

# British Wreck Commissioner's Inquiry

## Day 10

### Testimony of George Symons

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/BOTInq/BOTIndx02.php>

Examined by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

11303. Is your name Symons or Simmons?  
- Symons.

11304. And have you been at sea for nearly nine years?  
- Yes.

11305. You are an able seaman?  
- Yes.

11306. Have you crossed the Atlantic between England and New York many times?  
- Yes.

11307. How many times?  
- I say roughly about 58 to 60; I could not exactly say the correct number.

11308. As an able seaman?  
- Yes.

11309. And have you also acted as a look-out man?  
- Yes.

11310. (*The Attorney-General.*) Your Lordship will remember he comes into the story as look-out man also. (*To the witness.*) I will ask you first of all about the look-out. On board this vessel, the "[Titanic](#)," you went to the [crow's nest](#)?  
- Yes.

11311. When it was your duty to go on the look-out?  
- Yes, when it was my watch.

11312. What other vessels have you been in, liners, crossing between New York and England?  
- I was in the "[Oceanic](#)" for four years and four months, and three years of that I did on the look-out.

11314. And you were actually acting as look-out with [Jewell](#) on the "Titanic," I think, from 8 to 10?  
- Yes.

11315. You were relieved at 10 o'clock, the last watch really before she struck?  
- Yes.

11316. Whilst you were on the "Oceanic" did you at any time see icebergs?  
- Yes, once or twice.

11317. At night?  
- No, not at night, only in the daytime; but we have had orders before to keep a look-out for them in the night in the "Oceanic."

11318. Did you use glasses, binoculars?  
- Yes.

11319. Special glasses for night, were they?

- No; they were an ordinary pair of glasses.
- 22 11320. Were they kept in a box in the crow's-nest?  
- In the "Oceanic" they were kept in a canvas bag.
- 23 11321. In the crow's-nest?  
- In the crow's-nest.
- 24 11322. For your use or the use of your mate on the look-out?  
- Yes.
- 25 11323. And you did find them useful?  
- Yes; very useful.
- 26 11324. Were there any on the "Titanic"?  
- No, none whatever. After we left Southampton and got clear of the Nab Lightship I went up to the Officers' mess -room and asked for glasses. I asked [Mr. Lightoller](#), and he went into another Officers' room, which I presume was [Mr. Murdoch's](#), and he came out and said, "Symons, there are none." With that I went back and told my mates.
- 27 11325. Was there a place for them in the "Titanic"?  
- Yes, a box in the port after corner.
- 28 11326. Of the crow's-nest?  
- Yes.
- 29 11327. Did you join the "Titanic" at Southampton?  
- Yes.
- 30 11328. After you left Queenstown, which, as we know, was 11th April, did you see the boat list up?  
- Yes, I saw a boat list after we got away from Queenstown, either on the thursday night or the Friday morning early.
- 31 11329. Did you find it in the forecastle?  
- On the door of the forecastle, at the top of the companionway.
- 32 11330. Were there two boat lists posted?  
- There was one in the forecastle, what they call the emergency boat list, and also on the forecastle door was a general boat list, on which I found my name was assigned to No. 1.
- 33 11331. That is an emergency boat?  
- Yes, an emergency boat on the starboard side.
- 34 11332. You looked through the list? Did you notice how many seamen were assigned to the lifeboats?  
- Yes; there was not one but what had two seamen, and some had an Officer. Whether there was more than that I could not say, but I know there was not one with less than two seamen.
- 35 11333. No one had less than two seamen, and to some of them there were two seamen and an Officer. Is that right?  
- Yes.
- 36 11334. You know Sunday, the night of the 14th April; do you remember getting special orders from the bridge?  
- Yes; we had special orders about 9.30.
- 37 11335. 9.30 that night?  
- Yes.
- 38 11336. Through the telephone?  
- Through the telephone.
- 39 11337. Do you know from whom?  
- No, I could not say.

..Informed through crew {

- 40 11338. From some Officer on the bridge?  
- From some Officer on the bridge.
- 41 11339. Can you tell me what he said?  
- "Keep a sharp look-out for small ice and bergs till daylight, and pass the word along." That was the order received by Jewell and me; we both heard it through the 'phone.
- 42 11340. Had you noticed anything to lead you to think you might meet icebergs before you got that message?  
- Yes; just a small conversation, I think, about 9 o'clock. My mate turned round from time to time and said, "It is very cold here." I said, "Yes; by the smell of it there is ice about." He asked me why, and I said, "As a Rule you can smell the ice before you get to it."
- 43 11341. You thought you could?  
- Yes.
- 44 11342. Did you notice the temperature?  
- No, I could not tell you anything about the temperature. We were in the crow's-nest.
- 45 11343. You were relieved at 10 o'clock at night, and you went below?  
- Yes.
- 46 11344. And was the word passed along?  
- Yes, it was passed along at 10 o'clock by me and Jewell.
- 47 11345. You were relieved, I think, by [Fleet](#) and [Lee](#)?  
- Yes.
- 48 11346. Then did you go below and turn in?  
- Yes, I went below and turned in.
- 49 11347. What awakened you?  
- What awakened me was a grinding sound on her bottom. I thought at first she had lost her anchor and chain, and it was running along her bottom. I would not get up. The others got up, but I would not get up as I thought there was nothing the matter.
- 50 11348. You did get up eventually?  
- Yes; [Hogg](#) came down to me and told me I had better get up.
- 51 11349. Was he another look-out?  
- Yes, he was another look-out man.
- 52 11350. Hogg and [Evans](#)?  
- Yes.
- 53 11351. Hogg told you you had better get up and you started dressing, did you?  
- Yes.
- 54 11352. Whilst you were dressing was an order given?  
- There was an order came to the forecastle door by the boatswain to "Stand by, as you may be wanted at any moment."
- 55 11353. Was that to you only, or to all hands?  
- To the hands in general who were in the forecastle.
- 56 11354. "All hands stand by"?  
- Yes, "You may be wanted at any moment."
- 57 11355. You heard afterwards what the time was?  
- Yes, I did not know the time then.
- 58 11356. What time was this?  
- By the time I got on deck it must have been about one bell, a quarter to twelve.

..Arrives before 0:40 {

- 59 11357. That was after you had this order from the boatswain?  
- Yes.
- 60 11358. Then you went on deck. Did you notice ice on the fore well?  
- No, I did not go to see the ice.
- 61 11359. What did you do when you got on deck?  
- I came on deck and I went into the mess room in the course of ordinary events to see if there was any coffee. From there I heard the water coming in to No. 1 hold. I looked down No. 1 hold, and hardly had I looked down there when the order came for "All hands on the boat deck."
- 62 11360. You said you looked down [No. 1 hold](#). Before you got that order, "All hands on the boat deck," had you seen any water?  
- Yes, water coming in No. 1.
- 63 11361. Water in No. 1?  
- Yes.
- 64 11362. Much?  
- Yes, coming in a pretty good rush.
- 65 11363. (*The Commissioner.*) I thought you said you heard it?  
- I heard it first, and then I went and saw it through the gratings, the hatch gratings, as the tarpaulins were off.
- 66 11364. (*The Attorney-General.*) Let us understand what it means. The tarpaulins were off?  
- Yes.
- 67 11365. There is a grating there?  
- Yes, there are gratings there.
- 68 11366. Were not the hatches on?  
- No, there were no hatches on at that place.
- 69 11367. (*The Commissioner.*) What deck were you on when you saw the water through the grating?  
- I suppose you would call that the main deck - on the same deck as the forewell deck.
- 70 11368. Is it the same deck as that on which the long alleyway is?  
- No.
- 71 11369. Is it the one above it?  
- Yes.
- 72 11370. Were you looking down No. 1 hatch?  
- Yes, I was looking down No. 1 hatch through the grating when I saw the water.
- 73 11371. (*The Attorney-General.*) I think it must be two decks above, My Lord. I will ask him. (*To the witness.*) It is under the forecastle deck you were?  
- Yes, under the forecastle.
- 74 11372. Then, did you have to go down two decks to get to the deck under the alleyway?  
- Yes; you would go down the stairs and then down a small flight of steps again.
- 75 The Attorney-General:  
What is called the shelter deck C is where he was, and your Lordship sees he has to get to deck E to the alleyway.
- 76 The Commissioner:  
On deck C?
- 77 11373. (*The Attorney-General.*) Yes, just under the forecastle deck. He is looking down No. 1 hatch. (*To the witness.*) You saw through the gratings; the

- tarpaulin was off and the hatches were off?  
- Yes.
- 78 11374. There was nothing on the grating between?  
- There was nothing on the grating at that place then. Whether there were hatches at the fore end or afterend I could not say, but this was about amidships of the hatch.
- 79 11375. Could you see from which side the water was coming in?  
- No, you could not exactly see because the water was nearly up to the coamings of the lower hatch.
- 80 11376. (*The Commissioner.*) You mean nearly up to the coaming of the hatch on the deck?  
- Yes.
- 81 11377. (*The Attorney-General.*) Let us be clear about this. You were standing on the deck below the fore-castle deck, which is deck C?  
- Yes. As you stand on the C deck you look down through the gratings, and on the hatch below that is where the water was lapping around the tarpaulins and the hatch cover.
- 82 11378. There is a hatch with a grating over which you saw, from which the tarpaulin had been removed?  
- Yes.
- 83 11379. Then how far below that would it be before you got to the coamings of what you call the next hatch?  
- I could not exactly say the distance.
- 84 11380. How many decks would it be?  
- It would be on the next deck.
- 85 11381. That makes it quite plain. Tell us as nearly as you can how many decks would you have had to go down to get to the water which was just touching, or just close to, the coamings?  
- The coamings of the hatch. You would only have to take the gratings off and there was the next coaming to meet you.
- 86 11382. How many decks would you have had to go down?  
- I could not say how many decks you have to go down to the steerage; but the coamings is the next hatch down below the one on C deck, the one we were standing on.
- 87 The Attorney-General:  
Your Lordship follows. The effect of that would be that the water would be up to D deck. It was coming into the coamings of the hatchway, which would be above D deck.
- 88 The Commissioner:  
No, I do not understand that.
- 89 The Attorney-General:  
Well, I did not think he meant that, but it is what he said just now.
- 90 11383. (*The Commissioner - To the witness.*) Now, listen to me. There was a hatch upon the deck on which you were standing?  
- Yes.
- 91 11384. And that you supposed to be C deck?  
- Yes.
- 92 11385. Now, the hatchways were removed?  
- Yes, all the blind hatches were removed.
- 93 11386. And the tarpaulins were off?  
- Yes.

94 11387. And there was nothing but a grid or grating, through which you looked?  
- Yes.

95 11388. Now, this hatchway goes right down to the bottom of the ship?  
- Yes.

96 11389. There were coamings round the hatchway where you were standing?  
- Yes.

97 11390. Where would the next coamings be, down below?  
- I should think myself -

98 11391. Would it not be on the next deck?  
- I think myself a good two decks below, because there is a wide space from that upper coaming to the lower coamings.

99 11392. That may make a difference. Now, can you show me in the Court, without telling me what the number of feet are, how far below you, when you were looking through the grating, the coamings were where you saw the water? Just show me. Give me an idea.  
- I should think myself, from that deck there down to where that gentleman is sitting.

100 11393. Do you mean from the top; this roof that we see over this?  
- Yes, this platform.

101 11394. Down to the floor?  
- Yes, it may have been a little lower.

102 11395. That would mean two decks lower. The distance between the deck you were standing on and the next deck would be about how much - half that high?  
- About halfway, Sir.

103 The Commissioner:  
Then that would point to this, that it was two decks down?

104 The Attorney-General:  
Yes. I thought it was more from what he said.

105 The Commissioner:  
Well, it may be.

106 The Attorney-General:  
I will tell your Lordship why I thought so. If you look at the plan I should have taken it from the section to be between F and G decks, because, according to the plan, that is the first indication of coamings.

107 Mr. Laing:  
That is so.

108 The Commissioner:  
Very well; that is right, probably.

109 The Attorney-General:  
There is something like a coaming if you look at C, and then the next one is G.

110 11396. (*The Commissioner - To the witness.*) Will you come round here?  
- (*The witness explained the plan to the Commissioner.*)

111 The Commissioner:  
He tells me, looking at this plan, he thinks that the water he saw was by the coaming on G deck.

112 The Attorney-General:  
Yes; I thought that is what he must mean.

113 The Commissioner:

That would be about 25 feet below it, or something like that.

114 The Attorney-General:  
Your Lordship will remember - I do not know whether you noticed it on the "Olympic" - there was the same thing there. They go through various decks without coamings.

115 The Commissioner:  
Yes, until you go to this deck G.

116 The Attorney-General:  
Yes. That makes it right.

117 11397. (*The Commissioner - To the witness.*) Now will you tell me how far below the top of the watertight bulkhead was this water at that time?  
- This water at that time, I should think roughly, was about a foot around the coamings, running around the coamings. What I want to know is, how far below the top of the watertight bulkhead would it be at the time?

118 Mr. Laing:  
16 feet 3 inches.

119 The Attorney-General:  
Which bulkhead is that?

120 The Commissioner:  
The Admiral tells me it would be about 16 feet below the top of the bulkhead; so you see that the water he saw would have to rise, assuming the doors to be closed, 16 feet before it would break over the top of the bulkhead. Is there any watertight bulkhead, Mr. Laing, above deck E?

121 The Attorney-General:  
That is just what I am asking, My Lord. According to the plan it looks as if it reaches D in this particular bulkhead. It looks as if the bulkhead b reaches this particular place, that is, this particular bulkhead reaches deck D. I am just asking the question.

122 The Commissioner:  
I see the thick dark line which stops at the bottom of deck E, and then I see the line extending upwards, but it does not look to me as if it was intended to indicate a continuation of the bulkhead.

123 The Attorney-General:  
My friend, Mr. Laing, ought to be able to tell us; but it looks from the plan as if it does. Mr. Wilding will tell your Lordship at once. (*Mr. Wilding explained the plan to the Attorney-General.*)

124 The Attorney-General:  
It is right; it does go to D, My Lord; it is shown on this section. It does reach D.

125 The Commissioner:  
The collision bulkhead a does not go higher than the floor of deck E, does it?

126 The Attorney-General:  
I understand it does; it is stepped forward. This one is stepped aft.

127 The Commissioner:  
It is not shown on the plan.

128 The Attorney-General:  
No, My Lord; but I think this one is on my plan. It is stepped aft from G deck to D deck. Both A and b reach D deck.

129 The Commissioner:  
Mr. Wilding, will you come round here? (*Mr. Wilding explained the plan to the Commissioner.*)

130 The Commissioner:  
(to The Attorney-General.) Will you look at this plan? I have marked in red pencil how high the bulkheads extend. (The plan was handed to the Attorney-General.)

