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meetings open to the public

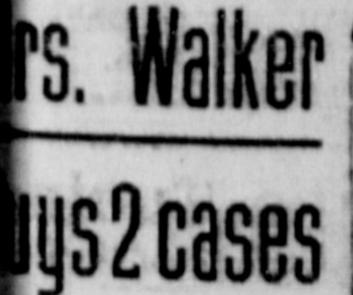
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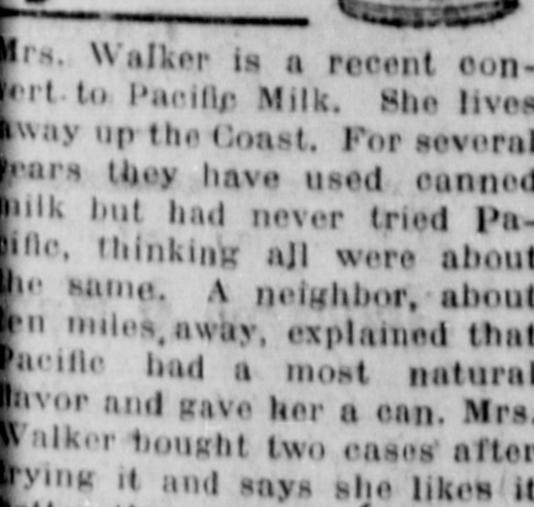
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FACTORY AT LADNER, B. C.

SOPHIA WRECK

Evidence Given at Investigation Indicates Sea was Not Very Rough

FAIR DORY WEATHER SAYS CAPT. J. V. DAVIS

Evidence given in regard to the sinking of the Princess Sophia by Captain J. V. Davis of the Estebeth before Special Commissioner Bruce Morbourg, shed a somewhat new light on the sinking of the C.P.R. steamer. Witness, as reported in the Juneau Empire, said that when he arrived at the scene of the wreck at Vanderbilt Reef on the morning of October 24, 1918, the weather was sufficiently moderate to have permitted the transfer of passengers from the Princess Sophia to the Estebeth or other boats.

Asked to describe the weather, he said, "it was what fishermen call fair dory weather," not rough but neither was the sea flat or alm. Itewas snowing with a 15mile wind blowing northerly.

Converses With Captain.

He said that he was notified of wreck by Mrs. E. H. Kaser about 2 or 2:30 in the morning of October 24 and after talking with F. F. W. Lowle, at that time agent at Juneau for the Canadian Pacific Railway company, he took the Estebeth to Lynn canal and the Vanderbilt Reef. Arriving there, he dropped the Estebeth down under the stern of the Printestimony, expecting to take the tide turned, the wind increased, assist, the ordering of the Prin-"Did you have any conversation ner's bay set in, producing

LEVER

BROTHERS

Easy for Boats.

reef. Boats from the vessel, sai

easiest and most practical way

served three or four men making

Driven Away.

LIMITED,

with Captain Locke?" asked Mr. sloppy sea. Martin. "And if so, what was it?" "Well," answered Mr. Davis, 'when we dropped down to the boat, Captain Locke, using a megaphone, asked me if I thought the wind was going down. I replied, 'Hell, no!' " He testified] further that Captain Locke repeated his question and, thinking that he could not hear from that listance, he (Davis) shook his

ed the conversation at the time. His knowledge of the weather along Lynn canal convinced him that instead of dying down, the wind was due to increase and that a hard blow from the north

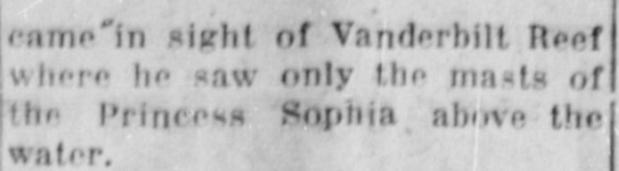
lead in negation. This conclud-

was coming up. Small Boat Launched. Mr. Davis stated that after his conversation with Captain Locke, he dropped down to a buoy about 300 yards from the Vanderbilt Reef, threw a headline over it and tied up there for a number of hours. After tying up to the buoy a skiff was lowered off the Este-Davis alone entered the boat, managing it without assistance. He testified that he was short of food supplies and wanted to get some coffee from the Sophia. The boat used, he said, was 1 feet long and 3 1/4 feet across the beam. He was on the water some time and returned to the Estebeth without making water at all which he said would have been impossible had the sea been rough. Life boats and rafts, he said, in his opinion, could have navigated the sea at that tim

without danger to passengers.

Sophia Boat Lowered. After tying up to the bucy, the Army came up and tied alongside the Estebeth. The Peterson was also near at hand, ready to give assistance. About that time, he said, a boat was lowered over the side of the Princess Sophia and number of persons, between 12 and 15, entered it. He was unhowever, a ladder was lowered from the ship and those in the

boat returned to it. With the rising of the tide. Captain Davis stated, he took the Estebeth from its moorings at the buoy and approached closer to rs. Walker is a recent con- the Sophia. Greeting him, Capert to Pacific Milk. She lives tain Locke, according to the witway up the Coast. For several ness, said the stranded ship was ears they have used canned resting safe and sound and did milk but had never tried Pa- not think it necessary to take the tific, thinking all were about passengers off. He asked Captain he same. A neighbor, about Davis to remain nearby so he en miles, away, explained that could land the passengers when Pacific had a most natural the wind died down. The Sophia, lavor and gave her a can. Mrs. declared the witness, at high tide Valker bought two cases after was apparently floating clear of rying it and says she likes it the reef as it seemed to respond etter than any she has used to the motion of the water and wind. So far as he could see. there was no effort made to back the Princess Sophia off the reef at that time, no motion of the



ing of conditions aboard the ship. the sending of many gas boats to cess Alice to give all possible aid, and of the expectation of Captain Locke that he would be able to float the ship off at high tide.

There would have been no dif-Word has been received by ficulty in taking the passengers local wholesalers that there is no off the ship at any time during longer any restrictions whatever the day of October 24, 1918, deon the supplying of sugar. Up to clared Captain Davis. At low this time there has been a protide on that day, said the witness, portional allotment of the supply no water was breaking over the among the various dealers.

ed either on the reef or in open

aboard to the smaller vessels Rupert Townsin

Mab Island, in sight of the Princess Sophia. He remained there was finally driven to Bridget Cove THE FISH OIL AND PRODUCTS LIMITED. walked across the beach until he by its Attorney, C. R. Betts.

eserve existing over Lot 4044, Cassiar Deputy Minister of Lands.

Victoria, B. C., 23rd June, 1920.

FORESHORE LEASE

(Mines Department)
Agent (Signed) E. GEO TAYLOR, DATED at Alice Arm, B. C., this twenty ighth day of May, 1920.

LAND ACT.

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Date June 21st, -1926.

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