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 Low rates to all points east, in connection with all transcontinentals.  
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**LOCAL BOARD MAKES REPORT**

**Inspectors Make Lengthy Statement of Findings on Slocum Disaster of Last June.**

**IGNORANCE—INCOMPETENCE**

**Loss of Nearly One Thousand Lives Attributed to Lack of Discipline and Common Sense.**

New York, Sept. 23.—A lengthy report has just been made public of an investigation by the local board of steamboat inspectors into the General Slocum steamer disaster which occurred in the east river last June and cost nearly 1000 lives. The report is signed by James A. Dumont and Thomas H. Barrett and is addressed to Supervising Inspector Robert S. Rodie. It concludes by announcing upon authority vested in the board by the federal statutes the revocation of the officers' licenses of those aboard the Slocum as follows:

William H. Schalk, master and pilot; Edward Van Wart, pilot, and Benjamin F. Conklin, chief engineer.

Briefly summarized the principal points of the board's report are:

"That the fire was discovered at the upper end of the sunken Meadows and that North Brother island was the nearest available point to beach the steamship.

"That life preserving appliances in the vessel were inadequate but had the Slocum been supplied with a greater number not another life would have been saved because of the ignorance and incompetence of the crew.

"That there was an absolute lack of discipline on the part of the crew because of the negligence of the master and of the pilot.

"That fire drills had been neglected, and that had the crew been trained as the law requires such a disaster would have been almost inconceivable.

"That one of the crew in his ignorance, added to the incipient flames by throwing thereon an empty bag which had contained charcoal.

"That the chief engineer was grossly negligent when notified of the fire in that he did not see that the hose had been connected and the water turned on."

The investigation began July 6 and was delayed considerably by the injuries of Captain Van Schalk, which confined him to the hospital. Under the law the board only took up the conduct of the vessel's licensed officers. The other phases of the disaster were investigated by a special commission appointed on the request of President Roosevelt and consisting of General Wilson of the army, and Commander Winslow of the navy. This commission has not yet made public its report. The inspectors say they heard 38 witnesses. Twelve others were subpoenaed but failed to appear, among them Coroner Berry. The report reviews evidence given by river captains and expert East river pilots and continues:

"A few minutes after the master was made aware through the speaking tube in the pilot house that the Slocum was on fire he gave orders to the pilot to beach the vessel on North Brother island. That order was obeyed and the steamer was beached probably within three minutes.

"In the face of the evidence we can not in justice arrive at any conclusion on this point other than that the unfavorable criticism passed upon Captain Van Schalk for not having beached his steamer at some other point than where he did was wholly unmerited."

The second engineer, Brandow, is highly praised for remaining at his post and manipulating the machinery. Captains and crews of river craft who aided in rescuing the drowning victims also are commended for their conduct.

**ANOTHER WONDER OF SCIENCE**

**Biology has Proved that Dandruff is Caused by a Germ.**

Science is doing wonders these days in medicine as well as in mechanics. Since Adam lived, the human race has been troubled with dandruff, for which no hair preparation has heretofore proved a successful cure until Newbro's Herpicide was put on the market. It is a scientific preparation that kills the germ that makes dandruff or scurf by digging into the scalp to get at the root of the hair, where it saps the vitality; causing itching scalp, falling hair, and finally baldness. Without dandruff hair must grow luxuriantly. It is the only destroyer of dandruff. Sold by leading druggists. Send 10c in stamps for sample to The Herpicide Co., Detroit, Mich.  
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ed in rescuing the drowning victims also are commended for their conduct. The inspectors cite evidence they received to the effect that no dead were found wearing life preservers and express the belief that not one life was lost because of inefficiency of the preservers. The great mortality, according to their view was due to the impossibility of equipping 1500 persons, mostly children, in a few minutes and not to the age of the preservers, many of which were stamped in 1891.

"The evidence before us indicates an absolute lack of discipline on the part of the crew because of the neglect of the master and of the pilot to observe the provisions which require those officers at least each week to call all hands to quarters and exercise them in the discipline and use of the fire pumps and all other apparatus for the safety of life on board on such vessel and to see that all the equipments required by the law are in complete working order for immediate use.

"Had this rule been observed and the crew of the Slocum been trained as to their duties in case of fire or other accident to the steamer it is impossible to conceive that such a disaster could have occurred to the steamer as did occur, as it appears from the evidence before us that at least three of the crew saw the fire when a bucket or two of water, which was close at hand, was all that was needed to put it out. Instead of doing this, however, one of them added fuel to the flames in the shape of an empty bag which had contained charcoal and was consequently saturated with dust from the same, an ingredient about as inflammable as gunpowder.