131 The Attorney-General:  
Yes, My Lord, that is right. A is stepped forward to D deck, B is stepped aft to D deck.

132 The Commissioner:  
The water that he saw would be about 5 feet above the external waterline?

133 11398. (*The Attorney-General - To the witness.*) You saw this water below the coamings? Is that below the coamings on which there are hatchway covers?  
- Below the coamings is where the hatches come on, and also the cover.

134 11399. That makes it quite plain that it is G deck. As I understand you, you did not have much time to look at it?  
- No, I had just time to see the water come in when the order came, "All hands on the boat deck."

135 11400. You say you saw water coming in; will you help us about that? Was it coming in fast?  
- Yes, coming in at what I call a moderate pace.

136 11401. Could you see where it was coming in from?  
- No, you could only discern by the look of it that it was rising from the starboard side.

137 11402. (*The Commissioner.*) I suppose the hatch covers and the tarpaulins were not on the hatchway of deck G?  
- Yes; the hatch cover was there, all covered up and battened down.

138 11403. How could you see the water?  
- I did not know it was coming in over this hatch.

139 11404. Through the hatch covers?  
- I could not see whether it was making its way through the hatch cover, but it was running over the hatch, and it looked as if it was mostly coming up the far end of the starboard side - the foremost corner.

140 11405. (*The Attorney-General.*) The hatchway in G deck was covered up in the ordinary way by the tarpaulin and hatches?  
- Yes.

141 11406. And battened down?  
- Yes, it was battened down.

142 11407. Did you see water over that hatchway?  
- No, it was not over.

143 11408. Where did you see it?  
- All round the coamings.

144 11409. They would be on the deck?  
- Yes.

145 11410. Raised on G deck?  
- Yes.

146 11411. Do you mean you saw the water round the coamings there?  
- Yes.

147 11412. Did you see any water on the tarpaulin?  
- I never took that much notice of the water on the tarpaulin. The only thing I noticed was the water coming round the coamings of the hatch.

148 11413. And I think you said from the starboard side particularly?  
- Yes, it looked as if it was coming from the starboard side in that corner, the

- foremost end.
- 149 The Commissioner:  
I took down from you that the water was nearly up to the coamings on deck G; that is inaccurate.
- 150 The Attorney-General:  
I am not sure that it is, with great respect.
- 151 The Commissioner:  
Nearly up to the coamings. He says it was running round the coamings.
- 152 11414. (*The Attorney-General.*) Yes, I think I know what he means. (*To the witness.*) The coamings are above the deck, and the hatchways rest upon them in that way?  
- Yes.
- 153 11415. Explain in your own way. Will you explain to my Lord what you mean by saying that it was nearly up to the coamings?  
- Take that box, for instance; there is the hatch in the centre, and all round the hatch you would come to the bulkheads, which I suppose you would call watertight bulkheads, and all around there was a foot, or it may be a little more or less, space between, allowing for the battens to go over the hatches; that is where the water was, right round the hatch.
- 154 The Commissioner:  
What he means, I think, is this, that the water he saw was nearly to the top of the coamings.
- 155 The Attorney-General:  
Yes.
- 156 The Commissioner:  
He means he saw it outside nearly to the top.
- 157 11416. (*The Attorney-General - To the witness.*) After that you say as you looked at it you got an order to go on to the boat deck?  
- Yes.
- 158 11417. When you got on to the boat deck, what order did you get then?  
- The order I got on the boat deck from Mr. Murdoch, and also the boatswain was, they gave an order to uncover the boats and get the falls out. I assisted generally in the boats on the starboard fore end, 3, 5, and 7.
- 159 11418. Before you go on telling us what happened then, can you give us any idea what time it was when you noticed this water reaching nearly to the coamings of the hatch?  
- I should think, roughly estimating it, it would be about five minutes to twelve, because, as I was on my way to the deck, so they struck eight bells in the crow's-nest.
- 160 11419. When you got up there you told us you assisted to get 3, 5, and 7 ready on the starboard side?  
- Yes.
- 161 11420. Was No. 1 ready?  
- No. 1 was already swung out.
- 162 11421. That is the emergency boat?  
- Yes.
- 163 11422. It is always carried swung out, is it not?  
- Oh, Yes.
- 164 11423. By the time you got to the boat deck had the seamen nearly all arrived on the boat deck?  
- Yes, I think they were pretty well all there.

..People calm, follow

..Additional Observati

..Filling Rules (generic

- 165 11424. Had they gone to the boats on the starboard side?  
- They went to their respective stations, I believe, port and starboard side.
- 166 11425. Who was in charge of the starboard side?  
- Mr. Murdoch.
- 167 11426. Was there any difficulty, speaking generally, so far as you could see, in getting out these boats on the starboard side?  
- None whatever; they never worked better or more comfortably. I have never seen them work better in any ship I have been in.
- 168 11427. I did not catch that. I think you said you had never seen them work better on any other ship you had been in. Is that right?  
- Yes.
- 169 11428. Were there passengers on the deck when you arrived there?  
- Yes.
- 170 11429. Had they their lifebelts on?  
- Yes.
- 171 11430. Did they crowd round the boats at all?  
- No; they all kept good order; they kept back to give the men working room.
- 172 11431. Was there an order?  
- Yes, there was one order when we were at boat No. 3. Two or three men of some description, whether stewards or passengers I do not know, were asked to keep back to give the men room to work.
- 173 11432. And they did?  
- Yes.
- 174 11433. Were the boats lowered to the deck rail?  
- After we got all the covers out, the orders were given by Mr. Murdoch to start swinging them out. We started No. 5 first, and then we came back to 3, and then to 7.
- 175 11434. Five first, then 3, then forward again, and then?  
- that is aft?  
- Yes, that is the next one.
- 176 11435. Did you assist in putting passengers in any one of the boats?  
- I assisted in putting passengers in No. 5 and No. 3, and also assisted to lower No. 3 with the boatswain -
- 177 11436. Were you acting all this time under the instructions of Mr. Murdoch?  
- Under the instructions of Mr. Murdoch and the boatswain.
- 178 11437. What is the boatswain's name?  
- Nichols.
- 179 11438. Were the passengers that you put into the boats men, women, or children?  
- Women and children. That was the order, and they were put in.
- 180 11439. That was the order you got from Mr. Murdoch?  
- That was the order, "Women and children first."
- 181 11440. Can you tell us when you began to help getting the boats out, was there any list of the vessel?  
- Oh, yes, there was a slight list, if anything in our favour, to starboard.

- 182 11441. (The Attorney-General.) Your Lordship asked the question yesterday about the list to starboard. We have heard from one man who says he saw it distinctly from the ship. We have heard of a list to starboard from a Witness on the ship, but this Witness says that he noticed a list to starboard at the first. (To the witness.) Whilst you were on the ship did you see any list to port?
- I never took particular notice of a list to port. The only way I know she had a list to starboard was when we were lowering away we were clear of everything. When we were being lowered away ourselves we were clear of everything.
- 183 11441a. (The Commissioner.) The list to starboard helped you?
- Yes; it was all in our favour.
- 184 11442. (The Attorney-General.) You might have cleared away everything without a list, Might not you?
- Yes; but if she had had a list to port it would have made it difficult.
- 185 11443. Yes. Nobody said she had a list to port at that time. Now tell us about the emergency boat, No. 1.
- 186 The Commissioner:  
I suppose you will have some theory to explain the great list to port that there was, according to the evidence, on this ship before she went down?
- 187 11444. (The Attorney-General.) Yes. It is said the water came in on the starboard side, and so it requires some explanation. (To the witness.) Speaking of boats 3, 5, and 7, did you see seamen placed in these boats under the order of Mr. Murdoch?
- Yes, under the orders of Mr. Murdoch. They were given an order to get in, to get the plugs ready, to see everything was right in the boat, and told to stay there and take the women and children.
- 188 11445. Three lifeboats had been lowered away, 3, 5, and 7; were they lowered before you went to No. 1?
- No, after we got the three boats out I went and assisted Wynn in clearing away one of the guys on B deck.
- 189 11446. Of what?
- Of No. 1 boat. From there I went back to the boat deck and assisted generally in putting the passengers in Nos. 3 and 5.
- 190 11447. That was the first you had to do with No. 1?
- Yes.
- 191 11448. You had already cleared away one of the guys?
- Yes.
- 192 11449. And you went back again and helped to get out the boats 3 and 5?
- Yes.
- 193 11450. And then after that what did you do?
- After I went back on the boat deck we had orders to put the women and children in. I assisted generally, and they lowered down. I do not know whether 5 or 7 went first; I could not say for certain. I was at No. 5; whether No. 7 went before it I could

- not say. When we got No. 5 away I went back to No. 3 and assisted there generally, and then I helped to lower the forward end of No. 3 along with the boatswain.
- 194 11451. Then you saw 7, 5 and 3 lowered and away?  
- Yes, they were away when I went to No. 1.
- 195 11452. Then you went to No. 1, and did Mr. Murdoch speak to you then?  
- No, we did not go to No. 1; we were ordered to No. 1.
- 196 11453. And then you went?  
- We went to No. 1, and Mr. Murdoch asked who was assigned to that boat. I said I was, and he said, "Are you a sailor?" I said "Yes." He said, "Jump in and see the plug is in." After that he asked if there were any more sailors. Horswell replied, "I am assigned to that boat." He said, "Jump in." He next gave an order for five firemen to jump in, because there were no passengers around the deck at that time. Other members of the crew were assisting in getting the cover off of the surf boat lying under the emergency boat, if she had been in her place, if she was swung in.
- 197 11454. That is the collapsible, we call it?  
- As he gave orders I saw two ladies come running out of the foremost end of the top saloon deck, running towards the boat, and from there they asked Mr. Murdoch if they could get into that boat, and Mr. Murdoch said, "Yes; jump in." And then, after that, I saw three gentlemen come running up, and they asked if they could get into the boat, and he said, "Yes; jump in." Mr. Murdoch then looked around for more, and there was nobody in sight, only just the remaining members of the crew. He then gave an order to lower away. On the way down, just as we started lowering, he asked who was in charge of the boat. I replied, "Symons, the look-out." He replied, "Symons, take charge of that boat; make all those under you obey you; make them do what you tell them." I replied, "All right." When we were lowered down, just below B deck, we got hung up by a wire guy. I told them on the boat deck to stop lowering. They stopped lowering almost immediately. Then they asked me what the trouble was, and I said we were hung up by a wire guy. Someone came down on the next deck and chopped it away, and from there we proceeded to the water without a mishap and released the boat very satisfactorily.
- 198 11455. There was plenty of room in your boat?  
- Oh, yes.
- 199 11456. For a good number of passengers besides those you were taking away?  
- What do you mean?
- 200 11457. I mean there was plenty of room in your boat for more than you were carrying?  
- Yes; but the order was, "Lower away," and you had to obey orders.
- 201 11458. I am not making any complaint against you; I want to get

..Women shorta  
..Fill with anybo  
..Women & Chil  
..Officers in charge

- the fact.
- 202 11459. (The Commissioner.) I want to be sure about this. Was there plenty of room in the boat for more persons when Mr. Murdoch ordered the boat to be lowered away?
- Yes.
- 203 11460. Now why did he order the boat to be lowered away while it was not full?
- Because, I suppose, he had looked around the deck for other people, as well as I did myself, and there was not another passenger in sight, only just the remainder of the crew getting the surf boat ready.
- 204 11461. I do not understand. What time was this?
- I could not tell the time; I do not know.
- 205 11462. How long before the ship foundered?
- Well, I should think myself if I say it was within half-an-hour I should not be far out. It may have been less.
- 206 11463. Half-an-hour is a long time?
- Yes, it may have been less.
- 207 11464. Was there no time to find women and children to put into the boat?
- I saw Mr. Murdoch running around there. I could not tell why he gave the order. I could not criticise an Officer. He gave the order to lower away, and I had to obey orders. It is not a seaman's place to criticise an Officer in that case.
- 208 11465. I am not asking you to criticise anybody; I am asking you to help me to find out, if I can, why Mr. Murdoch ordered this boat to be lowered into the sea when it was more than half empty?
- That I could not tell you; that was his own discretion, I suppose; it was not for me to say anything to him.
- 209 11466. How soon after the two ladies had got into the boat, and the three men passengers, did Mr. Murdoch give the order to lower?
- I should say, roughly, about three or four minutes.
- 210 11467. Three or four minutes after the three men passengers and two ladies got in the order was given to lower that boat?
- Yes.
- 211 11467a. (The Attorney-General.) Was there any list to port at the time this boat was lowered?
- The list was to starboard at the time the boat was lowered. That was everything in our favour going down. It was not much; it was very slight.
- 212 The Commissioner:  
The list was still to starboard?
- 213 11468. (The Attorney-General.) Yes. (To the witness.) Before you left the boat deck had you noticed any rockets being fired from the bridge?
- Yes, the rockets were going up simultaneously every minute, Minute intervals, and that steamer's light was in sight, about a point and a half on the port bow, roughly between five and ten

miles away, when they fired the rockets, and they were also working the starboard and port Morse lights.

214 11469. This was all, of course, before you left?

- Yes, before we left.

215 11470. Whilst you were still on the boat deck?

- Yes.

216 11471. Was this going on on the bridge?

- This was on the bridge.

217 11472. Working the port and starboard Morse light?

- Yes.

218 11473. Could you see the light?

- Yes, plain.

219 11474. The light of a steamer, I understood you to say, or a vessel?

- Well, a vessel, one white light.

220 11475. Where was it?

- About a point and a half on the port bow as the ship was standing then.

221 11476. On the port bow?

- On the port bow.

222 11477. How far distant did it appear?

- Between five and ten miles.

223 11478. And after you put off in No. 1 boat did you still see this light?

- Yes. I took the light to be that of a cod-bankman - or fishing vessel.

224 11479. You did not see any sidelights?

- No sidelights whatever.

225 The Commissioner:  
Will you ask him when he first saw the white light?

226 11480. (The Attorney-General.) Yes. (To the witness.) When did you first see the white light of which you have spoken?

- After No. 3 boat was away.

227 11481. (The Commissioner.) Yes, but what time of night would that be?

- That would be in the early part of the morning.

228 11482. What time?

- That I could not say, because I did not know the time at the time. I should think myself it would be about one o'clock; it may have been a little after - between one and half-past.

229 11483. That would be about an hour before the vessel foundered?

- Roughly.

230 11484. (The Attorney-General.) At any rate it was before you went to work on the boat deck at No. 1 boat?

- It was after No. 3 boat was away that I saw the light.

231 11485. It was after that that you went to No. 1 boat to work?

- Yes.

232 11486. Could you detect at all whether there was any more signaling about? Could you see if there was any vessel Morse signaling to you?

- No.

233 11487. All you could see was your vessel Morse signaling to some other?

- Yes.

234 11488. Do you remember getting an order from Mr. Murdoch to stand off a little way when the boat was lowered?

- Yes, My orders were to pull away from the ship, not too far, and to stand by if I was called back.

235 11489. That we have not had from you yet. That is what I wanted. That is quite right. Your Lordship will see the importance of it all. You have it in mind. Question 5011 is what Hendrickson said about this He was cross-examined about it. That substantially agrees, I think, with what Hendrickson says. I will read you what he says: "We were told to stand off a little way and come back when called." That is right?

