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INDIANAPOLIS, TUESDAY, NOV. 27, 1928

Full Leased Wire Service of
the United Press Association**VESTRIS DOOM
DUE TO SINGLE
CAUSE-GREED****Whole Answer to Tragedy
Is Owners' Desire to Fill
Purses.****QUIZ REVEALS TRUTHS****Chief Officer of Vessel Tells
Exactly Why Craft
Sank.****CHARLES JOHNSON POST**
(Copyright, 1928, by the New York Tele-
graph Company)

Well, the well has closed. A week ago I started to try to develop the real causes for the scandalous sinking of the Vestrus. Every child on board was drowned and only eight were saved.

I stated then that the true and fundamental cause of the disaster was in the sinking of the Vestrus itself, and that the fouling of life-boat gear, the leaky lifeboats, and all the rest of this utter demoralization of life-saving equipment was entirely secondary.

And, in most dramatic form, all this was confirmed by the testimony of the chief officer of the Vestrus himself, Frank W. Johnson.

He was asked: "In your opinion, was the sea at any time such as to endanger a well-found vessel of the size of your vessel?"

And he replied: "No!"

Whole Case in Nutshell

This was the question asked by Captain E. P. Jessop, United States navy, retired. It is the whole case in a nutshell.

You are going to hear a lot about "sensationalism" and "sensational" newspapers—but I ask you is Captain Jessop, United States navy, a sensationalist? Was the chief officer of the Vestrus looking for a newspaper "sensation"?

Why, every sea-faring man knows that Johnson's job—like one of every other seaman—is dependent upon ship owners and the loyalty with which he can make a good impression upon them. That is what makes for all these shufflings and dodgings.

Do not forget this crucial question put by Captain Jessop and its answer when the red headphones are being dragged across the trail and you are urged to remember human frailties or lifeboats that are "naturally" expected to leak—which was what another Vestrus officer swore to.

Shock to Ship Owners

What the United States is doing with regard to the Vestrus is along lines that are causing the indignant flush of holy anger—and maybe a little fear—to rise to the surface of ship owners.

For one thing we are hoping, as a tribute to the memory of the drowned children and women of the Vestrus—the only tribute that is really worthwhile—to find the fundamental cause of this outrageous disaster, instead of trifling away some trivial energies on the helpless officers and crew.

But this is not according to custom; it is not according to those "traditions of the sea" that have been made by ship owners and upheld by them in the interest of their own pocketbooks.

It is time that a certain conscienceless breed of ship owner be dragged out to stand forth in the true light of his own parsimonies. There are fine ship owners—let them come forward and help in this delousing of the sea.

What is the matter with the Lamport & Holt line presenting United States District Attorney Tuttle with some of these facts and reliable information, instead of shuffling and evasive officers and a quibbling marine superintendent?

Seed to Save Offers

Why this contemptuous sneer of a federal investigator of the United States?

Or of the United States steamboat inspection service?

Well, maybe I can suggest an answer.

It is because the United States officials are breaking the traditions of the sea that would pit the blame on the officers and crew who have to work sinkable ships, that these crews have to take out or lose the only job they know.

The sensationalism of the press is because newspaper readers and the American public are refusing to accept those traditions of the sea which send women and children and husbands and fathers to their drowning (as on the Vestrus), to preserve the pockets of that type of conscienceless shipowners who run sinkable ships in passenger trade.

4 ESCAPE CAR INJURIES

Four women escaped injury Monday night when the automobile in which they were riding crashed into the side of a Baltimore & Ohio train at West Washington street and the Belt railroad. The car was damaged severely. Miss Vera Harris, 27, of 1139 North Meridian street, the driver, was arrested on charges of failing to obey a stop signal and allowing four persons to ride in her coupe.

The other occupants of the machine were Miss Ruth Beatty, Finch court; Mrs. S. L. Ross, 919 North Pennsylvania street, and Miss Evelyn McGaughey, 1139 North Meridian street. Miss McGaughey suffered slight scratches and bruises.

Woof! Don't Leggo!

