

United States Senate Inquiry

Day 7

Testimony of Frederick Clench

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

(The witness was sworn by Senator Bourne.)

Senator BOURNE.

Kindly state your age, residence, and occupation.

Mr. CLENCH.

Able-bodied seaman; I live at No. 10, the Flats, Chantry Road, Southampton.

Senator BOURNE.

How long have you followed the sea?

Mr. CLENCH.

About 19 years now, sir.

Senator BOURNE.

How long have you been rated as an able-bodied seaman?

Mr. CLENCH.

Well, I think I have been about 16 years as able seaman.

Senator BOURNE.

Have you been altogether on steam lines, or have you been on sailing vessels?

Mr. CLENCH.

No, sir; I have all the time been on steam boats - different lines, you know.

Senator BOURNE.

How long have you been on the White Star?

Mr. CLENCH.

Well, I done six voyages with the [Olympic](#). This would make the seventh one.

Senator BOURNE.

Have you sailed on other lines besides the White Star?

Mr. CLENCH.

I have been on the Elder-Dempster Line.

Senator BOURNE.

You were on the [Titanic](#) on her maiden voyage, were you?

Mr. CLENCH.

Yes, sir.

Senator BOURNE.

What day did you join the ship?

Mr. CLENCH.

On a Wednesday, sir.

Senator BOURNE.

Was that the day of the sailing?

Mr. CLENCH.

The day of the sailing, sir.

Senator BOURNE.

Will you kindly explain in your own way what occurred just prior and subsequent to the catastrophe?

Mr. CLENCH.

..On other deck first

I was asleep in my bunk when the accident occurred, and I was awakened by the crunching and jarring, as if it was hitting up against something.

26 Senator BOURNE.
Were you sound asleep?

27 Mr. CLENCH.
I was sound asleep.

28 Senator BOURNE.
Are you a heavy sleeper?

29 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; it did not take much to wake me. I am a light sleeper. If anybody touches me, I will jump quick. Of course I put on my trousers and I went on deck on the starboard side of the [well deck](#) and I saw a lot of ice.

30 Senator BOURNE.
On the deck itself?

31 Mr. CLENCH.
On the deck itself.

32 Senator BOURNE.
What deck was that?

33 Mr. CLENCH.
The well deck, sir. With that, I went in the alleyway again under the [forecastle head](#) to come down and put on my shoes. Some one said to me, "Did you hear the rush of water?" I said, "No." They said, "Look down under the hatchway." I looked down under the hatchway and I saw the tarpaulin belly out as if there was a lot of wind under it, and I heard the rush of water coming through.

34 Senator BOURNE.
You heard that?

35 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes.

36 Senator BOURNE.
How soon after you struck? How many minutes, would you think?

37 Mr. CLENCH.
I should say about 10 minutes, sir.

38 Senator BOURNE.
After you were awake?

39 Mr. CLENCH.
After I was awake, yes. I went down below and put my guernsey on, my round hat on, and after that I sat down on a stool having a smoke?

40 Senator BOURNE.
Down in the forecastle?

41 Mr. CLENCH.
Down in the forecastle.

42 Senator BOURNE.
Although you had seen this water coming in?

43 Mr. CLENCH.
I seen the water coming in, and I thought it was all right.

44 Senator BOURNE.
You thought she would not sink, [Mr. Clench](#)?

45 Mr. CLENCH.
I thought she would not sink then, sir. Then after I lighted the pipe, I heard the boatswain's pipe call all hands out on deck. We went up to where he stood

..Crew rescue actic
..Informed through
..Arrives before 0:4

..Arrives before 0:40

46

under the forecastle, and he ordered all hands to the [boat deck](#). We proceeded up on the boat deck, and when we got up there he told us to go to the starboard side and uncover the boats. I went down to [No. 11](#) boat, unlacing the cover, and just as I started to unlace, along come an officer.

Senator BOURNE.

Were you assigned to No. 11?

47

Mr. CLENCH.

No; [No. 4](#) was my boat. We were sent there to uncover the boat, and an officer came along and drafted me on the other side, the port side. I went to [No. 16](#) on the port side - the after boat, and started getting out the boat falls to let them down; I got out the two falls and coiled them down on the deck. When I was putting the plug in the boat in readiness to be lowered they were swinging the boat out.

48

Senator BOURNE.

Were you in the boat at the time it was swinging out?

