

# British Wreck Commissioner's Inquiry

## Day 15

### Testimony of Frederick Fleet

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/BOTInq/BOTIndx01.php#a>

Examined by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

17216. Frederick Fleet, you have been in the employ of the White Star Company for some seven years, have you?

- Yes.

17217. And you went on the trial trip of the "Titanic," did you not?

- Yes.

17218. As look-out man?

- Yes.

17219. And then you signed articles at Southampton as look-out man?

- Yes.

17220. And went this voyage that ended so disastrously?

- Yes.

17221. Before you went on the "Titanic," had you been look-out man for a number of years on the "Oceanic"?

- Yes.

17222. That was also in the North Atlantic service?

- Yes.

17223. How many years?

- About four years.

17224. Had your eyes been tested by the Board of Trade?

- Yes.

17225. You have gone through an examination?

- Yes.

17226. And got a certificate?

- I had one, but I lost it.

17227. Lost it?

- In the "Titanic."

17228. But, at any rate, you had got it before you went this voyage in the "Titanic"?

- Yes.

17229. Your watch as look-out man, I think, was from 4 to 6 and 10 to 12?

- Yes.

17230. Is that 4 to 6 in the day?

- And night.

17231. And 10 to 12 in the day and night?

- Yes.

17232. Your mate, I think, was Lee?

- Yes.

17233. (*The Attorney-General.*) Lee has been examined, and you will find his evidence at page 72. (*To the witness.*) And it was your duty to relieve Jewell. You did relieve him that night?

- Yes, and Symons.

17234. Jewell was the first witness called. Jewell and Symons were the two?

- Yes.

- 25 17235. When you relieved Jewell and Symons on Sunday, 14th April, at 10 o'clock you went to the crow's-nest?  
- Yes.
- 26 17236. Was any word passed to you when you relieved them?  
- Yes.
- 27 17237. Tell us what it was?  
- They told us to keep a sharp look out for small ice and growlers.
- 28 17238. Did they say whether they had had any orders to do that?  
- Yes, they said they had had orders from the bridge.
- 29 17239. They got the orders from the bridge?  
- Yes, and passed it on to us.
- 30 17240. They had had orders to do that whilst they were on the watch and then they gave the word to you when you were going to take up the duties of look-out men?  
- Yes.
- 31 17241. Then you remained in the crow's-nest with your mate Lee, and the other two left?  
- Yes.
- 32 17242. Did both of them say anything to you about this, or only one?  
- One, Symons.
- 33 17243. Did Lee say anything to you about it?  
- No.
- 34 17244. Up to that time had you heard anything at all about ice?  
- No.
- 35 17245. Now at the time you went into the crow's-nest, which would be at 10 o'clock on that night, was the sky clear?  
- Yes.
- 36 17246. The sea we know was very calm?  
- The sea calm.
- 37 17247. The stars shining?  
- Yes.
- 38 17248. Could you clearly see the horizon?  
- The first part of the watch we could.
- 39 17249. The first part of the watch you could?  
- Yes.
- 40 17250. After the first part of the watch what was the change if any?  
- A sort of slight haze.
- 41 17251. A slight haze?  
- Yes.
- 42 17252. Was the haze on the waterline?  
- Yes.
- 43 17253. It prevented you from seeing the horizon clearly?  
- It was nothing to talk about.
- 44 17254. It was nothing much, apparently?  
- No.
- 45 17255. Was this haze ahead of you?  
- Yes.
- 46 17256. Was it only ahead, did you notice?  
- Well, it was only about 2 points on each side.
- 47 17257. When you saw this haze did it continue right up to the time of your striking the berg?  
- Yes.

48 17258. Can you give us any idea how long it was before you struck the berg that you noticed the haze?  
- No, I could not.

49 17259. Can you tell us about how long you had been on duty before you noticed the haze?  
- I could not say. I had no watch.

50 17260. I want you to give us some idea. You came on duty at 10 o'clock. We know that the berg was struck at about 11.40. That gives us an hour and 40 minutes, during which time you were in the crow's-nest all the time. That is right, is it not?  
- Yes.

51 You say the first part of the watch it was clear and then there came this change which you have described. I want you to give some idea of when it was you noticed the change - when it got to a haze.

52 17261. (*The Commissioner.*) We do not want you to guess, you know; if you cannot tell us you must not guess.

53 The Witness:  
Well, I daresay it was somewhere near seven bells.

54 17262. (*The Attorney-General.*) Somewhere near seven bells, which would be half-past 11?  
- Yes.

55 17263. Did you say anything to your mate about it?  
- Well, I told him there was a slight haze coming.

56 17264. Is that Lee?  
- Lee.

57 17265. At the time that you noticed the haze was there anything in sight?  
- No.

58 17266. Did it interfere with your sight ahead of you?  
- No.

59 17267. Could you see as well ahead and as far ahead after you noticed the haze as you could before?  
- It did not affect us, the haze.

60 17268. It did not affect you?  
- No, we could see just as well.

61 17269. You did not report it then, I gather from that?  
- No.

62 17270. You did not say anything about it to the bridge?  
- No.

63 17271. (*The Attorney-General.*) I think it is necessary to direct your Lordship's attention to question 2408 at page 73 of Lee's evidence. I have asked him his story in detail, but I think it is necessary to put it to him now. I will read it. (*To the witness.*) Just listen to this, Fleet. This is a question put to your mate and I will read you his answer. "Did you notice this haze which you said extended on the horizon when you first came on the look-out or did it come later?"  
- (A.) It was not so distinct then - not to be noticed. You did not really notice it then - not on going on watch, but we had all our work cut out to pierce through it just after we started. My mate" - that is you - "happened to pass the remark to me. He said 'Well if we can see through that we will be lucky.' That was when we began to notice there was a haze on the water. There was nothing in sight?"  
- Well, I never said that.

64 17272. You never said it?  
- No.

65 The Commissioner:  
I may tell you, Mr. Attorney, I am not at all disposed to give credit to that man's evidence on that point. It is quite inconsistent with all the other evidence.

66 The Attorney-General:  
I thought it right to call your Lordship's attention to it, and put it to the witness. I put the conversation to him, and he has given his answer, and there it rests. Your Lordship has to determine which you accept. I gather from what your Lordship said just now - I want to be clear that I am right - that his evidence with

regard to the haze as interfering with his sight is the matter which you say is not satisfactory.

67 The Commissioner:

Yes, I will tell you at once. My impression is this, that the man was trying to make an excuse for not seeing the iceberg, and he thought he could make it out by creating a thick haze.

68 The Attorney-General:

There is some other evidence, but I will direct attention to it later, when we come to deal with it. I am not sure, but my impression is that up to this moment we have no evidence of anybody who was watching, except these two men; I mean there is no Officer who has been able to give evidence as to this, no Officer was actually looking or watching at the time.

69 The Commissioner:

Or seeing?

70 The Attorney-General:

Or seeing. Of course, I mean who have been called before you. I am speaking of evidence. The only evidence we have got of persons who were actually looking out is the evidence of Lee and this Witness.

71 The Commissioner:

We have evidence of the state of the sky before the accident and after the accident.

72 The Attorney-General:

Yes.

73 Sir Robert Finlay:

And Mr. Boxhall, I think, was on the bridge.

74 The Commissioner:

I mean the evidence before and after the accident is that the sky was perfectly clear, and therefore if the evidence of the haze is to be accepted, it must have been some extraordinary natural phenomenon - something that sprang up quite suddenly, and then vanished.

75 The Attorney-General:

Yes.

76 The Commissioner:

However, this Witness denies he said it.

77 The Attorney-General:

It is all in a very small compass, the evidence with regard to this, and certainly Lee's evidence is the strongest about the haze. I do not think any Witness goes as far.

78 The Commissioner:

It was so thick that you would have great trouble, as he said, cutting through it.

79 The Attorney-General:

Yes, I think that is the only evidence to that effect.

80 17273. (*The Commissioner - To the witness.*) I understand you to say that whatever it was, it made no difference to the look-out?

- Yes, My Lord.

81 17274. (*The Attorney-General.*) Who was it first saw the berg? Was it you or Lee?

- Well, I do not know.

82 17275. Well, which of you gave the signal?

- I did.

83 You were looking ahead. Will you tell my Lord what it was - what you saw?

84 The Commissioner:

This is the three bell signal.

85 17276. (*The Attorney-General.*) Yes, we are coming to it, the three bell signal, something ahead. (*To the witness.*) Now describe to my Lord what it was you saw?

- Well a black object.

86 17277. A black object. Was it high above the water or low?

- High above the water.

- 87 17278. What did you do?  
- I struck three bells.
- 88 17279. Was it right ahead of you, or on the port or starboard bow?  
- Right ahead.
- 89 17280. You struck three bells immediately, I suppose?  
- Yes, as soon as I saw it.
- 90 17281. What did you do next?  
- I went to the telephone.
- 91 17282. Was that on the starboard side of the crow's-nest?  
- Yes.
- 92 17283. You went to the telephone, and -?  
- Rang them up on the bridge.
- 93 17284. Did you get an answer?  
- Yes.
- 94 17285. Did you say anything to them at once, or did they answer you before you told them?  
- I asked them were they there, and they said yes.
- 95 17286. Yes?  
- Then they said, "What do you see?" I said, "Iceberg right ahead." They said, "Thank you."
- 96 17287. Then you dropped the telephone, did you?  
- Yes.
- 97 17288. What did you do next?  
- I kept the look-out again.
- 98 17289. You were approaching the berg meanwhile?  
- Yes.
- 99 17290. Are you able to give us the distance, or about the distance, the berg was from your ship when you first saw it?  
- No.
- 100 17291. And except for what happened you have nothing to guide you as to the time either, have you?  
- No.
- 101 17292. We must get it from the events. Did you notice any change in the heading of your vessel after you gave this report?  
- After I rang them up on the 'phone and looked over the nest she was going to port.
- 102 17293. You were looking over the nest. Were you still on the starboard side of the nest?  
- No; my place is on the port, but I went to starboard to telephone.
- 103 17294. Did you remain there when you dropped the telephone, or did you go back to your own place?  
- I went back to my own place again.
- 104 17295. It would be on the port side of the crow's-nest?  
- On the port side.
- 105 17296. You saw her head turn to port, I think I understood you to say?  
- Yes.
- 106 Was the vessel still turning to port when she struck the berg, can you tell us?
- 107 (After a pause.)
- 108 17297. (*The Commissioner.*) Do not say you can if you cannot?  
- She went to port all right, and the berg hit her on the starboard bow.
- 109 17298. (*The Attorney-General.*) She went to port. Do you mean she had a slight turn to port?  
- Well, going to port.
- 110 17299. She was still going to port when the berg struck her?  
- On the starboard bow.