- That is what Mr. Murdoch gave me.

236 11490. Now, at the time you left that No. 1 boat, was the forecastle head of the "Titanic" under water?

- After we got away the forecastle head, the first lot of ports - that would be C deck under the forecastle head, I think. What deck would you call that? That lot of ports there (Pointing on the model.) was just awash under her name.

237 11491. That is at the top, just under the forecastle head?

- No; these here. (Pointing on the model.)

238 11492. It is the second row, really?

- Yes, the second row.

239 11493. The first row under the well deck?

- Yes, that is right.

240 11494. That was after you had got away in your boat?

- After we got into the water.

241 11495. (The Commissioner.) And how far aft were those lights below the water?

- They were just coming awash then.

242 11496. How far aft? Just turn to the model; take note of the ship and tell me how far aft those lights were under water?

- Certainly the foremost ones were more submerged, if anything, than the after ones.

243 The Commissioner:  
Of course they were.

244 11497. (The Attorney-General.) Perhaps I may put it in a different form. Had it reached the mast?

- No.

245 11498. Not as far aft as that?

- No; not quite so far as the mast.

246 11499. Then you pulled away?

- Yes.

247 11500. And did you see the "Titanic" go down?

- Yes, I watched her.

248 11501. Now just tell us about that?

- After I left the ship I gave the order to pull away. We were

pulling very hard; we were pulling very steady; a moderate pull. After I gave that order we pulled away I should say about 200 yards, and I told them to lay on their oars, and just a little while after that, after I saw that the ship was doomed, I gave the order to pull a little further and so escape the suction.

249 11502. Now, just one moment. Just tell us why you say "after I saw the ship was doomed" you pulled away 200 yards? What was it that you saw that made you think that?

- Because her forecastle head was well under water then. Her lights had all disappeared then. You could see her starboard sidelight, which was still burning, was not so very far from the water, and her stern was well up in the air.

250 11503. When you say all her lights went out, do you mean right away astern too?

- No, just her foremost lights had disappeared, and her starboard sidelight left burning was the only light, barring the masthead light, on that side of the bridge that I could see.

251 11504. Then you saw her with her stern out?

- Yes.

252 11505. Will you give us an idea what angle was her stern as far as you could see? How did it look to you; was it all up?

- More like that with a cant. (Describing.) I do not know what position you would call it altogether.

253 11506. Was it out of water?

- Yes.

254 11507. Did you see her keel?

- No, you could not see her keel.

255 11508. (The Commissioner.) Could you see the propellers?

- You could just see the propellers.

256 11509. (The Attorney-General.) You could see the propellers?

- Yes.

257 11510. Then when you saw her like that, what was the next thing that happened?

- Being the master of the situation, I used my own discretion. I said nothing to anybody about the ship being doomed, in my opinion. I pulled a little further away to escape, if there was any suction. A little while after that we pulled a little way and lay on the oars again. The other boats were around us by that time, and some were pulling further away from us. I stood and watched it till I heard two sharp explosions in the ship. What they were I could not say. Then she suddenly took a top cant, her stern came well out of the water then.

258 11511. A top cant?

- You know what I mean to say, she took a heavy cant and her bow went down clear.

259 11512. Head downwards?

- Head down, and that is the time when I saw her lights go out, all her lights. The next thing I saw was her poop. As she went down like that so her poop righted itself and I thought to myself, "The poop is going to float." It could not have been more than

two or three minutes after that that her poop went up as straight as anything; there was a sound like steady thunder as you hear on an ordinary night at a distance, and soon she disappeared from view.

260 11513. Let us see if we quite understand what you are saying about it. Suppose that is the stem and that is the stern. (Describing.) You saw her first of all with her stem downward?

- Yes.

261 11514. I understand you to say you saw her stem downwards?

- Yes.

262 11515. Did you see her head going well down?

- Her head was going well down.

263 11516. And you saw her stern out of the water like that? (Describing.) - Yes, her stern was well out of the water.

264 11517. I understand you to say that at one period you saw her stern right itself?

- It righted itself without the bow; in my estimation she must have broken in half.

265 11518. Can you form any idea from what part of the vessel it was that she appeared to right herself?

- I should think myself it was abaft the after expansion plate.

266 11519. (The Commissioner.) Where is that?

- That is the expansion plate. They have two expansion plates.

267 The Commissioner:  
Show it to me on that wooden model.

268 11520. (The Attorney-General - To the witness.) Can you tell us where it was; which one you mean?

- The one furthest aft.

269 11521. Where was it?

- I should say it would be about abeam of the after funnel, or a little forward.

270 11522. About there?

- Yes.

271 The Attorney-General:  
I do not know whether your Lordship saw on the "Olympic" what he means by the expansion plate; it is noticeable on the deck.

272 The Commissioner:  
I understand that.

273 11523. (The Attorney-General.) Then you saw her right herself - this part of her?

- Yes; I saw the poop right itself.

274 11524. And then it went up?

- Yes; then it went up and disappeared from view.

275 11525. And then went right down?

- Yes.

276 11526. When you saw the "Titanic" go down did you hear any cries from the people that went down with the boat?

- Yes.

277 11527. Did you try to rescue them?

- I thought at the time, being Master of the situation, it was not safe in any case to go back at that time.

278 11528. Do I understand from that, then, that your answer is that you did not try?

- Not at that time; not as soon as the ship disappeared.

279 11529. Let us understand that. You heard cries?

- Yes.

280 11530. And cries which you knew were of persons in distress?

- Quite so.

281 11531. Gone down with the vessel?

- Yes.

282 11532. Many, I suppose?

- Yes, a decent few it sounded like.

283 11533. And you had plenty of room in your boat?

- Yes.

284 11534. If you could have reached any one of those persons you could have saved the life of that person?

- Yes, but I thought at the time, by using my own discretion, that it was not safe in any way to have gone back to that ship as she disappeared.

285 11535. But, apart from going back to the ship, you could have gone back, could you not, some way to pick up persons, without going into the seething mass of people?

- The thing is those people, I suppose, would be together when they go down.

286 11536. But they do not all stop together?

- No, that is true. They do not stop together as a Rule.

287 11537. You were there with ample room?

- Yes; we had room say for another eight or a dozen more in the boat. I do not know what the boat's complement is.

288 11538. The boat's complement is 40, and you had 12?

- If there were 40 in that boat there would not be room.

289 11539. What?

- I think myself if there were 40 in that boat practically when the sea rose in the morning it would not be safe.

290 11540. The sea did not rise. If the sea had risen I daresay it might have been so; but we are speaking of a calm night. The sea was quite calm at this time. You quite understood you were to be ready to go back if called?

- That is right.

291 11541. Do you tell my Lord that you determined, without consultation with anybody, that you would not go back?

- I determined by my own wish, as I was Master of the situation, to go back when I thought that most of the danger was over.

292 11542. What?

- I used my own discretion, as being Master of the situation at the time, that it was not safe to have gone back at that time until everything was over.

293 11543. (The Commissioner.) I want to know why? What was it that you were afraid of?

- I was not afraid of anything; I was only afraid of endangering the lives of the people I had in the boat.

294 11544. How? What was the danger? The ship had gone to the bottom. She was no longer a danger. What were you afraid of?

- At that time the ship had only just disappeared.

295 11545. Never mind, it had disappeared, and had gone down to the bottom, two miles down, or something like that. What were you afraid of?

- I was afraid of the swarming.

296 11546. Of what?

- Of the swarming of the people - swamping the boat.

297 11547. That is it, that is what you were afraid of. You were afraid there were too many people in the water?

- Yes.

298 11548. And that your boat would be swamped?

- Yes.

299 The Commissioner:  
I am not satisfied at all.

300 11549. (The Attorney-General.) Now, I want to know a little more about that. Was the question raised about your going back to the people who were shrieking at this time?

- None whatever.

301 11550. Do you mean to tell my Lord that nobody ever mentioned, amongst the people that you had in that boat, going back to try to save some of the people who were in the water drowning?

- I never heard anybody of any description, passengers or crew, say anything as regards going back. Had there been anything said I was almost sure to have heard it.

302 11551. You mean nothing was said, either by you or anybody?

- I used my own discretion.

303 11552. You have told us that several times. I understand that you used your discretion, and that you were master of the situation; we have got those phrases. What I am asking you about now is whether at that time you heard anything said by anybody on the boat about going back?

- None whatever.

304 11553. Either by you or by any of the crew?

- No.

305 11554. Or by any of the passengers?

- No.

306 11555. Then, if I understand correctly what you say, your story to my Lord is; the vessel had gone down; there were the people in the water shrieking for help; you were in the boat with plenty of room; nobody ever mentioned going back; nobody ever said a word about it; you just simply lay on your oars. Is that the story you want my Lord to believe?

- Yes, that is the story.

307 11556. (The Commissioner.) You told me that there were what you called "a pretty good few" - I think that was your expression

- "in the water"?

- Yes.

308 11557. Calling for help?

- Yes.

309 11558. Could you see them?

- No.

310 11559. Then you could not tell whether there was a swarm round your boat?

- No, Sir; I was only going by the cries.

311 11560. Did not you think it was worthwhile trying to get near one or two of them. You could hear them, you know?

- Yes, you could hear them.

312 The Commissioner:

However, you did not do it.

313 11561. (The Attorney-General.) Did you ever go back to try to pick up any of these people?

- Yes, after we rowed a little way, as we were going for this self same light of my first story, we stopped; we laid on our oars. Then I gave the order to pull back, and told the men in the boat we would pull back to the other boats. I was going my way back then as near as I possibly could to the scene of the disaster after we met the other boat. I strained my ears to hear whether I could hear anybody, any person whatever making a cry.

314 11562. (The Commissioner.) And you heard no one?

- I heard no one.

315 11563. They were all drowned by that time; is not that so?

- I could not say that, Sir, because there were some picked up in a boat out of the water before daylight, according to the other story. Of course, I cannot say about other people.

316 11564. (The Attorney-General.) Did you know Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon before he got into that boat?

- No, Sir.

317 11565. Did you know Hendrickson?

- I did not know Hendrickson then. I knew nobody only Oswald.

318 11566. Did you hear anybody in the boat say that you ought to go back to try and save some of the people?

- No.

319 11567. Did you hear anybody talking in the boat at all at this time?

- No.

320 11568. You were all silent?

- We were all doing our work. They were saying nothing. I heard no conversation whatever.

321 11569. From the passengers or anybody else?

- No.

322 11570. What part of the boat were you in?

- I was in the stern.

323 11571. Close to the passengers?

- There was a lady and a gentleman sitting in front of me. I was standing up in the stern.

324 11572. Where were the other passengers?  
 - From what I could see in the morning when we came to get the daylight, there was one lady sitting on the other side, the fore side, by the fireman that was pulling. There was one of the fireman pulling at the starboard oar; and there was a lady sitting on the foreside of him, and the gentleman was sitting like on the other side, on the port side further forward.

325 11573. Did you hear one of the passengers say that it would be too dangerous to go back?  
 - No, Sir; I heard nothing.

326 11574. That you might get swamped?  
 - No, I heard nothing.

327 11575. That was your view, that it was too dangerous to go back, because you might get swamped?  
 - Yes.

328 11576. That is what you thought?  
 - That was my own view, yes.

329 11577. Did you hear anybody express that same view?  
 - No.

330 11578. Then, or at any time?  
 - No.

331 11579. At any time?  
 - No.

332 11580. Since. Have you discussed it since?  
 - No.

333 11581. Have you never heard anybody say since that it was too dangerous to go back, that you might get swamped?  
 - No. The first thing that I have seen about that was when I arrived in England on Saturday and I read Hendrickson's evidence in the papers.

334 11582. Who showed it to you?  
 - I bought the paper myself and read it.

335 11583. I want to understand. You bought a paper, and then were you seen by somebody?  
 - I was not seen by nobody. I was travelling in the train by myself.

336 11584. Have you been seen by any solicitors in the case?  
 - What do you mean, Sir?

337 11585. Has any lawyer seen you about your evidence?  
 - I have given evidence in two or three places.

338 11586. I would just like to understand what you mean about making a statement. Were you asked to make a statement to somebody representing Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon?  
 - Well, I was asked to make a statement, and I just simply told the truth.

339 Mr. Duke:  
 I wish you would emphasise the latter part of that - "on behalf of Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon." He was asked to make a statement, but not so far as I am aware on behalf of Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon - if you would not mind eliciting whether he says

that or not.

340 11587. (The Attorney-General.) I will ask him again. Were you asked to make a statement by somebody on behalf of Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon?

- Yes, they did say they were representing Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon.

341 11588. When was that?

- It may have been Tuesday night or it may have been Wednesday night. Tuesday night I believe.

342 11589. You mean last Tuesday?

- Yes.

343 11590. (The Commissioner.) Where was it?

- At weymouth.

344 11591. (The Attorney-General.) When did you arrive - Saturday night?

- At weymouth.

345 11592. When did you arrive home from America?

- On Saturday morning at half-past seven at Liverpool

346 11593. Where did you go to from Liverpool?

- To Weymouth direct.

347 11594. Do you live at weymouth?

- Yes, that is my home.

348 11595. Had Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon your address at weymouth then?

- That I could not say.

349 11596. Do you know how he got into communication with you at weymouth, or somebody on his behalf?

- I could not say.

350 11597. When you were at weymouth did someone on behalf of Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon get into communication with you?

- Yes, they came down to see me.

351 11598. When did you get to Weymouth?

- On Saturday evening.

352 11599. When was it that somebody came to see you on their behalf?

- It must have been on Tuesday evening.

353 11600. Was that the first time that somebody had been to see you since your return to this country?

- Yes.

354 11601. Was it a gentleman?

- I beg pardon.

355 11602. Was it a gentleman - a man - who came to see you?

- It was a gentleman.

356 11603. Two men?

- A gentleman.

357 11604. Then you made a statement to him?

- Yes, just a statement.

358 11605. (The Commissioner.) Did you know that he was coming? Had they written to you to say he was coming?

- I just knew that there was a gentleman coming, but I did not know who he was.

359 11606. How did you know that there was a gentleman coming?

- How did I know?

- the message was brought to my house that somebody was coming to see me.

360 11607. Who brought the message?

- By telephone.

361 11608. Where from?

- That I could not say.

362 11609. Was it from somewhere in Weymouth?

- Oh, yes; the message came through to Weymouth.

363 11610. Was the message from somebody in Weymouth?

- No, Sir, that I could not say, because the man brought -

364 11611. How long before the gentleman came did you get this telephone message?

- In the afternoon, Sir.

365 11612. How long before he came did you get the message? How long after the message did the gentleman turn up?

- About six hours, I suppose.

366 11613. Six hours?

- It may have been that.

367 11614. Did you ask through the telephone who he was?

- I never had nothing to do with the telephone whatsoever.

368 11615. Who had?

- The man brought me the message.

369 11616. Where from?