"Then all of them ran to the steam fire pump connection and made a bungling attempt to connect the hose therewith and tangled it into kinks, rendering it entirely useless."

The chief engineer's license is revoked because he failed to see that the hose was properly stretched before turning on the power which caused it to burst.

**SHEDS SKIN TWICE A YEAR.**

**Remarkable Case of Man Whose Hands and Feet Peel Off.**

Hood River, Sept. 23.—In the office of John Leland Henderson is the skin from the hands of S. O. Buskirk of Indianapolis, Ind., a man who sheds his skin twice each year. The phenomenon is similar to that of a snake, sloughing off its skin, but while this happens once a year to the snake, Mr. Buskirk sheds his skin twice a year.

S. O. Buskirk is a brother to Mrs. Aud Winans of this city. He now resides at 50 South Lost street, Indianapolis, Ind. He served 14 years in the regular army. Mr. Buskirk is about 60 years old. He never married.

Mr. Buskirk is said to take the skin from his hands like one removing a pair of gloves. It is the epidermis or outer skin that he sheds. Eminent physicians say this is the only man known to medical science who sheds his skin in this manner twice a year. The case is so remarkable that the medical societies have persuaded him to appear before their annual meeting that they may study the wonderful transformation that takes place with his outer skin.

He has been told that if he would only place himself on exhibition he would be enabled to live in a brownstone front and write his check in a few years for a million, but Mr. Buskirk is averse to notoriety, and no love of money can persuade him to do this. The shedding takes place twice a year, in the spring and the fall.

When the skin has been shed, the new coating is as tender as that of a newborn babe, and for several weeks he is compelled to remain indoors and to go about on crutches until the skin becomes toughened on his feet.

Mr. Buskirk was in Hood River three or four years ago, and spent about a year here.

**LADY CURZON IMPROVING.**

**Her Condition is Said to Be Still Critical, However.**

London, Sept. 23.—The condition of Lady Curzon, wife of the viceroy of India, who was taken ill two days ago, is still critical, but was slightly improved this morning. A dispatch from Walmer Castle, near Dover (the official residence of Lord Curzon as lord warden of the Cinque ports, says her ladyship's strength is well maintained.

**DIED AT BANQUET TABLE.**

**Fire Insurance Man Expires While Responding to a Toast.**

Frontenac, N. Y., Sept. 23.—While responding to a toast at the 25th anniversary banquet of the Western Union of Fire Underwriters last night, H. M. Magill of Cincinnati fell forward and died soon after.

**BIG CHORUS FOR THE FAIR.**

**Telegram: William H. Boyer, a Portland Man Makes Excellent Suggestion for Attraction.**

well-known local choral conductor, has written to President H. W. Goode of the Lewis and Clark exposition, outlining plans for a grand musical festival during the 1905 fair. Mr. Boyer's plan is to have this festival cover a period of three or five days, to be participated in by a grand chorus of 400 or 500 voices from Oregon towns, thus making it a state affair. Mr. Boyer has confidence that Oregon's musical talent is in all respects adequate for such an enterprise, and thinks the cost would not be so considerable.

As an estimate of the cost Mr. Boyer places the figures on a basis ranging from \$4500 to \$5000, exclusive of advertising. It was decided at one of the recent meetings of the Willamette Valley Choral Association that the next meetings of the association would be held in Portland during the fair, and if the proposition offered is accepted, visitors to the fair will be given an opportunity of hearing some of the masterpieces of the world's music presented by a magnificent chorus of trained voices, and the beauty of it all will be that Oregon will furnish this music.

It is believed that this enterprise could be employed by the fair as a good gate-receipt investment.

**Japs Win Skirmish.**

Tokio, Sept. 23, 1 p. m.—An official telegram reports that fights have taken place at the towns of Tieling and Sanlungku, 60 miles northeast of Liao Yang on September 20. The dispatch reads: "Our detachment advanced through Heinluochuang on September 20 and attacked the enemy, consisting of one company of infantry, some cavalry and a machine gun stationed at Tieling and

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a battalion of infantry, 500 cavalry, six quick-firing and one machine gun, stationed at Sanlungku which lies eight miles north of Tieling. The Russians, who were driven off to the northward, left 19 dead behind them. We captured some spoils. Our losses were very slight."

**Railroad Workmen Killed.**

New York, Sept. 23.—Two men have been accidentally killed by an engine in the freight yards at St. George, Staten island. They were workmen. Four others narrowly escaped.

**FOOTBALL**  
 The football season is here; also the goods, balls, shin protectors, head harness, etc. New lot of punning bags, dumb bells and Indian clubs. But see the window, it will tell the story, take less time and tell it better.  
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