- 111 17300. When you saw the vessel strike you felt it, did you; could you see it?  
- Certainly.
- 112 17301. What did you see when that happened? Your vessel, as I understand you, was going to port. Then you say she struck an iceberg. Tell us what you saw. You were in the crow's-nest, watching it were you not?  
- Yes.
- 113 17302. Did you see any ice come on the deck?  
- Yes, some on the forecastle head and some on the well deck.
- 114 17303. Could you tell how high, at all, the berg was?  
- No, I could not.
- 115 17304. You could not tell us in feet, of course, or measurement in that way, but can you give us any idea; was it as high as you were?  
- Just a little bit higher than the forecastle head.
- 116 17305. (*The Commissioner.*) Now someone can tell me how high from the water was the forecastle head?  
- I do not know.
- 117 The Commissioner:  
No, you cannot; but someone can.
- 118 The Attorney-General:  
About 40 to 50 feet, I think.
- 119 Sir Robert Finlay:  
About 55 feet, My Lord.
- 120 17306. (*The Commissioner - To the witness.*) This berg that you struck must have been higher than the forecastle head because ice fell from it on to the forecastle head and on to the well deck, so I suppose it must have been higher than the forecastle head. That would be so, would it not?  
- Yes.
- 121 17307. Now, how much above the forecastle head did this berg stand, about. Can you show me in this room, I mean. If you cannot, do not try?  
- No, I do not know.
- 122 The Commissioner:  
It is far better to say you do not know.
- 123 17308. (*The Attorney-General - To the witness.*) You will tell me if you can?  
- I cannot say; I do not know.
- 124 17309. Was it as high as you were on the crow's-nest?  
- No, it was not.
- 125 17310. Not as high as that?  
- No.
- 126 17311. But above the forecastle head?  
- Yes.
- 127 Sir Robert Finlay:  
Mr. Wilding has just verified it again, and finds it was 55 feet above the waterline.
- 128 The Attorney-General:  
I think the crow's-nest is about 40 feet above the deck.
- 129 Sir Robert Finlay:  
Above the forecastle, yes.
- 130 The Attorney-General:  
One can form some impression of the height.
- 131 The Commissioner:  
In the crow's-nest you know he would be looking down upon this when it struck, and not looking up to it. He said that the berg was not as high as the crow's-nest.
- 132 The Attorney-General:

- Yes, he is quite clear about that. What I have got from him is: It was not as high as the crow's-nest, but it was higher than the forecastle head, and that is about as much as we could expect to get.
- 133 The Commissioner:  
It may have been standing about 75 feet above the surface of the water.
- 134 17312. (*The Attorney-General.*) Yes, that is probably as near as we should ever get to it. (*To the witness.*)  
You say the berg passed, did you?  
- Yes.
- 135 17313. As you were looking over to the starboard side of the ship?  
- Yes.
- 136 17314. Could you give us some idea of what it looked like when it came. Was it a great big mass that passed you, or was it a small mass that you could see?  
- Well, a great big mass.
- 137 17315. Do you mean like a great block?  
- Yes.
- 138 17316. When you saw it first could you form an idea of what height it was?  
- No.
- 139 17317. Well, it looked smaller, presumably?  
- Yes.
- 140 17318. Then did you remain on the crow's-nest?  
- Yes.
- 141 17319. Until eight bells?  
- Till eight bells went.
- 142 17320. At eight bells, in the ordinary course, you were relieved?  
- Yes.
- 143 17321. I think then Hogg and Evans relieved you. Now, will you tell me, supposing there had been a haze, would it be your duty to report it at all to the bridge?  
- I have never reported haze yet.
- 144 17322. They would be on the bridge, you mean, and see it for themselves; is that what you mean?  
- Yes.
- 145 17323. Did you have any conversation with your mate, Lee, after you struck?  
- Well, I told him I thought it was a narrow shave - after we had hit it, after we had hit the ice.
- 146 17324. (*The Commissioner.*) It was a little more than a shave?  
- That was only my idea.
- 147 17325. (*The Attorney-General.*) You thought it was not anything very serious?  
- No, it was such a slight noise; that is why I said it.
- 148 17326. You thought it was nearly serious, but not quite?  
- Yes.
- 149 17327. (*The Attorney-General.*) I do not propose to take him right through the story of what happened with regard to the boats. We have heard enough, I submit, about that. (*To the witness.*) You were eventually saved in boat No. 6?  
- Yes.
- 150 17328. (*The Attorney-General.*) Your Lordship will remember we have had some evidence about that from the Quartermaster, Hichens, but your Lordship shall have all that in the digest we are making for your Lordship. It is the one in which Major Peuchen was also. There is only one thing I would ask. (*To the witness.*) Do you remember how many women there were in the boat, in boat No. 6?  
- About 23 or 24.
- 151 17329. (*The Commissioner.*) And how many altogether, including the crew?  
- Well, about 28 or 29; there was only me and Hichens of the crew.
- 152 [TIP NOTE: There were no questions numbered 17330 to 17339 in the original British Transcript.]

153 17340. Twenty-four women. Were there any men passengers?  
- Two - one first and one-third, and two crew.

154 17341. And that was the whole boatload?  
- Yes.

155 The Attorney-General:  
That does not quite agree with the evidence of Hichens, the Quartermaster. That you will find at page 43.

156 The Commissioner:  
Will you tell me the effect?

157 The Attorney-General:  
He says this at Question [1106](#): "How many people did you take on board? - (A.) 42, all told." He said there was one seaman besides himself, and 40 passengers, and of that 40 all were women except one man and one boy. That is his evidence, and he went through it in some detail. The passenger was Major Peuchen, your Lordship will remember.

158 The Commissioner:  
Yes; if that witness is right, this Witness is probably making a mistake about the number of women.

159 The Attorney-General:  
I think so.

160 The Witness:  
I am not making any mistake at all.

161 17342. You are not?  
- I am not.

162 17343. Did you count them?  
- I did.

163 17344. Very well. How many were there?  
- I said 24 women. I know what I am talking about.

164 Well, I should hope so. Do not be angry about it. We are not making any attack upon you; we are only calling attention to the evidence.

165 The Commissioner:  
Do not take offence. No one intends to annoy you.

166 The Attorney-General:  
No one is casting an imputation upon you.

167 The Commissioner:  
We only want you to state the truth, that is all.

168 The Witness:  
Well, I am telling the truth.

169 The Commissioner:  
I am sure you are doing your best.

170 17345. (*The Attorney-General - To the witness.*) Perhaps you can tell us this. Did you count the women there were?  
- I was in the boat when they were passed in.

171 17346. And you were in the boat, I suppose, when Major Peuchen got in?  
- Yes.

172 The Commissioner:  
There is no doubt at all - we have not had the figures proved, but I suppose there is no doubt at all - about the numbers that were saved ultimately?

173 The Attorney-General:  
No.

174 The Commissioner:  
They were all saved on board the "Carpathia"?



175 The Attorney-General:  
That is right.

176 The Commissioner:  
And there is no doubt about the numbers the "Carpathia" took?

177 17347. (*The Attorney-General.*) No. (*To the witness.*) Perhaps you can tell me this: Were there any more women on the boat deck at the time your boat was lowered?  
- Well, I cannot say; I think there were.

178 17348. There were some?  
- But they would not come in.

179 17349. Did you hear them asked to come in; did you hear them told to get into the boat?  
- Yes; Mr. Lightoller asked if there were any more women.

180 17350. There were women there, you think?  
- I think there were; I am not quite sure, though.

181 17351. But they would not get into the boat?  
- No.

182 17352. At any rate, none came forward to get into the boat?  
- No.

183 17353. As I understand, you were there passing them into the boat?  
- Yes.

184 17354. When none came forward the order was given to lower away. Is that right?  
- Yes.

185 17355. Did you notice when you got into the boat and were in the boat before daybreak, any icebergs?  
- It was only at daybreak we noticed them.

186 17356. At daybreak you saw a good deal, did you not?  
- Yes.

187 17357. Icebergs?  
- And fields of ice.

188 17358. All round you?  
- Yes.

189 17359. If I understand you aright, whilst you were in the boat, from the time you were in the boat till daybreak, you did not notice any icebergs. Is that right?  
- That is right.

190 17360. And when day broke you saw them all round you?  
- Yes.

191 The Commissioner:  
Well, that is not unimportant.

192 17361. (*The Attorney-General.*) I am not quite sure that I understand. You said just now, in answer to a question that I put to you that you saw ice all round when the day broke?  
- At daybreak.

193 17362. So that you had passed it, but had not seen it. Is that what you mean? You had been going through some ice?  
- Oh, I do not know. I am only just telling you when we were in the boat.

194 17363. That is what I am asking about, in the boat; you got into the boat, and you pulled away for some time?  
- Towards a light; we got ordered to We got an order from Mr. Lightoller to pull for a light which was on the port bow.

195 17364. You did pull towards it?  
- We tried to get up to it.

196 17365. But you could not?

- No.

197 17366. It was a white light, was it not. Then, when you were pulling towards that light you did not see any ice. Is that right?

- That is right.

198 17367. But when the day did break you found that there was ice, if I understand you aright?

- All round us.

199 17368. Not only in front of you, but all round?

- All round the horizon like.

200 17369. (The Commissioner.) And icebergs?

- Yes.

201 17370. (The Attorney-General.) Icebergs and field ice. There is only one other question I want to put to you; When you were in the "Oceanic" and employed there as the look-out, did you have glasses?

- Yes.

202 17371. Glasses provided for you in the crow's-nest?

- Yes; every trip.

203 17372. Were they kept in the crow's-nest?

- No; at the end of the voyage we took them back to the second Officer.

204 17373. But whilst on the voyage they were kept somewhere in the crow's-nest?

- Yes, in a bag.

205 17374. Did you ask for glasses?

- I did not, but Symons did.

206 17375. You had better tell us what he said?

- He said there were none aboard for us, intended for us.

207 17376. There was a locker there for glasses, was not there?

- Yes, in the nest.

208 Examined by Mr. SCANLAN.

209 17377. I understand you had glasses in the crow's-nest during the journey from Belfast to Southampton?

- Yes.

210 17378. Were those glasses marked in any special way?

- It had on one side of it, "Second Officer," and on the other, s.s. "Titanic."

211 17379. Were those taken from you at Southampton?

- Yes.

212 17380. Will you tell me how long have you been of the rank of look-out; how long you have held that position?

- About four years. All the time I was in the "Oceanic."

213 17381. The only boats on which you have been a look-out man are the "Oceanic" and the "Titanic"?

- Yes, that is all.

214 17382. Is it your evidence that on every trip on the "Oceanic" you had glasses?

- Every trip.

215 17383. Now, I want you to go back for a moment to the appearance of this iceberg when you first saw it. When you first saw it, did it appear as a very small object?

- A small object.

216 In giving evidence in America as to this -

217 17384. (The Commissioner.) Did you call it a small object?

- I said it was the size of a small table.

218 Mr. Scanlan:

He gave a description of it in America, which I am anxious to bring to your Lordship's notice.

219 The Commissioner:  
Quite right.

220 Mr. Scanlan:  
I will read to you the evidence which you gave in America, and you can just tell me if it is correct?

221 Sir Robert Finlay:  
What day?

222 17385. (Mr. Scanlan.) It is the 24th April: - "(Senator Burton.) You say when you first saw that iceberg that it was about the size of these two tables"?  
- That is right; that is the way I put it.

223 The Commissioner:  
We have not got the tables here.

224 17386. (Mr. Scanlan.) We have plenty of tables, My Lord. (To the witness.) When Senator Burton was asking you that question, were there two small tables in the room?  
- The two tables were in the room, which I mentioned to him.

225 17387. Were the two tables in the room any bigger than those (Pointing.)?  
- I do not know.

226 17388. At all events, is it correct to say when you first saw this iceberg it appeared to be very small. Is that so?  
- [No Answer.]

227 The Commissioner:  
Did he give any answer to the question?

228 Mr. Scanlan:  
I do not think he has, My Lord.

229 The Commissioner:  
Very well, I am quite satisfied to leave it where it is.

230 The Attorney-General:  
There was an eloquent look - I do not know whether your Lordship caught that.

231 The Commissioner:  
What was the look? What was it, Mr. Scanlan?

232 Mr. Scanlan:  
This is the question -

233 The Commissioner:  
Yes, I heard the question; I heard no answer, and I am now told that, in place of an answer, there was an eloquent look. Did you see the eloquent look?

234 17389. (Mr. Scanlan.) I did not, My Lord. I have not as good an eye as the Attorney-General. (To the witness.) If it is not troubling you too much, Mr. Fleet, would you tell his Lordship this; when you first saw the iceberg, the first sight of it you caught at the distance you were from it, did it appear as a very small object?  
- Yes.

235 17390. Was this a good night for seeing; would you describe it as a clear night, or a night in which it was difficult to see?  
- It was not difficult at all.

236 One of the Officers who was on the bridge up till 10 o'clock, said this. He was asked this question: "Then you both realised at the time, that since it was a flat calm it would be more difficult to see the ice? - (A.) As far as the case of the berg was concerned, yes, it would be more difficult; naturally you would not see the water breaking on it if there were no wind." Was it an ordinary clear night, or did you experience some difficulty as look-out

man?

237 The Commissioner:  
He has just said he experienced no difficulty. He has told us so several times, you know.

238 17391. (Mr. Scanlan.) Yes, My Lord. (To the witness.) Could you see water breaking on the iceberg when you noticed it?

- No.

239 17392. I think you said when you were being examined that you said to your mate Lee that there was a slight haze coming?

- Yes.

240 17393. I want to make this perfectly clear. Is it your evidence that there was a haze that night?

- No, there was not. I said there was a slight haze.

241 Could you recall now how long you had observed the haze before -

242 The Commissioner:  
He told us once that he could not.

243 Mr. Scanlan:  
He was asked, I think, how long after he came on the watch.

244 The Commissioner:  
He was asked by the Attorney-General, and he told us that he could not; and as I myself have very grave doubts about there being a haze at all, I can understand his having a difficulty in saying how long before the collision it was that he saw it.

245 Mr. Scanlan:  
As your Lordship made that observation in reference to the haze, I thought I might refer your Lordship to the evidence of Mr. Symons, at page 268.

246 The Commissioner:  
By all means.

247 17394. (Mr. Scanlan.) The question was asked by Mr. Laing, at Question 11983. (To the witness.) You know George Symons; you know Symons was also a look-out man?