49

Mr. CLENCH.

I was in the boat at the time she was swinging out.

50

Senator BOURNE.

Fixing the plug?

51

Mr. CLENCH.

Fixing the plug.

52

Senator BOURNE.

You were the only man in the boat at that time?

53

Mr. CLENCH.

I was the only man in the boat at that time. I jumped out of that boat and got her all ready for lowering, and helped get the other falls out of the other boats. [No. 14](#) boat we went to next.

54

Senator BOURNE.

No. 14 being next to No. 16. The even numbers were on one side and the odd numbers on the other?

55

Mr. CLENCH.

Yes, sir; the even numbers on the port side and the odd numbers on the starboard. I got the three boats out, and we lowered them down level with the boat deck. Then I assisted [Mr. Lightoller](#) --

56

Senator BOURNE.

The second officer?

57

Mr. CLENCH.

The second officer. Him and me stood on the gunwale of the boat helping load the women and children in. The [chief officer](#) was passing them along to us, and we filled the three boats like that.

58

Senator BOURNE.

You filled No. 16 first?

59

Mr. CLENCH.

No; filled [12](#) first. After we got them already lowered down to the deck, then we went to No. 14 to lower --

60

Senator BOURNE.

How many did you put in No. 12? Have you any idea?

61

Mr. CLENCH.

I could not tell you exactly, but I should say from 40 to 50 people.

62

Senator BOURNE.

And what is the capacity, ordinarily, as you figure; 65?

..Crew rescue action (

..Officers in charge

..Officers in charge

..Crew rescue action (

..Officers in charge

63

Mr. CLENCH.

I think the number is about 65, but, of course, I suppose they were thinking of lowering them down and the falls would not be safe enough; but at any rate, we had to go to No. 14 and do the same there. Me and Mr. Lightoller and the chief officer passed them in as we stood on the gunwale; in all three of the boats, that was. After we finished No. 16 boat, I goes out and looks at the falls again to see that they are all ready for going down clear. When I got back to No. 12 again, the chief officer happened to come along, and he said, "How many men have you in this boat?" There was one man in the boat, one sailor, and I said, "Only one, sir." He looked up, and me being the only sailor there, he said, "Jump into that boat," he said, "and make the complement" - that was two seamen.

64

Senator BOURNE.

That was in No. 14?

65

Mr. CLENCH.

That was in No. 12, sir. That was the boat I went away in. I goes into the boat, and then, of course, we had to wait for orders to lower away. We started lowering away and get down to the water. I goes and gets the tumbler and drops clear into the water, and drops clear of the blocks.

66

Senator BOURNE.

The tumbler being the loosener from the fall?

67

Mr. CLENCH.

Yes, sir; pulls the hook back so we dropped clear of the falls. Then we had orders to pull away from the ship.

68

Senator BOURNE.

Who gave you the orders?

69

Mr. CLENCH.

They were shouted from the deck.

70

Senator BOURNE.

By what officer? Do you know?

71

Mr. CLENCH.

I could not say what officer, now. He was too high up, and it was so dark I could not see.

72

Senator BOURNE.

Who was in charge of the boat you went in to make up the complement?

73

Mr. CLENCH.

A seaman.

74

Senator BOURNE.

He was in charge?

75

Mr. CLENCH.

He was in charge?

76

Senator BOURNE.

Was it only a petty officer?

77

Mr. CLENCH.

No, sir; an able seaman. We had instructions when we went down that we were to keep our eye on No. 14 boat, where [Mr. Lowe](#), the fifth officer, was, and keep all together as much as we could, so that we would not get drifted away from one another.

78

Senator BOURNE.

So as to give relief immediately, if needed?

79

Mr. CLENCH.

Yes, sir. We got the boat out, I suppose, a quarter of a mile away from the

..Women & Children fi
..Men sneak in boats

ship; then we laid on our oars and stood by, and all stopped together.