"The girl with the million-dollar legs" is the introduction given to Lucy Doraine, above, former German movie star who has come to Hollywood to appear in American films. She was engaged in "Adoration," a picture in which Billie Dove was starred.

**KLAN'S FOE STILL
PROSECUTOR AFTER
ELECTION RECOUNT****PLAN BUILDING PROGRAM****Parke County Result May
Mean Fourth Arson
Trial.****By Times Special**
ROCKVILLE, Ind., Nov. 27.—Benjamin Stephenson, Ku-Klux Klan for and prosecuting attorney of Parke county, has won his fight to remain in office.

Results of a second recount of votes cast at the Nov. 6 election, just announced, shows Stephenson a Republican, winner by 65 over James Hanner, a Democrat, and his law partner.

On the first recount Hanner apparently had won by four votes, but another check made Stephenson the victor. The greatest shift on the re-count was in Florida townships, where 53 votes were shifted from Hanner to Stephenson. The township is strongly Klan.

The election was almost devoid of party division, the issue being Klan and anti-Klan.

It is expected that Stephenson's victory will mean a fourth trial for Samuel Withrow, former kligrapp of the Parke county Klan, charged with arson in the burning of a school house at Bridgeton during the 1924 election, which was a bitter Klan and anti-Klan contest.

In three previous trials juries have disagreed. It is said in each case the final ballot was 11 to 1 for conviction. The last trial was in Vernon circuit court at Newport, on a change of venue.

Stephenson had announced that if he was re-elected there would be a fourth trial, and it is said he has already made arrangements for it to be held in January at Newport.

U. S. ARMY IS REDUCED**Legion Plans Skating Ponds****Report Shows Manpower Is Below
150,000 in Nation.****By United Press**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The United States Army has been reduced to fewer than 150,000 men, the annual report of Major General Lutz Wahl, adjutant general, showed today. On June 30, 1928, the actual strength of the army, including 699 army nurses and 878 West Point cadets, amounted to 136,115 individuals. Of these 12,112 were officers and 121,185 were enlisted men.

**VALPARAISO, Ind., Nov. 27.—"In
Peace as in War, We Serve" is the
motto of the Charles Pratt post of
the American Legion. The latest of
the many activities of the post in its
effort to be of benefit to the community
is a proposal to establish two ice skating ponds for boys and girls.
The ponds are to be located in the
north and east sections of the city.
Property owners have donated
land and volunteers will assist in
building dams.****WORKMAN JUSTIFIED IN GIVING THANKS, LOOKING BACK AT 'OLD DAYS'****BY BRUCE CATTON**

THE modern workman, pulling

T his chair up to the table on

Thanksgiving and taking up the

carving knife with eager anticipation,

congratulates himself on the

fact that his wages are a great

deal higher than his grandfather

would have dreamed of making.

Despite that, however, the

Thanksgiving season always

brings regrets for those "good old days"—the fabulous era of the happy workman, when a little

would buy much, when life was

more peaceful and serene, when the toiler was more of an individual and less of a machine.

All right; let's see about it. Were the "good old days" all those nice things?

We already have seen that the

old-time worker, even after

allowances are made for the dif-

ference in price levels, actually

lived in abject poverty, compared

with his present estate. Now let's

look into his working conditions.

In 1824 the tailors of Buffalo, on

Christmas Eve, had what they

called a "turnout" for better

wages. They held a meeting,

agreed on a new scale of wages

and quit work when their requests

were turned down.

On the day after Christmas they

were arrested for criminal

conspiracy, convicted and fined \$2

each.

Until that year a labor union

was in itself a criminal conspira-

cy, whether it made any demands

for higher wages or not.

TO be sure, in 1842, a Massa-

chusetts judge held that a

peaceable strike was legal; but for

many years his view was not

adopted universally.

The workingman, accordingly,

was more or less up against it

in the matter of improving his

working conditions, hours of labor

or pay schedule.

THERE is a second in this series by Bruce Catton, staff writer for the Times and NEA Service, concerning living conditions of the past and the present, and showing what the average person had to be thankful for this Thanksgiving day.

BY BRUCE CATTON

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