- Yes.

248 He was asked: "While you were on the look-out up to 10 o'clock, what sort of a night was it? - (A.) Pretty clear, Sir; a fine night, rather hazy; if anything, a little hazy on the horizon, but nothing to speak of."

249 The Commissioner:  
Then the next question.

250 17395. (Mr. Scanlan.) "Would you describe it as a very clear night? - (A.) Yes. (Q.) With stars? - (A.) Yes." Do you agree with this description of the night - "fine night, rather hazy; if anything a little hazy on the horizon."

251 The Witness:  
Not when I went on the look-out; it was not hazy.

252 17396. But when the haze did come was it like that?

- A slight haze.

253 17397. And did it extend right round the horizon?

- No.

254 17398. It did not extend all round?

- No.

255 17399. Was it right in front of you?

- Right in front.

256 17400. (The Commissioner.) I understand you to say two points on each bow?

- Two points on each bow; that is in front.

257 17401. (Mr. Scanlan.) Do you think if you had had glasses you could have seen the

iceberg sooner?

- Certainly.

258 17402. How much sooner do you think you could have seen it?

- In time for the ship to get out of the way.

259 17403. So that it is your view that if you had had glasses it would have made all the difference between safety and disaster?

- Yes.

260 17404. (The Commissioner.) Would it depend upon whether you had the glasses up to your eyes, or not? I suppose having the glasses in the box would not have been any good to you?

- When I have to keep a sharp look-out I have the glasses in my hand, if there are any there, till my watch is finished.

261 17405. Glasses in your hand will not help you to see anything unless you had them up to your eyes?

- I put the glasses before my eyes. I pick things out on the horizon with the glasses.

262 Mr. Scanlan:

Is it your experience on vessels where you have had glasses that the glasses enabled you to pick out objects more quickly than you would have done with the naked eye?

263 The Commissioner:

No doubt; that is his evidence, at all events.

264 17406. (Mr. Scanlan.) You were told when you went on watch that you had to keep a sharp look-out. In these circumstances, if there had been glasses in the crow's-nest would you have used them?

- Yes.

265 17407. Constantly?

- Yes.

266 17408. After all, you are the man who discovered the iceberg?

- Yes.

267 17409. (The Commissioner.) Did you know at the time you went into the crow's-nest, which was at 10 o'clock that night, that there were no glasses in the box or bag? Did you know that?

- I knew that as soon as we left Southampton.

268 17410. And you knew it when you went into the crow's-nest at 10 o'clock the night of the 14th April?

- Yes.

269 17411. You also knew that you were to keep a look-out for ice; who told you that?

- Symons.

270 17412. Did you say at the time, "But we have got no glasses"?

- No, I did not; he knew we had none.

271 17413. Do not you think, if it was necessary to have glasses in order to do what you were told to do, to keep a sharp look-out, you should go to the bridge or telephone to the bridge and say, "I am told to keep a sharp look-out, and I have not got any glasses"?

- They would know that.

272 17414. But did not you call their attention to it?

- No. I did not.

273 17415. (Mr. Scanlan.) On that point did you report or did one of your mates report in Southampton that there were no glasses in the crow's-nest?

- Symons went up, and asked Mr. Lightoller.

274 The Commissioner:

I know that; I have heard that already.

275 17416. (Mr. Scanlan - To the witness.) Were you told when this report was made on the  
absence of glasses that there were none intended for the look-out?  
- Yes, they told us that, or told Symons that, and he told us.

276 17417. Was that what was conveyed to you?  
- Yes.

277 17418. Then you had to accept that as the provision of the ship?  
- That is it.

278 17419. If you had complained would you have got yourself into trouble with your superior  
Officers?  
- No, I should have been told the same, I suppose.

279 17420. Have your eyes been tested?  
- I got tested at Washington in the marine Hospital lately, while I have been at Washington.

280 17421. That is since the accident?  
- Yes.

281 17422. (The Commissioner.) Were your eyes all right?  
- Yes.

282 The Attorney-General:  
I think they were tested before.

283 17423. (The Commissioner.) But you have had your eyes tested since the accident?  
- Yes.

284 17424. And they have been found all right?  
- Yes.

285 17425. (Mr. Scanlan.) When were your eyes tested before the accident?  
- I do not know; it may have been a couple of years or a year.

286 17426. When were they tested, and where?  
- Southampton, by the Board of Trade.

287 17427. When this test was made by the Board of Trade, was it made by a doctor?  
- Oh, I do not know; it got done by the Board of Trade; I do not know who it was through.

288 The Commissioner:  
I should have thought that any person who knew how to do it could easily test eyesight. I  
daresay you know how it is done?

289 Mr. Scanlan:  
There is some importance attaching to this, because there is a Rule of the Board of Trade  
about this.

290 The Commissioner:  
What is it?

291 Mr. Scanlan:  
I understand that a test is supposed to be made, but I am told it is not invariably carried  
out, and I am instructed to direct your Lordship's attention to it in connection with the  
Rules, and I thought it would be a convenient part of the examination to do so.

292 The Commissioner:  
Quite.

293 17428. (Mr. Scanlan - To the witness.) Now I want to ask you this question. Before you  
left the "Titanic" did you observe the lights of any ship in your neighbourhood?  
- Well, there was a light on the port bow.

294 17429. Did you see this light on the port bow before you left the crow's -nest?  
- No, it must have been about 1 o'clock.

295 Did you observe it before you left the "Titanic"?

296 17430. (The Commissioner.) He says he saw it at 1 o'clock. (To the witness.) When did  
you leave the "Titanic" - at what time?

297 - I think I got into the water in the boat about 1 o'clock.  
 17431. And it was about that time that you saw this light?  
 - Or just a little before it - about that time.  
 298 17432. (Mr. Scanlan.) Will you describe to my Lord the kind of light it was?  
 - A white light.  
 299 17433. (The Commissioner.) What did you think it was?  
 - I had no idea; I just saw a light, that is all.  
 300 17434. You did not know whether it was a masthead light or a stern light, or what it was?  
 - No.  
 301 17435. Did you know it was the light of some ship?  
 - Yes.  
 302 17436. (Mr. Scanlan.) During this last watch of yours on the "Titanic" from 10 to 12, did  
 you hear at any time from the bridge, or get any advice from the bridge about the look-out  
 you were to keep?  
 - No.  
 303 17437. Or about ice being expected?  
 - No. The only order we got was from Symons, to keep a sharp look-out.  
 304 17438. The only order you got was an order which had been passed along to you by the  
 look-out men whom you relieved?  
 - That is all.  
 305 Examined by Mr. COTTER.  
 306 17439. In your four years' experience on the "Oceanic" did you ever see ice at any time?  
 - No.  
 307 17440. You could form no judgment how far you could see an iceberg?  
 - No.  
 308 Examined by Sir ROBERT FINLAY.  
 309 17441. You have been asked as to what Symons said about the night. Will you listen to  
 this question. It follows after the one which was read to you. It is on page 268, Question  
 11987. It is about the glasses. This is the question put to Symons about the glasses: "If you  
 were on the look-out on a fine clear night, would you rather trust to the eye than a  
 binocular to pick up anything? - (A.) Yes; you use your own eyes as regards the picking up  
 anything, but you want the glasses then to make certain of that object." Do you agree to  
 that?  
 - Yes.  
 310 17442. That is right: For picking up anything would you trust to the eyes, and then having  
 picked it up -?  
 - You look with glasses to make sure.  
 311 17443. Then as regards picking up an iceberg or anything else, you would pick it up with  
 the naked eye at first?  
 - That is all we had to do that night - use our eyes.  
 312 17444. Yes, but do not you see -?  
 - I see what you mean.  
 313 17445. Do you agree with this. This is what Symons says: "You use your own eyes as  
 regards the picking up anything, but you want the glasses then to make certain of that  
 object." Do you agree with that?  
 - Yes.  
 314 17446. On the White Star Line I think they have special look-out men?  
 - Special?  
 315 17447. Yes?  
 - I do not know.



316 17448. You were one of them, were you not?  
- Yes.

317 17449. You signed on as a look-out man?  
- Yes, I signed on as a look-out man.

318 17450. I mean that is your work?  
- Yes.

319 17451. That is the practice on the White Star Line, is it not?  
- Yes, that is it.

320 17452. To have special look-out men. Do you know whether it is the practice on other lines?  
- I do not know; it is the only company I have been on the look-out.

321 The Attorney-General:  
They sign on as look-out men.

322 17453. (Sir Robert Finlay.) Yes, for that purpose. (To the witness.) Now, with regard to this light which you saw when you put off from the ship, had you any doubt that that was a ship's light?  
- I could not tell what it was; it might have been a sailing ship or it might have been a steamer.

323 17454. (The Commissioner.) Was it a ship's light?  
- Yes.

324 17455. (Sir Robert Finlay.) You are quite clear about that?  
- Yes.

325 17456. You were rowing towards it?  
- Yes.

326 How came the two men to get into your boat?

327 The Commissioner:  
(To the witness) Two men passengers were in your boat, you know.

328 17457. (Sir Robert Finlay.) How came they to get in?  
- One man we found out afterwards was underneath the thwarts. The major got into the boat as we were in line with the square ports; he came down the life -line.

329 17458. We have heard that Major Peuchen was ordered in by Mr. Lightoller?  
- Yes.

330 17459. And he came down in the way you have described?  
- Yes.

331 17460. Were any women left behind who were willing to go?  
- I could not say.

332 17461. Were there any women on deck when you left?  
- I think there were.

333 17462. Were they willing to go into the boat?  
- I could not say. Mr. Lightoller sang out for more women and none seemed to come.

334 17463. None came?  
- None came.

335 17464. You did not leave behind any women who wanted to get into the boat I suppose?  
- [No Answer.]

336 17465. I understood you to say some time ago the women on the deck refused to get in?  
- I did not say refused.

337 17466. Well I thought you did?  
- Did you?

338 Would not get in. What. did you say to it? I want to understand.

339 The Commissioner:



As far as I am concerned you need not trouble him with any more questions.

340 17467. (Sir Robert Finlay.) I am obliged to your Lordship. (To the witness.) Now just one or two questions with regard to the iceberg. Did you describe it when you gave evidence in the United States, on the other side of the water, as a black mass when you saw it?

- Yes.

341 17468. And did you say that you estimated that it was 50 or 60 feet above the water?

- Did I say that? No, I said it was little higher than the forecastle head when he asked me that.

342 17469. I will just read you what you said on 23rd April, at page 16, about it. "I reported an iceberg right ahead, a black mass." Is that right?

- Yes, that is right.

343 17470. And then on page 18 - this is also on the 23rd April - this question is put to you: "How large did it get to be finally when it struck the ship"? - that is the iceberg. "(A.) When we were alongside it was a little bit higher than the forecastle head. (Q.) The forecastle head is how high above the waterline? - (A.) Fifty feet, I should say. (Q.) About fifty feet? - (A.) Yes. (Q.) So that this black mass, when it finally struck the boat, turned out to be about fifty feet above the water? - (A.) About fifty or sixty. (Q.) Fifty or sixty feet above the water? - (A.) Yes. (Q.) And when you first saw it it looked no larger than these two tables? - (A.) No, Sir." Was that about the height, as far as you can judge?

- [No Answer.]

344 The Commissioner:  
I think we can form our own opinion as to the height of it; obviously it must have been above the forecastle head because ice fell from it on to the forecastle.

345 Sir Robert Finlay:  
Yes, My Lord.

346 The Attorney-General:  
Higher than the forecastle, and lower than the crow's -nest.

347 17471. (Sir Robert Finlay.) As your Lordship points out, it must have been higher than 55 feet; how much higher we do not know. (To the witness.) Did you notice where the blow was struck, where the "Titanic" was struck? You said on the starboard bow?

- Just before the foremast.

348 The Commissioner:  
That means just in front, on the starboard side of the crow's -nest?

349 17472. (Sir Robert Finlay.) Yes, My Lord, exactly. (To the witness.) Did the "Titanic" answer the helm, going to port, while you were still at the telephone?

- I do not know.

350 17473. Well, just let me recall to your memory what you appear to have said in America. On the 23rd April, at page 18, you are asked this: "Do you know whether her engines were reversed?" That is the "Titanic's" engines. You say, "Well, she started to go to port while I was at the telephone. (Q.) She started to go to port? - (A.) Yes; the wheel was put to starboard. (Q.) How do you know that? - (A.) My mate saw it and told me. He told me he could see the bow coming round." Is that right, that the ship was going round to port while you were still at the telephone?

