

# BALTIC'S CAPTAIN TELLS OF SEARCH

## Republic's Wireless Messages Guided Him to the Sinking Steamship.

### TRANSFER TOOK ALL NIGHT

#### Passengers Behaved Splendidly, and Only One Woman Fell Overboard— Republic's Captain Stuck to Ship.

Ever since the wireless message early Saturday morning halted the Baltic on her way to port and sent her back on her course, groping to find her disabled sister liner, Capt. Ranson was almost constantly on his bridge. He was there when she came through the misty channel to her pier yesterday morning. As soon as he saw the last shore line made fast he doffed his uniform and started for the Custom House to enter his vessel. Before going he gave out a statement, and then declared that he was coming back to his ship and turn in for a long-needed sleep. He threatened dire things for any one who would awaken him.

Here is the statement he left: "We got notice at 6 o'clock on Saturday morning that the Republic had been in collision and needed assistance, and we turned, went back, and commenced the search. It began at 11 o'clock and continued till 8 P. M.

"She was found finally by the Marconi. The first thing we did was to take off the Republic's crew, as she seemed to be in a sinking condition. Then we went alongside the Florida and began to transfer the passengers to our vessel.

"First we transferred the Republic's passengers and then the Florida's, using the crews of all three ships. We used only the Republic's boats. We have seven or eight of the Republic's boats on board the Baltic now. The transfer was made from 8 P. M. to 8 A. M.

"The weather was threatening and very misty, but there were no accidents. We took off 1,650 persons, including the crews and the Florida's passengers. I also took off of the Republic 3,200 sacks of mail.

"All the passengers behaved splendidly. Only one person fell into the water. She was an Italian woman, and was rescued. After we had finished with the passengers we went back to the Republic, finding her all right at that time. The officers and the steward all went back to the Republic."

The Captain then spoke of the difficulty and delay in finding the Republic. "We could not find the Republic for a

long time," he continued, "but there was an American steamer named the City of Everett, and her conduct was grand. She stayed by the Republic all night, and blew for us until we found her. After we had sent back the officers and crew to the Republic, the Furnessia came up."

The Captain then told some of the details of how he had found the Republic after getting her first messages of distress.

"This is how the Republic got us to her," he said. "She used our whistle and steered us by the Marconi. As fast as our Marconi operator got a message he rushed with it to me. I have all the copies. One of them reads, 'You are now on our port bow. Can you see us? Republic.' Other messages read: 'You are now very close. Can you see our rockets? Republic.' 'You are too close to us for safety. Republic.' 'You are getting louder. Steer east-southeast; listen to our bell. Republic.' It was a sort of blind-man's buff, with the wireless messages coming. 'Now you are hot,' and 'Now you're cold.'

"Then came messages giving us different steering directions, and in between we caught flashes of other messages. There was one I received that made me very anxious. It read: 'Slasconsett says, hear from Republic, says to Baltic to hurry. Sinking fast.'

"I think I received this about 6 P. M. Saturday, just before we found her. When I got alongside the Republic I asked Capt. Sealby to come on board my vessel.

"I can't leave my vessel," was his reply. I tried to induce him to come, but he would not. So I left on board the Republic's chief officer, bo's'n, Chief Steward, and a boat's crew.

"Throughout the whole trying time the passengers acted with coolness."

### PASSENGERS PRAISE OFFICERS.

#### Vote to Give Them Medals and Raise £212 for the Crews.

Resolutions indorsing the seamanship, courage, and devotion of Capt. Ranson and the officers of the Baltic were adopted at a meeting of the passengers of the Republic and Baltic on board the Baltic on Sunday evening. Two other meetings were held. At one of them a sum of money was raised to be distributed to the men of the two White Star ships as a mark of the appreciation of the passengers, while, at the other, a committee was appointed to consider all matters pertaining to the collision, action of the officers, &c.

This resolution was adopted at the meeting on Sunday:

Whereas, On approaching New York word was received by wireless that the steamship Republic had been in collision with the steamship Florida in the vicinity of Nantucket Lightship and was in urgent need of assistance, and

Whereas, The prevailing dense fog made ordinary navigation difficult and of searching for a crippled vessel especially so, and

Whereas, The commander of the Baltic successfully carried out this duty, also that of transferring over 1,600 souls in open boats without a single mishap; therefore be it

Resolved, That the passengers of the Baltic hereby convey to J. B. Ranson, R. N. R.; his officers, crew, and men their high appreciation of the seamanship, courage, and devotion displayed; it is further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Messrs. Ismay, Imrie & Co. of Liverpool, managing owners of the White Star Line, and to the Secretary of Lloyd's, London.

HARRY DUCROSS, Chairman.  
ALBERT E. ASHCROFT, Secretary.

After the second meeting this letter was sent to Capt. Ranson:

To Capt. J. B. Ranson, R. N. R.:

We are requested on behalf of the saloon passengers of the Royal Mail steamships Baltic and Republic to hand over to you the inclosed sum of 212 pounds sterling, to be given to the officers, crews, and stewards of the two White Star Line ships and of the Florida as a mark of their appreciation of the splendid efforts made by them in transporting and assisting passengers who were in such urgent need as a result of the unfortunate accident of yesterday morning.

We shall be grateful if you can do us the favor, leaving the disposition of the sum contributed to each vessel in your hands. We are, Sir, yours sincerely, the committee.

CHARLES WARD, Chairman, S. S. Baltic.  
J. E. LAMBIE, S. S. Baltic.  
ARTHUR BLESS, S. S. Baltic.  
Dr. M. E. WALDSTEIN, S. S. Republic.

This meeting also decided to have medals struck off to be given the three Captains, Ranson of the Baltic, Sealby of the Republic, and Volotin of the Florida.

The third meeting was held yesterday morning. The Chairman was Major John Espy of St. Paul and the Secretary was M. L. Fischbein of the same city. Major Espy stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to the accident, action of the officers, transfer of the passengers, and sympathy for the bereaved and injured.

W. P. Devereux of Minneapolis, W. Snyder of Middletown, N. Y.; A. L. Clark of Winsted, Conn.; L. G. Phelps, and J. B. Connolly of Boston were appointed a committee of five with instructions to select a committee of twenty-five, including themselves, to take fitting action.

### RESCUED SAILORS IN NEED.

#### Seamen's Friend Society Shelters Them and Appeals for Funds.

The American Seamen's Friend Society, at 507 West Street, took care last night of from 75 to 100 of the Republic's crew. All yesterday the men kept drifting into the institute, where writing material and free postage were furnished them, so that they could let their friends know of their welfare. They expect to return to England on the Baltic when she sails Saturday.

The society's officers said that there was urgent need of funds for the men who must, out of their scanty wages, provide new outfits and clothing to replace those they lost when the Republic sank. The Institute, therefore, asks the people of New York to help the unfortunate sailors to get on their feet again. The society will disburse the funds according to the needs of the men. All contributions should be sent to George McPherson Hunter, Secretary American Seamen's Friend Society, 75 Wall Street.

Last night at the institute was held the regular Monday night concert, and about a hundred of the crew of the Republic were present. The majority of them looked to be of the common stocky type of English seamen, but here and there was noted a face that showed signs of the recent long hours of strain. One of them, when asked about the wreck, said:

"That chap who sent the wireless messages saved all our lives. He's the real hero. We just done our duty. I'm sure that we're all thankful that we're here to tell the tale, but we are all sorry that the Republic is at the bottom of the Atlantic."