

## SHIPS RIDE TO DISASTER IN TEMPESTS

### Great Storms Send Vessels Upon Reefs.

### Skipper and Eleven Men Lost in the South Seas.

### German Bark Edith Breaks in Halves on Rocks Near New Caledonia.

VICTORIA, B. C., July 9.—The steamer *Mosera*, which arrived this morning, brought details of many shipping disasters which occurred off the Australian coast and in the South Seas as a result of tremendous gales which raged during June. Brief facts have been cabled of the loss of the German bark *Edith*; with Captain Ertell and eleven men, en route from Puget Sound to Port Pirie, with lumber, and of the dismasting of the German bark *C. H. Watjen*, both of which vessels were long overdue.

The *Edith* struck a reef off New Caledonia and her crew left in two boats, one with Captain Ertell and eleven men and the other with Mate Kruger and eight men. The captain's boat was not seen after they left the vessel. It was provisioned for fourteen days. The other boat was at sea for eight days and the shipwrecked men suffered great privations.

On the eighth day they sighted the *C. H. Watjen*, from New York to Yokohama, with a cargo of 100,000 cases of kerosene. The vessel had been caught in a furious typhoon, which rendered her almost a complete wreck. Twenty thousand cases of kerosene had been jettisoned in order to relieve her.

### SEAMEN REACH SHORE.

For another seventy-six days the *Watjen* partly drifted and partly sailed, with the assistance of jury masts, finally landing at Yale Island, off the coast of New Guinea, whence the *Edith's* crew were taken to Australia, while the *Watjen's* people remained with their vessel, hoping to get her to Australia for repairs. The *Edith* broke in halves after striking the reef.

The Norwegian bark *Loftus* ran on a reef in the Fiji group and was a total loss. The crew were saved.

The American schooner *Resolute*, from Grays Harbor for Sydney, with lumber, had a most narrow escape, she being but two cable lengths from the rocks when her anchors held after dragging during the hurricane.

The bark *Norma*, lying at Newcastle ready to load coal for San Francisco, also dragged during the gales and had a close call from leaving her bones on the oyster banks off Newcastle.

The steam collier *Hilaroot* went ashore on the Australian coast and was wrecked. The crew was saved.

The French bark *Admiral Cecille*, which was damaged on a reef off New Caledonia and was cast adrift by the steamer *St. Louis*, which ran short of fuel after towing her 100 miles, was found in a disabled condition eighty miles off Sydney and towed to that port.

**VESSELS IN GALES.**  
The German bark *Mosera*, from Buenos Ayres for Sydney, with wheat, was on her beam ends for sixteen hours during the gale, and the *West Lothian*, from Tacoma for Sydney, with wheat and flour, lost many sails and was severely damaged about her decks, the heavy seas sweeping everything movable from her.

The American bark *Abbey Palmer* was long overdue from Sydney for Newcastle and it was feared she had been lost, but she was sighted all well after the gales.

The *Castor*, from Portland, Or., also suffered, her decks being continually flooded.

The James *Drummond*, from Fairhaven, had her bowsprit carried away and was otherwise damaged as a result of being buffeted by the storms.

The schooner *Elliston* of Sydney was driven ashore and the wreck overturned, but all hands managed to escape.

## THOUSANDS OF NEGROES IN BONDAGE

### System of Peonage Revives Days of Slavery.

### Hundreds of Offenders in South to Be Prosecuted.

### Department of Justice Appoints Special Counsel to Assist.

Special Dispatch to The Call.  
CALL BUREAU, 1406 G STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, July 9.—In order that there may be an even more thorough prosecution of persons who are violating the laws of the United States by the peonage system in Alabama, Attorney General Knox has appointed Julius Sternfelt special counsel to Assistant United States District Attorney Reese at Montgomery, Ala.

The extent to which this system of holding men in servitude for debt has been practiced in Southern States is shown by the facts that two weeks ago nearly 100 indictments had been found; that since then several scores of indictments have been found and additional cases prepared, and that the number of offenses which will be prosecuted before the hand of justice will be stayed in Alabama alone may reach nearly 1000.