- Yes.

351 17474. And then the same thing on the 24th April, page 3, "Did you notice how quickly they turned the course of the boat after you sounded the gongs? - No, Sir; they did not do it until I went to the telephone. While I was at the telephone the ship started to move." That means to answer her helm to answer the starboard helm and turn to port?

- Yes.

352 17475. There is only one other matter. Do you remember any conversation with Mr.

Lightoller about the look-out and seeing the berg. Just let me read you what Mr. Lightoller said. It is page 343, My Lord. Mr. Lightoller is asked this at Question 14884: "Did you have any talk with Fleet, the look-out man? - (A.) On the "Carpathia"? (Q.) Yes? - (A.) Yes. (Q.) He has not been called yet, but you might tell us what he said? - (A.) I asked him what he knew about the accident, and induced him to explain the circumstances. He went on to say that he had seen the iceberg so far ahead. I particularly wanted to know how long after he struck the bell the ship's head moved, and he informed me that practically at the same time that he struck the bell he noticed the ship's head moving under the helm. (Q.) That is what you told us before? - (A.) Yes. (Q.) Did he tell you anything else? - (A.) With regard to distance? (Q.) No, with regard to weather or conditions? - (A.) Oh, yes. He said it was clear. (Q.) That is really what I wanted to know.- (A.) Oh, yes. (Q.) Did he say anything about haze? - (A.) No, he never said anything about haze. (Q.) He never complained about haze, or anything of that sort? - (A.) No." Is that right?

- Well, I am not going to tell him my business. It is my place in Court to say that, not to him.

353 17476. (The Commissioner.) You really do not understand. That gentleman is not trying to get round you at all?

- But some of them are, though.

354 The Commissioner:

They are not, indeed. I can see you think most of us are, but we are not. We only want to get from you your own story. We want nothing else.

355 17477. (Sir Robert Finlay.) You know Mr. Lightoller?

- Certainly I do.

356 17478. Did you have any conversation with him?

- Yes.

357 The Commissioner:

That is all we want to know.

358 Mr. Harbinson:

There are a couple of questions suggested by Sir Robert Finlay's examination I should like to put.

359 Examined by Mr. HARBINSON.

360 17479. Did I understand rightly that when you left the boat deck there were some women left behind on the boat deck?

- [No Answer.]

361 The Witness:

(After a pause.) Is there any more likes to have a go at me?

362 The Commissioner:

Well, I rather sympathise with him. Do you want to ask him anything more?

363 The Attorney-General:

Oh, no.

364 The Witness:

A good job, too.

365 17480. (The Commissioner.) I am much obliged to you. I think you have given your evidence very well, although you seem to distrust us all.

366 The Witness:

Thank you.

367 (The Witness withdrew.)

368

# United States Senate Inquiry

369

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/USInq/AmInq01Indxa.php>

370

## Day 4

371

### Testimony of Frederick Fleet

372

*(The witness was sworn by the chairman.)*

373

Senator SMITH.  
What is your full name?

374

Mr. FLEET.  
Frederick Fleet.

375

Senator SMITH.  
Where do you reside?

376

Mr. FLEET.  
Southampton.

377

Senator SMITH.  
England?

378

Mr. FLEET.  
England.

379

Senator SMITH.  
How old are you?

380

Mr. FLEET.  
Twenty-five next October.

381

Senator SMITH.  
What is your business?

382

Mr. FLEET.  
Sailor; lookout man.

383

Senator SMITH.  
How much experience have you had in that work?

384

Mr. FLEET.  
About four years. I was four years on the [\*Oceanic\*](#), on the lookout.

385

Senator SMITH.  
Four years as lookout on the *Oceanic*, of the White Star Line?

386

Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

387

Senator SMITH.  
Is that all the experience you have had?

388

Mr. FLEET.  
Going to sea?

389

Senator SMITH.  
Yes.

390

Mr. FLEET.  
Five or six years.

391

Senator SMITH.  
Besides that?

392

Mr. FLEET.  
That is all; when I was in the training ship.

393 Senator SMITH.  
Have you ever been lookout on any other ship?

394 Mr. FLEET.  
No.

395 Senator SMITH.  
You were lookout on the [Titanic](#), were you not?

396 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

397 Senator SMITH.  
And sailed with the *Titanic* from Southampton, or from Belfast?

398 Mr. FLEET.  
I [fetched](#) her around from Belfast, on the lookout.

399 Senator SMITH.  
And made this voyage from Southampton, to the time of the collision - the accident?

400 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

401 Senator SMITH.  
I want to get on the record the place where you were stationed in the performance of your duty.

402 Mr. FLEET.  
I was on the lookout.

403 Senator SMITH.  
On the lookout?

404 Mr. FLEET.  
At the time of the collision.

405 Senator SMITH.  
In the [crow's nest](#)?

406 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

407 Senator SMITH.  
At the time of the collision?

408 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

409 Senator SMITH.  
Can you tell how high above the [boat deck](#) that is?

410 Mr. FLEET.  
I have no idea.

411 Senator SMITH.  
Can you tell how high above the crow's nest the masthead is?

412 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

413 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know how far you were above the [bridge](#)?

414 Mr. FLEET.  
I am no hand at guessing.

415 Senator SMITH.  
I do not want you to guess; but, if you know, I would like to have you tell.

416 Mr. FLEET.  
I have no idea.

417 Senator FLETCHER.  
You hardly mean that; you have some idea?

418 Mr. FLEET.  
No; I do not.

419 Senator FLETCHER.  
You know whether it was a thousand feet or two hundred?

420 Senator SMITH.  
Was there any other officer or employee stationed at a higher point on the *Titanic* than you were?

421 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

422 Senator SMITH.  
You were the lookout?

423 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

424 Senator SMITH.  
Where are the [eyes](#) of the ship?

425 Mr. FLEET.  
The eyes of the ship?

426 Senator SMITH.  
The ship's eyes?

427 Mr. FLEET.  
Forward.

428 Senator SMITH.  
At the extreme bow?

429 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

430 Senator SMITH.  
And on the same level as the boat deck or below it?

431 Mr. FLEET.  
Below it.

432 Senator SMITH.  
How far below it?

433 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know, sir.

434 Senator SMITH.  
[Mr. Fleet](#), can you tell who was on the forward part of the *Titanic* Sunday night when you took your position in the crow's nest?

435 Mr. FLEET.  
There was nobody.

436 Senator SMITH.  
Nobody?

437 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

438 Senator SMITH.  
Who was on the bridge?

439 Mr. FLEET.  
When I went up to relieve the others?

440 Senator SMITH.  
Yes.

441 Mr. FLEET.  
[Mr. Murdoch.](#)

442 Senator SMITH.  
Officer Murdoch?

443 Mr. FLEET.  
First officer.

444 Senator SMITH.  
Who else?

445 Mr. FLEET.  
I think it was the third officer.

446 Senator SMITH.  
What was his name?

447 Mr. FLEET.  
The man that was here, [Pitman.](#)

448 Senator SMITH.  
Mr. Pitman, the man who just left the stand?

449 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know the officers on the bridge.

450 Senator SMITH.  
You do not recall any more of them?

451 Mr. FLEET.  
No; I do not know whether he was there or not.

452 Senator SMITH.  
I do not want any confusion if I can help it. I want to get this down right. Was the [captain](#) on the bridge?

453 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know, sir.

454 Senator SMITH.  
You did not see him?

455 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

456 Senator SMITH.  
What time did you take your watch Sunday night?

457 Mr. FLEET.  
Ten o'clock.

458 Senator NEWLANDS.  
Whom did you relieve?

459 Mr. FLEET.  
[Symons](#) and [Jewell.](#)

460 Senator SMITH.  
Who was with you on the watch?

461 Mr. FLEET.  
[Lee.](#)

462 Senator SMITH.  
What, if anything, did Symons and Jewell, or either one, say to you when you relieved them of the watch?

463 Mr. FLEET.  
They told us to keep a sharp lookout for small ice.

464 Senator SMITH.  
What did you say to them?

465 Mr. FLEET.  
I said "All right."

466 Senator SMITH.  
What did Lee say?

467 Mr. FLEET.  
He said the same.

468 Senator SMITH.  
And you took your position in the crow's nest?

469 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

470 Senator SMITH.  
Did you keep a sharp lookout for ice?

471 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

472 Senator SMITH.  
Tell what you did?

473 Mr. FLEET.  
Well, I reported an iceberg right ahead, a black mass.

474 Senator SMITH.  
When did you report that?

475 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not tell you the time.

476 Senator SMITH.  
About what time?

477 Mr. FLEET.  
Just after seven bells.

478 Senator SMITH.  
How long after you had taken your place in the crow's nest?

479 Mr. FLEET.  
The watch was nearly over. I had done the best part of the watch up in the nest.

480 Senator SMITH.  
How long a watch did you have?

481 Mr. FLEET.  
Two hours; but the time was going to be put back - that watch.

482 Senator SMITH.  
The time was to be set back?

483 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

484 Senator SMITH.  
Did that alter your time?

485 Mr. FLEET.  
We were to get about 2 hours and 20 minutes.

486 Senator SMITH.  
How long before the collision or accident did you report ice ahead?

487 Mr. FLEET.  
I have no idea.

488 Senator SMITH.  
About how long?

489 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say, at the rate she was going.

490 Senator SMITH.  
How fast was she going?

491 Mr. FLEET.  
I have no idea.

492 Senator SMITH.  
Would you be willing to say that you reported the presence of this iceberg an hour before the collision?

493 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

494 Senator SMITH.  
Forty-five minutes?

495 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

496 Senator SMITH.  
A half hour before?

497 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

498 Senator SMITH.  
Fifteen minutes before?

499 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

500 Senator SMITH.  
Ten minutes before?

501 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

502 Senator SMITH.  
How far away was this black mass when you first saw it?

503 Mr. FLEET.  
I have no idea, sir.

504 Senator SMITH.  
Can you not give us some idea? Did it impress you as serious?

505 Mr. FLEET.  
I reported it as soon as ever I seen it.

506 Senator SMITH.  
I want a complete record of it, you know. Give me, as nearly as you can, how far away it was when you saw it. You are accustomed to judging distances, are you not, from the crow's nest? You are there to look ahead and sight objects, are you not?

507 Mr. FLEET.  
We are only up there to report anything we see.

508 Senator SMITH.  
But you are expected to see and report anything in the path of the ship, are you not?

509 Mr. FLEET.  
Anything we see - a ship, or anything.

510 Senator SMITH.  
Anything you see?

511 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes; anything we see.

512 Senator SMITH.



Whether it be a field of ice, a "growler," or an iceberg, or any other substance?

513 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

514 Senator SMITH.  
Have you trained yourself so that you can see objects as you approach them with fair accuracy?

515 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know what you mean, sir.

516 Senator SMITH.  
If there had been a black object ahead of this ship, or a white one, a mile away, or 5 miles a way, 50 feet above the water or 150 feet above the water, would you have been able to see it, from your experience as a seaman?

517 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

518 Senator SMITH.  
When you see these things in the path of the ship, you report them?

519 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

520 Senator SMITH.  
What did you report when you saw this black mass Sunday night?

521 Mr. FLEET.  
I reported an iceberg right ahead.

522 Senator SMITH.  
To whom did you report that?

523 Mr. FLEET.  
I struck three bells first. Then I went straight to the telephone and rang them up on the bridge.

524 Senator SMITH.  
You struck three bells and went to the telephone and rang them up on the bridge?

525 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

526 Senator SMITH.  
Did you get anyone on the bridge?

527 Mr. FLEET.  
I got an answer straight away - what did I see, or "What did you see?"

528 Senator SMITH.  
Did the person who was talking to you tell you who he was? [Sixth Officer [Moody](#)]

529 Mr. FLEET.  
No. He just asked me what did I see. I told him an iceberg right ahead.

530 Senator SMITH.  
What did he say then?

531 Mr. FLEET.  
He said: "Thank you."

532 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know to whom you were talking?

533 Mr. FLEET.  
No; I do not know who it was.

534 Senator SMITH.  
What was the object in sending the three bells?

535 Mr. FLEET.  
That denotes an iceberg right ahead.

536 Senator SMITH.  
It denotes danger?

537 Mr. FLEET.  
No; it just tells them on the bridge that there is something about.

538 Senator SMITH.  
You took both precautions; you gave the three bells, and then you went and telephoned to the bridge?