80 Senator BOURNE.
How many passengers were in No. 14, would you say, Mr. Clench?

81 Mr. CLENCH.
I think about 50, sir.

82 Senator BOURNE.
And only two seamen?

83 Mr. CLENCH.
Two seamen; that is all, sir.

84 Senator BOURNE.
Who did the rowing?

85 Mr. CLENCH.
Both seamen had to row out as far as they could, sir.

86 Senator BOURNE.
Did any passengers row?

87 Mr. CLENCH.
I could not say about No. 14 boat, sir; we had gone ahead of them.

88 Senator BOURNE.
The boat that you were in - what number was that?

89 Mr. CLENCH.
No. 12, sir.

90 Senator BOURNE.
How many passengers were in it?

91 Mr. CLENCH.
Between 14 and 15, in ours.

92 Senator BOURNE.
And only two seamen in it?

93 Mr. CLENCH.
Two seamen.

94 Senator BOURNE.
No other members of the crew?

95 Mr. CLENCH.
No members of the crew. There was only one male passenger in our boat, and that was a Frenchman who jumped in, and we could not find him, sir.

96 Senator BOURNE.
Where was he?

97 Mr. CLENCH.
Under the thwart, mixed with the women. In fact, of course, we could not look for him just as we dropped into the water.

98 Senator BOURNE.
He got into the boat before you lowered her?

99 Mr. CLENCH.
Before we lowered her.

100 Senator BOURNE.
Without your knowledge?

101 Mr. CLENCH.
Without our knowing it.

102 Senator BOURNE.
How do you think he was able to do that?

..Women & Children fi
..Men sneak in boats

- 103 Mr. CLENCH.
I could not say, that, sir. We were, of course, attending to the falls and looking out to see that they went down clear.
- 104 Senator BOURNE.
All the rest of your passengers were women and children?
- 105 Mr. CLENCH.
Women and children.
- 106 Senator BOURNE.
You rowed away from the ship about a quarter of a mile?
- 107 Mr. CLENCH.
About a quarter of a mile.
- 108 Senator BOURNE.
Then you rested on your oars?
- 109 Mr. CLENCH.
Then we rested on our oars.
- 110 Senator BOURNE.
According to orders?
- 111 Mr. CLENCH.
According to orders.
- 112 Senator BOURNE.
What happened then? How long did you rest and what did you do after you resumed rowing?
- 113 Mr. CLENCH.
We was rowing up there, and up come the officer, after the ship was gone down, come up with us with his boat, and transferred some of his people he had in his boat into two boats of ours; I could not say the number of the other boats, but he transferred his people into ours so that he would have a clear boat to go around to look for the people who were floating in the water.
- 114 Senator BOURNE.
Could you, from your boat, see anybody floating or swimming around in the water?
- 115 Mr. CLENCH.
Never seen anyone, sir.
- 116 Senator BOURNE.
Did you see the ship sink?
- 117 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir.
- 118 Senator BOURNE.
About a quarter of a mile away?
- 119 Mr. CLENCH.
About a quarter of a mile away.
- 120 Senator BOURNE.
Did she sink bow down?
- 121 Mr. CLENCH.
Bow down; yes, sir.
- 122 Senator BOURNE.
Did she break in two?
- 123 Mr. CLENCH.
That I could not say.

124 Senator BOURNE.
Did you hear any explosion?

125 Mr. CLENCH.
I heard two explosions, sir.

126 Senator BOURNE.
Immediately preceding the sinking of the ship?

127 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes. Well, before the ship had sunk there was one explosion.

128 Senator BOURNE.
How long before the ship sank?

129 Mr. CLENCH.
I should say a matter of 10 minutes before she went under.

130 Senator BOURNE.
There was?

131 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir.

132 Senator BOURNE.
What did you think that was, one of the boilers bursting?

133 Mr. CLENCH.
I figured that the water got up around one of the boilers, sir.

134 Senator BOURNE.
Then in about 10 minutes there was another explosion?

135 Mr. CLENCH.
There was another explosion, but I could not say how long from one to the other.

136 Senator BOURNE.
After the second explosion, you having only heard two --

137 Mr. CLENCH.
Only two, I heard.

138 Senator BOURNE. (*continuing*)
Then did the ship disappear?

139 Mr. CLENCH.
The lights went out after the second explosion. Then she gradually sank down into the water very slowly.

140 Senator BOURNE.
How long a time would you say it was after the second explosion before she sank out of sight?

141 Mr. CLENCH.
I should say a matter of about 20 minutes.

142 Senator BOURNE.
In the sinking of the ship did she apparently go bow down and did the stern go away up in the air?

143 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; the stern was well up in the air when the bow was underneath.

144 Senator BOURNE.
Much higher than she was when she filled?

145 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; so much higher that you could see the keel.

146 Senator BOURNE.

Was the distance too great for you to see whether there were any passengers on the stern?