The same system prevails in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. It is the policy of the Department of Justice to have these offenders prosecuted with the utmost vigor in order to stamp out the abuse. For the most part the persons guilty are well-to-do planters, contractors or manufacturers, in league with whom, in almost every instance, are local or State authorities.

Constables, Justices of Peace, Mayors, and County Judges are in the conspiracy. They work with men who are on the lookout for unfortunate negroes who are in debt or who may have been fined a trifling amount in order to get their service for almost nothing and hold them in actual slavery, surrounded by armed guards.

The department is much interested in the outcome of the appeal which has been taken in the first conviction in these cases. The case in question is that of S. N. Clyatt of Florida. Clyatt was a producer of naval stores. He held in servitude a number of negroes who owed trifling debts. The negroes escaped and Clyatt's armed guards pursued and arrested them, dragging them back to slavery, just as runaway slaves were apprehended before the war. This case was tried in the Northern District of Florida, at Tallahassee, and, on two convictions, Clyatt was sentenced to four years in a Federal prison. His appeal has been argued before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at New Orleans and the decision is expected any day.

Influence has been exerted in vain to induce the Department of Justice to cease its efforts to break up this un-American system. It is said here that the very best sentiment in the South is enlisted on the side of the Department of Justice and Democrats and Republicans alike are giving the department encouragement in its efforts.

Judge Jones, before whom the cases in Alabama are being tried, is a Democrat. His language in sentencing prisoners who have been convicted is very severe.

**AMERICAN SHIPPING WILL BE PROTECTED**  
Navy Department Orders the Bancroft to Release the Vessels Held on the Orinoco.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The Navy Department, at the instance of the State Department, has taken steps to prevent further interference with American shipping in the Orinoco, by either the Government or the rebel forces.

This action was taken upon the advice of Mr. Russell, United States charge at Caracas, dated on the 6th inst., to the effect that the Government forces had detained two ships belonging to the Orinoco Steam Navigation Company, at San Fernando, and that the insurgents had detained and were likely to destroy three other ships belonging to the same company at Ciudad Bolivar. Orders were cabled yesterday to the United States ship *Bancroft*, at Port of Spain, to proceed at once up the Orinoco and release the detained vessels. No resistance is anticipated.

**AMERICANS CONTROL TIN MINES IN MEXICO**  
Will Develop the Properties and Establish a Plant in the City of Mexico.

AUSTIN, Tex., July 9.—An American syndicate has secured control of the output tin ore in Mexico and will establish a tin plate plant in the City of Mexico at a cost of \$400,000.

The active promoters of the syndicate in Mexico are C. H. Donaldson and J. H. Laughlin. Donaldson is now on his way to New York on business connected with the enterprise. He says that the owners of more than three-fourths of the producing tin mines in Mexico have joined the syndicate and that practically all of the tin mines in Mexico will be placed under its control. There are many tin mines in Mexico, but up to this time only a few of them have been developed on an extensive scale.

## ANGLO-SAXON UNIT KING'S FIRST WISH

### Edward Asks for This Nation's Good Will.

### Hopes to See England and America Keep World's Peace.

### Emphatic Declaration at a Dinner to Yankee Naval Officers.

LONDON, July 9.—Informally welcoming the American naval officers to England to-night, King Edward made an emphatic declaration in favor of closer relations between the United States and England. The King did not speak of an alliance, or even an understanding, but the impression was clear from his remarks that he desired that the two nations move together in the interests of the peace of the world. Some of the King's Ministers also impressed upon the American officers their cordial approval of the Monroe doctrine and their desire that it be supported by American influence in a way which would place it above all criticism.

The royal welcome was extended to the American officers at Buckingham Palace, where at 8:30 o'clock commenced the dinner given in their honor by King Edward. The table was decorated with Marechal Neil roses and gold plate brought from Windsor was used. The King commanded the most distinguished officials of the empire to attend and thirty-six guests were present.