- From a place in the town. That I could not tell you, I do not know.

370 11617. Who is the man?

- That I could not tell you, Sir. Perhaps my parents might. I was not in at the time.

371 11618. (The Attorney-General.) When was it that you had the telephone message. Was it on the Tuesday?

- It must have been on the Tuesday, yes.

372 11619. The message was given to your parents then?

- Yes, the message was left with my parents.

373 11620. Had you communicated with Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon since your return?

- No, I communicated with no one.

374 11621. Had you ever given them your address?

- Not as I know of. They asked me for my name aboard the ship, with one of the firemen. I cannot say for certain whether at the time I gave the address or not. I gave my name, but I think it was only my name.

375 11622. You do not know how they knew you were at weymouth?

- No, that I do not know.

376 11623. Do you know how they knew that you had arrived home?

- No, I do not.

377 11624. No idea?

- No.

378 11625. (The Commissioner.) Do you happen to know the name of the gentleman who came to see you?

- No, I do not.

379 11626. You never asked him his name?

- I never asked the gentleman's name.

380 11627. Have you ever seen him since?

- No.

381 11628. (The Attorney-General.) How long was he with you?

- I suppose, roughly, it might have been an hour, or it might have been a little more.

382 11629. (The Commissioner.) He took down what you said, I suppose in writing?

- That I could not say, Sir, what he was doing of.

383 11630. (The Attorney-General.) Was he writing when you were there?

- He just wrote down a little, but what he was doing of I could not say; I never said much, I just simply stated the truth, and that is all.

384 The Commissioner:  
I understand, Mr. Duke, you have heard nothing of all this?

385 Mr. Duke:  
I have just been inquiring, My Lord.

386 The Commissioner:  
You have heard nothing of it?

387 Mr. Duke:  
No, My Lord, I have not, but I have been inquiring, and I think presently I may be able to give your Lordship some information about it.

388 11631. (The Attorney-General.) Did you sign any statement at this interview?

- Yes, I signed my name.

389 11632. What happened to the statement?

- That I cannot say.

390 11633. Was it taken away by this gentleman?

- Yes.

391 The Attorney-General:  
I call for it. Have you got it, Mr. Duke?

392 Mr. Duke:  
No, I have not got it, Mr. Attorney. I am making every Inquiry I can. I think I know something about what happened about this now. I have been making inquiries.

393 11634. (The Commissioner.) It was not, I suppose, a newspaper gentleman?

- That I could not say, Sir.

394 11635. (The Attorney-General.) Were you asked whether you were master of the situation?

- Oh, yes, Sir; I was asked that.

395 11636. That is what the gentleman said to you?

- Yes.

396 11637. The gentleman asked you, were you Master of the situation, and I suppose you said "Yes"?

- Certainly, Sir.

397 11638. Were you asked whether you exercised your discretion?

- How do you mean "exercised my discretion"?

398 11639. That was your expression today; it is not mine. Did that gentleman say to you, "Did you exercise your discretion"?

- Is that for me to say in the Court here?

399 11640. I am asking you?

- I know you are asking me, but is that for me to say?

400 11641. Whether the gentleman asked you that?

- Whether the gentleman asked me that?

401 11642. Why should you be so shy about it?

- I am not shy at all about it.

402 11643. Why do you want the protection of the Court? Why don't you answer the question?

- You put the question to me, and I told you - the master of the situation.

403 11644. Just follow what I am putting to you. You say a gentleman was there with you?

- Yes.

404 11645. And he put questions to you?

- Yes.

405 11646. I am asking you, did he put this question to you: "Did you exercise your discretion as to whether you should go back or not"?

- I told him "Yes."

406 11647. The Commissioner: Then he did ask you the question, and you said "Yes"?

- Yes.

407 11648. (The Attorney-General.) Did the gentleman tell you that you ought not to say anything about this?

- The gentleman said nothing whatsoever to me, Sir.

408 11649. I do not quite understand why you should have objected to answering the question I put to you?

- I think myself, Sir, like this. I do not know who the gentleman was, neither did I altogether at that time, and it was in my own private home; and I think myself it was not a case to put before the Court.

409 11650. Do not drop your voice - you thought it was not a case to put before the Court?

- Not that question you put then.

410 11651. But why not?

- I have answered it now, so that it has gone.

411 11652. I would like to understand why it is that you think that question ought not to be put to you. What is your objection to it?

- I think myself, Sir, that what you do in your own private life is no business of no one. That is what I think, and that is a sailor's view of it.

412 11653. So that you thought that this conversation between you

and this gentleman representing Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon ought to be treated as private?

413 - It was no business of nobody's.

11654. Neither of the Court's nor of anybody else?

414 - Not in that regard, no, because there was nothing more than I just simply stated the outline of the thing.

11655. Did he ask you whether you had read Hendrickson's story to the Court?

415 - No, Sir.

11656. Did he ask you whether you had heard anything about what Hendrickson had said to the Court?

416 - No, Sir, not as I am aware of.

11657. What?

417 - No, I knew what Hendrickson had said then.

11658. I am asking you what he put to you. Did he mention Hendrickson?

418 - No.

11659. (The Commissioner.) Did you mention Hendrickson?

419 - No, Sir.

11660. Now, just think. You had read Hendrickson's story?

420 - Yes.

11661. And it was a very important story?

421 - Yes.

11662. And this gentleman came to talk to you about Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon who had been mentioned in Hendrickson's story?

422 - Yes.

11663. Do you mean to tell me that neither you nor he mentioned Hendrickson's name at all?

423 - Not Hendrickson's name - no, Sir.

11664. What do you mean by that. Did he mention somebody else's name?

424 - I simply said that it was pretty good evidence what that man gave last week. No name was mentioned whatever.

The Commissioner:  
What is the meaning of that?

425 11665. (The Attorney-General.) "It was pretty good evidence what that man gave last week." Did you mean by "that man" Hendrickson?

426 - Yes, I suppose that is what I meant.

11666. You did not mention his name?

427 - No.

11667. But they knew to whom you referred?

428 - I take it so.

11668. And you knew they had come to see you about that?

429 - No, not about that question.

11669. Think. Do you mean to say you did not know that this gentleman had come to see you because of what had been said by Hendrickson to this Court? Is that what you are telling my Lord?

- What do you mean, Sir, putting it that way? I do not quite

follow what you mean?

430 11670. Do not you?

- No.

431 11671. Let me try and put it to you again. Did not you know that this gentleman had come to see you because of what Hendrickson had said to this Court about what had happened in No. 1 boat?

- I suppose that is what he did come there for, for protection, I suppose, to hear my story, and I gave him the brief outlines.

432 11672. You knew he had come because of what was suggested against Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon?

- I believe that is what it was for.

433 11673. Did not he tell you so?

- He told me he was representing Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon.

434 11674. And did not he tell you he had come to see you about the story of this man Hendrickson, or of some man?

- No; he just simply came and asked if I would give a brief outline of the story, and I gave it.

435 11675. A brief outline of the story?

- Yes.

436 11676. How long did it take you to give that brief outline?

- Just over an hour, I suppose.

437 11677. He put questions to you?

- No - he may have put one or two now and then.

438 11678. You told me about the exercise of your discretion and your being Master of the situation. Those you have told me about?

- Yes.

439 11679. Did you say anything to him about having received any money from Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon? Do speak up.

- I was just thinking whether I said anything. I will not tell a lie.

440 The Commissioner:  
Do speak a little louder, please.

441 The Attorney-General:  
That does not want much thinking about, whether you had any money from Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon.

442 Mr. Duke:  
You asked him whether he told the gentleman that he had received the money.

443 11680. (The Attorney-General.) I say it does not want much thinking about to recollect that you had the money.

- That is right enough, but I am just thinking whether I mentioned it or not to the man. It is no use my telling you a lie. I was just thinking whether I said it.

444 11681. (The Commissioner.) Now think, and tell us what the answer is?

- Yes, I did tell him. I told him that at the time it was given me it was a surprise.

445 11682. A surprise?

- Yes, it was a great surprise to me when I received it.

446 11683. (The Attorney-General.) That is what you told him?  
 - Yes.

447 11684. How much did you have?  
 - Is that a question to submit, Sir?

448 11685. (The Commissioner.) Yes?  
 - £5.

449 11686. (The Attorney-General.) Have you had any more since?  
 - No, none whatever.

450 11687. That is all you have had altogether?  
 - That is all I have had.

451 11688. When did you have that?  
 - About a day - it may have been two - before we arrived in New York on the "Carpathia."

452 11689. I understood you to say to my Lord just now that that came upon you as a surprise?  
 - Yes, quite a surprise packet.

453 11690. You mean you had never heard of any present?  
 - No, Sir, I heard of nothing.

454 11691. From Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon?  
 - No, Sir, I heard nothing.

455 11692. Either a present or a gift of money?  
 - I only know I heard that they took my name, and I understood from the other fireman they were to send a wire to our parents.

456 11693. They were to send a wire to your parents?  
 - That is what the other fireman said. Of course, I did not know the fireman's name at the time.

457 11694. Did you hear sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon say anything at all in the boat?  
 - No, Sir; I heard Sir Cosmo say nothing.

458 11695 How many hours were you in the boat before you were picked up by the "Carpathia"?  
 - It must have been five or more.

459 11696. Did you hear any of the crew say anything?  
 - No, Sir; they only gave a bit of a cheer when they sighted the "Carpathia" first.

460 11697. Are we to understand from you that during the whole time you were in the boat nothing was ever said until a cheer was raised when you saw the "Carpathia"?  
 - There may have been a conversation among themselves, but I heard nothing.

461 11698. You did not hear it?  
 - No. They may have been speaking among themselves.

462 11699. There may have been conversation going on without your hearing it? Is that what you mean?  
 - Yes.

463 11700. Were not you surprised that nobody suggested that you should go back to pick up the people who were drowning?  
 - Yes, I was rather surprised.

464 11701. You were rather surprised?  
 - Yes.

465 11702. Were you looking towards the "Titanic"? Were you facing  
towards the "Titanic" or away from her when you were rowing?  
- How do you mean?

466 11703. When you were steering in the boat?  
- When I was steering away from the boat my back was turned. I  
was watching the "Titanic."

467 11704. Then, when you stopped and lay on your oars were you  
facing the "Titanic" then?  
- The boat was not. The boat was pulling away, but I myself was  
facing the "Titanic." I was watching the ship.

468 11705. When you heard the cries were you facing the vessel - or,  
rather, facing the place where the "Titanic" had been?  
- No, Sir; our stern was to the place then.

469 11706. Your back was turned?  
- Yes, we were a good way away at that time.

470 11707. And the other people would be looking towards the place?  
- The people that was rowing would be, Sir.

471 11708. That would be sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon; he would be  
facing you?  
- I could not say. I could not see. You could not discern the  
people in the dark.

472 11709. You could not tell which way he was facing?  
- No.

473 11710. I would just like to understand the end of your story about  
this. You continued rowing and resting, as I understand, laying on  
the oars - that is the crew in the boat?  
- Yes.

474 11711. Until you sighted the "Carpathia"?  
- No. After we continued rowing, as I have said, we came back  
again. I stated that just now.

475 11712. Did you row towards the light that you had mentioned?  
- We were rowing for the light. The light was bearing roughly on  
our port beam when we were rowing away from the ship.

476 11713. And did you row towards it?  
- Yes, Sir, rowing after it.

477 11714. But it disappeared?  
- Yes.

478 11715. Did you appear to be catching it up at all?  
- No. I thought my own self she was gradually going away from  
us.

479 11716. Do you remember what time you were picked up by the  
"Carpathia"?  
- That I could not say.

480 11717. It was, of course, after daybreak?  
- Yes, a good time after daybreak.

481 11718. I see you gave evidence in America?  
- Yes, and there is one mistake there that I should like to correct.

482 11719. I think, your Lordship, you have that before you. I will  
hand it up. (The copy was handed to the Commissioner.) What is  
the mistake that you want to correct?

- There is one mistake that was made there - that I rowed back, I think the Consul said, and saw the wreckage, but it should have been "I saw nothing."

483 11720. You may perhaps be referring to something else. You mean the deposition you made in America?

- Yes, first of all before the British Consul.

484 11721. I suppose this is what you are referring to, My Lord, I am now referring to his deposition made on 2nd May, 1912. The only passages I find which refer to this at all are these, and I think they contain the part he now wants to correct. It is quite short. It begins: "Shortly after I had got on the boat deck I noticed rockets being fired at very frequent intervals from the bridge, Morse signals being used; and at about 12.30 I saw about one point on the port bow distant some five or six miles a light which I took to be the stern light of a cod bank fisherman." That is right?

- That is right.

485 11722. "And after we had put off from No. 1 boat I saw this light still bearing in much the same direction and at about the same distance away. I saw no red or green lights at all at this time. At this time the forecastle head of the "Titanic" was all awash; and when we were about a quarter of a mile off I heard two sharp explosions following each other rapidly. The "Titanic" seemed to me to split in two, the head disappearing completely, and the poop coming up and seeming to right itself for a moment, the lights all went suddenly out, and she seemed to take an upturn plunge, standing up on end, and with a roar she disappeared. We felt no effect of suction through her sinking at the point where we were, about a quarter of a mile away." Now, listen to this, which I think is the only passage which relates to what happened when you were in the boat. "After waiting for a little we rowed back to where we thought the "Titanic" had disappeared, and it was difficult in the darkness to determine the spot, and we had no light in the boat, and we found nothing except some floating wreckage"?

- That is where the mistake is - that "floating wreckage."

486 11723. What is it you want to correct?

- "I saw nothing." That is all.

487 11724. You saw nothing?

- That is right, Sir.

488 The Commissioner:  
There is no reference here to any cries or to there being any people in the neighbourhood.

489 The Attorney-General:  
There is no reference, My Lord, of any kind to it. That is all the reference there is to what happened except the description of the sinking of the "Titanic" and the wreckage, which he now says is a mistake.

490 The Commissioner:  
The "floating wreckage"?

491 The Attorney-General:  
Yes, I think, My Lord, this might be put in. I will put it in.

492 11725. (The Commissioner - To the witness.) There is one point, you know, that I want to ask you. You said that you were surprised that no one in the boat suggested that you should go to the assistance of these drowning people. Do you remember saying that to me just now?

- Yes.

493 11726. That you were surprised?

- I expected fully for someone to say something about it?

494 11727. That seemed reasonable?

- Yes, that seemed reasonable, Sir.

495 11728. But you would not have thought it was reasonable if they had said it?

- Not at that time, no Sir.

496 The Attorney-General:  
I am not going to read it now - it may be necessary to refer to it afterwards, but he has given evidence in America before the Committee. I think I handed that up, did not I?

497 The Commissioner:  
No, you have not handed me anything up.

498 11729. (The Attorney-General.) This is it (The document was handed in.) That is his testimony given before senator Perkins. (To the witness.) I just want you to hear what you said there. Listen to this. Is this right? "(Q.) What boat did you go from the ship in? - (A.) No. 1. (Q.) Who was in command of her? - (A.) I was. (Q.) How many passengers did you have on her? - (A.) From 14 to 20"?