539 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

540 Senator SMITH.  
Where did you have to go to telephone?

541 Mr. FLEET.  
The telephone is in the nest.

542 Senator SMITH.  
The telephone is right in the crow's nest?

543 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

544 Senator SMITH.  
You turned and communicated with the bridge from the nest?

545 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

546 Senator SMITH.  
Did you get a prompt response?

547 Mr. FLEET.  
I did.

548 Senator SMITH.  
And you made the statement that you have indicated?

549 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

550 Senator SMITH.  
Then what did you do?

551 Mr. FLEET.  
After I rang them up?

552 Senator SMITH.  
Yes, sir.

553 Mr. FLEET.  
I kept staring ahead again.

554 Senator SMITH.  
You remained in the crow's nest?

555 Mr. FLEET.  
I remained in the crow's nest until I got relief.

556 Senator SMITH.  
And Lee remained in the nest?

557 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

558 Senator SMITH.  
How long did you stay there?

559 Mr. FLEET.  
About a quarter of an hour to 20 minutes after.

560 Senator SMITH.  
After what?

561 Mr. FLEET.  
After the accident.

562 Senator SMITH.  
And then did you leave this place?

563 Mr. FLEET.  
We got relieved by the other two men.

564 Senator SMITH.  
The other two men came?

565 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

566 Senator SMITH.  
Did they go up?

567 Mr. FLEET.  
They came up in the nest.

568 Senator SMITH.  
And you got down?

569 Mr. FLEET.  
We got down; yes.

570 Senator SMITH.  
Can you not indicate, in any way, the length of time that elapsed between the time that you first gave this information by telephone and by bell to the bridge officer and the time the boat struck the iceberg?

571 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not tell you, sir.

572 Senator SMITH.  
You can not say?

573 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

574 Senator SMITH.  
You can not say whether it was five minutes or an hour?

575 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say, sir.

576 Senator SMITH.  
I wish you would tell the committee whether you apprehended danger when you sounded these signals and telephoned; whether you thought there was danger?

577 Mr. FLEET.  
No; no, sir. That is all we have to do up in the nest; to ring the bell, and if there is any danger ring them up on the telephone.

578 Senator SMITH.  
The fact that you did ring them up on the telephone indicated that you thought there was danger?

579 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

580 Senator SMITH.  
You thought there was danger?

581 Mr. FLEET.  
Well, it was so close to us. That is why I rang them up.

582 Senator SMITH.  
How large an object was this when you first saw it?

583 Mr. FLEET.  
It was not very large when I first saw it.

584 Senator SMITH.  
How large was it?

585 Mr. FLEET.  
I have no idea of distances or spaces.

586 Senator SMITH.  
Was it the size of an ordinary house? Was it as large as this room appears to be?

587 Mr. FLEET.  
No; no. It did not appear very large at all.

588 Senator SMITH.  
Was it as large as the table at which I am sitting?

589 Mr. FLEET.  
It would be as large as those two tables put together, when I saw it at first.

590 Senator SMITH.  
When you first saw it, it appeared about as large as these two tables put together?

591 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

592 Senator SMITH.  
Did it appear to get larger after you first saw it?

593 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes; it kept getting larger as we were getting nearer it.

594 Senator SMITH.  
As it was coming toward you and you were going toward it?

595 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

596 Senator SMITH.  
How large did it get to be, finally when it struck the ship?

597 Mr. FLEET.  
When we were alongside, it was a little bit higher than the [forecastle head](#).

598 Senator SMITH.  
The forecastle head is how high above the water line?

599 Mr. FLEET.  
Fifty feet, I should say.

600 Senator SMITH.  
About 50 feet?

601 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

602 Senator SMITH.  
So that this black mass, when it finally struck the boat, turned out to be about 50 feet above the water?

603 Mr. FLEET.  
About 50 or 60.

604 Senator SMITH.  
Fifty or sixty feet above the water?

605 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

606 Senator SMITH.  
And when you first saw it it looked no larger than these two tables?

607 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

608 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know whether the ship was stopped after you gave that telephone signal?

609 Mr. FLEET.  
No, no; she did not stop at all. She did not stop until she passed the iceberg.

610 Senator SMITH.  
She did not stop until she passed the iceberg?

611 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

612 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know whether her engines were reversed?

613 Mr. FLEET.  
Well, she started to go to port while I was at the telephone.

614 Senator SMITH.  
She started to go to port?

615 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes; the wheel was put to starboard.

616 Senator SMITH.  
How do you know that?

617 Mr. FLEET.  
My mate saw it and told me. He told me he could see the bow coming around.

618 Senator SMITH.  
They swung the ship's bow away from the object?

619 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes; because we were making straight for it.

620 Senator SMITH.  
But you saw the course altered? And the iceberg struck the ship at what point?

621 Mr. FLEET.  
On the starboard bow, just before the foremast.

622 Senator SMITH.  
How far would that be from the bow's end?

623 Mr. FLEET.  
From the stem?

624 Senator SMITH.  
From the stem.

625 Mr. FLEET.  
About 20 feet.

626 Senator SMITH.  
About 20 feet back from the stem?

627 Mr. FLEET.  
From the stem to where she hit.

628 Senator SMITH.  
When she struck this obstacle, or this black mass, was there much of a jar to the ship?

629 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

630 Senator SMITH.  
Was there any?

631 Mr. FLEET.  
Just a slight grinding noise.

632 Senator SMITH.  
Not sufficient to disturb you in your position in the crow's nest?

633 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

634 Senator SMITH.  
Did it alarm you seriously when it struck?

635 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; I thought it was a narrow shave.

636 Senator SMITH.  
You thought it was a narrow shave?

637 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

638 Senator SMITH.  
Did any of this ice break onto the decks?

639 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes; some on the forecastle light and some on the weather deck.

640 Senator SMITH.  
How much?

641 Mr. FLEET.  
Not much; only where she rubbed up against it.

642 Senator SMITH.  
Did Lee and you talk over this black object that you saw?

643 Mr. FLEET.  
Only up in the nest.

644 Senator SMITH.  
What did you say about it? What did he say about it to you or what did you say about it to him?

645 Mr. FLEET.  
Before I reported, I said, "There is ice ahead," and then I put my hand over to the bell and rang it three times, and then I went to the phone.

646 Senator SMITH.  
What did he say?

647 Mr. FLEET.  
He said nothing much. He just started looking. He was looking ahead while I was at the phone and he seen the ship go port.

648 Senator SMITH.  
Did Lee survive this wreck, or was he drowned?

649 Mr. FLEET.  
He is one that survived it.

650 Senator SMITH.  
You can not recollect just what he said to you when she struck?

651 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

652 Senator SMITH.  
Nor when you first sighted this black mass?

653 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

654 Senator SMITH.

Who sighted the black mass first; you or Lee?

655 Mr. FLEET.  
I did. I say I did, but I think he was just as soon as me.

656 Senator SMITH.  
Were you both looking ahead?

657 Mr. FLEET.  
We were looking all over the place, all around.

658 Senator SMITH.  
All over the sea?

659 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

660 Senator SMITH.  
Had you been especially directed to look carefully?

661 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

662 Senator SMITH.  
By whom?

663 Mr. FLEET.  
By the mates we relieved; by the other two lookout men.

664 Senator SMITH.  
Were you told to do so by Officer Murdoch?

665 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir. We got our order from [Mr. Lightoller](#), and passed it on to the lookouts as they get relieved.

666 Senator SMITH.  
Mr. Lightoller gave the order to your mates?

667 Mr. FLEET.  
And they passed it on to us.

668 Senator SMITH.  
Is that usual?

669 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir; as we get relieved we pass it on to the other men.

670 Senator SMITH.  
If any orders come in the meantime to you, you pass them on?

671 Mr. FLEET.  
To the next two lookout men.

672 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know what time it was when you saw that iceberg?

673 Mr. FLEET.  
I have no idea, sir.

674 Senator SMITH.  
Did you carry a watch?

675 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

676 Senator SMITH.  
You made no record of it in any way?

677 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

678 Senator SMITH.

You went to the lookout at 10 o'clock?  
679 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
680 Senator SMITH.  
Whom did you relieve?  
681 Mr. FLEET.  
Symons and Jewell.  
682 Senator SMITH.  
Did they tell you they had seen icebergs?  
683 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; they only gave us the orders to look out for them.  
684 Senator SMITH.  
But they did not say they had seen any?  
685 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
686 Senator SMITH.  
Were you four men the only men that occupied this position in the boat?  
687 Mr. FLEET.  
There were six.  
688 Senator SMITH.  
Who were the other two?  
689 Mr. FLEET.  
Hogg and Evans.  
690 Senator SMITH.  
Did they survive the wreck?  
691 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
692 Senator SMITH.  
All of the lookouts survived?  
693 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
694 Senator SMITH.  
Where do these last two men live? Do you know?  
695 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; there is one here.  
696 Senator SMITH.  
Which one?  
697 Mr. FLEET.  
Hogg and Symons are here besides me. The other three have gone home.  
698 Senator SMITH.  
Lee?  
699 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know where Lee is. He got detained in New York.  
700 Senator SMITH.  
What is the watch? It is two hours on and -  
701 Mr. FLEET.  
And four hours off.  
702 Senator SMITH.  
Who was on watch from 8 to 10 that night in the crow's nest or lookout?  
703 Mr. FLEET.



Symons and Jewell.  
704 Senator SMITH.  
Who was on watch from 6 to 8?  
705 Mr. FLEET.  
Hogg and Evans.  
706 Senator SMITH.  
Did either of these mates of yours say anything about having seen icebergs Sunday or  
Sunday evening?  
707 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
708 Senator SMITH.  
Your last watch before 10 o'clock was from 4 to 6, was it not?  
709 Mr. FLEET.  
From four to six; Yes, sir.  
710 Senator SMITH.  
And from four to six did you see any icebergs?  
711 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
712 Senator SMITH.  
Up there in the crow's nest, are there any indications of the presence of ice off the Grand  
Banks of Newfoundland?  
713 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
714 Senator SMITH.  
Does the weather change on the Newfoundland Banks?  
715 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir. It is all open in the nest, sir.  
716 Senator SMITH.  
Was that a cold night - Sunday?  
717 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
718 Senator SMITH.  
What protection against the weather have you in the crow's nest?  
719 Mr. FLEET.  
We have nothing ahead, and there are just two bits of screen behind us.  
720 Senator SMITH.  
Canvas?  
721 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
722 Senator SMITH.  
And nothing ahead?  
723 Mr. FLEET.  
Nothing in front.  
724 Senator SMITH.  
So your view is unobstructed?  
725 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
726 Senator SMITH.  
Are you given glasses of any kind?  
727 Mr. FLEET.

We had none this time. We had nothing at all, only our own eyes, to look out.

728 Senator SMITH.  
On the [Oceanic](#) you had glasses, had you not?

729 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

730 Senator SMITH.  
Each of you?

731 Mr. FLEET.  
There is one pair in the nest.

732 Senator SMITH.  
One pair of glasses?

733 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

734 Senator SMITH.  
What kind of glasses are they; strong, powerful glasses?

735 Mr. FLEET.  
No, not always, sir.

736 Senator SMITH.  
What were those on the [Oceanic](#)?

737 Mr. FLEET.  
Very poor; you could see about from here to that looking-glass (indicating).

738 Senator SMITH.  
Did you make any request for glasses on the [Titanic](#)?

739 Mr. FLEET.  
We asked them in Southampton, and they said there was none for us.

740 Senator SMITH.  
Whom did you ask?

741 Mr. FLEET.  
They said there was none intended for us.

742 Senator SMITH.  
Whom did you ask?

743 Mr. FLEET.  
We asked Mr. Lightoller, the second officer.

744 Senator SMITH.  
Did you make the request yourself?

745 Mr. FLEET.  
No; the station lookout men did, Hogg and Evans.

746 Senator SMITH.  
How do you know they made it?

747 Mr. FLEET.  
Because they told us.

748 Senator SMITH.  
Where did they tell you; after leaving Southampton?

749 Mr. FLEET.  
In Southampton, and afterwards.

750 Senator SMITH.  
You expected glasses?

751 Mr. FLEET.  
We had a pair from Belfast to Southampton.

752 Senator SMITH.

You had a pair of glasses from Belfast to Southampton?

753 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir; but none from Southampton to New York.

754 Senator SMITH.  
Where did those go that you had from Belfast to Southampton?

755 Mr. FLEET.  
We do not know that. We only know we never got a pair.

756 Senator SMITH.  
And you had none from Southampton to the place of this accident?

757 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

758 Senator SMITH.  
Suppose you had had glasses such as you had on the Oceanic, or such as you had between Belfast and Southampton, could you have seen this black object a greater distance?

