

W686-0001 (1/2)

WRECK BOOK No. 72 (B. 4000)

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &C.

8139

No. 20173 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 53/31 Date of writing this report 28th July 1931

Vessel's Name Red Twin P.P. "Empress" of Charlottetown P.E.I. Tons (Net 612 Gross 1342)

Built at Newcastle When 1906 Casualty notice sent to Owner Owner's reply

Owner's Name Canadian Pacific Railway Co Address Montreal

Case previously before Date Last Minute 22nd June 1931

Classification Particulars of Classification 1100A 11R3-6.15 11R2-26 11M2-6.26 855-29

Date of Casualty 22nd June 1931

Précis of particulars of Casualty

A serious fire broke out in the Sheds at St. John N.B. on 22nd June, which spread to the s/s "Empress" lying alongside resting on the mud due to low water at the time. She is reported to be extensively damaged.

In reply to a letter addressed to the Owners at Montreal on 30 July, Messrs Kellie, Faber & Dumas Ltd, London, state that the Salvage Association's Surveyor attended and reported that the vessel was a C.T.L. They add that the Underwriters have paid for her as such. The remains of the vessel have been floated, and she has been offered for sale as she lies.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

EMPRESS, See "Waterfront and Craft, St. John, New Brunswick," under "Fires."

WATERFRONT AND CRAFT, ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK. St. John (N.B.), June 22.—All sheds, grain conveyors, baggage and immigration buildings, Canadian Pacific freight offices and one grain elevator completely destroyed. Considerable steamship EMPRESS a total loss. One elevator badly gutted, all wharves at West St. John badly damaged. Loss approximately ten million dollars.—Lloyd's Agent. St. John (N.B.), June 22.—A disastrous fire, with losses provisionally estimated at 10,000,000 dol., swept the harbour front to-day. The fire broke out at about noon, destroying the terminal warehouses of the Canadian Pacific Railway and a grain elevator to the west of St. John. The west harbour front was soon ablaze, with the flames threatening to spread right along. A number of fishing boats in the harbour were destroyed by fire, and latest reports from the waterfront state that the Canadian Pacific coastal steamer EMPRESS is also on fire. The Canadian Pacific landing sheds and adjacent wharves have been burnt down. A steady off-shore wind is blowing huge clouds of smoke seaward, and is helping to prevent the spread of the flames. The fire is now believed to be under control, and will probably burn itself out on the waterfront. Three hours after the fire broke out the firemen appeared to have the flames under control. The blaze ravaged practically all the waterfront properties, including 17 sheds belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canadian Pacific grain elevator, the Canadian Pacific coastal steamer EMPRESS, a number of fishing schooners, the Government immigration sheds, 10 residences, and approximately 25 Canadian Pacific goods trucks, while other trucks were hurriedly shunted from the danger zone. It is thought that the fire probably originated from a lighted cigarette thrown on the wharf. (Later.)—After a battle lasting five hours the fire has been brought under control. The full extent of the damage has not yet been definitely established, but the loss sustained by the Harbour Commission alone is estimated at 3,500,000 dol. (\$700,000). The terminals that have been destroyed were mainly those of the Canadian Pacific, which uses the St. Lawrence ports for its traffic during the summer months. The rebuilding of the Harbour Commission property that has been destroyed is to be started as soon as the necessary expenditure has been approved by the Federal Government.—Renter. Ottawa, June 22.—Fire broke out this morning on the harbour front at St. John (N.B.), and was not got under control until 4 p.m. Fanned by a strong wind, the flames spread rapidly, and a great deal of property belonging to the Harbour Commission and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was destroyed, including numerous wharves and seven sheds with the attached grain conveyors. Private residences in Protection Street were also burnt, and the flames threatened the Federal Immigration Building. A pilot boat was burnt and the Canadian Pacific coastal steamer EMPRESS was reported to be on fire. Many fishing boats in harbour were sunk to save them from the fire. The harbour was enveloped in a pall of black smoke and flying embers. Fortunately the wind was blowing seaward and the upper town was not endangered.—"Times" Correspondent. Montreal, June 22.—Steamer EMPRESS reported destroyed by fire at St. John (N.B.). Am proceeding to-night. Salvage Association's Surveyor. London, June 23.—The following cable has been received from Montreal, dated June 22: C.P.R. steamer EMPRESS burned at West St. John to-day. For total loss. Salvage Association's representative attending.

RETAIN

UNDERTAKING CASE!

Suggested Record Damaged by Fire 6.31. Now in port. Date of Committee TUE. 28 JUL 1931

Committee's Minute Damaged by Fire 6.31- Now in port UNDERTAKING CASE!



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**EMPRESS.**—St. John (N.B.), June 23.—  
Steamer Empress: Preliminary examination at half tide, vessel flooded and resting on bottom at berth. Accommodation and superstructure above shelter deck destroyed. Further examination at low tide to-morrow. Present indications comparatively little difficulty to pump and float vessel.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

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**EMPRESS.**—St. John (N.B.), June 24.—  
Steamer Empress: Further examination at low tide with main deck part exposed. Damage much more extensive than anticipated, practically whole of main shelter and boat decks with casings, beams and bulkheads between same destroyed, all accommodation, masts and superstructure completely demolished. Shell plating between main and shelter deck considerably buckled. Before complete survey is made necessary to float vessel and dry-dock. Port Authorities will insist on removal therefore owners and self believe advisable to employ dry dock on time and material basis to float vessel. — Salvage Association's Surveyor.

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**EMPRESS.** — See "Waterfront and Craft, St. John, New Brunswick" under "Fires."

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**WATERFRONT AND CRAFT, ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK**

St. John (N.B.), June 22.—The loss incurred by the St. John Harbour Commissioners in the conflagration at Sand Point on Monday (June 15) is about 3,500,000 dollars, it was roughly estimated by the Chief Engineer and General Manager for the Board. Until a complete survey is made the full extent of the damage will not be known. It is the intention, so far as the commissioners are concerned to commence replacement work as soon as possible. All the Harbour Board's sheds on the west side were wiped out, their railway tracks destroyed and tops of the wharves damaged. The work of destruction is complete, from berth No. 7, near the ferry slip, to and including berth No. 17, at the southern end of the property. The losses include 17 sheds, the immigration shed, C. P. R. steamer EMPRESS, C. P. R. elevator, harbour pilot boat GLOOSCAP, a number of fishing schooners, between 100 and 150 freight and refrigerator cars, some containing freight, a west side fire truck, and several houses on Protection Street. The harbour pilot boat is reduced to derelict hull floating in the harbour. All that now remains of approximately six square acres of sheds and grain elevators is one tall smoke stack and the new half-million grain elevator, which was slightly damaged. A new building which was under construction, employing about 200 men at the time, was also demolished by the onward rush of the flames. Nothing could possibly stop the fire's advance to the seawall, firemen tried dynamiting shed No. 16, but this scheme of thwarting the flames was also a failure, as after dynamiting the shed, No. 17 caught, and firemen were ordered away lest the shed topple on them. Firemen were greatly handicapped in their efforts, due to the loss of a new fire truck which crashed through the wharf of No. 7 shed, injuring two of its crew in the crash.—"The Halifax Chronicle."



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