state bank examiner and accountants are at work on the books. P. W. Parker, vice president of the institution, is said to have left the city on Friday, after having cashed it, it is reported, a Bank of Commerce draft of \$200 at the First National bank of this city. Until the accountants report it will not be known whether a shortage exists. The bank is capitalized at \$25,000, has a surplus of \$100 and deposits of \$70,000.

MARION, IND., GOES DRY IN SINGLE NIGHT

MARION, Ind., May 2.—The thirsty town in vain tried the doze of the two-day one-shut-out of this city. They were closed by secret voluntary agreement following a decision by the Indiana supreme court by which the "dry" of Kokomo shut up twenty-one saloons there. This ruling was that an option election board could not legally recount the vote and had power only to tabulate returns. The Marion situation was similar to that in Kokomo and the saloon keepers here decided not to go into court.

BISHOPS ASSERT PROGRESS SLOW

Episcopal Address to Methodist General Conference Complains of Membership Gain.

REASONS FOR MEAGER ADVANCE

Less Than Two Per Cent of Additions During Period.

CHURCH PRESS IS AT FAULT

Lends Ear to Those Who Spread Disaffection.

DOCTRINES ARE NOT DISTINCTIVE

Too Little Emphasis Being Placed Upon Them—Use of Evangelists and Calling Pastors Not Condemned.

MINNEAPOLIS, May 2.—Criticism of the condition which enabled the church to gain "less than two per cent in its membership in the last year," and charges that the church press was being used "as a free forum by the promoters of disaffection," were made in the bishops' report to the quadrennial general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church today.

The report, known as the "Episcopal Address," was signed by eighteen bishops in this and six bishops in foreign countries and is regarded as the most important document to come before the conference, as it contains the bishops' recommendations for the future guidance and policy of the church.

The report was read by Bishop Earl Cranston of Washington, D. C. Another section upon which the bishops have been at work since the last general conference at Baltimore four years ago will be delivered tomorrow.

Net Gain Only Two Per Cent. "In the last year," said the report, "the church has made a net gain of but 55,000 which is less than two per cent as the outcome of the year's activities and the outlay of many millions of dollars. The statistical paradox glazes us out of countenance. It shames and humiliates us. What are honors of office worth in an army that does not win battles? No marvel that some are proposing to reduce the major generals to post duty and let the army dissolve into antiquated ecclesiastical camps."

This was a reference to a proposed limiting of the activities to a local district of the bishops whose jurisdiction now is universal.

Some of the reasons for the meager growth, as set forth, were laid to a too strict application of the law of the church demanding that all members who profess a given community without their church letters be dropped from membership for one year.

"A fair calculation," the report said, "reveals the astounding fact that probably not less than 500,000 members disappeared from our rolls by reckless use of the 'dropping' process."

Old Doctrines Partly Abandoned. "Nevertheless we still face the patent fact that our distinctive doctrines are not being emphasized as they were once, or, where preached, are discredited for the time by a galsynaptic world drunk with vain philosophies and sated with glutinous indulgences."

Pleading for an emphasis on the distinctive Wesleyan doctrines, the report said they were the only power to save the nation against vice.

"Where is the evidence that science has ever regenerated one soul, or that culture has redeemed one flourish, or that taken away, malice, pride, jealousy, or greed out of any heart? These utterances are not reactionary unless this world has outgrown Jesus Christ."

"Our second lapse is that our system is not being worked as it formerly was. Certain distinctive parts have been abandoned, others modified. Innovations, notions to our pastoral as well as to our supervisory methods, have intervened to the hurt of both."

The report condemned the practice that was said to have grown up in certain churches of calling in evangelists to carry on revival services as against the former custom which placed the local pastor in charge of that work.

"Calling" Pastors is Condemned. "Turning from this report condemned the so-called congregational system of calling pastors for local churches, which was said to have become general in Methodism."