- Yes; that is what I thought I had there at the time, in the dark.

499 11730. (The Commissioner.) But you were not in the dark when you were sitting in this Court giving evidence?

- No, Sir, not at that time.

500 11731. Then why did you say that you had from 14 to 20 passengers when you had only five?

- I think, if I am speaking right, Senator Bourne asked how many was in the boat all told.

501 11732. (The Attorney-General.) I think, My Lord, if you read on that is all right. If you read on a little you will see he asked the question quite correctly, and evidently you misunderstood it?

- That is right, Sir.

502 11733. He is asked: "How many passengers did you have on her?" I suppose he meant passengers in the boat. "(A.) From 14 to 20. (Q.) Were they passengers or crew? - (A.) They were passengers. At first they put in seven of the crew. There was seven men ordered in, two seamen and five firemen. They were ordered in by Mr. Murdoch. (Q.) How many did this boat carry? - (A.) I could not say for certain. It was one of the small accident boats. (Q.) After she got into the water would she take any more? - (A.) She would have taken more. (Q.) How many did you have, all told? - (A.) I would not say for certain. It was 14 or 20. Then

we were ordered away. (Q.) You did not return to the ship again?  
 - (A.) Yes, we came back after the ship was gone and we saw nothing." It still leaves it rather in doubt, I think, that is all there is about the numbers. (To the witness.) Do you mean to say that the 14 or 20 that you said was meant to include everybody in the boat?  
 - Yes, everybody.

503 The Attorney-General:  
 But you knew you were only twelve, all told?

504 The Commissioner:  
 It does not strike me that that is what it means. The question is put: "How many passengers did you have on her?" and the answer is: "From 14 to 20. (Q.) Were they passengers or crew? - (A.) They were passengers. At first they put in seven of the crew. There were seven men ordered in, two seamen and five firemen. They were ordered in by Mr. Murdoch. (Q.) How many did this boat carry? - (A.) I could not say for certain. It was one of the small accident boats. (Q.) After she got into the water would she take any more? - (A.) She would have taken more. (Q.) How many did you have all told?" Of course that may mean crew and passengers, but it does not read as if it did.

505 The Attorney-General:  
 Certainly; the earlier questions do not.

506 11734. The Commissioner: "(A.) I would not say for certain. It was 14 or 20. Then we were ordered away." But anyway you must have known perfectly well when you gave this evidence that the number in that boat of yours was 12 and no more. Why did you say 14 or 20?  
 - How do you mean, Sir, at that time?

507 11735. Yes. In America before the Court there. You must then have known quite well how many there were in your boat?  
 - Yes, Sir, speaking in that way.

508 11736. Why did you tell them in America that there were 14 to 20 people in the boat when you knew as a fact that there were only 12?  
 - I think myself, Sir, that the mistake I made then was through the way they muddle us about there.

509 The Commissioner:  
 There does not seem much muddling about that.

510 11737. (The Attorney-General.) You were asked a very plain question: "How many passengers did you have in her? - (A.) From 14 to 20. (Q.) Were they passengers or crew? and your answer is, "They were passengers." - There must have been a mistake there, because I distinctly told Senator Bourne, or whatever his name was, the people that were in the boat.

511 11738. We have got exactly what you said; it was taken down in shorthand. "At first they put in seven of the crew." Did you know the names of the other passengers?  
 - No.

512 11739. Did you know the names of any of the passengers?

513 - No, Sir, none whatever.  
11740. When you were in America?  
- In America, yes, because I knew the gentleman then Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon.

514 11741. But did you know anybody else?  
- No.

515 11742. I notice that there is nothing in your statement here or in the deposition to show that Mr. Murdoch had given you the order to go a short way off and stand by and come back when called?  
- No, there is nothing in the evidence.

516 11743. You never said that before?  
- I never said that before.

517 11744. Not till I asked you today?  
- Not till you asked me today. You put the question to me in a proper manner, whereas in America they did not, in that way of speaking.

518 11745. Did you tell the gentleman who saw you at weymouth that that order had been given?  
- Yes, Sir.

519 The Commissioner:  
Is there anything in this American evidence about the money?

520 11746. (The Attorney-General.) I am going to ask him about that. There are two further things that I want to ask him, but I may as well put that to him first. Did you say anything in America about having received the £5?  
- Nothing whatever, and I was not asked, or asked to make a statement previously, of what was given in the boat.

521 11747. I may take it that nothing was said about it at all?  
- That is right, Sir.

522 11748. Just listen to what you said in America. This is just at the bottom of page 40 and the top of page 41 where you stopped just now, My Lord. "(Q.) You did not return to the ship again? - Yes, we came back after the ship was gone, and we saw nothing. (Q.) Did you rescue anyone that was in the water? - No, Sir; we saw nothing when we came back. (Q.) Was there any confusion or excitement among the passengers? - No, Sir; nothing whatever; it was just the same as if it was an everyday affair. (Q.) Was there any rush to get into either one of these boats? - (A.) No, Sir, I never saw it. I never saw any rush whatsoever. (Q.) Did you hear any cries of people in the water? - (A.) Oh, yes, Sir; I heard the cries. (Q.) Did you say your boat could take more? Did you make any effort to get them? - Yes, we came back, but when we came back we did not see anybody nor hear anybody. (Q.) Then, what did you do after that? - (A.) After we rowed around, we rowed around and picked up with another boat, and both stuck together; one boat with a lot of people." I have called your attention to that. You see you were asked these very questions which we have been putting to you today, first, whether you heard cries of people in the water. You remember that?  
- Yes.

523 11749. Then you were asked whether you made any effort to get there, that is the people from whom you heard the cries?  
- Yes.

524 11750. It is pointed out to you that you had said your boat could take more?  
- Yes, I did say so.

525 11751. Your answer to that is, "Yes, we came back, but when we came back we did not see anybody nor hear anybody."?  
- That is quite right.

526 11752. Why did not you tell him what you have told us today, that you heard the cries, but in the exercise of your discretion and as Master of the situation you had determined not to go back because you thought you might be swamped? Why did not you tell them that?  
- My idea of the whole concern was that they had us in three at a time in America - that you have not got there I expect - to get us through as quick as possible. He was putting his questions as quick as he possibly could to get us through - three of us; that was Hogg, Perkis, and myself.

527 11753. You realise that this does not give quite a true account, does it, as I read it to you?  
- No, not the same as I have given here.

528 11754. It leaves out altogether this important matter about whether or not you should go back to save these people?  
- Yes, that is left out.

529 11755. Nothing was said about that at all?  
- Nothing was said to me about that whatever.

530 11756. I do not quite understand, you know, why you suggest that you were muddled about it there. The senator put this question to you: "Did you make any effort to get them?" and your answer is, "Yes, we came back, but when we came back we did not see anybody nor hear anybody." - That was the question that he put to me when I said that answer. I told him what I had done, which I do not expect is in that evidence. I told him what I had done - that we were rowing away and we came back again and turned round to pick up the other boats.

531 11757. You told him nothing about having determined not to go back in the exercise of your discretion?  
- No, I told him nothing of that.

532 11758. Why did not you when he asked you whether you took any steps to get the people back, tell him that part of the story; it is the most important part, is it not?  
- Yes, Sir, an important part.

533 11759. A thing which must have impressed itself on your memory?  
- Quite so, Sir.

534 11760. You have thought about it a good deal since?  
- Yes.

535 11761. You have realised that if you had gone back you might have saved a good many people?

- Quite so.

536 11762. (The Commissioner.) And there is this question put to you at the end: "Is there any other incident that you wish to state that would be of interest to the public"?

- No, Sir, not that I know of.

537 Examined by Mr. SCANLAN.

538 11763. I think you stated to Sir Rufus Isaacs that you had not given your address to Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon?

- I stated to you, Sir, that I did not give it to him on the ship.

539 11764. But you said, did not you, that Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon was to send a telegram to your relatives?

- That is as far as I understood from the fireman.

540 11765. So that Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon had got both the name and address of you and of every other member of the crew?

- He must have it if he gave it.

541 Mr. Scanlan:

That was the paper that was produced by his counsel today.

542 Mr. Duke:

You are quite mistaken, Mr. Scanlan.

543 11766. (Mr. Scanlan.) When did you first learn that one of your passengers in this boat was Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon?

- About two days after we were rescued.

544 11767. Do you mean to say you did not know during the time you were in the emergency boat?

- Quite so; neither did I know till two days after we were rescued who the gentleman was.

545 11768. I suppose you knew that the "Titanic" had over 1,300 passengers?

- Oh, yes. I do not know exactly the number, of course.

546 11769. And 892 of a crew - that altogether you had on board over 2,200 people?

- I do not know the exact numbers, of course.

547 11770. Did you realise that you had not lifeboat accommodation for half the people you had on board?

- Yes.

548 11771. You knew that?

- Yes.

549 11772. Whilst you were assisting to lower and fill with passengers the other boats, Nos. 3, 5, and 7, you observed, did you not, each boat got a full complement of passengers?

- She had a full complement to lower from the davits.

550 11773. Was yours the only boat that was lowered from that side without a full number of passengers?

- That I could not say.

551 11774. Had you seen any of the other boats being lowered into the water with plenty of spare accommodation for passengers?

- No, Sir; I did not see no more.

552 11775. Your boat corresponds exactly to the boat on the opposite side - to emergency boat No. 2?

- Yes.

553 11776. Do you know that No. 2 boat took off 23 to 25 passengers, chiefly women. Did you know that?  
- No, Sir; I did not know that.

554 11777. At the time the emergency boat No. 1 was being lowered the position of the ship had not become very dangerous, had it?  
- No, not very dangerous.

555 11778. It would have been quite a simple matter to have kept No. 1 boat on the davits slung ready for taking on passengers until a search was made throughout the ship for passengers?  
- Well, yes, we could have done that.

556 11779. I beg your pardon?  
- Yes, that could have been done.

557 11780. Can you explain to my Lord how it is that this order was given for your boat to go away with only five passengers?  
- I cannot say, Sir.

558 11781. Was there any person directing operations on the boat deck besides Mr. Murdoch?  
- Mr. Murdoch and the boatswain.

559 11782. Who is the boatswain?  
- Nichols.

560 11783. Has he been saved?  
- No, Sir.

561 11784. Did you see Mr. Ismay?  
- No, Sir.

562 11785. On the deck at that time?  
- No, Sir.

563 11786. Did you know him?  
- Yes; I knew him by being on the "Oceanic" with him.

564 11787. Is it your evidence that there were no passengers, either male or female, on the deck?  
- I saw none.

565 11788. Did you see any person at all, passengers or crew?  
- The crew was there working at the surf boat, the collapsible boat as the gentleman said.

566 11789. Were not there people crowding aft of the boat - passengers?  
- What do you mean, "crowding aft."?

567 11790. Were not there a number of people aft of the emergency boat?  
- That I could not see from there. Those three boats there were gone.

568 11791. Knowing that you had not got accommodation for all the passengers you must have known and realised that there were plenty of passengers left behind in the ship, the "Titanic"?  
- Yes.

569 11792. Did the crew you had got into No. 1 prove sufficient to enable you to row this No. 1 boat?  
- Yes.

570 11793. The sea was calm?  
- Yes.

571 11794. And the night was calm?  
 - Yes.

572 11795. The conditions could not have been more favourable for  
 rescuing people?  
 - No.

573 11796. (The Commissioner.) What seaboard had you in this boat?  
 - That I could not give a satisfactory answer to.

574 The Commissioner:  
 But you ought to have known that before making up your mind  
 that there was a danger from swamping?

575 11797. (Mr. Scanlan.) Is it your evidence that you rowed away in  
 obedience to the order from the Officer to a distance of 150 to  
 200 yards?  
 - No, it was a quarter of a mile. That is the distance I rowed.

576 11798. The evidence of Hendrickson is that you rowed away to a  
 distance of 150 to 200 yards. Do you contradict that?  
 - Yes; we rowed away to roughly about a quarter of a mile.

577 11799. If it is stated by Lady Duff-Gordon that you watched the  
 boat go down from a distance of 200 yards, are you going to  
 contradict that?  
 - It was more than that, Sir.

578 11800. What was the order you had got from Mr. Murdoch?  
 - To row away from the ship and to stand by to be called back.

579 11801. If you had gone away a quarter of a mile you could not  
 have heard any call to come back?  
 - No, Sir. When we rowed away at first we were not a quarter of  
 a mile away. That was when the ship went down.

580 11802. Before the ship went down, when you were standing by to  
 obey any order you might get from Mr. Murdoch, or the Captain,  
 what distance was it?  
 - Then we were about 200 yards.

581 11803. I put it to you that you remained stationary at a distance  
 of 200 yards and watched the "Titanic" go down?  
 - No, Sir, we were going further away all the time she was going  
 down.

582 11804. And that while you were within 200 yards of the "Titanic"  
 the people were screaming for help in the water, and that the  
 cries were heard by you and everybody else in the boat?  
 - Yes.

583 11805. 200 yards?  
 - No, Sir, over a quarter of a mile.

584 11806. There would have been no difficulty whatever in rowing  
 back a quarter of a mile?  
 - Well no.

585 11807. Were any of your passengers seasick?  
 - That I could not see, Sir.

586 11808. (The Commissioner.) Did you look? Was Lady Duff-  
 Gordon seasick?  
 - Lady Duff-Gordon I could not see; you could only just discern  
 them. The only conversation that I caught once was Sir Cosmo

Duff-Gordon trying to cheer Lady Duff-Gordon up. That was the only conversation - some words he spoke to her, and that was nearly at the break of daylight.

587 11809. (Mr. Scanlan.) You heard no complaint during the night that any of the passengers were seasick?

- No, Sir, I heard no complaint whatever.

588 11810. Do you know that Hendrickson was sitting at the bow of this emergency boat?

- He was in the bow.

589 11811-2. Was Hendrickson next to Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon - the next seat to him?

- That I could not say for certain.

590 11813. Do you know where sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon was?

- I should think from what I saw in the morning that he was about the second seat from forward.

591 11814. So that Hendrickson would be considerably nearer to Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon than you were?

- Oh! Yes, Sir, nearer.

592 11815. I suppose there was a good deal of conversation in the lifeboat?

- If there was any conversation it was unknown to me. I never heard nothing.

593 11816. I mean in the lifeboat, this emergency boat?

- There may have been conversation between themselves.

594 11817. So that it is possible that Hendrickson may have said, "We should go back and try to rescue these people who are crying"?

- Yes. He may have said it, but I never heard it.

595 11818. And Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon may have said, "It is not possible for us to go back"?

- That I cannot say. He may have said it.

596 11819. When you say that you were surprised that no one asked you to go back, did you mean passengers?

- Anybody, Sir.

597 11820. You expected -?

- Someone to say something.

598 11821. Some of the passengers?

- I cannot say the passengers - anybody.

599 11822. Did you attribute to cowardice the fact that your passengers did not all ask you to go back?

