

WRECK OF THE S.S. EURO

EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE OF PASSENGERS AND CREW.

[BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ADELAIDE, WEDNESDAY.

The s.s. Euro, 284 tons, chartered by the South Australian Steam Shipping Company, was totally wrecked this afternoon about nine miles from Beachport. She had on board a large number of passengers, and a considerable quantity of cargo for Kingston, Robe, and other ports on the south-eastern coast. Intelligence of the disaster was brought to Beachport this evening by a man who escaped from the wreck. He reported that 30 of the passengers had landed in the ship's boats, and that when he left one other boat and two rafts with men on them were trying to gain the shore. Captain John Dowell, the master, was then, he believed, clinging to the rigging.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The latest news from the scene of the wreck is that all the passengers and crew have been landed, excepting Miss Gould, who is supposed to have been drowned. Captain Dowell remained on board his ship till the last, holding to the top of the funnel. The steamer Governor Musgrave is waiting off the wreck.

The Euro was built in 1874 for the Port Pirie trade, in which she was a great favourite for some years. She was lately chartered to run to the south-east ports. Her gross tonnage was 336. Captain Dowell is one of the oldest and most experienced masters in the trade. It is stated that where she went ashore is an iron-bound coast with out-lying reefs. It was extremely fortunate that the Governor Musgrave was close to the spot at the time of the wreck.

The Euro left Robe at half-past 1 p.m. yesterday, with a leading wind and moderate sea. She had about 45 passengers on board, besides her crew. Everything went well until 20 minutes to 4 p.m., when, while opposite Narraguina Bay, 10 miles from Beachport, she suddenly struck on a rock, and immediately began to fill. The captain, who was on deck at the time, went on to the bridge, and altered the course so as to steer for the shore,

altered the course so as to steer for the shore, with the intention of beaching the vessel. He at the same time gave orders to at once clear away the boats.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE

3.45 A.M.

So sudden and unexpected was the disaster that the utmost consternation prevailed amongst the passengers, particularly amongst the women and children. The first boat lowered got adrift with the second mate and one seaman in it, and as the steamer was still steaming on, the boat went rapidly astern. Then the port and starboard life-boats were got away full of passengers. The steamer had been rapidly settling down from the time of striking, and in 20 minutes from this she suddenly went down stem first, heeling over on the starboard side, and precipitating the remainder of the passengers and crew into the sea. It was a heartrending scene. Men, women, and children were struggling for life, and clutching at floating wreckage. The captain was calm and collected throughout, and remained on the bridge until the water washed him off, when he clung to the top of the funnel. In the meantime the two boats reached the beach, and landed their passengers safely through the heavy surf. The starboard boat then returned to the scene of the wreck in charge of the chief officer, and began picking up the passengers, who were floating on the wreckage, some of them having drifted a mile or two from the steamer. The boat which had got adrift, following in the wake of the steamer, reached the wreck just in time to rescue the captain off the funnel, and two passengers and the chief and second stewards off the fore-rigging. The captain had refused all assistance from the boats until every soul was picked up and safely in the boats. He was the last off the wreck, and so narrowly escaped being drowned that the boat's crew were only able to rescue him by throwing him a rope, which he caught, and towing him astern for about 500 yards before they dared venture to pull him aboard, because of the sea running, and because the boat was in danger of getting smashed against the floating wreckage. This boat was most unfortunate. On nearing the beach it capsized in the heavy surf, about 300 yards from the shore. Its occupants were thrown into the water, and had to try and swim to the beach. Prompt assistance was rendered them by the passengers who had

dered them by the passengers who had reached the shore, who waded in and threw them lines. On the news reaching Beachport assistance was promptly despatched. Six vehicles started laden with necessities for the shipwrecked people.

At 9 o'clock the chief steward and 10 of the passengers and six of the crew arrived at Beachport, having walked in. The vehicles sent have not yet returned. The s.s. Coorong was prevented from starting with the Governor Musgrave, as she was stuck on a bank alongside the jetty, and was not able to get off. The steward of the Euro states that all left on the beach were in a deplorable condition, but were all helping each other as much as possible. Other assistance from Beachport would reach them about 10 o'clock. The steward says he is almost positive that all on board were saved except one young lady, Miss Gould, of Mount Gambier, who he is certain was drowned. The passengers and crew lost everything, nothing being saved.