**GUESTS AT KING'S TABLE.**

On the King's right sat Ambassador Choate and on his left Rear Admiral Cotton. Among the others present were the Prince of Wales; Captain Hemphill, U. S. S. *Kearsarge*; Captain Walker, U. S. S. *San Francisco*; Captain Cornwall, U. S. S. *Chicago*; Commander McCrea, U. S. S. *Machias*; Flag Lieutenant Husey, Prince Louis of Battenberg, Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, Premier Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty the Earl of Selborne, Foreign Secretary Lansdowne, Admiral Lord Sir Arnold Forster, Rear Admiral Hay; Sir Michael Herbert, British Ambassador at Washington; Henry White, secretary of the United States legation; Lord Charles Beresford, Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, Sir Berkeley Milne, Admiral Sir E. R. Fremantle, Admiral Sir C. F. Hotham, Admiral Sir Henry Stephenson, Captain Lambton, the Earl of Howe, Lord Farquhar, Sir George Clarke, Governor of Victoria, Australia, and Sir Charles Cust.

The King was dressed in the uniform of an admiral of the British fleet.

**KING TOASTS PRESIDENT.**  
On the conclusion of the dinner the King in a tactful speech expressed gratification at the acceptance of his invitation and cordially welcomed Rear Admiral Cotton and his squadron to England. He asserted that what he said represented the sentiment not only of himself but of the whole British people and he proposed a toast to President Roosevelt, for whom, the King said, he "entertained the highest consideration and admiration."

Embassador Choate responded and in an eloquent speech echoed the wish of the King for the maintenance and promotion of more cordial relations between the two great English-speaking nations.

The King further emphasized his gratification by writing at the table a message to President Roosevelt, in which he stated that it had given him the greatest pleasure to welcome the American squadron. King Edward's cordiality made a great impression on the American officers, who left the function convinced of the desire on the part of Great Britain to maintain the closest relations with the American republic.

**PILGRIM CLUB LUNCHEON.**  
American Naval Officers Are the Guests of Honor.

LONDON, July 9.—At the Pilgrims' Club luncheon to the visiting American officers to-day Vice Admiral Lord Charles Beresford read the following message from the Prince of Wales:

I very much regret that an engagement will prevent me from being present. Please assure the American naval officers how sorry I am that I am unable to have the pleasure of meeting them on this occasion.

At the center table Lord Beresford presided. On his right was seated Rear Admiral Cotton and on his left Captain Lambton, naval aide-de-camp to King Edward.

Embassador Choate, Senator Gorman, Senator Dewey, General Lord Grenfell, the Archdeacon of London; Dr. Sinclair and Admiral Sir John Dalrymple sat at the same table. The American officers present were the same as those who attended the state ball. Among the other guests were Captain Charles H. Stockton, the United States naval attaché; Consul General Evans, Admiral Sir Henry Stephenson, Admiral Lord Charles Scott, Rear Admiral Sir Charles Russell, Sir Berkeley Milne, commodore of the royal yacht; Lord George Hamilton, Arthur Lee, M. F.; Perry Belmont, George T. Wilson of New York, Hamilton McCormick of Chicago and Louis Hay of Michigan.

The scene was picturesque and novel. All the American and a number of the British officers were in uniform. In proposing the toast to "The King,"

## CHEMIST FINDS EVIDENCE OF POISON IN THE BODY OF LATE COLONEL BEST AND DECLARES THAT HE WAS MURDERED

THE mystery of the disappearance of certain organs from the body of W. J. Best, the New York capitalist, who died under suspicious circumstances on April 6 while under the care of "Doctor" John D. Woods and his reputed sister at their home in San Rafael, was cleared yesterday by the admission of W. G. Ward, who embalmed the body. He says that he removed the organs during the process of embalming and consigned them to a sewer. The Marin County officials are confident of convicting Woods and his alleged sister of grand larceny when they are apprehended, and hope that confinement may break them down and cause them to confess to the murder, which the officials feel positive was committed.



Startling Discovery Made at the Autopsy on the Remains of the Capitalist.

Special Dispatch to The Call.  
NEW YORK, July 9.—The Press says: Dr. Herbert B. Baldwin, chemist of the Newark Board of Health, said to-day as a result of the preliminary chemical test which he had made of one piece of intestine found adhering to the body of Colonel Best that he had found traces of a powerful irritant poison. Dr. Baldwin said:

"In my opinion the discovery of this poison offers sufficient grounds upon which to base a charge of murder by poisoning. All evidence I have deduced so far from the absence of the organs, which would most likely show traces of poisoning, and the substitution of sawdust, shows clearly that Best was killed by some poison injected into the vital organs."