Referring to discussions in the church publications the report said: "We understand the church maintains a press for the advocacy of her doctrines and the defense of her polity when assailed, not as a free forum for the vagaries of writers who measure all problems by their own deoriaries, or to officially sanction the promoters of disaffection. While we would not restrain dignified and legitimate discussion of proposed amendments or reforms, we deprecate the admission of ill-considered and intemperate criticisms of our polity or church agencies."

One of the proposals before this conference is that the bishops be placed in definite charge of the work in the territory adjacent to their episcopal residences. On this point the report said: "We ask the fixing of two or three more episcopal residences in this country at strategic centers. With these additions we believe that areas for Episcopal supervision can be so related to the residence cities as to meet the express desire for continuous oversight by resident bishops without any infringement of the restrictive rule."

NEBRASKA WILL ASK CHANGES

Plans Laid to Have Four Conferences Merged Into One.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., May 1.—(Special Correspondence)—The general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church was opened Wednesday morning, May 1, in the Auditorium, with solemn and inspiring services. Bishop Henry White Warren, the oldest of the active bishops, presided. A table, gavel and chair were presented the bishop for use in the conference, the construction of which was by the students of Morrison Normal and Industrial college, a colored school at Morrison, Tenn. The wood for the

The National Capital

Thursday, May 2, 1912.

The Senate.

Met at noon. Rivers and harbor appropriation bill, increased by \$4,000,000 over the house figures, was agreed to by commerce committee and will be reported in a few days.

The House.

Met at noon. Resumed consideration of postoffice appropriation bill which was amended so that of the three American sea post mail clerks lost in the Titanic wreck.

His First Uniform



From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

TRACTION BONDS ON MARKET

Officers of Interboro Company Go East to Sell Them.

BRANCH HIGHWAYS SURVEYED

As Soon as the Bonds Are Disposed Of It is Said Active Work Will Be Started on Building Road.

With a view of placing the bonds of the Nebraska Traction company President Peter Mangold and General Manager W. Baker leave for New York tomorrow. The bonds he sold building will begin soon.

The Nebraska Traction company is the concern that has surveyed from Sioux City to Omaha for an interurban line. From a point north of Blair a branch line has been surveyed into Fremont and another to Norfolk. Along this survey most of the right-of-way has been secured.

Up to this time all of the work has been done by the Baker Construction company, which is an auxiliary of the Nebraska Traction company, and according to many of the leading railroad men both are auxiliaries of the Milwaukee, which has adopted this plan of getting into Omaha from the north and out to the northwest.

Taft Speaks at the Butt Memorial Service at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga., May 2.—President Taft and the City of Augusta paid tribute today to Major Archibald Butt, the president's personal aide, who was lost in the wreck of the Titanic.

Augusta was Major Butt's home and for several hours today business was practically suspended while memorial services were conducted in a theater. Flags were at half mast on most of the public buildings and thousands of persons crowded around the theater anxious to hear President Taft speak.

Boat Strikes Mine in Dardanelles and is Blown to Pieces

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 2.—A small tug boat which was engaged in inspecting the channel buoys in the Dardanelles last night fouled a mine and was blown to pieces. Four officers, twelve soldiers and all the members of the crew of the tug perished.

Ismay Sails for Home on Adriatic

NEW YORK, May 2.—J. Bruce Ismay, managing director of the International Mercantile Marine, sailed for his home in England today on the White Star liner, Adriatic. Mr. Ismay said he was worn out and that there was nothing to add to his testimony regarding the Titanic disaster that he gave before the senate investigating committee.

CINCINNATI BANKER IS PLACED UNDER ARREST

CINCINNATI, O., May 2.—E. E. Galbreath, former president of the Grand National bank of this city, was arrested here today by a United States marshal on a charge of misappropriating the funds of the bank. The bank was recently discovered to be in an embarrassed condition and is now being operated by members of the Cincinnati Clearing House association.

Homestake Mine Boss Killed by a Cave-In

LEAD, S. D., May 2.—In a cave-in on the 70-foot level of the Homestake mine last night, Jack Sheridan, one of the oldest shift bosses of the company, was killed, and A. L. Ryan, a miner, seriously injured. Sheridan was 44 years old and had been employed by the company thirty years. He leaves a widow and several children.

