

C O P Y

"CRETEBOOM",
Cuxhaven,
Oct. 11th, 1923.

Messrs F. L. Dawson & Co.,
Newcastle.

Gentlemen,

I regret having to inform you of the loss of the lighter "CRETEDYKE" off the German Coast, but fortunately all hands are safe, although the Donkeyman is in hospital with a broken leg, and one of the seamen has jumped his ankle. Upon approaching the German Coast, terrible weather was encountered, and we endeavoured to get under the lee of Heligoland, but in doing so both vessels were overtaken by a tremendous sea that stove in the lighter's fore-hatch, and buried the tug. Both stokehold and engine room were filled, and also the living quarters, strenuous efforts were made to get the crew off the barge, but to no avail. By this time it was impossible to stand on the decks of either craft, and during a violent squall, which almost sank the tug, we had to put the tug head to sea, and relinquish, to save the barge or crew. During these efforts the tug struck something aft punching a hole in her counter, and we also had the forepart of the lower bridge stove in. The barge kept afloat till next morning when the salvage steamer "JASON" managed to pick up the crew.

The crew of both vessels are willing to proceed on retrograd tow. Protests have been entered. Reports made etc.

I am awaiting further instructions before repairing damage. During the passage over and subsequent events, four fires were lost, but we have still two remaining on the tug. All tug's provisions and barge's were lost with lighter. Captain Stephenson wishes this letter to be accepted also.

Hoping this meets with your approval.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

PETER PREECE,

Master.

Lloyd's Register
Foundation