759 Mr. FLEET.  
We could have seen it a bit sooner.

760 Senator SMITH.  
How much sooner?

761 Mr. FLEET.  
Well, enough to get out of the way.

762 Senator SMITH.  
Did you and your mates discuss with one another the fact that you had no glasses?

763 Mr. FLEET.  
We discussed it all together, between us.

764 Senator SMITH.  
Did you express surprise or regret that you had none?

765 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know what you mean.

766 Senator SMITH.  
Were you disappointed that you had no glasses?

767 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

768 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know whether the officer on the bridge had glasses?

769 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

770 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see him using them?

771 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

772 Senator SMITH.  
Who was on the bow of that boat, if anyone, Sunday evening, forward of the bridge?

773 Mr. FLEET.  
There was nobody forward of it.

774 Senator SMITH.  
Nobody forward of the bridge?

775 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; we were the only ones that were forward - up in the nest.

776 Senator SMITH.  
And there was no one else?

777 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

778 Senator SMITH.  
What time did you have your supper that night; Sunday night?

779 Mr. FLEET.  
What? Tea?

780 Senator SMITH.  
Yes.

781 Mr. FLEET.  
Five o'clock.

782 Senator SMITH.  
In the mess?

783 Mr. FLEET.  
In the mess, sir.

784 Senator SMITH.  
You were not in the habit of eating your meals in the crow's nest?

785 Mr. FLEET.  
Oh, no, sir.

786 Senator SMITH.  
Did you have any other business in the crow's nest, you and your mates, except to keep a sharp lookout ahead?

787 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

788 Senator SMITH.  
And that was your business?

789 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

790 Senator SMITH.  
And has been your business how long ?

791 Mr. FLEET.  
For the last four years and a half. I went straight from the Oceanic to the Titanic.

792 Senator SMITH.  
What wages do you receive?

793 Mr. FLEET.  
Five pounds a month, and five shillings lookout money.

794 Senator SMITH.  
What is the lookout money for?

795 Mr. FLEET.  
It is what we get from the company. It has nothing to do with the pay. It is just £5 a month, and then 5 shillings for the lookout.

796 Senator SMITH.  
That lookout money means for your special service?

797 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

798 Senator SMITH.  
Is that paid to you at the end of each month?

799 Mr. FLEET.  
Each voyage.

800 Senator SMITH.  
Did all of the lookout men on the Titanic get the same pay?

801 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

802 Senator SMITH.  
Are you a married or a single man?

803 Mr. FLEET.  
Single.

804 Senator SMITH.  
Tell the committee what you did after you left the crow's nest that night.

805 Mr. FLEET.  
I went down below and I found there was nobody down there, and the quartermaster come down and said we were all wanted on the bridge.

806 Senator SMITH.  
Did you go up to the bridge?

807 Mr. FLEET.  
I went up on the boat deck.

808 Senator SMITH.  
What did they say to you up there?

809 Mr. FLEET.  
I did not see anyone there; I seen them all at the boats, getting them ready and putting them out.

810 Senator SMITH.  
The lifeboats?

811 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

812 Senator SMITH.  
What did you do?

813 Mr. FLEET.  
I helped to get the port boat out.

814 Senator SMITH.  
The fourth one?

815 Mr. FLEET.  
The port-side lifeboat. I got No. 6 out.

816 Senator SMITH.  
How many of those boats did you help lower?

817 Mr. FLEET.  
I lowered No. 6 to the rail.

818 Senator SMITH.  
How many sailors or men of the crew were put into No. 6?

819 Mr. FLEET.  
There was me and one quartermaster.

820 Senator SMITH.  
Yourself and one quartermaster?

821 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

822 Senator SMITH.  
Was that all of the crew or officers that were in that boat?

823 Mr. FLEET.  
That is all. No officers; just us two.

824 Senator SMITH.  
You and the quartermaster?

825 Mr. FLEET.  
Me and Quartermaster Hichens.

826 Senator SMITH.  
Did he survive?

827 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir; he is staying in New York.

828 Senator SMITH.  
After lowering the lifeboat to the boat deck, did he get in first or you?

829 Mr. FLEET.  
I was told by Mr. Lightoller to get in the boat and help the women in.

830 Senator SMITH.  
You got in by direction of the second officer?

831 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

832 Senator SMITH.  
And helped the women in?

833 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

834 Senator SMITH.  
How many men were in that boat?

835 Mr. FLEET.  
Five.

836 Senator SMITH.  
Who were they?

837 Mr. FLEET.  
Three men passengers and two of the crew.

838 Senator SMITH.  
Who were the passengers?

839 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know. There was one steerage and two first.

840 Senator SMITH.  
You do not know who they were?

841 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

842 Senator SMITH.  
Have you ever seen them since?

843 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

844 Senator SMITH.  
How many women or children were there in the boat?

845 Mr. FLEET.  
There was no children. They were all women. I could not tell how many because I did not count them.

846 Senator SMITH.  
Was the boat full?

847 Mr. FLEET.  
It was full up, but it could have took a few more forward, where I was.

848 Senator SMITH.  
How many do you think you had in it all together?

849 Mr. FLEET.

About 30.  
850 Senator SMITH.  
Was it the regular lifeboat, the large size?  
851 Mr. FLEET.  
One of the wooden lifeboats.  
852 Senator SMITH.  
You got about 30 people in there, and then it was lowered to the water?  
853 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
854 Senator SMITH.  
And what did you do then?  
855 Mr. FLEET.  
We got the oars and pulled for the light that was on the port bow.  
856 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see it?  
857 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
858 Senator SMITH.  
What happened there?  
859 Mr. FLEET.  
We could not get up to it.  
860 Senator SMITH.  
Why not?  
861 Mr. FLEET.  
There were only two of us pulling.  
862 Senator SMITH.  
You could not get up to it?  
863 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
864 Senator SMITH.  
How close could you get to it?  
865 Mr. FLEET.  
She was getting away off.  
866 Senator SMITH.  
At that time were there any persons in the water?  
867 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
868 Senator SMITH.  
Did you hear any cries of distress?  
869 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
870 Senator SMITH.  
When you found you could not get up to it, what did you do?  
871 Mr. FLEET.  
We kept on pulling; that is all.  
872 Senator SMITH.  
In that direction; away from the boat?  
873 Mr. FLEET.  
Away from the boat.  
874 Senator SMITH.

Away from the Titanic?

875 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

876 Senator SMITH.  
Did you keep right on pulling away?

877 Mr. FLEET.  
We kept on pulling.

878 Senator SMITH.  
And did not stop?

879 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

880 Senator SMITH.  
Toward what did you pull?

881 Mr. FLEET.  
We thought we could get up to this light, but we could not. It seemed to be getting away from us all the time.

882 Senator SMITH.  
What light was it?

883 Mr. FLEET.  
It was a light on the port bow. She seemed to be abreast of us.

884 Senator SMITH.  
Are you now talking of the Titanic?

885 Mr. FLEET.  
Abreast of the Titanic.

886 Senator SMITH.  
From the time you started to pull away from the Titanic's side, did anyone try to get into your boat?

887 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

888 Senator SMITH.  
Did anyone try to get out of it?

889 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

890 Senator SMITH.  
Did anyone step into your boat, man or woman, and then step out of it?

891 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir. There was just one passenger, when we was lowering away, come in the boat.

892 Senator SMITH.  
Who was that?

893 Mr. FLEET.  
One of the men passengers.

894 Senator SMITH.  
Who was it; do you know?

895 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know who he was, sir.

896 Senator SMITH.  
When you were lowering away?

897 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

898 Senator SMITH.



How far had you gotten below the boat deck?

899 Mr. FLEET.  
It was not very far; just about the length of the table down. He got over the life lanyard and swung in and come down the fall.

900 Senator SMITH.  
You took no other persons aboard this lifeboat from that time?

901 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

902 Senator SMITH.  
And landed all of your occupants of that boat alongside of the [Carpathia](#)?

903 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

904 Senator SMITH.  
During the time you were waiting for the Carpathia, were you rowing the boat away or lying on your oars?

905 Mr. FLEET.  
We pulled until we were clear of the suction of the Titanic.

906 Senator SMITH.  
Pulled away from the Titanic?

907 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

908 Senator SMITH.  
Assuming there would be suction when she went down?

909 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

910 Senator SMITH.  
Was there any?

911 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; we were too far off.

912 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see her go down?

913 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

914 Senator SMITH.  
Why not?

915 Mr. FLEET.  
The lights were out, and we were too far away.

916 Senator SMITH.  
You could not see her when she disappeared?

917 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

918 Senator SMITH.  
Where were you picked up by the Carpathia, near the Titanic?

919 Mr. FLEET.  
When we sighted the lights of the Carpathia, we pulled toward her again.

920 Senator SMITH.  
And were picked up by her?

921 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir; right alongside.

922 Senator SMITH.

After getting alongside the Carpathia you did not take your lifeboat back to the scene of the wreck?

923 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

924 Senator SMITH.  
You got aboard the Carpathia?

925 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

926 Senator SMITH.  
Were there lights of any other vessels in sight when you came down from the crow's nest?

927 Mr. FLEET.  
There was no lights at all when we was up in the crow's nest. This is after we was down and on the boats; then I seen the light.

928 Senator SMITH.  
Where did you see it?

929 Mr. FLEET.  
On the port bow. The other lookout reported it.

930 Senator SMITH.  
How far ahead?

931 Mr. FLEET.  
It was not ahead; it was on the bow, about four points.

932 Senator SMITH.  
I am not speaking of that. I wanted to know whether you saw ahead, while you were on the watch, on the lookout, Sunday night, after the collision occurred or before, any lights of any other ship.

933 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

934 Senator SMITH.  
You saw no lights at all?

935 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

936 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see any rockets fired from the deck of the Titanic?

937 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir; when we were in the boat and when we were on the deck before I went in the boat.

938 Senator SMITH.  
But you saw no lights ahead that indicated the presence of another vessel?

939 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

940 Senator SMITH.  
Or while you were in the crow's nest?

941 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

942 Senator SMITH.  
Nor any other object except the one you have described?

943 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

944 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see any other icebergs; field ice, or growlers while you were in the crow's nest

Sunday or Sunday night?  
945 Mr. FLEET.  
Only the one I reported right ahead.  
946 Senator SMITH.  
Only that one?  
947 Mr. FLEET.  
That is all.  
948 Senator SMITH.  
I think that is all at this time, and if I want you again I will send you word. Will you just remain subject to the committee's call?  
949 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
950 Senator NEWLANDS.  
I want to ask just one question. Can you see with glasses at night as well as during the day?  
951 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
952 Senator SMITH.  
What color were the lights toward which you were pulling when you were on the lifeboat?  
953 Mr. FLEET.  
A bright light.  
954 Senator SMITH.  
White -  
955 Mr. FLEET. (interrupting)  
White; yes.  
956 Senator SMITH.  
White, green, or what?  
957 Mr. FLEET.  
A white light.  
958 Senator SMITH.  
How many were there?  
959 Mr. FLEET.  
One.  
960 Senator SMITH.  
I wish you would return at half past 3, Mr. Fleet, and I would like also to have Maj. Peuchen present at 3.30 as well.  
961 Day 5  
962 Testimony of Frederick Fleet, recalled  
963 Senator BURTON.  
Mr. Fleet, while you were acting as lookout man were your eyes examined?  
964 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
965 Senator BURTON.  
How frequently?  
966 Mr. FLEET.  
We are supposed to have them examined every year, or every two years.  
967 Senator BURTON.  
How long before you sailed on the Titanic were yours examined?  
968 Mr. FLEET.  
About a year ago.

969 Senator BURTON.  
What was the nature of the test?

970 Mr. FLEET.  
As to color, and looking at a distance.

971 Senator BURTON.  
That is, you would look at some point on or near the sea, and your eyes were tested to see how you could descry objects on the sea?

972 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

973 Senator BURTON.  
What color can you distinguish most easily, green, red, or white?

974 Mr. FLEET.  
The whole lot, sir.

975 Senator BURTON.  
Equally well?

976 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

977 Senator BURTON.  
That is, red -

978 Mr. FLEET. (interrupting)  
Green -

979 Senator BURTON.  
Green as readily as white?

980 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

981 Senator BURTON.  
You say you had had glasses until this trip?

982 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

983 Senator BURTON.  
On every trip on any boat of the White Star Line?

984 Mr. FLEET.  
It is only the Oceanic I have been lookout on.

985 Senator BURTON.  
Did you have the same glasses for night and for day?

986 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

987 Senator BURTON.  
And the glasses that are useful for day are also useful for night?

988 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

989 Senator BURTON.  
Equally useful?

990 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

991 Senator BURTON.  
When you use the glasses you look straight ahead only, at a part of the course before you, do you not?

