

WIDOW ASKS \$75,000 FOR LOSS OF HUSBAND IN WRECK OF TITANIC

White Star Lawyer Says Attorney Is in Contempt in Bringing Suit.

A suit affecting every one who lost a relative in the wreck of the Titanic last

April came before Supreme Court Justice Ames today. The question to be determined is whether relatives of those who went down with the liner have the right to sue for damages.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Natchez has brought suit against the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company, known more generally as the White Star line, for \$75,000 for the death of her husband, Charles Natchez, who was vice-president of the Lamont-Corliss Company, an agency firm representing a number of European manufacturers.

Incidentally, her attorney, A. Leonard Brougham of No. 26 Liberty street, was accused by his opponent of being in contempt of court. In a suit before Judge Hough in the United States District Court, now pending, the question involved is how much the steamship company can be sued for. Is it responsible to the extent of \$24,000, the value of a

few lifeboats that weathered the disaster and fares of the passengers, or can it be held for the total loss of life and merchandise?

Until this point is determined in the Federal Court no suits can be brought against the steamship company, according to the contention of Herman G. Beecher, its attorney. Judge Hough so ruled in an order, he stated, and the lawyer added that if he violated this order Mrs. Natchez's counsel would be in contempt of court.

Mr. Brougham defended himself, saying that the law in this State required that a suit for damages for loss by death must be brought within twelve months and explained that if he waited until the case before Judge Hough was decided it might be too late for his client to bring action. The attorney said that the law was clear regarding the right to bring suit in a State court against a foreign steamship company for the loss of the life of a resident of

New York. He said he would not withdraw the suit. Justice Ames asked for memoranda and said he would reserve decision.

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