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Official Notifications appearing in this Paper, duly authenticated, are to be received as such by the persons whom they may concern.



BY AUTHORITY.



By His Excellency The Honorable ARTHUR HAMILTON GORDON, C.M.G., Lieut. Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of this Province stands prorogued to Tuesday the tenth day of November instant, I have thought fit further to prorogue the said General Assembly to Thursday the seventeenth day of December next, and the same is hereby prorogued accordingly.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Fredericton, the third day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and in the twenty seventh year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's Command.

S. L. TILLEY.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.

THE Honorable Justice LEMUEL ALLEN WILMOT, The Honorable JOHN ROBERTSON, The Honorable DAVID WARK, MATTHEW M'LEOD, Esquire, BOYLE TRAVERS, Esquire, M. D., and STEPHEN H. HITCHINGS, Esquire, to be Members of the Corporation and Senate of the University of New Brunswick.

By His Excellency's Command.

S. L. TILLEY.

Secretary's Office, 7th Dec. 1863.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

WEDNESDAY, 4th APRIL, 1860.

RESOLVED, That the 34th Standing Order of this House be rescinded, and in lieu thereof the following be adopted:—

34th Rule.—That no Bill of a private or local nature shall be entertained by the House unless such Bill has been previously published four weeks successively in some one of the Newspapers published in the City and County interested in such Bill; and when no Newspaper is published in such County, in some Newspaper published in the nearest adjoining County, or in the Royal Gazette; and that 25 copies thereof be furnished to the Clerk of this House for the use of Members.

G. BOTSFORD, *Clerk Leg. Council.*

THE following Report on the explosion of the Steamer "Sunbury," together with the evidence taken by the Commissioner appointed for that purpose, are published by direction of the Government for public information.

S. L. TILLEY.

Secretary's Office, 5th December, 1863.

REPORT on the cause of the explosion of the Boiler of the Passenger Steamer "Sunbury" on the 13th of November, 1863:—

As I considered it my duty to get the most reliable opinions as to the cause of the explosion, I procured the services of George Fleming, Esquire, Engineer, senior Partner in the engine and boiler building establishment of Fleming and Humbert, of Saint John, and of Alexander Wilson, Engineer, a person of standing and practical experience, to make an examination of the several parts of the exploded boiler; and by reference to their testimony taken before me after they had made said examination, it will be seen that they attribute the disaster to a want of water in the boiler; and having examined the boiler, I am of the same opinion.

The "Sunbury" had two high-pressure tubular boilers; the explosion took place in the starboard boiler, scattering it in every direction, in numerous pieces of different shape and size; the top of the furnace torn from the sides and ends; the head sheets torn from the shell and tubes; and the steam dome from the shell.

The shell of the boiler, the sides and crown sheet of the furnace, were made of iron five-sixteenths of an inch thick, the head or tube sheets were one half an inch in thickness.

The crown sheet of the furnace, with the stays attached, was very much bent and torn. And the tube sheet connected with the furnace was bent double, and to all appearance had been red hot; the crown sheet of the furnace ought under all circumstances to be covered with several inches of water; a lead plug had been put in the centre of the crown sheet of the furnace and was found unmelted; the object of putting lead plugs in the tops of furnaces is that they may melt if the water is allowed to get below the proper level, and thus give warning of the danger, and in some instances have no doubt prevented accident; but experience has proved that it is by no means to be relied on for safety, as explosions have frequently taken place when there was sure and certain evidence of the top of the furnace being highly heated and the plug remain unmelted.

The vessel being out of trim, or listed, with a too scanty supply of water in the boiler, would leave one side of the top of the furnace bare, and likely to get heated, and at the same time the lead plug might be covered with water; the crown sheet of the furnace, when in a heated state, would lose its strength, and might give way with an ordinary pressure; but in this, as in most of the explosions on record, there seems to have been a sudden increase of terribly explosive power.

The legislation in regard to the Inspection of Steamers is hardly adequate to the cause. for though the testing the strength of boilers from time to time is very good as far as it goes, it falls short of what the seriousness of the case demands; the same amount of strict, unbiased inspection, on the parties who have charge of the very powerful, yet governable element of steam, would be followed by beneficial results; it is too prevalent an opinion that any one who can stop and start an engine, is an engineer, regardless of his knowledge of the element of which he has charge.

The evidence given before me in regard to this matter I beg leave to append to this Report.

WM. M. SMITH,

Commissioner to examine the cause of explosion of Boiler of Steamer Sunbury.

St. John, N. B., 27th Nov. 1863.