992 Mr. FLEET.  
We look all over the horizon.

993 Senator BURTON.  
That is, you look around in every direction?

994 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

995 Senator BURTON.  
And until this trip you had the use of glasses?

996 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

997 Senator BURTON.  
You were not using them on this trip. Who conducted these tests as to your eyesight?

998 Mr. FLEET.  
What do you mean, Senator?

999 Senator BURTON.  
When you were examined as to your eyes, as to what you could see who examined you?

1000 Mr. FLEET.  
The Board of Trade.

1001 Senator BURTON.  
An officer of the Board of Trade?

1002 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1003 Senator BURTON.  
Were there any examinations by the officers of the ship?

1004 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; they just asked us if we had eyesight tests.

1005 Senator BURTON.  
You saw some light on the horizon that night?

1006 Mr. FLEET.  
Not on the lookout, sir.

1007 Senator BURTON.  
Not on the lookout?

1008 Mr. FLEET.  
The only thing we saw was the iceberg. We had no light on that watch.

1009 Senator BURTON.  
You did not see this light of which mention has been made until you got into the lifeboat?

1010 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1011 Senator BURTON.  
What was it?

1012 Mr. FLEET.  
A bright light on the port bow, sir.

1013 Senator BURTON.  
On the port bow?

1014 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

1015 Senator BURTON.  
Was it moving, or was it stationary?

1016 Mr. FLEET.  
It did not seem to be moving at all.

1017 Senator BURTON.  
Are you sure it was a light?

1018 Mr. FLEET.  
It was a light, all right, because Mr. Lightoller, when I got into the boat made us pull straight for it.

1019 Senator BURTON.  
What did you think it was?

1020 Mr. FLEET.  
It might have been a fisher sail, or something; it was only just one bright light. I could not say what it was.

1021 Senator BURTON.  
You were in the boat with Mr. Hichens and this gentleman who was on the stand yesterday?

1022 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1023 Senator BURTON.  
Mr. Hichens thought it was a light on a boat, did he?

1024 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes. Mr. Lightoller made us pull toward it. He seen at as well as us.

1025 Senator BURTON.  
You saw it before you got off the Titanic?

1026 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1027 Senator BURTON.  
What became of that light?

1028 Mr. FLEET.  
We did not know. We pulled for it, but we did not seem to get any nearer to it.

1029 Senator BURTON.  
Did it finally disappear?

1030 Mr. FLEET.  
No. Well, it disappeared by daybreak.

1031 Senator BURTON.  
That is all on that?

1032 You did not get any nearer to it? It was not any more visible; that is, any plainer to you; you could not see it any more plainly?

1033 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; you could just see the light.

1034 Senator BURTON.  
You say when you first saw that iceberg that it was about the size of these two tables, apparently? That is the way it looked to you?

1035 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1036 Senator BURTON.  
Was it a mile away, or how far away was it?

1037 Mr. FLEET.  
I can not say.

1038 Senator BURTON.  
Can you not give any estimate?

1039 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1040 Senator BURTON.  
Was it half a mile away?

1041 Mr. FLEET.  
I can not say. It was impossible to tell.

1042 Senator BURTON.  
Was it as far away as the boat's length?

1043 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say.

1044 Senator BURTON.  
Can you not say anything about it?

1045 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1046 Senator BURTON.  
Immediately when you saw it, you sounded the three gongs, did you?

1047 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

1048 Senator BURTON.  
Did you, then, immediately after that, pick up the telephone?

1049 Mr. FLEET.  
I went up to the telephone as soon as ever I struck three bells.

1050 Senator BURTON.  
And telephoned to the bridge?

1051 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1052 Senator BURTON.  
And you got an answer immediately, did you?

1053 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1054 Senator BURTON.  
Did you notice how quickly they turned the course of the boat after you sounded the gongs?

1055 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; they did not do it until I went to the telephone. While I was at the telephone the ship started to move.

1056 Senator BURTON.  
You saw this, then, before or just after seven bells?

1057 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1058 Senator BURTON.  
Was it just before or just after?

1059 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not think we struck seven bells. I believe it was just after seven bells.

1060 Senator BURTON.  
You said you did not believe that they struck seven bells, and then you said it was just after.

1061 Mr. FLEET.  
It may have been just after. We never, generally, ring bells up in the crow's nest every half hour; we generally miss it.

1062 Senator BURTON.  
Then it was just after half-past 11 o'clock that you saw it?

1063 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1064 Senator BURTON.  
Did you send another message to the bridge after that?

1065 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1066 Senator BURTON.  
Could they have heard you on the bridge if you had cried out?

1067 Mr. FLEET.  
I dare say they could.

1068 Senator BURTON.  
How soon after you telephoned to the bridge did you strike the berg?

1069 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know.

1070 Senator BURTON.  
Was it one minute or two?

1071 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not tell you.

1072 Senator BURTON.  
What did you do in the meanwhile?

1073 Mr. FLEET.  
We just kept a lookout.

1074 Senator BURTON.  
You came nearer and nearer to it?

1075 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1076 Senator BURTON.  
Did you notice that the boat was bearing out to the left from the berg, or was it going right ahead toward it?

1077 Mr. FLEET.  
It was going right ahead, as far we knew; but when I was at the phone it was going to port.

1078 Senator BURTON.  
You could see that, yourself?

1079 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir; after I got up from the phone.

1080 Senator BURTON.  
You say it struck the port bow, 50 feet from the bow?

1081 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1082 Senator BURTON.  
And it was not up as far as the crow's nest, where you were?

1083 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1084 Senator BURTON.  
It was about 50 or 60 feet high?

1085 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

1086 Senator BURTON.  
That is right?

1087 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1088 Senator BURTON.



It was about 50 or 60 feet high?

1089 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

1090 Senator BURTON.  
Did the pieces of ice come over into the crow's nest, where you were?

1091 Mr. FLEET.  
Oh, no; just on the forecastle head, on the well deck.

1092 Senator BURTON.  
I think that is all I care to ask him, Mr. Chairman.

1093 Senator SMITH.  
Senator Newlands, do you wish to ask the witness any questions?

1094 Senator BURTON.  
I shall ask to be excused for awhile.

1095 Senator SMITH.  
For how long, Senator?

1096 Senator BURTON.  
Probably during the morning period.

1097 Senator NEWLANDS.  
I shall ask to be excused, also.

1098 Senator SMITH.  
Do you care to ask any questions first?

1099 Senator NEWLANDS.  
Not just at this time.

1100 Senator BURTON.  
There is one question that I would like to ask this man in addition to what I have already asked him: When you use the glasses or have the glasses to use, what part of the time do you have the glasses to your eyes and what part of the time do you depend on your naked eyesight?

1101 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know what you mean, sir.

1102 Senator BURTON.  
Suppose you had those glasses; would you have them to your eyes most of the time, using them?

1103 Mr. FLEET.  
No; no.

1104 Senator BURTON.  
What part of the time?

1105 Mr. FLEET.  
If we fancied we saw anything on the horizon, then we would have the glasses to make sure.

1106 Senator BURTON.  
That is, if you saw anything on the horizon with the naked eye? You understand what I mean by that, do you not?

1107 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1108 Senator BURTON.  
That is, you would use the glasses -

1109 Mr. FLEET.  
You would use the glasses to make sure, before you reported.

1110 Senator BURTON.

Then you depend on your eyesight to see; before you use the glasses?

1111 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

1112 Senator BURTON.  
And if you have any doubt about it you use the glasses, then?

1113 Mr. FLEET.  
That is it.

1114 Senator BURTON.  
That is all I have to ask, Mr. Chairman.

1115 Senator SMITH.  
Senator Fletcher, do you wish to interrogate the witness?

1116 Senator FLETCHER.  
You say that you were told by the men that you relieved on the lookout, to watch out for small ice?

1117 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1118 Senator FLETCHER.  
Was that the language, "small ice?"

1119 Mr. FLEET.  
"Small ice" yes, sir.

1120 Senator FLETCHER.  
What did that mean to you?

1121 Mr. FLEET.  
Growlers - what they call growlers; just this low lying ice.

1122 Senator SMITH.  
You understood that to mean floating ice that was not dangerous, as well as growlers and icebergs?

1123 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1124 Senator FLETCHER.  
What do seven bells indicate?

1125 Mr. FLEET.  
What do seven bells indicate?

1126 Senator FLETCHER.  
Yes.

1127 Mr. FLEET.  
Half-past 11.

1128 Senator FLETCHER.  
It was, then, just about that time when you gave the warning of the iceberg ahead?

1129 Mr. FLEET.  
Just a little after that.

1130 Senator FLETCHER.  
What does three bells mean?

1131 Mr. FLEET.  
Three bells?

1132 Senator FLETCHER.  
Yes.

1133 Mr. FLEET.  
It is all according to the time we are up on the lookout.

1134 Senator FLETCHER.

You say that you gave three bells.

1135 Mr. FLEET.  
Oh, three bells: That means a vessel, or whatever it is, right ahead. It indicates anything right ahead; any object.

1136 Senator FLETCHER.  
It indicates that there is some object right ahead? Is it a warning to people on the bridge that there is danger ahead?

1137 Mr. FLEET.  
No; not always; just to let them know that there is some object ahead.

1138 Senator FLETCHER.  
Yes. When you gave the three bells did you immediately turn to the telephone?

1139 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1140 Senator FLETCHER.  
How long were you at the telephone?

1141 Mr. FLEET.  
I suppose half a minute.

1142 Senator FLETCHER.  
When you turned from the telephone and observed the course of the ship, you saw she had turned to port?

1143 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1144 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did she turn immediately and suddenly, or gradually, to port?

1145 Mr. FLEET.  
Just started to go as I looked up.

1146 Senator FLETCHER.  
Just started to go to port?

1147 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1148 Senator FLETCHER.  
To what extent did she change her course from the direct line?

1149 Mr. FLEET.  
You mean how far did she go?

1150 Senator FLETCHER.  
Yes.

1151 Mr. FLEET.  
A little over a point, or two points.

1152 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did she seem to respond readily to the wheel?

1153 Mr. FLEET.  
Well, we do not know that. We only know she went.

1154 Senator FLETCHER.  
You could see she was going?

1155 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1156 Senator FLETCHER.  
And did she continue to bear to port?

1157 Mr. FLEET.  
Until the iceberg was alongside of her.

1158 Senator FLETCHER.  
Could you tell whether or not the iceberg was moving; and if so, to what extent?

1159 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say.

1160 Senator FLETCHER.  
You could not say?

1161 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1162 Senator FLETCHER.  
It was the submerged portion of the iceberg that did the damage to the ship, was it not?

1163 Mr. FLEET.  
I suppose so.

1164 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did the ship strike the portion above the water?

1165 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say. I know when we got up to it, it struck our bow - a little of our bow.

1166 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did it strike the bow or just back of the bow?

1167 Mr. FLEET.  
Just about in front of the foremast.

1168 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did it tilt the ship to any extent?

1169 Mr. FLEET.  
She listed to port right afterwards.

1170 Senator FLETCHER.  
To what extent?

1171 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say; a slight list.

1172 Senator FLETCHER.  
Just immediately on striking the berg?

1173 Mr. FLEET.  
Just afterwards.

1174 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did it seem that the blow came beneath the surface of the water and caused her to shift?

1175 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1176 Senator FLETCHER.  
You say the berg was some 50 feet above the surface, some 50 feet in height. Did you get an idea of the dimensions of that berg, as to its length and width?

1177 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1178 Senator FLETCHER.  
Even when you hit against it?

1179 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1180 Senator FLETCHER.  
Why not?

