

A Vessel Missing.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 27.—A special from Port Townsend, Washington territory, says: "The United States revenue cutter Oliver Walcott has returned from a four day's cruise along the west coast of Vancouver Island in search of news concerning the ship St. Stephens, which sailed from here March 79 loaded with 2,200 tons of coal from Seattle for San Francisco. The cutter arrived in Klavauquoit Sound last Sunday night. Father McCoy, a Catholic missionary, who recently reported that Indians had found a trunk and other articles belonging to the ship, resides here, and his services were secured. He immediately dispatched several parties of Indians to Cape Cook and other Indian villages in quest of more definite information concerning the wreck.

The party sent to Cape Cook returned on Monday and reported that the St. Stephens had come ashore there during a heavy storm which had prevailed at that point on April 9. The cutter departed for Klavauquoit Harbor, a few miles south of Cape Cook, where an Indian village was found, and personal letters, suits, three boats, the after-house, pilot-house, compass, ships' stores and oil paintings belonging to the captain's daughter, which had washed ashore on April 10, the Indians reported. One Whitehall boat, which was being used by the Indians, it having come ashore uninjured. The other two boats appeared to have been crushed by the waves against the sides of the vessel when the crew were endeavoring to leave the ship.

A shoal nearly twenty miles long and three miles from the shore, which forms a dangerous reef, exists directly in front of this sound, which the sea barely covers at ebb tide. It was on this reef that the St. Stephens was wrecked during a heavy southwesterly gale. The theory advanced by Captain Glover and Bryant is that the vessel was dismasted soon after the bark Enrock Talbot observed her in distress off Cape Beale, and as strong ocean currents exist along this coast the ship was carried a distance of 160 miles to Cape Cook, where she stranded.

Captain Williams and Captain Bryant, hull inspector, offered a reward of \$1,000 to the Indians for information leading to the recovery of the bodies of the crew, and the Indians were employed to search the beach for traces. Nothing more was found except some domestic geese which had come ashore at the time of the wreck. A portion of the hull was seen protruding alongside the reef, indicating that the vessel was carried down after springing a leak on the reef by the immense weight of coal in her hold. Not the slightest trace could be obtained of Capt. Douglass, his family, or crew, numbering altogether about 30. They must have perished while endeavoring to leave the vessel, and the strong current which prevails along the western coast of Vancouver's Island has carried their bodies north along the desolate and uninhabited coast.

On Tuesday, when the cutter started on her return voyage, a brig, supposed to be the North Star, was found with keel up off Portland Point. Owing to the heavy swell coming in, a boat could not be lowered. The word "Forth" could dimly be read through a glass. The brig was lumber-laden, from Seattle for San Diego. The hull of the brig Irene was found with timber broken and the house nearly gone. During the passage from Cape Cook to Cape Flattery thirty-one wrecks were found, and an immense quantity of lumber was strewn along the shore.

The Paris Holocaust.

PARIS, May 26.—The bodies of ballet dancers who lost their lives by the burning of the Opera Comique last night are said to be lying in heaps in the ruins of the theatre. The number of persons killed greatly exceeds the previous estimates. An excited crowd surrounded the ruins to-day which are guarded by a military cordon, and many distressing scenes were witnessed. At 2 p. m. twenty bodies in a terribly mutilated condition were recovered from the ruins, principally of ballet girls, choristers and machinists. Five of the bodies were those of elderly ladies, and one of them was that of a child. The firemen lowered some of the bodies from the fourth story of the theatre by means of ropes. The remains of three men and two women were found in the stage box where the victims had taken refuge from the flames. It is ascertained that many bodies lie buried in the debris in the upper galleries, when escape was exceedingly difficult.

Late this afternoon the bodies of eighteen ladies, all in full dress, were found lying together at the bottom of the staircase leading from the second story. These ladies all had escorts to the theatre, but no remains of men were found anywhere near where the women were burned to death.

The walls of the theatre began falling this evening, and the search for bodies, had to be abandoned for the time being but the work of searching was resumed to-night, and a number more were exhumed. The official statement says that fifty bodies have already been recovered.

M. Reveillon, a Deputy, speaking in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon, estimated that at least 200 persons had lost their lives in the fire.

To-day 156 missing persons have been inquired for by relatives. They are supposed to have perished in the flames. The bottom of the theatre is flooded with water to the depth of five feet. Sixty bodies have been found floating in the water by the firemen.

The library attached to the theatre was entirely destroyed with all its contents, including many valuable scores. Six thousand costumes were burned in the wardrobe. The Opera Comique was insured for 1,000,000 francs.

The Government proposes to close several of the Paris theatres because of their deficiency in exits.

The Chamber of Deputies has voted a credit of 200,000 francs for the relief of sufferers by the fire.

Among the audience at the Opera Comique were General Boulanger, General Saussier, General Thibaudin, M. Goblet, M. Berthelot and the Marquis Ferronays, Prefect of Police. They all escaped unhurt.

An artist named Philippe performed prodigies of valor in saving life. He mounted a ladder three times and saved three danseuses after they had been abandoned by the fireman.

In the Rue Favart a sudden gust of wind cleared away the dense smoke, when a woman and two men were seen standing in an angle of the uppermost cornice. The woman tried to jump, but the men prevented her. When all were finally rescued the woman was a raving maniac.

A singer had a miraculous escape from a dressing-room in an angle at the top of the building. He says that the wind kept the flames off that part of the building, but a river of molten lead poured from the roof, the course of which he diverted with a board to prevent the weight carrying down the shaky floor.

The officials are endeavoring to underestimate the loss of life. The large number of bodies found has alarmed the public.

The Crimes Bill.

LONDON, May 26.—It is stated upon the highest authority that Mr. Gladstone previous to his leaving London for Hawarden to-day confided to a close friend and colleague a portion of the programme with reference to the Coercion bill which he intends to act upon after the Whitsun recess. The particulars of the ex-Premier's programme, as far as divulged, involve what might be called obstruction in a most advanced and aggressive form, but the ulterior object sought is an appeal to the country. When the consideration of the bill shall be resumed in the House Mr. Gladstone purposes offering a motion to reject the bill in a single sitting. This proposal will, of course, excite furious debates on the part of the Government, which the Liberal leader himself intends to choke off by moving to apply to the Government the rule of closure. Should closure be refused, as it probably will be, Mr. Gladstone will then adhere to his resolution to be the head of a well-organized body of obstructionists who will endeavor systematically and pointedly to bar the progress of the bill by availing themselves of all forms of procedure and parliamentary rule and precedent known to the House until the Tories shall be goaded into appealing to the country in the hope of securing an emphatic verdict against the obstructionists.

Mr. Gladstone believes that an appeal to the country at this time would result in relegating the Tories to a much smaller minority than they have found themselves in for many years, and he could at the same time, by going before the country, punish the large number of Liberal Unionists who were returned at the last election upon the strength of promises that they would oppose Coercion and would not oppose Home Rule.

HARRISBURG, May 25.—The most important bill signed by the Governor to-day was the measure dividing cities of the State into seven classes, known as the Inter-Municipal bill. It makes radical changes in the government of the smaller cities.

PARIS, May 30.—The funeral services over the remains of victims recovered from the ruins of the Opera Comique were held to-day in the Cathedral of Notre Dame. The thirty coffins containing the remains were covered with wreaths and other floral offerings, and 200,000 persons lined the route to the cemetery at Pontin. The funeral procession was half a mile long. M. Goblet and M. Berthelot delivered orations at the graves.

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