"District Attorney Chandler Pelsler of Newark tells me there is no reason why Essex County should assume the expense of investigating this crime, which was committed in another State. I may be empowered to make an examination or the two remaining organs may be sent in sealed jars to the authorities in California, where an analysis may be made by the city or county chemists."

NEW YORK, July 9.—Despite the revelations of the autopsy on the body of Colonel William Best, no steps have been taken by the New Jersey authorities, so far as can be ascertained, to find Dr. John Woods and his wife. Warrants for the arrest of the doctor and his wife on a charge of grand larceny are now in the hands of a detective en route East.

It was thought Woods might return to the home of his mother, as he did once before when he was in difficulty. With her husband and her elder son she lives in Union Hill, N. J. Her husband is a laborer and her son is a helper in a butcher store. When the son was seen tonight he said:

"We have not the slightest idea where John and his wife are. We have not seen him in nearly three years, and when he came he was in trouble. We regard him as the black sheep of the family."

It has been learned that Miss Shope, whose name was attached to one of Woods' receipts, was a nurse in Steelton, Pa., when Woods was a physician to the employees of the Steelton Iron Company. She was hired by him to nurse his wife while she was ill.

Marin Official Says He Disposed of Organs.

Important Evidence Beyond Reach of Police.

Missing "Dr." Woods Now Sought in Many Cities.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CORLIARD AND SMITH



MARIN COUNTY OFFICIALS WHO ARE PROMINENT IN THE INVESTIGATION BEING MADE TO DETERMINE FACTS IN THE SUPPOSED MURDER OF COLONEL BEST, AN EASTERN CAPITALIST.

SAN RAFAEL, July 9.—All mystery regarding the disposal of the stomach and other organs of the late William J. Best, whose peculiar death here and the subsequent developments surrounding it have aroused widespread interest, was cleared to-day by the admission of William G. Ward, the undertaker who embalmed the body, that he removed the organs and disposed of them. He says they were consigned to a sewer. They have before now been resolved into their original elements by the waters of the bay.

The officials, both here and in the East, who are prosecuting the case believe firmly that the dead man fell a victim to the deadly poisons administered to him by Woods under the guise of medical treatment, but the loss of all the organs which could show the presence of poison in the system prevents the primary fact being established that a murder was committed, and consequently precludes the prosecution of any one for a crime that cannot be established.

This state of affairs is extremely disappointing to District Attorney Boyd and the other officials who have been engaged in ferreting out the alleged crime. Since the advices received from the Eastern physicians who performed an autopsy on Colonel Best's remains they have become convinced that his death was due to foul means, and believe that Woods was responsible for their employment. The fact that he did not die from apoplexy, as was stated in the death certificate signed by Woods and Dr. Jones, was a clincher to the suspicions they had already entertained.

That the dead man was robbed by Woods the prosecuting officials say they can prove beyond a doubt, and they have also ample evidence ready to show that the physical condition of the late capitalist was persistently misrepresented by Woods and his reputed sister.

One witness was found by Detective Frank H. Depute to-day who is willing to testify that between April 1 and April 5, when Woods represented to others, including the dead man's son, that Colonel Best was in a comatose condition in his bed, he was in reality sitting up and chatting cheerfully with Woods and the woman who lived with him as his sister Mrs. Halstringer, who occupies a cottage adjoining the big red house where Woods lived and entertained many prominent people of San Rafael, is positive that she saw Colonel Best in the garden walking around after April 1 and up to within a few days of his death. These were about the only new developments to-day in the way of gathering information.

William G. Ward, the undertaker employed by Coroner Sawyer in his establishment, who embalmed Best's body after his death, made a full statement this evening regarding his connection with the case, and it fully exonerates Sawyer and Woods from any blame in the matter of the removal of any blame in the matter of the removal of the body after death.

"Whatever organs are missing from the body of Colonel Best," he said, "were removed by me personally and I am ready to shoulder the entire responsibility for their removal and disposition. Neither Dr. Sawyer nor Woods had anything to do with this phase of the case."

"What organs I removed in the course of the embalming I do not recollect exactly. That the dead man was robbed by