147 Mr. CLENCH.
You could not discern any small objects. The lights were all out.

148 Senator BOURNE.
Did you hear any cries of people in the water?

149 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; there were awful cries, and yelling and shouting, and that. Of course I told the women in the boats to keep quiet, and consoled them a bit. I told them it was men in the boats shouting out to the others, to keep them from getting away from one another.

150 Senator BOURNE.
You did not look around you?

151 Mr. CLENCH.
I saw no one in the water whatsoever, whether alive or dead.

152 Senator BOURNE.
You did not see any wreckage around you?

153 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; we never seen no wreckage around us.

154 Senator BOURNE.
How long did you remain about a quarter of a mile from the ship after you reached that point? Did you remain there any length of time, or did you keep on rowing away?

155 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; we remained there, I should say, up until about 4 o'clock.

156 Senator BOURNE.
A matter of an hour and a half?

157 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; it was just after we got the women from Mr. Lowe's boat, and he said he was going around the wreckage to see if he could find anybody.

158 Senator BOURNE.
How many did you have in your boat after you had taken part of the load from Mr. Lowe's boat?

159 Mr. CLENCH.
I should say we had close to 60, then.

160 Senator BOURNE.
Full up?

161 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; we were pretty well full up then.

162 Senator BOURNE.
What direction did Mr. Lowe give you?

163 Mr. CLENCH.
He told us to lie on our oars and keep together until he came back to us.

164 Senator BOURNE.
He, in the meantime, having gone to see if he could rescue anybody where the ship had sunk?

165 Mr. CLENCH.

Yes, sir; and while Mr. Lowe was gone I heard shouts. Of course I looked around, and I saw a boat in the way that appeared to be like a funnel. We started to back away then. We thought it was the top of the funnel. I put my head over the gunwale and looked along the water's edge and saw some men on a raft. Then I heard two whistles blown. I sang out "Aye, aye; I am coming over," and we pulled over and found it was a raft - not a raft, exactly, but an overturned boat - and Mr. Lightoller was there on that boat, and I believe - I do not know whether I am right or not, but I think the wireless operator was on there, too. We took them on board the boat and we shared the amount of the room that was there.

166 Senator BOURNE.
How many were there on this boat that was there?

167 Mr. CLENCH.
I should say about 20, sir.

168 Senator BOURNE.
So that you had about 60 at the time you rescued them, and you took on approximately 10 more?

169 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; that made about 70 in my boat.

170 Senator BOURNE.
The 60 were all women and children, except one man and your mate?

171 Mr. CLENCH.
Me and my mate - that is, when we came away from the boat; but when we got transferred we had some more put aboard from Mr. Lowe's boat. They were all men we picked up off of the raft, or the overturned boat. It was a raft more than anything.

172 Senator BOURNE.
Was it one of the collapsible boats that had overturned?

173 Mr. CLENCH.
Some term them "collapsible" boats, and some term them "surf" boats.

174 Senator BOURNE.
But she was bottom up?

175 Mr. CLENCH.
Bottom up, sir.

176 Senator BOURNE.
They were all standing on the bottom?

177 Mr. CLENCH.
On the bottom of the boat, sir; and Mr. Lightoller, he came aboard of us. They were all wet through, apparently; they had been in the water.

178 Senator BOURNE.
Then what did you do?

179 Mr. CLENCH.
Mr. Lightoller took charge of us and sighted the [Carpathia's](#) lights. Then we started heading for that. We had to row a tidy distance to the Carpathia, because there was boats ahead of us, you see, and we had a boat in tow with us, besides all the people

we had aboard.
180 Senator BOURNE.
When did you sign for the ship?
181 Mr. CLENCH.
I signed on Monday, sir.
182 Senator BOURNE.
And sailed when?
183 Mr. CLENCH.
On Wednesday.
184 Senator BOURNE.
Were you assigned to any lifeboat at the time or any boat?
185 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; I was put on the boat list as on No. 4.
186 Senator BOURNE.
You were assigned to that boat?
187 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir.
188 Senator BOURNE.
As soon as you had signed your articles?
189 Mr. CLENCH.
Oh, no, sir.
190 Senator BOURNE.
When did you get notice you were assigned to No. 4?
191 Mr. CLENCH.
I suppose we had been out a couple of days before notice had
been put up.
192 Senator BOURNE.
They had no drills before leaving the dock?
193 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; two boats were sent away.
194 Senator BOURNE.
But your boat was not?
195 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.
196 Senator BOURNE.
It was not. There were only two boats drilled at the dock prior to
sailing?
197 Mr. CLENCH.
That was all, sir, and they were manned by the seamen. They
pulled around the dock and come back and got hoisted up again.
198 Senator BOURNE.
Why did they not have a drill for all of the boats? Is that not
customary?
199 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; there is only two boats goes out.
200 Senator BOURNE.
Those are the emergency boats?
201 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; not emergency boats - the lifeboats.
202 Senator BOURNE.