OPERATION PERFORMED ON KIMMEL'S SKULL

CHICAGO, May 2.—The operation performed yesterday on Andrew J. Kimmel, who insists that he is the missing George A. Kimmel of Niles, Mich., intended to relieve what was thought to be a bone pressure on his brain, was a success from a medical viewpoint, the doctors said today, but whether it gives to the man the memory he says he lacks to prove his contention is yet to be determined.

The payment of \$25,000 life insurance hinges on the identity of White, who Kimmel's mother and sister assert is not their relative.

Senators Add Eight Millions to Rivers and Harbors Bill

WASHINGTON, May 2.—Carrying \$5,000,000 in addition to the appropriation provided for by the house, the rivers and harbors appropriation bill, aggregating \$2,128,530, has been agreed to by the senate committee on commerce and will be reported in a few days.

The largest single increase to the house measure was \$2,000,000 for the Mississippi river, making \$4,000,000 for that waterway.

Among the appropriations as increased by the senate committee: Missouri river, between Sioux City and Fort Benton, \$300,000, opposite Sioux City, \$200,000.

The appropriation of \$300,000 for Chicago's harbor will be available for use this year, provided the city has its part in the preparation of the harbor. It is regarded as the forerunner of a greatly increased appropriation for breakwater construction to protect the proposed \$3,000,000 Chicago harbor.

House Passes Bill For Parcels Post On Rural Routes

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The postoffice appropriation bill (carrying approximately \$25,000,000, was passed by the house today, 27 to 5. The measure carried in addition to the appropriations necessary for the conduct of the department a number of radical additions. Among these were federal aid for good roads, the compulsory publication of newspapers, magazines and periodicals of the names of their owners and the establishment of a parcels post in connection with the rural free delivery service. The good roads provision added between \$6,000,000 and \$15,000,000 to the appropriation and this amount it is expected will be materially increased in the next postoffice measure.

LOOKING UP CITY CHARTER

South Omaha Officials Investigate Records at Lincoln.

TERMINAL RAILWAY FIGURES

Valuation of Property for Taxation in Douglas County Averages Forty-Five Per Cent Above Last Year.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, May 2.—(Special)—E. E. Ridgeway and Assistant City Attorney E. L. Whitters of South Omaha were at the capital today looking up the record of the South Omaha charter. The verdict of the district court declaring invalid the section of the charter extending the terms of city officials has cast a cloud over the entire charter and there is a question whether the same reasons which operated to render this section invalid operate against the entire instrument. Messrs. Ridgeway and Whitters are going over the record from the introduction to the final passage of the instrument to ascertain the facts, but as yet have not progressed far enough to be willing to express an opinion. It is imperative that the question should be settled at once as the uncertainty is halting all public improvements and in various ways proving embarrassing to the city government.

The city of Kearney school district has issued \$50,000 worth of funding bonds. As the original issue is the property of the state the new one is simply being exchanged for the old.

Secretary Mellor of the state fair board was engaged today talking over matters with the two aviators who gave exhibitions at the fair last year. The board of managers has authorized contracting with aviators, but Mr. Mellor has not yet closed, with any of those who wish to come here.

Complaint on Phone Rates. The State Railway commission and representatives of the Dundy County Telephone company were in consultation today concerning complaints from subscribers. It has been charged that different rates for similar service. The company is presenting a plan to equate them.

Water for Irrigation. Reports from the western portion of the state where there are irrigation ditches indicate there will be plenty of water in the streams to supply the needs of irrigators. The snow has been very heavy in the mountains which form the source of supply of the Platte river, and in other districts which obtain water from streams which rise in the prairie country and depend on springs to maintain the flow the heavy snowfall of the late spring is depended on to keep up the supply. In the southwestern portion of the state, which has been the greatest sufferer from poor crops last year and also in some previous seasons, all reports from the nonirrigated portion indicate a bountiful harvest. Former Secretary of State Junkin was at the capital today and reports that in all his experience he never saw a better prospect in that section of the state.

