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CONTRADICTION EVIDENCE IS
GIVEN AT THE PROBE INTO
THE LOSS OF STEAMER VESTRIS

New York, Nov. 16.—From an 18-year-old wireless operator United States Attorney Charles H. Tuttle today won an acknowledgment that "Maybe the steamer Vestris had announced by wireless that it was in difficulties more than 18 hours before the ship sank and 14 hours before the formal SOS."

Charles Veschere, the young Scottish assistant radio man of the Vestris was the first witness at today's session of the investigation of the disaster before United States Commissioner O'Neill and the phrases "I don't know," "I don't remember" and "I forgot" ran thickly through all his testimony.

"Who told you to forget?" Tuttle shouted at him at last. The pale youth shouted his answer back: "No one."

At another point Veschere couldn't remember something and Tuttle in apparent exasperation exclaimed:

"But you told me all about it down in my office, why have you forgotten now?"

Then turning to the Commissioner the Federal Attorney said:

"Your Honor, this bears out a treatment I made to you before this hearing began" and the commissioner said "It does."

"Are you sure you understand the seriousness of your oath?" the commissioner asked Veschere and the youth nodded slowly.

Serious Matter

At the very opening of the session Tuttle told the commissioner that he had reports from confidential sources which made it necessary for him to announce at that time that anyone who attempted to prevent any witnesses from telling the whole truth in the investigation would be severely dealt with.

Tuttle's efforts today were all directed toward an attempt to find just what wireless announcement of distress had been sent out prior to the SOS and to whom they were directed and whether any instructions were sent to the Vestris in response which might explain why the SOS was not sent until the middle of Monday morning, four hours before the ship sank with no rescue vessels within many miles.

Only One Message

Veschere said that he was on duty from 8 to 12 day and night and that from the time the ship left New York until it sank he only sent one message other than personal ones from passengers and that was a weather report to Washington.

"But there was some other sort of message" Tuttle asked.

"I'm not sure."

"Didn't you tell me downstairs there was one message we may need that?"

"Yes, I forgot."

"Who told you to forget?"

"No one."

"Who sent that message?"

"I don't know."

"When was it sent?"

"I don't know."

"Was it before you came on duty Sunday night at eight o'clock?"

"Maybe."

Didn't Recall

The witness under further questioning said he recalled that the message was addressed to the Lamport and Holt Line, but no repetition or rephrasing of questions could bring any answer regarding the time the message was sent, who ordered it sent whether there were any others of a similar nature or other details. Tuttle made especial efforts to establish the time of the message.

"Isn't it a fact" the Federal Attorney pounded away at the dark youth with the expressionless face, "that when you went on duty at eight o'clock Sunday night you looked through the file of messages sent since you last went off duty and saw that message?"

"I don't know" Veschere replied. "I think I first heard of it Monday."

"But you said a minute ago it might have been Sunday."

Exasperated

Veschere made no response and Tuttle indicated his exasperation in a gesture directed at the commissioner. Concerning the time the SOS was sent Monday morning Veschere was almost equally vague.

"It was about 10" he said.

"Was there a clock in the wireless room?"

"Yes, with Greenwich meridian time."

"And you didn't note down the time when the SOS was sent?"

"There wasn't any clock."

"But you just said—"

"Oh, that showed Greenwich meridian time. I took no notice of that."

"Do you expect me to believe that?" Tuttle snapped.

"What time was it?"

"I can't be definite" Veschere said firmly.

"Did you take the stand today with the intention of being definite about nothing at all?" Tuttle asked.

"Was that the program?"

"No."

Lifeboat Leaked

Veschere then told of leaving the radio cabin with the chief operator, who was drowned and James MacDonald, another assistant wireless man, and sliding down the tilted deck of the ship into a lifeboat. This boat, he said, leaked, there was no drinking water, and no flares.

The only time during his long questioning that the youth smiled was when Tuttle at length said:

"You may be excused now—temporarily."

While Tuttle's hearing was in progress in the Federal building Captain Frederick Sorenson, a ship's master who was a passenger on the Vestris, was telling at a steamship inspection service hearing in the Customs building a story that differed sharply from that he was reported in the newspapers as telling when he landed Wednesday.

Captain Sorenson denied today that he had said on arriving here that the life boats were rotten and improperly equipped or that the crew had been cowardly before the vessel sank.

Captain Sorenson said at his hearing that, so far as he knew, the Vestris' lifeboats were in first class condition and that they contained the prescribed equipment. He said he thought the Vestris' crew probably launched the lifeboats as efficiently as possible in view of the time at their disposal. He said he was in a boat that sank immediately after striking the water, but the sinking he asserted, resulted from damage done to the lifeboat when it struck the side of the Vestris' while being lowered.