There were 14 of what are designated lifeboats on the [Titanic](#)?
203 Mr. CLENCH.
Fourteen lifeboats and two emergency boats.
204 Senator BOURNE.
And four collapsible boats?
205 Mr. CLENCH.
Four collapsible boats.
206 Senator BOURNE.
Making 20 altogether?
207 Mr. CLENCH.
Twenty
208 Senator BOURNE.
Why should they pick out and have a drill with 2 of the 14
lifeboats and not drill with the other 12?
209 Mr. CLENCH.
Why, I could not say.
210 Senator BOURNE.
In your experience at sea have you always been assigned to
different boats, on different lines?
211 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir.
212 Senator BOURNE.
As soon as you had signed your articles?
213 Mr. CLENCH.
As soon as you went aboard the ship there was the boat list stuck
up in the forecabin for you.
214 Senator BOURNE.
Was it customary then to have boat drills?
215 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; we had a board of trade muster then, on the other ships I
have been on.
216 Senator BOURNE.
But you did not have any on this boat, the [Titanic](#)?
217 Mr. CLENCH.
They just had a line up, sir, and that is all, and we were told to go
to the boats and get away.
218 Senator BOURNE.
How long after you sailed did you know your boat?
219 Mr. CLENCH.
About two days after, sir.
220 Senator BOURNE.
How did you get knowledge of your allotment or designation for
No. 4?
221 Mr. CLENCH.
Because it was posted up on the forecabin door.
222 Senator BOURNE.
That was the first intimation you had?
223 Mr. CLENCH.
That was the first information I had.
224 Senator BOURNE.

Did they have any boat drill at all during the voyage?

225 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.

226 Senator BOURNE.
Did you see any notice of any drill that was called for during the voyage?

227 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.

228 Senator BOURNE.
Is it customary, according to your experience you have had in the years you have been sailing on steamships, to have boat drills during voyages?

229 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; every Saturday at sea, on the boats I have been in.

230 Senator BOURNE.
But they had none on the Titanic?

231 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir. When I was on the [Olympic](#) we used to have it on Sunday, if we remained in port on Sunday.

232 Senator BOURNE.
What did that drill consist of? Would you explain it so that we can understand just what a boat drill is such as those you had on the Olympic on a Sunday?

233 Mr. CLENCH.
Well, every Sunday the fire bell rang, and all like that, and you had to attend to your fire hose, and after that was done we proceeded to our boats. When the whistle blowed, each man went to his boat. There was two seamen allotted to each boat.

234 Senator BOURNE.
You would just go to the boat and walk away?

235 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; we would walk up, line up, and get our names called out.

236 Senator BOURNE.
You would not take the canvas off and lower the boats and get into the boats and have any drill?

237 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.

238 Senator BOURNE.
That is never done?

239 Mr. CLENCH.
That is never done. I have never done that.

240 Senator BOURNE.
But they did not on the Titanic even have muster and the men walk up to the various boats to which they had been allotted?

241 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; that is, when we used to have a Sunday in New York.

242 Senator BOURNE.
On the Titanic did they do this?

243 Mr. CLENCH.
Only in Southampton, sir.

..People calm, follow ord

244 Senator BOURNE.
They did not do it on the voyage?

245 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.

246 Senator BOURNE.
But on the Olympic, every voyage you took on her they did it
every Sunday?

247 Mr. CLENCH.
If we happened to get a Sunday in New York, sir.

248 Senator BOURNE.
Did you hear any shooting?

249 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; Mr. Lowe was in No. 14 boat, and he sings out,
"Anybody attempting to get into these boats while we are
lowering them, I will shoot them," and he shot three shots.

250 Senator BOURNE.
Did he shoot anybody?

251 Mr. CLENCH.
He shot straight down in the water.

252 Senator BOURNE.
Did not fire at anybody?

253 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; just shot to frighten the people.