Sold Watered Oysters. C. W. Thornon of Falls City pleaded guilty to selling oysters which had been watered, and paid a fine of \$9 and costs.

Governor to Speak. Governor Aldrich goes to Neligh tomorrow where he delivers an address before the teachers. Several additional dates have been looked for him recently, as follows: Kearney, June 28, to dedicate the new building at the normal school; July 1, Randolph, address before the Northwest Nebraska Veterans' association; July 2, dedication of new building at normal school; July 4 at Curtis.

Willie E. Reed, democrat, admits that he expended \$300 to further his ambition to be United States senator from Nebraska. Fred Volpp, who already had filed an expense account, writes to ask the secretary of state to add \$7.20 to the amount of a belated advertising bill. Wilber S. Watt, republican, land commissioner, expended \$3. Dan V. Stevens, democrat, congress, Third district, nothing.

Warns Hotel Men. State Hotel Commissioner McFadden has issued a circular to hotel proprietors of the state warning them to get busy, if they have not already done so, and do some spring cleaning and renovating.

Milkmen Bring Suit. U. S. Milkmen, whose wife and daughter were killed on a crossing of the Rock Island road south of this city February 5 last, has brought suit against the company for damages placed at \$25,000. The petition alleges that the child's foot was caught in a cattle guard, which was a part of the highway, and that the child and the mother were run down and killed before the mother could extricate the child. It is asserted the place was dangerous by reason of a curve in the road.

(Continued on Page Two)

BREAK IN LEVEE PRODUCES PANIC

Inhabitants of Torras, La., Make Wild Rush for Safety from Mississippi.

ALARM COMES AS SURPRISE

Domestic Animals in Stampedes When Turned Loose.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON TRAIN

No Loss of Life Reported, but Some Fatalities Probable.

STREETS ARE SOON INUNDATED

Large Area Will Be Flooded with Water from New Crevasse and the Damage Will Amount to Millions.

TORRAS, La., May 2.—Women screaming and men shouting as they hurried into their homes and seized their children and valuables in their mad effort to reach places of safety, and the stampeding of animals turned loose by their owners to seek safe places, were some of the chaotic conditions that prevailed in Torras last night when the alarm was sounded that the levee at the junction of Old and Mississippi rivers had given way.

Although it had been known that several weak spots had developed, little attention had been paid to them by the citizens of Torras and they were caught unprepared. Within a few minutes after the break had become known the townspeople were in panic.

Majority Reach Safety. Before the streets were entirely submerged a majority of the inhabitants had reached places of safety. Three hundred women and children were placed aboard a freight train which had just arrived in Torras. These were taken to a point below here.

No loss of life has been reported, but it is feared some fatalities may occur in the interior, as the water is rushing through the country as rapidly that sufficient warning may not have reached those living in districts remote from wire communication. Food supplies have been massed near Torras by the government in anticipation of a break here and those in charge of the work are preparing to give relief to 40,000 people in this vicinity.

Convict Farm Flooded. The second line of levee protecting the big state convict plantation from the Mississippi river at Angola, La., broke this afternoon and within a short time the 500-acre plantation was inundated. The state recently completed a \$500,000 sugar refinery on the Angola plantation and this will be flooded.

News that the engineers had given up all hope of closing the Torras crevasse was flashed to every town on the west side of the Mississippi river within a radius of fifty miles of the break. It means the abandonment of thousands of homes in the territory south of Torras and property damage that will run into the millions.

Second Flood at Cairo. CAIRO, Ill., May 2.—Although many families have been driven from their homes during the last week by the second flood within a month, the churches of Cairo will devote next Sunday's services to thanksgiving for the escape of the city from last month's flood.

The Mississippi was 43 feet deep at this point this morning, having risen one and two-tenths feet during the last twenty-four hours.

All residents of the drainage district have left their homes and farmers of the lowlands have taken their families and stock to the hills.

CONNECTICUT DEMOS INSTRUCT FOR BALDWIN

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., May 2.—Connecticut's four delegates-at