- No, Sir. I never had a thought in my head of cowardice.

600 11823. Looking back on this whole incident, and considering that you had a boat practically empty, with only five passengers, and accommodation for fifteen or twenty more, was it not cowardice that prevented the passengers and the crew from going back?

- No, I cannot see that.

601 11824. Can you give any other account? Can you account for it in any other way except by the exercise of what you are pleased to call your discretion?

- That is right, Sir. That is the only thing I can see.

602 11825. You admit it was cowardly?  
 - No, I do not admit it was cowardly.

603 11826. Is not a seaman, when the passengers in his boat are in  
 danger, expected to run risks in order to save life?  
 - Quite so.

604 The Commissioner:  
 This is mere argument, Mr. Scanlan.

605 Mr. Scanlan:  
 I shall not press it further, My Lord.

606 The Commissioner:  
 Have a little mercy on the man.

607 11827. (Mr. Scanlan.) There is one point about your boat I want  
 to ask you. Did you find this emergency boat properly equipped?  
 - No, Sir; it never had no compass and no lamp in it.

608 11828. Was it deficient in any other respect?  
 - I think - I will not say for certain - there were no biscuits in the  
 boat.

609 11829. Did you find that binocular glasses were useful,  
 especially at night on the look-out?  
 - Yes.

610 Examined by Mr. CLEMENT EDWARDS.

611 11830. How was this £5 paid to you?  
 - What do you mean, Sir.

612 Mr. Edwards:  
 It is a simple question.

613 11831. (The Commissioner.) It is a very simple question. What  
 shape did you get it in?  
 - Just in a form, Sir - a sheet of paper.

614 11832. (The Solicitor-General.) A cheque?  
 - No, not a cheque.

615 11833. (Mr. Clement Edwards.) A £5 note?  
 - No, a sheet of paper.

616 11834. It was an order?  
 - Yes; an order.

617 11835. An order upon whom?  
 - That I could not tell you, I have not studied it that much.

618 11836. Have you still got it?  
 - No, Sir, not here.

619 11837. Have you got it at home?  
 - Yes, it is at home.

620 11838. (The Commissioner.) Have not you changed it?  
 - No, Sir. I have not got quite to that yet. I have a shot in the  
 locker left.

621 11839. (Mr. Clement Edwards.) You are a pretty thrifty sort of  
 man, are you?  
 - Well, yes.

622 11840. Do you ever pay any money into the bank at all?  
 - What do you mean? Is that a question to put? That is my own  
 private affairs. I do not think that is right. That is not right, Sir.

623 11841. I see. Have you got a banking account?

- It is not right for me to answer that.

624 11842. Have you paid any money into that banking account recently?

- That is not for me to answer.

625 The Commissioner:  
You want his passbook, you know.

626 11843. (Mr. Clement Edwards.) What have you done with this order?

- It is at home, Sir.

627 11844. That is not paid in yet?

- No, Sir; I still have that paper.

628 11845. What is the order for?

- £5.

629 11846. Do you swear that?

- Yes, by Heaven above, or God above, as you say.

630 11847. (The Commissioner.) Five pounds or five dollars?

- Five pounds, Sir.

631 11848. (Mr. Clement Edwards.) Did you get any money from anybody else?

- No, Sir, none whatever.

632 11849. Do you know who the other passengers were?

- No, Sir.

633 11850. Have you seen them since?

- Seen them once on the "Carpathia," and that is all.

634 11851. You did not take the trouble to find out who they were?

- No, they were of no interest to me.

635 11852. Was one of the ladies Mrs. Astor?

- No.

636 11853. You are sure of that?

- Yes, positive.

637 11854. You know Mrs. Astor independently, do you?

- I saw her once before on the "Oceanic."

638 11855. You said that you did not see Mr. Ismay?

- No.

639 11856. Were you about No. 3 boat when she was lowered?

- Yes.

640 11857. Could Mr. Ismay have been giving directions to that boat without you seeing him?

- The only man that was giving -

641 11858. Will you answer my question, please?

- What did you say? Say it again.

642 11859. Could Mr. Ismay have been giving directions for the lowering of No. 3 boat if you were there without you seeing him?

- I did not hear anybody giving any orders.

643 11860. Will you answer my question, please?

- I can only say he may have been there or he may not have been there. That is all I can say to that.

644 The Commissioner:  
And it is a very good answer.

645 11861. (Mr. Clement Edwards.) We have heard something about

a photograph. Were you taken in a photograph on the "Carpathia"?

- Yes, I was took in several photographs this last month. It's quite nice to know you are so big.

646 11862. Were you taken in a photograph with the passengers and crew of your boat?

- Yes, Sir.

647 11863. Have you got that photograph?

- No, Sir; I have seen nothing of it.

648 11864. At whose request was it taken?

- That I could not say.

649 11865. Who asked you to go into the picture?

- The passengers that was around the "Carpathia" at the time.

650 11866. The particular passengers on this boat?

- No, I did not know none of them.

651 11867. Did Lady Duff-Gordon ask you?

- No, Sir, she never asked. We were all there together.

652 11868. Did Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon ask you?

- No, Sir.

653 11869. Did you write your name on a lifebelt?

- Yes.

654 11870. At whose request?

- At Lady Duff-Gordon's.

655 11871. When was that done?

- It may have been a day or a couple of days before we got into New York.

656 11872. You told the learned Attorney-General that you thought in your discretion it would be dangerous to go back until everything was over?

- No, not everything was over.

657 11873. That is what you said.

- I mean to say my evidence was in that respect till I thought everything was safe for the boat to go back.

658 Examined by Mr. HOLMES.

659 11874. Did you realise when your boat No. 1 was lowered into the water that the "Titanic" was sinking?

- No, Sir, not at that time.

660 11875. When did you first realise that?

- When we got away from the ship.

661 11876. How soon after you got away?

- About five minutes I suppose.

662 11877. You told us she had a list to starboard?

- Yes, at that time.

663 11878. Did you actually see that by the deck?

- The only way you could tell was by the lowering of the boat.

664 11879. You only judge she had it because of the way the boat went down?

- If she had had a list to port the boat would have hung over her deck.

665 11880. You really expected an order to return to the ship at some

time?

- Yes, I expected to go back with my passengers and land them aboard the ship again.

666 11881. And you knew when the ship sank you could not get an order from the ship?

- No.

667 11882. You were either taking passengers off the ship or rescuing passengers after you were asked to be in readiness?

- I do not know what that order was. The order that was given was to stand off and wait orders.

668 11883. What is the length of the boat you were in?

- That I could not say.

669 11884. If Hendrickson had spoken loudly would you have heard?

- I should think so.

670 11885. You have no reason to doubt Hendrickson's statement?

- No reason to doubt it whatever. Had he spoken loud I was bound to hear.

671 11886. Do you know a fireman named Taylor?

- No - I only just knew their names afterwards. I did not know none of them.

672 11887. You do not know where he was sitting?

- No, not properly.

673 11888. And whether he was sitting alongside Lady Duff-Gordon and heard Hendrickson?

- That I cannot say.

674 11889. If he heard Hendrickson it is possible you would have heard?

- I should think so; if he heard him I suppose I ought to have heard him.

675 11890. If he said that a suggestion was made by someone, you would not doubt his statement, would you?

- No. You cannot doubt his statement, because I cannot say whether he said it or whether he did not.

676 11891. (The Commissioner.) Or whether it is truthful or not?

- Or whether it is truthful or not.

677 11892. (Mr. Lewis.) If he said he was opposed by a lady passenger, you would not doubt that would you?

- You cannot doubt a man's word till you find out for certain.

678 11893. Or if he says a man passenger said it was dangerous?

- Then you cannot doubt that.

679 11894. You would not doubt that?

- No.

680 11895. And the lady may have said she was afraid of the boat being swamped?

- She may have said it, yes.

681 11896. You said you went back to the wreckage after the ship sank?

- Yes.

682 11897. (The Commissioner.) He went back and saw nothing?

- Saw nothing.

683 The Commissioner:  
Not to any wreckage.

684 11898. (Mr. Lewis.) The wreckage was mentioned in the  
American evidence. You went, at any rate, to the scene of the  
wreck?  
- As soon as possible.

685 11899. How long do you think it took you to get back to what  
you thought was the spot?  
- Half-an-hour or more; three -quarters of an hour nearly.

686 11900. Was there any conversation of any sort at the time of the  
sinking of the boat?  
- I never heard nothing.

687 11901. Nothing whatever?  
- No. If they were speaking between themselves, I was not  
hearing. I never heard nothing.

688 11902. I understand you to say that Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon was  
quieting Lady Duff-Gordon?  
- Yes; once I heard that.

689 11903. Calming her?  
- Yes.

690 11904. Soothing her. Did he speak to her?  
- Yes, he spoke to the lady.

691 11905. You heard that?  
- That was at daylight, at the break of day; that was when the  
"Carpathia's" lights were in sight.

692 11906. If I were to suggest to you that immediately after the  
sinking of the boat, a few minutes afterwards, you gave the order  
to pull away, and that you did not pull to the scene of the  
wreckage, would I be speaking an untruth?  
- Yes, you would.

693 The Commissioner:  
You are not assisting me in the least by these questions.

694 Mr. Lewis:  
Not in the least? I believe, My Lord, you will have evidence -

695 The Commissioner:  
That may be, but I am thinking about the assistance that you are  
affording to the Court, and in my opinion, at present you are  
affording the Court none.

696 11907. (Mr. Lewis.) I am very sorry, My Lord, that you should  
think so. Personally, I think I am. (To the witness.) You expected  
the people in that boat to say something?  
- Yes, you would expect to hear something of some description.

697 11908. What did you expect them to say?  
- You expect -

698 The Commissioner:  
I will not allow such questions to be put - "What did you expect  
them to say." How can it assist me in any way?

699 Mr. Lewis:  
Because I want to know -

700 The Commissioner:

You may ask him about facts - what he saw, what he did, what he said, what other people did and what other people said, but you must not ask this man about his expectations.

701 Mr. Lewis:  
I want to know, My Lord, whether he thought that the people in the boat would suggest going back.

702 The Commissioner:  
He has told us already that he was surprised they did not suggest it.

703 11909. (Mr. Lewis.) You have heard that all the other boats picked up passengers out of the water?  
- I heard it in the morning.

704 11910. Without any danger?  
- Yes, but how long was it afterwards?

705 The Commissioner:  
Don't you ask questions or we shall never get through.

706 11911. (Mr. Lewis.) And are you still of the opinion, after hearing that, that it would have been dangerous to your boat?  
- Yes.

707 11912. You do not think you could have saved a few?  
- Not at that time.

708 (After a short adjournment.)

709 Mr. Duke:  
I made a statement to your Lordship this morning with regard to an interview which was had by some gentleman, whose identity at that moment I was not aware of, with the witness. As I made that statement, and as I now know the facts, I should like, if I may at some time, to tell your Lordship what I would have said then if I had been aware of it when your Lordship mentioned it to me, which will make clear what the position is, and, if need be, I will call the people who were concerned.

710 The Commissioner:  
I do not quite understand what it is you wanted to say.

711 Mr. Duke:  
It is very little, My Lord; it is this: Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon were at sea; they were on their way from America to this country. Their solicitor, Mr. Tweedie, had no instructions except a cable message to inform the Board of Trade that they desired to attend at any Inquiry which might be held. He complied with those instructions. A member of their family, a connection of theirs, communicated with a firm of solicitors, and that firm of solicitors supposed they would act for sir Cosmo and Lady Duff-Gordon, and thought it was the proper thing to try to ascertain, in view of Hendrickson's statement, what the other members of the crew said about this matter. One of those gentlemen saw the witness, and I have now the witness's statement here, which I am quite ready to hand to the Attorney-General. But that firm did not in fact act; and Mr. Tweedie, although he became aware that the interview had taken place, had no sort of connection with it, and Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon had no sort of connection with it at the

time it took place. If there is any question which is desired to be raised about it I will deal with it.

712 The Commissioner:  
Well, I think it would be better if you hand to the Attorney-General the statement that was taken down by this gentleman.

713 Mr. Duke:  
If your Lordship pleases, and if my friend thinks fit to enquire of me anything which will put him in a position to examine or cross-examine, of course I am at his disposal.

714 Mr. Laing:  
I have a few questions to ask of the witness, but I will follow my friend Mr. Duke.

715 Mr. Duke:  
I understand my friend intends to deal with totally different matters from those that I have to deal with.

716 The Commissioner:  
Quite.

717 Examined by Mr. DUKE.

718 11913. Just answer me two or three questions. First of all, with regard to the sending off of this boat. So far as you are aware did anybody interfere with Mr. Murdoch's discretion as to the sending off of that boat?  
- No; I saw nobody interfere.

719 11914. Did the boat come along in its order to be sent off? Was it sent off when it was reached in its order, along the ship's side?  
- Yes.

720 11915. The boats, I suppose, were floated so that they would go astern?  
- Yes.

721 11916. And this was the forward boat?  
- Yes, this was the last boat forward.

722 11917. And below it was the surf boat, either below or outside?  
- That was inboard, the surf boat.

723 11918. The surf boat was inboard?  
- Yes.

724 11919. Would she have been swung from the same falls?  
- Yes.

725 11920. When she came to be floated?  
- Yes.

726 11921. Would that have anything to do with using despatch in getting off this boat or not?  
- Very likely, to get the falls up again for the other boat.

727 11922. They would have been wanted for the surf boat if she was wanted?  
- Yes.

728 11923. How long were you there during the getting out of that boat, getting her ready and getting her to the sea level and getting her afloat before she was actually afloat?  
- Do you mean the emergency boat?

729 11924. The emergency boat?

- From the time we were there till she was afloat was about ten minutes.

730 11925. You think about ten minutes?

- Yes.

731 11926. During the whole of that time was there anybody in communication with Mr. Murdoch, except the members of the crew under his orders?

- Nobody except the members that were there that he was giving his orders to.

732 11927. Were you there for any length of time before that, before this boat was taken in hand?

- No, we were working our way down through the line.

733 11928. Were you under Mr. Murdoch's orders while that was being done?

- Yes, under his sole orders.

734 11929. Did anybody, so far as you are aware, during the whole of that time interfere at all with Mr. Murdoch's exercise of his duties?

- No, I saw nobody interfere with him all the time he was in my sight.

735 11930. Now, a suggestion has been made, I do not know on what authority, that Mr. Ismay interfered in some way with regard to the launching of these boats. Did you see any interference by Mr. Ismay?

- Nothing whatever.

736 11931. You knew Mr. Ismay by sight?

- Yes.

737 11932. Was he there at all while these boats were being launched?

- I never saw anything of him.

738 11933. So far as Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon is concerned, did you see anything of him while the lifeboats were being launched?

- No.

739 11934. Did you see what took place, or how it was that Lady Duff-Gordon was not one of the ladies who were put into one of the lifeboats?

- I could not say.

740 11935. You did not see anything of it?

- No.

741 11936. The first you saw was they presented themselves for this boat?

- Yes.

