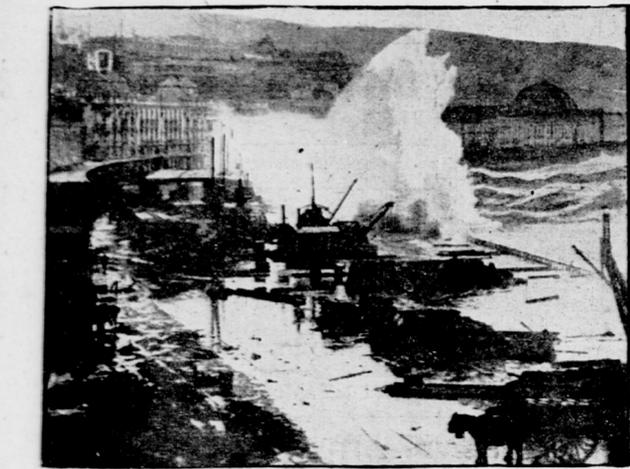


VALPARAISO AT THE MERCY OF NORTHERS NOTHING TO STOP FIERCE STORMS.

Merchandise and Ships Trust to Luck—Property Worth Millions at Mercy of Wind.

By Lewis R. Freeman.

Many port waterfronts are interesting, but few strike pleasantly upon either the eye or the nose, and Valparaiso is not an exception.



SCENE DURING A NORTHER IN VALPARAISO. Waves throwing spray 150 feet in the air as they strike the sea wall.

littered with the cargo that has been discharged from the lighters upon the embankment, or malleon. Theoretically this malleon is a clear space reserved for the handling of incoming and outgoing cargo.

SHIPS HURLED ASHORE.

When I arrived in Valparaiso the extent of my knowledge in regard to northers was gained in reading the allusion in one of Kipling's poems to a ship that floundered off from somewhere or other.

Instruction.



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being held upon it while across the harbor the great white wall of the Andes, overtopped with the mighty Aconcagua, nearly two hundred miles away and beyond the Argentine line, appears to have slipped suddenly and silently down to the bay, from the very beach of which they seem to rise.

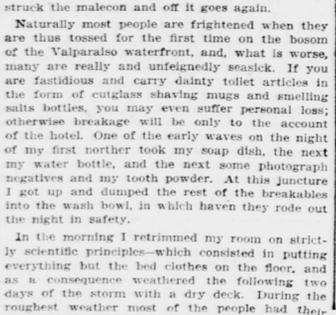
The first signs of the norther are apparent about 9 or 10 o'clock in a succession of light puffs of warm air that come purring through the telephone wires and go mouching about the streets to stir up small whirls of dust and paper where they chance unexpectedly upon each other at the corners.

The height of the breaking waves on the occasion of some of the bad storms is almost beyond belief. I have been repeatedly told that the heavy spray often flies over a hundred feet in the air.

Naturally most people are frightened when they are thus tossed for the first time on the bosom of the Valparaiso waterfront, and, what is worse, many are really and unfeignedly seasick.

In the morning I retraced my room on strictly scientific principles which consisted in putting everything but the bed clothes on the floor, and as a consequence weathered the following two days of the storm with a dry deck.

Instruction.



Instruction.



meals brought to their rooms, a service for which the management waived the usual "will be charged for extra" clause on account of the saving in dishes. The comedor, or dining room, which was on the bay frontage of the hotel, received the full benefit of the shock of the waves, while the dining room found its way through the loose fitting windows to form big pools of water on the floor.

It is not a rare thing to see larger waves at sea than those that the northers drive into Valparaiso Bay, and on certain exposed points it is almost essential to see them break in the most violent manner.

The most spectacular part of a norther is the dashing of the waves against the seawall. This structure is built of cement, armored with steel rails, and would stand unlimited banging from the waves alone.

I mentioned the fact of a car having been thrown across the seaward entrance of my hotel. Fortunately the main door opened to a street on the opposite side of the block.

It may seem strange that slippers continue to use so dangerous, inconvenient and expensive a port as Valparaiso, until it is known that all the other ports of Chile are almost as bad as regards exposure to the north, and that for the trade of Santiago and the Aconcagua Valley there offers no other port at all.

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