254 Senator BOURNE.
Was there any effort made, after he fired three shots, by anyone
to get into the boat?

255 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.

256 Senator BOURNE.
There was no confusion at all?

257 Mr. CLENCH.
No confusion whatever, sir. Everything went as if it was boat
drill in Southampton.

258 Senator BOURNE.
Did any of the able-bodied seamen ever go into the crow's nest to
look out, or are the lookouts specially selected?

259 Mr. CLENCH.
Special men assigned to that.

260 Senator BOURNE.
For that purpose?

261 Mr. CLENCH.
For that purpose only.

262 Senator BOURNE.
Do any of them go into the eyes of the boat to keep a lookout?

263 Mr. CLENCH.
Only in case of a fog, sir.

264 Senator BOURNE.
Then would you or some of your mates do that?

265 Mr. CLENCH.
We would have to go up in the crow's nest and relieve the

lookout. He would come down and go in the eyes of the boat.
266 Senator BOURNE.
Was there anyone in the eyes of the boat at the time of the
accident?
267 Mr. CLENCH.
I could not say, sir, because I was not on deck.
268 Senator BOURNE.
Will you kindly define your duties at sea as an able-bodied
seaman?
269 Mr. CLENCH.
When I was on the Olympic, sir?
270 Senator BOURNE.
On the Titanic.
271 Mr. CLENCH.
Well, I was picked out for alleyway man, what we term the
engineer's alleyway, what we term the working alleyway. That
was to work from 6 to 5; keep it swept up, and all paint work
clean. That was my duty aboard that ship.
272 Senator BOURNE.
Did you ever take a trick at the wheel?
273 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.
274 Senator BOURNE.
They have wheel men specially selected?
275 Mr. CLENCH.
A quartermaster assigned on that, just the same as the lookout, a
special man.
276 Senator BOURNE.
Are you familiar with the boiler rooms?
277 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir.
278 Senator BOURNE.
Was there any criticism on the part of any of the men that any of
the officers were incompetent, or that there was any
intemperance or that there was anyone to blame for the disaster?
279 Mr. CLENCH.
No; I can not say that there is.
280 Senator BOURNE.
You have not heard of any?
281 Mr. CLENCH.
I have not heard of any. As for any intemperance, you seldom
saw anything on a boat like that. I mean to say you can not get
anything to drink there, so you are bound to be a teetotaler there.
282 Senator BOURNE.
Have you had experience - I do not mean in the way of being
shipwrecked - with ice, before?
283 Mr. CLENCH.
No, sir; never.
284 Senator BOURNE.
This is your first experience?

285 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir. Unless it was like on other ships when we have been
laying in the river in New York.

286 Senator BOURNE.
But you had not been in the iceberg belt before?

287 Mr. CLENCH.
Never.

288 Senator BOURNE.
When it became dawn or daylight, did you find many bergs and
much ice around you?

289 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; there was a large field of ice, I should say 20 to 30 miles
long, just ahead of us and there was a few bergs floating around,
large ones, too.

290 Senator BOURNE.
How long after the Carpathia reached the scene of the disaster
did it take you to get out of the field where the ice was?

291 Mr. CLENCH.
I should say about two hours and a half.

292 Senator BOURNE.
It is your opinion that the ship did not break in two?

293 Mr. CLENCH.
That I can not say, sir, because it was so dark.

294 Senator BOURNE.
You were too far away?

295 Mr. CLENCH.
We was too far away to see anything like that, although we could
not have been so far away, because when we picked up the
surfboat that was overturned she must have been pretty well over
the wreck, because they had nothing to propel themselves along
with; they had no oars or nothing; they was at a standstill at the
time.

296 Senator BOURNE.
Did you learn, from those on the surfboat that was bottom up,
how she capsized?

297 Mr. CLENCH.
I do not know that she capsized at all, sir; she went down bow
first.

298 Senator BOURNE.
I mean the surfboat.

299 Mr. CLENCH.
No. I never heard, sir how it happened. The men was too much
exhausted to talk much.

300 Senator BOURNE.
Did they all survive, that you rescued?

301 Mr. CLENCH.
Yes, sir; although we thought it was a case with the wireless
operator, who was very bad. We said we thought he was going to
"croak."

302 Senator BOURNE.

I think that will be all. I am very much obliged to you.
(Witness excused.)