742 11937. Now, with regard to the boat, you were a seaman?

- Yes.

743 11938. Was she the sort of boat which would be adapted for navigating in the Atlantic?

- I should not think she was, in any weather. She is there for saving life, being a lifeboat for any accident.

744 11939. For use in case of accident?

- Yes.

745 11940. How far were you from land at this time?  
 - I could not say; I should think by my own estimation about 1,300 miles from New York.

746 11941. You say it was dark on board the ship?  
 - It was not very dark on board the ship, it was dark when we were going down the side.

747 11942. Was it dark, or light in the boat?  
 - It was dark, very dark.

748 11943. You had no lamp?  
 - No lamp whatever.

749 11944. Do you know how it was that the oars, and perhaps boat masts, or whatever they were - the tackle that was there - had been stowed in the sides against the thwarts?  
 - They were stowed to the side.

750 11945. Would they in ordinary circumstances have been cleared out if the boat had been intended to be launched for a number of people?  
 - No, I have always seen them kept in them before.

751 11946. They are kept there?  
 - Yes.

752 11947. But did they occupy a good deal of what would have been sitting accommodation in the cross -seats?  
 - Yes.

753 11948. Now with regard to the distance which you got from the "Titanic," how far away were you according to your judgment when the "Titanic" went down?  
 - About a quarter of a mile; it may have been a little more.

754 11949. Are you pretty confident as to whether you were a quarter of a mile or not?  
 - Oh yes, I am pretty confident of the distance.

755 11950. How long would it have taken you to row back?  
 - It would have taken a good twenty-five minutes to half-an-hour to have got back to that ship, under the conditions, with four oars. There were only four oars there for pulling - four pulling places.

756 11951. There were four pulling places?  
 - Yes, two each side.

757 11952. From first to last till the time you had made up your mind, did anybody try in any way to interfere with your judgment?  
 - Nobody whatever.

758 11953. Now, it is suggested by gentlemen who were not there that you were afraid to go back. What do you say about it?  
 - I was not afraid to go back - not in the least - no fear whatever. The only thing I knew was it was not safe to go back at the time.

759 11954. Were you clear in your own mind about that?  
 - Yes.

760 11955. Had Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon, or anybody else in the boat, anything to do with your making up your mind about that?  
 - No, nothing whatever.

761 11956. Did you take the responsibility for it then?

- Yes.

762 11957. And I understand you take it now?

- I take it now.

763 11958. I daresay it is a good deal easier to talk about cowardice here than it is to make up your mind in a position like that?

- That is right. Some of those people that talk like that should have been there.

764 11959. We will not discuss it, because they might not have got back. Now with regard to the money, when was the first time you heard any suggestion that anybody would get anything from Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon?

- About the second day before we got into New York.

765 11960. Even among yourselves, the men who had been in the boat, as far as you were concerned had you heard from them?

- Nothing.

766 11961. That Sir Cosmo had said something?

- Nothing.

767 11962. You had had your name taken by somebody?

- Yes.

768 11963. Who was it?

- By one of the firemen. I found out afterwards that Hendrickson was there.

769 11964. Hendrickson and another fireman, you think, were there together, and one of them took your name?

- Yes, Horswell and myself both came together.

770 11965. That is the other seaman?

- Yes; we had to stay in the boat around the bow till some of the other boats came alongside.

771 11966. Were you in communication with Hendrickson and the other men who formed the crew of the boat while you were on board the "Carpathia"?

- Just once or twice.

772 11967. Were they there? Were they on board the "Carpathia"?

- Yes.

773 11968. Did they come back in the same ship with you to England?

- No.

774 11969. While they were there on board the "Carpathia," did either Hendrickson or any other man who was there suggest that you did wrong in the decision you came to not to go back at that time?

- No.

775 11970. No one?

- No one.

776 11971. When was the first time you ever heard a suggestion that you had been guilty of cowardice in not going back in that welter of people?

- When I read the paper in Liverpool on Saturday.

777 11972. You had made your deposition in New York while you were there?

- Yes.

778 11973. And you had attended before the sub-Committee of the senate?

- Yes.

779 The Attorney-General:  
That was earlier; April, I think it was.

780 Mr. Duke:  
I am much obliged. (To the witness.) You had attended before the sub-Committee and made a deposition before the British Consul?

781 The Attorney-General:  
Yes, the 2nd May.

782 11974. (Mr. Duke - To the witness.) I do not know what the suggestion is about that money, but tell me this, while you were in New York were the newspapers full of scandalous stories about people who had been on board this boat, and whose lives had been saved?

- Yes, also scandalous reports about myself.

783 11975. Was there any truth in them?

- No, none whatever.

784 11976. Was this story about Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon the only story that was set on foot about the people on board the ship?

- That is all, Sir, the cowardice and the money. It was the only story that was in the papers.

785 11977. Was there a suggestion at that time that an American millionaire had bribed the crew to take him away, and that Mr. Ismay was a party to it?

- Yes.

786 The Commissioner:  
I do not know that you need go into that.

787 Mr. Duke:  
These suggestions were made in cross-examinations by learned counsel; they go through the country, and are read by all sorts of people, and there seems to be no remedy.

788 Mr. Clement Edwards:  
I was the counsel who put the questions with regard to the money. I then had no knowledge whatever of similar statements having been made concerning this man in America.

789 Mr. Duke:  
Perhaps we shall find out why somebody suggested it.

790 The Commissioner:  
I know nothing about these things.

791 11978. (Mr. Duke - To the witness.) I will ask you one other question about this matter. Were you aware of any inducement held out by anybody to take any particular person in that boat?

- No, none whatever. I simply obeyed my orders.

792 11979. And was there any inducement to you to do anything which you did while you were in the boat?

- No.

793 11980. What became of the lifeboats when they got to the "Carpathia," were they taken on board?

- Some were, and there were one or two set adrift.

794 11981. Was this boat you were in, the dinghy, set adrift?

- No, she was put on board.

795 11982. She was put on board?

- Yes.

796 Examined by Mr. LAING.

797 11983. While you were on the look-out, up to 10 o'clock, what sort of a night was it?

- Pretty clear, Sir, a fine night, rather hazy; if anything a little hazy on the horizon, but nothing to speak of.

798 11984. Would you describe it as a very clear night?

- Yes.

799 11985. With stars?

- Yes.

800 11986. With regard to what you said about binoculars, would you rather trust your eye for picking up anything than a binocular?

- Well, it is all according to what you were picking up.

801 11987. 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?

- Yes. You use your own eyes as regards the picking up anything, but you want the glasses then to make certain of that object.

802 11988. You mean when you have picked up something with your naked eye, you like to examine it with the glasses?

- That is right.

803 11989. I suppose your duty as a look-out man is directly you pick up anything with the naked eye to report it and then examine it with glasses?

- No, as a Rule you examine it before you report.

804 11990. Would not you report something before you took time to examine it if you had already picked it up?

- It is all according to the weather you are in. You may have a beautiful clear day or night when you see these things a long time before they see them on the bridge. In hazy weather it does not matter, because whatever you see coming through the gloom, you report it at once.

805 11991. On a clear night do you mean you do not report?

- Yes, but you make sure before you report because you see such a long way.

806 11992. You see such a long way with the naked eye, do you mean?

- Yes, you can see a long way with the naked eye.

807 11993. When are the glasses useful to you? In foggy weather or hazy weather?

- In hazy weather, in making the land, and also if you have an order to look out for bergs or derelicts, they are very handy. Also on a clear night if you are going west with stars falling, they are handy to pick up the difference between a star and a light.

808 11994. As a Rule, do I understand you prefer to trust to your naked eye to begin with?

- Well, yes, you trust your naked eye.

809 11995. With regard to Mr. Murdoch, was he loading and  
lowering all the boats on the starboard side you saw go?  
- Yes, all the ones I saw go.

810 11996. Did you hear any order given about a gangway?  
- No, I never heard any order about a gangway.

811 11997. You know what I mean by a gangway?  
- Yes, I know what you mean.

812 11998. You heard nothing about that?  
- No.

813 11999. Did he tell you to lie off a short way?  
- Yes.

814 12000. And come back when called on?  
- Yes.

815 12001. Did you hear anyone with a megaphone on the "Titanic"  
after you got down to the sea?  
- No one whatever.

816 12002. Is this your first shipwreck?  
- My first one.

817 Re-examined by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

818 12003. Do you know Mr. Lowe, the fifth Officer?  
- I only knew him personally this trip.

819 12004. Was he close to the emergency boat No. 1?  
- I never saw him at all that night.

820 The Attorney-General:  
I have read the statement. I have no objection to my friend  
putting it in if he thinks it desirable.

821 Mr. Duke:  
I merely produced it for the information of the Board of Trade or  
the Law Officers.

822 The Attorney-General:  
I have only been very hurriedly through it, but I think I am right  
in saying that you do not mention in that statement that you had  
been ordered to pull away, to stand by, and to come back when  
you were called?

823 The Witness:  
No, in a statement like that you would not give it; you would  
give it to the proper people.

824 12005. It is not in it?  
- No, it is not in it.

825 12006. Did you hear an order given for the emergency boat to  
remain within hail of the ship?  
- No; the only order I heard given is what I have said.

826 12007. It is suggested that Mr. Lowe, the fifth Officer, gave this  
order three times in a loud and distinct voice. Do you say you did  
not hear it?  
- I neither heard it, nor did I see Mr. Lowe. The only Officer I  
saw was Mr. Murdoch.

827 (The Witness withdrew.)

828

# United States Senate Inquiry

829

## Day 7

830

### Testimony of George Symons

831

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/USInq/AmInq01Idx2a.php>

832

*(Mr. Symons was sworn by Senator Perkins.)*

833

Senator PERKINS.  
Where is your home port?

834

Mr. SYMONS.  
Weymouth.

835

Senator PERKINS.  
Weymouth, England?

836

Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

837

Senator PERKINS.  
Were you a sailor on the steamer *Titanic* that went down?

838

Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

839

Senator PERKINS.  
How long have you followed the sea?

840

Mr. SYMONS.  
Eight and a half years.

841

Senator PERKINS.  
As a sailor man?

842

Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

843

Senator PERKINS.  
Tell me, in a general way, what happened when the ship went down, and when she was struck?

844

Mr. SYMONS.  
I was on the watch below at the time. I was asleep at the time the *Titanic* was struck.

845

Senator PERKINS.  
It was your watch hour below?

846

Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir. I came on deck and I saw the ice, and then I dressed myself and waited.

847

Senator PERKINS.  
Which watch were you in on the ship?

848

Mr. SYMONS.  
I was on the lookout from the 8 to 10 watch. I came off at 10 o'clock.

849

Senator PERKINS.  
Were you one of the six lookout men?

850

Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

851

Senator PERKINS.

After she struck the iceberg you were in the bunk [below](#)?

852 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

853 Senator PERKINS.  
Was there much vibration to the ship?

854 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; nothing to speak of, I thought. It was only a slight jar; a grinding noise.

855 Senator PERKINS.  
You state that when you came on deck there was ice on the [forecastle](#) of the *Titanic*?

856 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir; on the starboard side.

857 Senator PERKINS.  
Was there any quantity of it?

858 Mr. SYMONS.  
Not such a great quantity, sir.

859 Senator PERKINS.  
You did not think any serious injury had occurred to the ship?

860 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir.

861 Senator PERKINS.  
After that, what did you do?

862 Mr. SYMONS.  
I was ordered up to the boats by the [boatswain](#).

863 Senator PERKINS.  
You were ordered up to which boats?

864 Mr. SYMONS.  
To the starboard boats. I went to [No. 3](#) first. From there we unstripped the covers right down through.

865 Senator PERKINS.  
Who had charge of the boat?

866 Mr. SYMONS.  
No. 3?

867 Senator PERKINS.  
Yes.

868 Mr. SYMONS.  
I could not say.

869 Senator PERKINS.  
Was it one of the quartermasters?

870 Mr. SYMONS.  
I believe it was, sir. I would not say for certain. I do not know.

871 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you stay by the boat and go in her?

872 Mr. SYMONS.  
I stayed by the boats. I helped lower No. 3. From there I was sent down to [No. 5](#).

873 Senator PERKINS.  
How many were in the boat when she was lowered?

874 Mr. SYMONS.  
I could not say for certain.

875 Senator PERKINS.  
Approximately, how many? Were there 10 or 20?

876 Mr. SYMONS.  
I should say, roughly, about 40, sir.

877 Senator PERKINS.  
There were 40 in the boat when she was swinging in the davits?

878 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir; when she was hanging in the davits.

879 Senator PERKINS.  
Who handled the falls of the boat?

880 Mr. SYMONS.  
I handled the forward fall. I could not say who handled the after fall.

881 Senator PERKINS.  
How were those boats detached from your tackle? Did you have a patent hook on your boat?

882 Mr. SYMONS.  
We had the patent levers; one in the bow and one in the stern.

883 Senator PERKINS.  
Yes. Did they work simultaneously?

884 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes; they worked together.

885 Senator PERKINS.  
Were you in your boat?

886 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; I just helped lower it.

887 Senator PERKINS.  
Then you went to what other boat?

888 Mr. SYMONS.  
I was sent to No. 5, and assisted there. I cleared the fall.

889 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you get in her?

890 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir.

891 Senator PERKINS.  
What boat did you go from the ship in?

892 Mr. SYMONS.  
[No. 1.](#)

893 Senator PERKINS.  
Who was in command of her?

894 Mr. SYMONS.  
I was.

895 Senator PERKINS.  
How many passengers did you have on her?

896 Mr. SYMONS.  
From 14 to 20.

897 Senator PERKINS.  
Were they passengers or crew?

..People calm, follow ord

- 898 Mr. SYMONS.  
They were passengers. At first they put in seven of the crew. There were seven men ordered in; two seamen and five firemen. They were ordered in by [Mr. Murdoch](#).
- 899 Senator PERKINS.  
How many did they boat carry?
- 900 Mr. SYMONS.  
I could not say for certain. It was one of the small accident boats.
- 901 Senator PERKINS.  
After she got into the water, would she take any more?
- 902 Mr. SYMONS.  
She would have taken more.
- 903 Senator PERKINS.  
How many did you have, all told?
- 904 Mr. SYMONS.  
I would not say for certain. It was 14 or 20. Then we were ordered away.
- 905 Senator PERKINS.  
You did not return to the ship again?
- 906 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes; we came back after the ship was gone, and we saw nothing.
- 907 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you rescue anyone that was in the water?
- 908 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; we saw nothing when we came back.
- 909 Senator PERKINS.  
Was there any confusion or excitement among the passengers?
- 910 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; nothing whatever. It was just the same as if it was an every-day affair.
- 911 Senator PERKINS.  
Was there any rush to get into either one of these boats?
- 912 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; I never saw it. I never saw any rush whatsoever.
- 913 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you hear any cries of people in the water?
- 914 Mr. SYMONS.  
Oh, yes, sir; I heard the cries.
- 915 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you say your boat could take more? Did you make any effort to get them?
- 916 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes; we came back; but when we came back we did not see anybody nor hear anybody.
- 917 Senator PERKINS.  
Then what did you do after that?
- 918 Mr. SYMONS.  
After we rowed around, we rowed around and picked up with another boat, and both stuck together; one boat with a lot of people.
- 919 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you pass a painter from one boat to another?
- 920 Mr. SYMONS.