1181 Mr. FLEET.  
I am not a good judge of distance; I could not say.

1182 Senator FLETCHER.

Could you not tell?  
1183 Mr. FLEET.  
No; I could not.  
1184 Senator FLETCHER.  
When you first saw it, it was as large as these two tables?  
1185 Mr. FLEET.  
When we first saw it; that is about all.  
1186 Senator FLETCHER.  
And it gradually grew in size?  
1187 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
1188 Senator FLETCHER.  
Until you got right on it. Then, could you tell how large it appeared?  
1189 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
1190 Senator FLETCHER.  
You say you helped to load No. 6 and No. 8 lifeboats on the port side?  
1191 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
1192 Senator FLETCHER.  
Have you ever had any experience in loading boats of that kind; had you had any  
experience before that?  
1193 Mr. FLEET.  
We always do it on the White Star - practicing.  
1194 Senator FLETCHER.  
You mean practicing or drill?  
1195 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
1196 Senator FLETCHER.  
Had you ever had any practice kind on this ship?  
1197 Mr. FLEET.  
We had it the day of sailing, in Southampton.  
1198 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did you participate in that?  
1199 Mr. FLEET.  
I went in one of the boats.  
1200 Senator FLETCHER.  
You say that in No. 6 boat there were about 30 people, all told?  
1201 Mr. FLEET.  
As far as I can judge.  
1202 Senator FLETCHER.  
How many were there in No. 8?  
1203 Mr. FLEET.  
It was too dark to count.  
1204 Senator FLETCHER.  
But you saw them afterwards? You went in No. 6, did you not?  
1205 Mr. FLEET.  
But we did not count them. When she came alongside of the [Carpathia](#) we did not count  
them then.  
1206 Senator FLETCHER.

When you went alongside of the Carpathia it was broad daylight?

1207 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes; but I did not trouble to count them.

1208 Senator FLETCHER.  
You just made an estimate that there were about 30 people?

1209 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

1210 Senator FLETCHER.  
Do you think there were about the same number in lifeboat No. 8?

1211 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say. I do not know what number went in No. 8. As soon as I loaded No. 6 and No. 8, Mr. Lightoller made me get in No. 6 and ship the rudder and put the women in.

1212 Senator FLETCHER.  
Was No. 8 loaded after No. 6?

1213 Mr. FLEET.  
It was.

1214 Senator FLETCHER.  
It was lowered after No. 6, was it?

1215 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.

1216 Senator FLETCHER.  
How many other boats did you see lowered?

1217 Mr. FLEET.  
I not see any more, because as soon as we got in the water he made us pull for the light.

1218 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did you see any lowered before No. 6?

1219 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1220 Senator FLETCHER.  
And that was the first time you had seen that light you pulled for?

1221 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1222 Senator FLETCHER.  
Could you say whether or not you loaded all the people in No. 6 that could be safely loaded in the boat?

1223 Mr. FLEET.  
Well, I loaded all the women; I got in No. 6 all the women that were knocking around the deck at that time, those who were around the boat at the time.

1224 Senator FLETCHER.  
Were there any women left on the deck who did not get in the boats?

1225 Mr. FLEET.  
I did not see any. All what was there got in the boats. But they may have come up afterwards, when we were lowered. I could not say.

1226 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did you call for all that were about to come and get in the boats?

1227 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1228 Senator FLETCHER.  
Were there any men left who did not get in the boats?

1229 Mr. FLEET.

Yes; there were men there, but the order was "only women."

1230 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did men ask to get into the boats?

1231 Mr. FLEET.  
What is that?

1232 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did the men ask to be allowed to get into the boats?

1233 Mr. FLEET.  
No.

1234 Senator FLETCHER.  
During the time you have been serving as lookout have you been accustomed to use glasses?

1235 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1236 Senator FLETCHER.  
This was the first trip you had ever taken where you did not have glasses?

1237 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes sir.

1238 Senator FLETCHER.  
Where did you ask for glasses?

1239 Mr. FLEET.  
We asked for them before we left Southampton - if there was any glasses for the lookout - and they told us there was none intended for them. We had glasses in Belfast.

1240 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did you after that ask for glasses?

1241 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir; before the ship left Southampton.

1242 Senator FLETCHER.  
But I say, after that?

1243 Mr. FLEET.  
There was no use asking for them when they told us that.

1244 Senator FLETCHER.  
Were there not glasses on the bridge and other parts of the ship?

1245 Mr. FLEET.  
We did not know about that. We only knew that we had a pair in Belfast; and then, when we asked for them after that, they told us that there were none for us.

1246 Senator FLETCHER.  
What became of those glasses you had at Belfast?

1247 Mr. FLEET.  
I do not know. I suppose they were on the bridge.

1248 Senator SMITH.  
Do you remember the number of the lifeboat you were in?

1249 Mr. FLEET.  
No.6.

1250 Senator SMITH.  
Who was the officer in the lifeboat?

1251 Mr. FLEET.  
There was none. There was only me and Quartermaster Hichens.

1252 Senator SMITH.  
What is the name of the quartermaster, Hichens?

1253 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1254 Senator SMITH.  
Is that the lifeboat that Maj. Peuchen was in?

1255 Mr. FLEET.  
The gentleman that was speaking yesterday?

1256 Senator SMITH.  
The same one.

1257 Mr. FLEET.  
The same one.

1258 Senator SMITH.  
Will you tell the committee, as far as you can, what the quartermaster did. Did he take charge of the lifeboat?

1259 Mr. FLEET.  
He took charge.

1260 Senator SMITH.  
What did he do; where did he sit in the boat?

1261 Mr. FLEET.  
At the tiller; at the tiller all the time.

1262 Senator SMITH.  
All the time?

1263 Mr. FLEET.  
All the time.

1264 Senator SMITH.  
You are quite sure that a lady in that boat, a woman, did not have the tiller?

1265 Mr. FLEET.  
I am sure of it; positive.

1266 Senator SMITH.  
A Mrs. Douglas?

1267 Mr. FLEET.  
Nobody. Just the quartermaster who was there all of the time.

1268 Senator SMITH.  
You took an oar, I suppose?

1269 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1270 Senator SMITH.  
And did Maj. Peuchen take an oar?

1271 Mr. FLEET.  
He was right alongside of me. I was on the starboard side and he was on the port side.

1272 Senator SMITH.  
What other men were in the boat?

1273 Mr. FLEET.  
We had a stowaway. Where he came from I do not know.

1274 Senator SMITH.  
When did you first see him?

1275 Mr. FLEET.  
He was underneath the seat. We saw him as soon as we got clear He showed himself then.

1276 Senator SMITH.  
As soon as you got clear. How far clear? Half a mile or so?

1277 Mr. FLEET.



About a mile clear. We rested.

1278 Senator SMITH.  
You were resting?

1279 Mr. FLEET.  
And some other boat [No. 16] came alongside of us, and the master-at-arms [Joseph Bailey] was in charge of that boat. We asked could he give us more men.

1280 Senator SMITH.  
What was the master-at-arms name?

1281 Mr. FLEET.  
I could not say. He is the only one that survived.

1282 Senator SMITH.  
And you asked him if he could give you more men?

1283 Mr. FLEET.  
Could he give us another man to help pull.

1284 Senator SMITH.  
What did he say?

1285 Mr. FLEET.  
He gave us a fireman - one of the firemen.

1286 Senator SMITH.  
Did any women pull the oars in your boat?

1287 Mr. FLEET.  
About two or three. One in the bow and the other two aft, in the stern.

1288 Senator SMITH.  
You say this stowaway came out when you were clear and resting?

1289 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1290 Senator SMITH.  
When your oars were idle?

1291 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir; he showed himself as soon as ever we get clear of the [Titanic](#).

1292 Senator SMITH.  
Did he take an oar?

1293 Mr. FLEET.  
He managed to; but he could not use it on account of his bad arm. He had a bad arm.

1294 Senator SMITH.  
A broken arm?

1295 Mr. FLEET.  
He had a bandage around it, and he said he could not put his oar in.

1296 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know who that man was?

1297 Mr. FLEET.  
He was an Italian.

1298 Senator SMITH.  
This boat that came alongside gave you another man, did they?

1299 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.

1300 Senator SMITH.  
And then did you separate from this other boat?

1301 Mr. FLEET.  
No; we kept together for awhile, until we seen the lights of the Carpathia; then we

proposed to pull for it.  
1302 Senator SMITH.  
Did you do it?  
1303 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
1304 Senator SMITH.  
How far toward it?  
1305 Mr. FLEET.  
I dare say she was about a mile off, or a little over.  
1306 Senator SMITH.  
Did anybody propose to pull toward the place where the Titanic went down?  
1307 Mr. FLEET.  
All the women asked us to pull there, before she went down; but the quartermaster was in  
charge, and he would not allow it. He told us to keep on pulling.  
1308 Senator SMITH.  
Did the women in your boat persist in their efforts to get him to go back to the scene of the  
wreck?  
1309 Mr. FLEET.  
They asked him, but he would not hear of it; he told us to keep on pulling.  
1310 Senator SMITH.  
Did you say anything about it to the quartermaster?  
1311 Mr. FLEET.  
No; I never said a word; I just pulled an oar; I just kept quiet.  
1312 Senator SMITH.  
At that time could you hear cries of distress?  
1313 Mr. FLEET.  
Very faint.  
1314 Senator SMITH.  
Very many?  
1315 Mr. FLEET.  
All together, I suppose, a loud cry.  
1316 Senator SMITH.  
Did you hear the man in charge of your lifeboat make any special comment on the crying?  
1317 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
1318 Senator SMITH.  
But, as a matter of fact, you did not go in the direction of the Titanic at all, but the  
direction of the Carpathia?  
1319 Mr. FLEET.  
When we got the order from Mr. Lightoller to pull for the light, we were pulling for it; but  
when we found we could get no nearer and got a safe distance from the ship we stopped.  
1320 Senator SMITH.  
That is, a safe distance from the Carpathia?  
1321 Mr. FLEET.  
From the Titanic; and we stayed there for about a quarter of an hour or a little over, until  
we sighted the Carpathia's lights, and then we pulled toward them.  
1322 Senator SMITH.  
How far were you from the Titanic when you stopped?  
1323 Mr. FLEET.  
About a mile or a little over, because he come over the place where the Titanic sank.

1324 Senator SMITH.  
What makes you think it was a mile?

1325 Mr. FLEET.  
Only surmising.

1326 Senator SMITH.  
That is your best judgment about it?

1327 Mr. FLEET.  
I suppose so.

1328 Senator SMITH.  
How are you able to fix that fact in your mind, that you were a mile from the Titanic in this small boat?

1329 Mr. FLEET.  
I heard people talk about it.

1330 Senator SMITH.  
Was that your own judgment, too?

1331 Mr. FLEET.  
I have got no judgment.

1332 Senator SMITH.  
I understood you to say you had no judgment of distance at all -

1333 Mr. FLEET.  
No more I have not.

1334 Senator SMITH. (continuing)  
When I was asking you about the iceberg?

1335 Mr. FLEET.  
No more I have not.

1336 Senator SMITH.  
So you based your conclusion that you were a mile away upon what others told you?

1337 Mr. FLEET.  
That is all.

1338 Senator SMITH.  
Could you tell how many ship's lengths you were away, Titanic ship's lengths?

1339 Mr. FLEET.  
No; I could not.

1340 Senator SMITH.  
You could not tell that at all?

1341 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1342 Senator SMITH.  
I think that is all.

1343 Senator FLETCHER.  
Were the steam sirens blowing?

1344 Mr. FLEET.  
Not as I know of.

1345 Senator FLETCHER.  
You did not hear them blow, at all?

1346 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.

1347 Senator FLETCHER.  
Did you see the condition of the lifebelts on the ship?

1348 Mr. FLEET.

The condition of them?  
1349 Senator FLETCHER.  
Yes.  
1350 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes; we all had one.  
1351 Senator FLETCHER.  
Were they new?  
1352 Mr. FLEET.  
All new.  
1353 Senator FLETCHER.  
All the lifebelts on the ship were new?  
1354 Mr. FLEET.  
I suppose so, for a new ship.  
1355 Senator FLETCHER.  
You do not know whether they came from some other ship or not?  
1356 Mr. FLEET.  
No; I am not supposed to know that. They were all new.  
1357 Senator FLETCHER.  
They were all new?  
1358 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes.  
1359 Senator FLETCHER.  
And sound?  
1360 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
1361 Senator FLETCHER.  
And in good order?  
1362 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
1363 Senator SMITH.  
Mr. Fleet; before you entered the employ of the White Star Line, were, you obliged to  
undergo any examination for eyesight? Did you have your vision tested, your eyesight  
tested?  
1364 Mr. FLEET.  
No; only when I was going on the lookout I had them tested.  
1365 Senator SMITH.  
When did you have them tested last?  
1366 Mr. FLEET.  
About a year ago.  
1367 Senator SMITH.  
About a year ago?  
1368 Mr. FLEET.  
Yes, sir.  
1369 Senator SMITH.  
And you have not had your vision tested since?  
1370 Mr. FLEET.  
No, sir.  
1371 Senator SMITH.  
I think that is all. I wish you would hold yourself subject to the orders of the committee.  
You may go.

