

# WRECK OFF HUNSTANTON.

## NINE LIVES LOST.

The severe northerly gale which raged over the eastern part of England on Saturday and Sunday will long be memorable for the terrible disaster which occurred in the Wash, the Norwegian barque Caprice being lost with all hands.

The Caprice (Captain Andersen), which had brought in a cargo of ice, left Lynn on Friday morning at 9.45 for Frederickshald, Norway, with nine men on board and a cargo of coal. She was towed out of the port by the tug Conservator, and then anchored near the Bar Flat until Saturday, the wind being against her. As the day went on she moved off, but had to anchor again owing to the increasing storm. Later the vessel tried to proceed, but met the full force of the gale and became unmanageable, and she was pounded to pieces on the sandbanks by the tremendous seas. Prior to this she was seen by the men on the lightship, who fired signals to warn the Coastguard. A message was forwarded to Captain E. Holmes, the Harbour Master at Lynn, who sent the tug Conservator out on Saturday night. She scourged the Wash, but saw no sign of the Caprice, and only fell in with a timber laden vessel, which she brought to Lynn in the early hours of Sunday.

On Saturday night a rocket was seen by Mr. W. Riches, the coxswain of the Hunstanton life-boat, in the direction of the Bar Flat, near the Stubbhorn sand. He called the life-boat crew out early in the evening, and they remained on duty until late in the night, with the horses held in readiness for a launch if required; but although a sharp look-out was kept no further signal was seen. The first signs of a disaster at sea were seen on Sunday morning at Snettisham, when a fisherman's son saw some wreckage on the beach. On Monday his father went here at 6.30 a.m. for cockling, and found Snettisham and Wolferton beaches strewn with wreckage, and, searching among it, he found the body of an elderly sailor, fully dressed, and wearing a lifebelt. Communicating with the authorities, the fisherman was joined by Mr. Kendall, the parish constable, and P.S. J. Oliver, and the body was subsequently moved to Wolferton. On it was found a leather purse, containing some foreign coins. The body was thought to be that of Captain Andersen, but Mr. Hubbard, of Lloyd's Agency at Lynn, could not identify it. The fisherman said he had never seen so much wreckage before, and

Mr. H. Genocchio, the Receiver of Wreck, has received information that two lifebelts with the words "s.s. Maria, Christiania" on them have been washed up on the coast. A ship's gaff was picked up near the Sunk sand with a boat lashed to it, and a fisherman saw a hull on Stubbhorn sand.

The ship's papers of the Caprice have been washed up, and are in the possession of the Receiver of Wreck. The vessel was built about 1879, and Captain Andersen was the owner. He was a married man and

joined to Frederickshald. Mr. W. K. Smith acted as broker for the ship.

During the same storm the steamer Llyn, of Cardiff, which is well known with a cargo of phosphates for the Norfolk Farmers' Manure Company, went to the assistance of the sailing vessel Glasgow in the North Sea, leaved her side and sank in seven minutes. All the crew of the Hatfield were drowned, with the exception of one seaman.

## BODY FOUND AT WOLFERTON.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. R. A. Williams conducted an inquest in the Reading Room and Institute at Wolferton respecting the body of a man found dead on the beach Monday morning. Mr. H. L. Saward, chosen foreman of the jury. Mr. G. Hubbard represented the Norwegian Vice-Consul at Lynn (Mr. W. Flexman) and P.S. Bower appeared on behalf of the police.

The Coroner, in opening the inquiry, said that when he began these inquiries, a rule, the subject they were going to inquire about had a name. In the present instance, in spite of inquiries made by Acting Sergeant Oliver, himself and the Customs House people, nothing could be found which would tell them who the man was. There was an idea that the name of the man was He Andersen, the owner of a brigantine called the Caprice, which sailed from Lynn on Friday and is believed to have become a perfect wreck. There was sufficient evidence in the things which were found on the beach at Snettisham to warrant them coming to the conclusion that the Caprice was one of the vessels that had filled that beach with wreckage, but at the present moment there was nothing—no reliable discovery to connect the dead body with the Caprice. It could not hold out any hopes to the jury that they would be able to know who the man who was dead was. They must therefore hold an inquest on the body of an unknown man, as they had no means of finding out who the dead man was. It would have been a pity if they could have ascertained