No, sir; we went close to her. They did not want any assistance, as the women were pulling. I asked if they wanted any assistance, and they would not take it. They said they could pull through.

921 Senator PERKINS.  
Your boat could have accommodated more?

922 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

923 Senator PERKINS.  
How many more, probably?

924 Mr. SYMONS.  
I should say that she could have accommodated, easily, 10 more.

925 Senator PERKINS.  
And you made no effort to fill her; and you were in charge of her?

926 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir; I was. I was ordered away by Mr. Murdoch, the first officer. He ordered the boat to be lowered.

927 Senator PERKINS.  
But you did not pull back to the ship again?

928 Mr. SYMONS.  
Not until she went down, sir.

929 Senator PERKINS.  
Then you went and pulled over to the ship. Where did you go after that?

930 Mr. SYMONS.  
After she got down, I went around to one of the other boats, and found she never had a sailor in her, and I accompanied that boat.

931 Senator PERKINS.  
How many sailormen did you have in your boat?

932 Mr. SYMONS.  
Two.

933 Senator PERKINS.  
And no others of the crew; no firemen or stewards?

934 Mr. SYMONS.  
No stewards whatever, sir.

935 Senator PERKINS.  
And no firemen or coal passers?

936 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir; five firemen. They were put in by Mr. Murdoch.

937 Senator PERKINS.  
Before she was lowered from the davits?

938 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

939 Senator PERKINS.  
When were you on the lookout?

940 Mr. SYMONS.  
From 8 to 10, sir.

941 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you discover any icebergs?

942 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; we had the order at 9.30 from [Mr. Lightoller](#) to keep a sharp lookout

for ice, and we passed it on at 10 o'clock.

943 Senator PERKINS.  
Were you in the [crow's nest](#)?

944 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes.

945 Senator PERKINS.  
It was a perfectly starlight night, and clear?

946 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes; it was a very clear night.

947 Senator PERKINS.  
How was the sea?

948 Mr. SYMONS.  
It was calm, sir.

949 Senator PERKINS.  
You went from the crow's nest, after you struck the iceberg, and went down and reported to Mr. Murdoch.

950 Mr. SYMONS.  
When I came from the crow's nest I went to my bunk and turned in, because it was my watch below from 10 to 2.

951 Senator PERKINS.  
Where were you when she struck the iceberg?

952 Mr. SYMONS.  
I was asleep, sir.

953 Senator PERKINS.  
You came on deck immediately?

954 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes.

955 Senator PERKINS.  
Then were you assigned to any particular boat?

956 Mr. SYMONS.  
My name was put in for No. 1. I went into No. 1, and from there I went to the other boats.

957 Senator PERKINS.  
After the lowering; when you had assisted in lowering the other boats?

958 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir; after I had assisted in lowering the other boats, then I was ordered in my own boat.

959 Senator PERKINS.  
You say you made no attempt to save any other people after you were ordered to pull away from the ship by Mr. Murdoch?

960 Mr. SYMONS.  
I pulled off, and then came back after the ship had gone down.

961 Senator PERKINS.  
And then there were no people there?

962 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; I never saw any.

963 Senator PERKINS.  
Is there any other incident that you wish to state that would be of interest to the public?

964 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; not that I know of.

965 Senator PERKINS.  
I would rather you would make the statement without any particular questions.  
You say there was no confusion, no excitement?

966 Mr. SYMONS.  
None whatever, sir; it was just the same as if it was an everyday occurrence.

967 Senator PERKINS.  
Where was the [captain](#) at this time?

968 Mr. SYMONS.  
The last I saw of him he was on the [bridge](#), sir. That was just before I went  
away in boat No. 1.

969 Senator PERKINS.  
Mr. Murdoch was the first officer?

970 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes; he was in charge of the lowering of the boat.

971 Senator PERKINS.  
The captain was on the bridge?

972 Mr. SYMONS.  
The last I saw of him; yes, sir.

973 (Witness Excused.)

974 Day 7

975 Testimony of G. Hogg, W. Perkis and G. Symons - Taken  
Together

976 (Further examined by Senator Perkins - Testimony taken as a  
group.)

977 Senator PERKINS.  
Is there any other one of you who has been in a shipwreck?

978 Mr. HOGG.  
I have been in a collision, Senator, but with no loss of life.

979 Senator PERKINS.  
On the lookout in the crow's nest did you see any ice?

980 Mr. HOGG.  
No, sir; I never seen any ice when I relieved that lookout.

981 Senator PERKINS.  
Were instructions given you to keep a sharp lookout?

982 Mr. HOGG.  
When I relieved the lookout at 12 o'clock that night I had  
instructions from my relief.

983 Senator PERKINS.  
You men have all had experience, more or less, as lookouts. Is it  
customary to furnish you with night glasses?

984 Mr. HOGG.  
We never had night glasses.

985 Senator PERKINS.  
Just the naked eye?

986 Mr. HOGG.  
Just the naked eye. I have always had night glasses in the White  
Star boats. I asked for the glasses, and I did not see why I should

not have them. I had them from Belfast to Southampton; but from Southampton to where the accident occurred we never had them.

987 Senator PERKINS.  
You were instructed to report immediately to the officer on the bridge anything that occurred or any object on the horizon?

988 Mr. HOGG.  
No, sir. I asked for the glasses several times.

989 Senator PERKINS.  
What were your instructions when you went into the crow's nest, given to you by the officer?

990 Mr. HOGG.  
None; but my opposite member gave me instructions, "Keep a sharp lookout for ice."

991 Senator PERKINS.  
When you saw the ice ahead, you struck three bells?

992 Mr. HOGG.  
The last lookout, the 6 to 8, was my lookout.

993 Senator PERKINS.  
That is the last dog watch.

994 Mr. HOGG.  
I got a warning, then, to keep a sharp lookout for ice, and I said, "Very good."

995 Senator PERKINS.  
Did you discover any ice?

996 Mr. HOGG.  
None, sir. It was very, very cold, and I said "There is plenty of ice about here, because it is so cold." That is what I said to my mate.

997 Senator PERKINS.  
How far is the foremast, that the crow's nest is on, from the bridge? What is the distance.

998 Mr. HOGG.  
I am not good at judging distances, sir.

999 Senator PERKINS.  
You know pretty nearly? This room, perhaps, is 30 feet long. Was it as far as from this door to that window (indicating)?

1000 Mr. HOGG.  
I could not swear to that. I should think, however, that it was about 50 feet. That is what I should think about it. I could not swear to it.

1001 Senator PERKINS.  
There was a telephone from the crow's nest to the officer on the bridge?

1002 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir.

1003 Senator PERKINS.  
Was the telephone always in working order?

1004 Mr. HOGG.  
The telephone was in working order; yes, sir.

1005 Senator PERKINS.

And where they had no telephone, then you hailed, with calls to the bridge?

1006 Mr. HOGG.  
No, sir; we struck a bell. We never used the phone, only in going into harbors, or into ports, or in the case of anything serious.

1007 Senator PERKINS.  
And you struck the bell every half hour?

1008 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes. And for reporting ships you struck one, port; two, starboard; and three, right ahead.

1009 Senator PERKINS.  
That is your signal to the bridge, which is understood, of course?

1010 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir; that is the signal that you have seen something.

1011 Senator PERKINS.  
Yes.

1012 Can either one of you men suggest anything by which this accident could have been avoided, or by which more lives could have been saved? You are all good sailormen, and have had large experience. Could anything have been done to save more lives than were saved?

1013 Mr. HOGG.  
No, sir. The only thing I can suggest is in regard to the glasses. If we had had the glasses, we might have seen the berg before?

1014 Senator PERKINS.  
The officers on the bridge had glasses?

1015 Mr. HOGG.  
They had, yes, sir.

1016 Mr. SYMONS.  
It is always customary to have glasses in the crow's nest.

1017 Senator PERKINS.  
That has been the custom of the White Star Line?

1018 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes. I served three years and five months on the [Oceanic](#), and they had glasses all the time.

1019 Senator PERKINS.  
Did she belong to the White Star Line?

1020 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

1021 Senator PERKINS.  
Also in regard to other ships, do you know?

1022 Mr. SYMONS.  
As far as I have heard from other people, they have glasses in all the other ships.

1023 Senator PERKINS.  
Your eyes were tested, were they?

1024 Mr. SYMONS.  
Last September they were tested by the board of trade by the new test, the latest test out.

1025 Senator PERKINS.

They gave you a certificate that you were qualified as a good lookout?

1026 Mr. SYMONS.  
Yes, sir.

1027 Senator PERKINS.  
And it was the same way with both of you men?

1028 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes; about two months ago, I think, my eyes were tested.

1029 Senator PERKINS.  
In an ordinary way, can you not see better with your plain eyes than you can with artificial glasses?

1030 Mr. HOGG.  
But the idea of the glasses, sir, is that if you happen to see something on the horizon you can pick your ship out, if it is a ship, for instance.

1031 Senator PERKINS.  
As soon as you see anything, you signal the officer on the bridge, do you not?

1032 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir; you would strike the bell. But you would make sure, if you had the glasses that it was a vessel and not a piece of cloud on the horizon.

1033 On a very nice night, with the stars shining, sometimes you might think it was a ship when it was a star on the horizon. If you had glasses, you could soon find out whether it was a ship or not.

1034 Senator SMITH.  
As soon as you discover anything unusual, however, you call the attention of the officer on the bridge to it, do you not?

1035 Mr. HOGG.  
Quite so.

1036 Senator PERKINS.  
And he had glasses, of course?

1037 Mr. HOGG.  
He has glasses, sir; yes sir.

1038 Senator PERKINS.  
Is there anything that you want to state the could have been done to save these people, aside from that?

1039 Mr. HOGG.  
That is all that I can suggest.

1040 Senator PERKINS.  
If you had had life rafts on board more could have been saved, could they not?

1041 Mr. HOGG.  
If we had had more boats I dare say that we could have got away with a lot more.

1042 Senator PERKINS.  
The general feeling, though, you said, was that the ship was safe, and that she was not going to sink. What was the general opinion that prevailed as to the seaworthiness of the ship?

1043 Mr. HOGG.

I should say that I never thought she was going to sink. I went to relieve the lookout 20 minutes after accident. I thought she was not going down.

1044 Senator PERKINS.  
There was a general feeling of confidence among the sailormen that she was perfectly secure?

1045 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir.

1046 Senator PERKINS.  
And unsinkable?

1047 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir; that she was unsinkable.

1048 Senator PERKINS.  
Unless you have something more to state that you think will throw light on this subject, that will be all; and we thank you for what you have said.

1049 Mr. HOGG.  
That is all I have to say, except this: I think all the women ought to have a gold medal on their breasts. God bless them. I will always raise my hat to a woman, after what I saw.

1050 Senator PERKINS.  
What country women were they?

1051 Mr. HOGG.  
They were American women that I had in mind. They were all Americans.

1052 Senator PERKINS.  
Did they man the oars? Did they take the oars and pull?

1053 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir. I took the oar all the time, myself, and one lady steered. Then I got another lady to steer, and she gave me a hand on the oar, to keep herself warm.

1054 Senator PERKINS.  
One of the boats picked up a lot of people that were on the upturned collapsible boat? [Collapsible B]

1055 Mr. HOGG.  
I did not see that. I believe that is so.

1056 Senator PERKINS.  
You people had no buoy, nor anything but the life preservers that you picked up?

1057 Mr. HOGG.  
That is all.

1058 Senator PERKINS.  
Is there anything else that you can think of, any recommendation or suggestion that you have to make? If so, we would like to have you do so.

1059 Mr. HOGG.  
That is all, sir.

1060 Senator PERKINS.  
I say that because you are good practical men, and have had a great deal of experience.

1061 I thank you very much. We will excuse you now. That is all.  
Tomorrow morning we will take up this matter, and probably you  
can go home. You want to go home to England, all of you, do  
you?

1062 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir; we are all married men, waiting to get back home.

1063 Senator PERKINS.  
Are you a married man, Mr. Symons?

1064 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; but I have my mother and father waiting for me.

1065 Senator PERKINS.  
You are a married man, Mr. Hogg?

1066 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir.

1067 Senator PERKINS.  
And you have a wife and children?

1068 Mr. HOGG.  
Yes, sir.

1069 Senator PERKINS.  
How many children?

1070 Mr. HOGG.  
Two, sir.

1071 Senator PERKINS.  
Your home is in Hull, also?

1072 Mr. HOGG.  
All my people are there, but my wife is in Southampton. I make  
Southampton my home now. I married a Hampshire woman.

1073 Senator PERKINS.  
I thank you very much for your statement.

1074 There is one other thing I wanted to ask. Are you all temperate  
men? I want to ask whether there was any drunkenness among  
any of the crew?

1075 Mr. SYMONS.  
None whatever, sir.

1076 Senator PERKINS.  
You are personally acquainted with the habits of the crew. Were  
there any drinking men among them?

1077 Mr. SYMONS.  
We never allowed it to be served on board the ship, sir.

1078 Senator PERKINS.  
No liquor whatever was allowed to be served to them?

1079 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir.

1080 Senator PERKINS.  
There was none in the fore-castle or in the mess room with you?

1081 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir.

1082 Senator PERKINS.  
You never saw a man under the influence of liquor on the  
voyage?

1083 Mr. HOGG.  
No, sir; I do not see where they could get it from.

1084 Senator PERKINS.  
None was permitted or allowed on board?

1085 Mr. HOGG.  
No, sir.

1086 Senator PERKINS.  
One of you has stated that his boat picked up eight people and the other that he did not pick up any. Could you not have picked up some people just as well as this other man? Could you not have done it just as well as this other man?

1087 Mr. HOGG.  
I wanted to assist in picking up people, but I had an order from the boat: "We have done our best; go on to the [Carpathia](#); we have picked up all we can find;" and I said "Very good."

1088 Senator PERKINS.  
Who gave you that order?

1089 Mr. HOGG.  
Somebody in the boat - I do not know who it was - said not to take any more, that we had done our best.

1090 Senator PERKINS.  
I merely asked the question because of the natural thought that if one boat picked up eight persons, the other boat might have been able to do so.

1091 You did not get any orders, Mr. Symons, not to pick up any more people?

1092 Mr. SYMONS.  
No, sir; there were no more around about where I was.

1093 Senator PERKINS.  
Were those two boats the same size?

1094 Mr. HOGG.  
They were the same size.

1095 Senator PERKINS.  
As I understand, one of the boats had more packed into it than the other.

1096 As I understand it, Mr. Symons pulled away from the ship; and then, when he came back there, they picked up all the people there were around.

1097 (Witnesses Excused.)