

C.S.

PORT AND MARINE.  
(Shipping)

1927.

No.

540/27.

Colonial Secretary.

SUBJECT.

19276

17th October,

Previous Paper.

LOSS OF s.s. "PROFESSOR GRUVEL"  
BELONGING TO THE ORNEN & NOR WHALING  
COMPANIES.

MINUTES.

- P.P.  
4/19/28
1. Extract from Daily News Bulletin of 14 Oct. 1927.
  2. Telegram to Mr L. Andersen (SS "Falk") of 14 Oct. 1927.
  3. " from " " " of 15 Oct. 1927.
  4. Minute from H.E. the Governor of 13 Oct. 1927.
  5. Telegram to Secretary of State 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1927

c.c. Ref. H.E.'s minute on vol 3 please put up suitable chart.

Yud  
19.10.27

Hester Harbor.

Ref. H.E.'s minute on vol 3

will you kindly submit a suitable map

showing the position of wharf? I regret

but I have no chart suitable for use

on this occasion.

Yud

24.10.27.

Subsequent Paper.

27.10.27. Pos<sup>n</sup> of sinking of "P. Gravel" marked on  
South Polar Chart & returned attached.

M. Medley.  
H. M. Medley.

To Mr. Secy

Y. 2. Draft drafted & returned

Y. 2

31.10.27

How C.S.

Thank you.

A-11

Despatch to S. of S. No. 220 of 8<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1927. 6-9.  
Kinnik from Col. Engineer, 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1927. 10

~~B.F. 30/4/28~~ ~~B.F. 15.4.28~~  
~~B.F. 17/4/28~~ ~~B.F. 30.3.28~~

~~Y. 29. 3. 28~~  
~~Y. 29 (11. 27)~~

C.C. Has any reply been received to Reels 8. 9  
5. 5. 28 S.M. 13.

~~Off. 31/5/28.~~  
~~A.P.P. 7/5/28.~~

P. A  
~~Y. 29~~  
3. 9. 28

~~Off. 30/4/28.~~  
~~A.P.P. 31/5/28.~~  
~~Off. 30/8/28.~~  
~~A.P.P. 4/7/28.~~

①

EXTRACT FROM THE DAILY NEWS BULLETIN.

14th OCTOBER, 1927.  
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COMMUNICATION REPORT.

Reported from s.s. "Falk" that s.s. "Professor Gruvel" sank on 12th at 20.30 G.M.T. Cause was collision with ice in strong gale and she got a large hole in stern.

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DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor.

To Mr. L. Andersen. S.S. "Falk".

Despatched: 14th October. 1927 Time: 14.00

Received: ..... 1927 Time: ...

MANAGER

FALK.

Regret to hear of loss of Professor Gruvel stop. Please accept sympathy stop. Kindly telegraph me full particulars as soon as possible including exact positions.

GOVERNOR.

AM.  
15/27.  
10

DECODE.

3

TELEGRAM.

*From* The Manager, s.s. "Falk"

*To* His Excellency the Governor.

*Despatched:* 15th October, 1927. *Time:* 01.05.

*Received:* 15th October, 1927. *Time:* 10.55.

GOVERNOR OF FALKLAND ISLANDS  
PORTSTANLEY.

Your telegram received steamer Professor Gruvel lost steering in heavy gale and snow and touched ice flawe and got big hole in the after part and sunk I hour 10 minutes after touching position 57 degrees 52 minutes south and 50 degrees 45 minutes west all crew saved and on board Falk and Oern.

ANDERSEN  
MANAGER.

Hon. C.S.

Please work out position on map.

(Itld.) A.H.  
15.10.27.

From His Excellency the Governor

to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

"Professor GRUVEL" SINKING OFF-

News received 10-30 P.M. 13. 10. 27.

Cable 16 SoFS 10-42 P.M. 13. 10. 27.

as follows:-

Transport Professor GRUVEL SUNK OFF  
ice, no lives lost. Particulars will  
be forwarded as soon as possible

Governor.

A.H.

13/27.

10

C.C.

Mean has M.P. at 16.

pl

15 10 27

ECODE.

TELEGRAM.

*From* The Governor.

*To* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

TELEPHONED.

*Despatched:* 18th October ... 192 7 *Time:* 6 p.m.

*Received:* ..... 192 .. *Time:* ...

My telegram of October 13th further report states that Professor Gruvel lost steering way in heavy gale and blizzard and collided with ice floe. She was holed in stern and sank in 1 hour 10 minutes position 57° 52 south latitude 50° 45 west longitude. Crew all saved by Falk and Orn.

Governor.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY,

8th November, 1927.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 220.

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm my telegrams of the 13th and of the 18th of October, 1927, relative to the sinking of the floating factory the s.s. "Professor Gruvel" off the pack-ice in the neighbourhood of the South Orkney islands at 20.30 hours G.M.T. on the 12th of October, 1927, and to attach a rough sketch showing the position where the vessel sank in Latitude 57° 52' south and Longitude 50° 45' west. I attach also a copy of a telegram received from the Manager of the floating factory the s.s. "Falk" on the 15th of October, 1927, giving details of the disaster.

Enclosure I.

Enclosure II.

3. You will recollect that the s.s. "Professor Gruvel" has been employed in previous years as a whaling transport and that she was licensed specially for the current season as an auxiliary floating factory for the combined Ornen and Nor companies operating at the South Shetlands with the floating factories the s.s. "Falk" and the s.s. "Orn II" in the circumstances set out in the correspondence terminating with my despatch, No. 2 of the 17th of October, 1927. The s.s. "Professor Gruvel" was of great age having been built at Newcastle in 1882 for the Peninsular and Orient Steamship Company in whose service she sailed as  
the

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

the s.s. "Bombay". She had recently been fitted with pressure boilers for the trying-out of oil from whale meat and is understood to have been insured for the season in the sum of £75,000.

3. It is satisfactory to note that no loss of life occurred on this occasion but I am not inclined on this account unduly to give credit to the persistent report that the total loss of the vessel has been accepted with equanimity by her owners in view of the substantial sum to be recovered by way of insurance. There is no doubt, however, that the danger in proceeding south so early in the season is very grave and the number of whales killed at the South Shetlands is usually not so considerable as to exceed the capacity of the ordinary floating factory at any rate before the middle of the month of November.

4. I would add that in view of this disaster I propose next year, subject to your approval, to amend the Whaling regulations so as to provide for the postponement of the opening of the South Shetlands season until the 1st of November on account of the severity of the ice conditions which prevents the floating factories from making the harbours and thus results in undue risk of life and in prodigal waste of material.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

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ENCLOSURE No. II TO FALKLAND ISLANDS DESPATCH.

No. 220 of the 8th of November, 1927.

COPY OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM THE MANAGER OF  
S.S. "FALK", DATED 15th OCTOBER, 1927.

Your telegram received steamer Professor  
Gravel lost steering in heavy gale and snow and  
touched ice<sup>x</sup>flawe and got big hole in the after  
part and sunk 1 hour 10 minutes after touching  
position 57 degrees 52 minutes south and 50 degrees  
45 minutes west all crew saved and on board Falk  
and Orn.

<sup>x</sup>Sic.

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