MONCTON MEN
EVIDENTLY MADE
CLEAR GETAWAY

(Continued From Page Eight.)

as soon as the men had gotten clear of the police station and in with friends it would be no trouble at all in obtaining hasty and safe transport from the city with no one being the wiser.

As a matter of formality the city police commission will hold an investigation into the matter on Monday at which the evidence of several of the police and others will be heard under oath. Meanwhile the fugitives may yet be rounded up and to add every possible energy is being expended by both provincial and local police.

ST. JOHN CASE
WAS FINAL ON
APPEAL DOCKET

(Continued From Page Eight.)

the facts presented this coming week.

From St. John

The consolidated action of Chipman, respondent, vs Wilson, appellant, which was commenced yesterday morning was finished yesterday afternoon court considering in the matter. The two land trespass actions on the Appeal paper, those of Dunphy vs Phillips et al, and Noble et al vs Phillips et al, will be taken up on Friday of next when the court meets to hand out judgments. The last named cases will conclude the November docket.

London, Nov. 17.—Moth protection for fur coats and other articles made of fur has been reported by an Englishman. The method calls for the substitution of a lining of rubber and wool in place of the cloth formerly used.

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ELECTRICITY IS STILL A
NOVELTY AND MANY HOMES
ARE YET TO GIVE IT A TRIAL

New York.—In these days, when even the most modest cottage in any community is wired for electricity, it is difficult to realize that to more than a third of the people of the United States electric lights in the home are almost as new as the radio. Within the short span of seven years 9,000,000 homes—the hearthstones of nearly 40,000,000 people—have, for the first time, commenced to enjoy electric service. During the year 1927 alone more than 1,250,000 homes were added to the rapidly growing list of customers for what is no longer a luxury but is looked upon as an absolute necessity.

Speaking chronologically the light and power industry itself is but little more than a youth, while electricity for domestic purposes is but a luscious, squalling infant. Although extension of service has been rapid, those in the business foresee enormous possibilities in the larger home use of electrical energy. Over 62 per cent of our people now live in electrically wired homes and in 1927 household consumption increased 15 per cent as against an increase of 11 per cent in factories, says the National Electric Light Association.

Much of this increase in consumption is due to a rapid increase in the use of household appliances and labor-saving devices; new household uses such as electric refrigeration, radio and home movies have been developed and generally adopted. Builders are no longer wiring houses for electric lights—they are wiring them for power as well. This means heavier copper wires and more outlets in all parts of the house from the basement to the attic. The result is that much of the drudgery of housekeeping has been eliminated.

Electric refrigeration, keeping the food supply at a constant and even temperature, has cut down much of the waste of the old-fashioned ice-box. The electric sewing machine is restoring the art of dressmaking in the home to its former high estate. The vacuum cleaner actually removes the

dirt instead of distributing it around the room. There are electric dish and clothes washers, ice cream freezers, stoves, bathroom appliances and a score of other devices which are in use today in literally millions of homes.

Twenty-five years ago it was thought that the incandescent lamp with the carbon filament was the last word in lighting. Today we have the Mazda lamp giving forty times the light for the same cost. Instead of a single lamp or single lamp clusters we have portable lamps everywhere in the house and lighting has become as much a part of interior decorating as draperies or the pictures on the walls.

Americans use almost as much electricity as the rest of the world combined. In the past fifteen years the population of the United States has increased 24 per cent, while the proportion of that population living in electrically wired homes has increased 520 per cent. The electricity generated has increased 626 per cent, while the total number of customers has increased 465 per cent.

Progressing Favorably

Eddie Goodspeed, son of Alderman C. N. Goodspeed, and university student, who sustained a broken leg in the Mt. A.—U. N. B. football game played on College field, on Tuesday, October 30th, is improving steadily at his home. His relatives have hoped of his being able to resume his studies at the college university next week. Friends of the popular young athlete will learn of his progress with interest and hope to see him about again by Christmas time.

In addition, considerably in addition, no man is a hero to his physical trainer.

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Saturday Visitors

Among the visitors to the capital city today are: W. R. Warren, Medford Mass.; D. W. Nelson, Truro, N. S.; T. Mullin, St. John; Gordon L. Fowler, Concord, N. H.; A. M. Fretz, Toronto, Ont.; James Thatcher, Montreal; A. Swartz, of Montreal.

Philadelphia, Nov. 17.—Girl's scanty clothing finds favor with Dr. T. H. A. Sttee. He says it is making them healthier, but the fad of scanty diet is something else again. Slim rations he told the Philadelphia tuberculosis conference, are tending to increase tuberculosis.

It has to be a strong, healthy physique if it is to outlive prejudice.

Perhaps the psychologist who says there is no such thing as pain has never listened to psychologists.