

SILVIA POUNDS BADLY IN GALE

Crew Expects Steamer Will Break Up On Reef.

One Lighter Load of Cargo Saved Before Gale Ended Work.

WOODS HOLE, March 15—The steamer Silvia of the Red Cross line, bound from New York for Halifax, N S, and St Johns, N F, which struck on Sow and Pigs ledge at the entrance to Vineyard sound just before daylight yesterday morning, remained hard and fast on the reef tonight and the prospect of saving her looked very slight.

At sunset the seas, driven by a southwesterly gale, were making a clean sweep over the steamer. Her crew, who came ashore to spend the night at the Cuttyhunk life-saving station, expressed the belief that she would go to pieces before morning. The Silvia lies on the reef, heading toward the northwest at a point about 500 yards northeast of the channel buoy, and is full of water fore and aft.

The passengers, all of whom were taken off the Silvia yesterday by the revenue cutter Mohawk, remained in New Bedford last night and today went to Boston, whence they will be sent to their destinations.

The Mohawk arrived here this noon from New Bedford, after having put agent J. G. Johnson of the Red Cross line on board the Silvia. Agent Johnson is of the opinion that it is extremely doubtful if the vessel can be saved, owing to her being in such an exposed position.

The tug I. G. Merritt, with the lighter Chittendon, arrived at the wreck at daylight this morning, and immediately began the work of removing the cargo from the vessel's hold. There was a heavy swell on and the steamer had settled in the night and was grinding badly on the bottom. At noon the heavy southwest gale sprung up, which so interfered with the work of the wreckers that the lightering operations had to be abandoned. Efforts will now be directed toward saving all possible of the vessel's cargo before she breaks up.

A diver today made an examination of the hull and outside of the steamer, but his report is unobtainable tonight on account of the southerly gale.

At 6 o'clock the crew of the Silvia were all brought ashore to the life-saving station at Cuttyhunk. They think the Silvia will probably go to pieces tonight. The Merritt has gone to New Bedford, towing the lighter loaded with cargo from the wreck.

THEORY OF THE WRECK.

Silvia's Officers Think They Were Misled by Submarine Bell Signal from Lightship.

NEW BEDFORD, March 15—Capt W. J. Farrell and 25 members of the crew of the Silvia were here today on the revenue cutter Mohawk. Capt Farrell says the steamer has a miscellaneous cargo, and is loaded deeper than on any trip she has made to Halifax and St Johns, N F, this winter.

A theory as to the cause of the wreck was advanced by the officers of the vessel when they landed here tonight. They say that their submarine bell was working and that they picked up a signal that they supposed was the Vineyard sound lightship on the port bow. They believe now, however, that instead of the Vineyard sound lightship signal, they received the signal from the new Hen and Chickens lightship, which has been on the station about six weeks. The officers say that they received no notice of the submarine bell equipment of this light vessel, and as they usually passed outside the Vineyard sound vessel, taking their warning from this ship, they were misled.

The Silvia was moving slowly when she struck the ledge, and a few minutes before she bumped a sounding was

made and the lead lines showed eight fathoms.

Capt Farrell has been sailing through Vineyard sound for about 20 years, the last eight or 10 on the Silvia, and he is an experienced mariner. The steamer is only about 300 yards inside the buoy that marks the end of the ledge, and if the steamer's course had been a few hundred yards farther south she would have gone clear.

After the passengers were taken off Saturday, the horse owned by J. Thompson of Halifax was taken off the steamer in a motor boat and landed at Cuttyhunk.

All the passengers except Rev Fr William J. Clarke of St Johns, N F, who is a guest of Rev Hugh J. Smyth of St Lawrence church here, left today.

The first-class and steerage passengers left on the midafternoon train for Boston and they will probably go from there by rail to Halifax. Mrs Haviland Edgar of Newfoundland, one of the passengers, and Miss McHardy, stewardess of the Silvia, left for New York and they will take passage on the steamship Rosalind of the Red Cross line next Friday.

Capt Farrell and J. G. Johnson of Boston, the agent of the Red Cross line in that city, are here tonight.

The big wrecking tug Relief of the Merritt wrecking company is due from New York tomorrow.

AT MARINERS' HOUSE HERE.

Shipwrecked Crews Made Comfortable and Will Be Sent to Nova Scotia Tomorrow.

The 22 members of the twice-shipwrecked crew of the British steamship Beta arrived here this morning at 10:30 from New Bedford and are quartered at the Mariners' house, 11 North st. They were met at the South station by B. Masson, representing the British consulate, and arrangements were made for their comfort and care. They will leave Boston on the steamship Prince Arthur for Yarmouth, N S, tomorrow. Six of the crew of the Beta who belonged in Kings, Jamaica, went there from Grand Turk island, instead of coming to New York on the Silvia.

The three men of the crew of the British schooner Marjorie J. Sumner also came to Boston with the crew of the Beta. They too will be taken care of by the British consul.

They were all landed at New Bedford yesterday, after being taken off the wrecked steamer Silvia by the revenue cutter Mohawk.

The men were made comfortable yesterday evening at the Mariners' house. When asked how it felt to be shipwrecked twice in so short a time, one of them said it was a "joke." They said they could hardly realize just when the Silvia went aground at Sow and Pigs, for she "went so easy." The men say that both the Beta and the Silvia will be total losses. The Beta has already broken in two, and they say the Silvia can hardly escape the same fate.

The shipwrecked crews spent the day resting and looking about the city. Several of them attended services at churches. Tomorrow they will report at the British consulate and final arrangements will be made for their departure to their homes.

The shipwrecked 22 from the Beta include Mrs Catherine J. Kennedy, the stewardess.

The Beta was wrecked Feb 22 off Turks island in the Bahamas, while on a passage from Halifax to Kingston, Jam. The Marjorie J. Sumner was wrecked at Calcos Feb 23, while on a passage from Weymouth, N S, to Sagua. The shipwrecked people were taken to New York by one of the Clyde steamers, and were on their way to their homes in Nova Scotia on the Silvia when the second disaster occurred Saturday morning.