

policy holders larger dividends than have been given them in the past, as well as affording the real estate market the facilities to which it is entitled.

The following resolution was presented by Mr. Friedman and adopted.

WHEREAS, the present term of the Honorable Frank D. Wilsey as a member of the Board of Education expires January 1st, 1907, and

WHEREAS, during the five years that Mr. Wilsey has been a member of the Board he has given much time and a great deal of careful attention to the school problems that have come before him, as a member and Chairman of the Committee on Elementary Schools; as a member of the Supply Committee; the Committee on Lectures and Libraries, and of the Local School Board of the 25th District in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, his thoughtful, self-sacrificing and unremitting efforts to properly care for the scholars and to protect the taxpayers have been uniformly successful:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the NORTH SIDE BOARD OF TRADE in Regular Meeting Assembled this 24th day of October 1906, that His Honor, the Mayor George B. McClellan, be and he hereby is respectfully requested to re-appoint Mr. Wilsey as a member of the Board of Education from the Borough of the Bronx, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions, duly attested, be sent to His Honor, the Mayor.

The following resignations as recommended by the

Executive Committee to the Board were accepted, A. J. Rice, C. Wagner. The name of John Demarest, Jr., was ordered dropped from the Roll, for non-payment of dues.

Congressman Goulden ~~-----~~ Took the platform at the request of the President, and said that he would now have the pleasure of presenting a Gold Medal to a "Hero of the 'Slocum Disaster', and asked the Secretary to read the following letter.

(copy)

Hon. Joseph A. Goulden, M. C.,
180 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward to you to-day by United States Express a gold medal awarded by this Department to Captain John L. Wade, of the tug "Wade", in recognition of his services in saving life on the occasion of the burning of the steamer "General Slocum", June 15th, 1904; also a letter of the Secretary of the Treasury reciting the services for which the award is made.

I would thank you to see that the medal and letter are delivered to Capt. Wade, and his receipt for the medal forwarded to this office.

Respectfully,

(Signed) O. M. MAXAM,
Acting General Superintendent.

Mr. Goulden: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:--

The pleasant duty devolves upon me to-night to present to a most deserving man, something in recognizance of his faithfulness and the aid he rendered to humanity. In doing so permit me to say one or two things. A person who receives a gold medal has to undergo a most critical examination, before he can convince the authorities at Washington that he is deserving of one. If anyone thinks it is an easy matter, it will take a good deal of starch out of them to try. It takes more trouble to secure the affidavits than it does to get an appropriation. This bill passed June 20, 1874, a great many years ago, the Treasury department having charge of it. Only about twenty-five are allowed out of every thousand claims and the rest are rejected. You must be deserving of a medal or you will not get it. The first medal was given to a man by the name of Consuetti, of Erie, Pa., who in 1873 rescued several persons from the yacht "Mohawk". He received the medal two years later, in 1875. A special man was sent from Washington to inquire into the whole matter and to find out just what he did do and what he did not do. In thirty two years there have been given away (647) ^{three} medals, this makes the 648th one in thirty years. Thousands of claims have been sent in but they have been rejected. Only (200) gold medals of this special make have been sent out from Washington. I have here a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, representing the Government of the United States, under an act of Congress which I will read, Addressed to Capt. John L. Wade, dated October 18, 1906. (Read letter)

Mr. Goulden. It is a great pleasure to me to have the pleasure of presenting, in the name of the North Side Board of Trade, to the hero of the "Slocum disaster", a man who did his duty and did it well, for I sat upon the Coroner's jury for six days and from the testimony given, no man knows better than I that this medal was amply earned by him. I therefore present this medal in the name of the United States to Captain John

L. Wade.

Capt. Wade. I wish to thank Col. Goulden. I did all I could do and if it was to be done over again I would try to do the same thing. I wish to thank this honorable body and Congressman Goulden.

Account of

GENERAL SLOCUM DISASTER, as seen by CAPTAIN JOHN L. WADE.

On June 15th, 1904 about 10:12 A. M., Tug Boat first along side the ill fated steamer and last to leave. Tug Boat "Wade", was towed to dock at North Brothers Island with hose out filling tanks with water to take to Rikers Island. I heard a distress whistle blow and looked down the East River and saw the General Slocum afire off Sunken Meadows in about 90 ft. of water. I cut lines and hose of Tug Boat "Wade", picking up bodies as they jumped in the water. Kept doing so till General Slocum beached on the lee side of N. B. Island, I put my Tug under port quarter of General Slocum's paddle wheel, shoved the bow of Tug Boat "Wade" on the beach in about 4 ft., of water with full head of steam on, by so doing sprung the planks in Tug "Wade", and bottom started to leak, but by putting so close a bridge was formed from the General Slocum to Tug "Wade" and I then started to dismantle everything moveable on the Tug Boat "Wade" that could float, to which human hands could hold on, such as, Life Boat, Life preservers, Chains, Planks, Life lines, and life rings, and I ordered my crew of (4) to do all that lay in a mans power to save as many as possible.

By this time a (10) ft., side fender had burned and dropped into the water, -the rope that it was tied by, got into the propeller wheel of the Tug "Wade", so that I could not work the wheel. By this time the Tug Boat "Wade" which is (36) ft., long, had a human hand hanging on every inch of her hull, biting and fighting madly for a chance to get a hold. The human mass, was like a ship wrecked loan of corks floating around.

As the fire crept along the General Slocum deck, about (350-) were observed creeping away from the fire, and as it kept on, reaching at last where they all were leaning on the rails, it gave way on the port side, and they all fell into the water, a number falling on the Tug Boat "Wade", killed, burned,

and injured. By this time I had, Pilot House, Engine Room, Fire Room and Galley full of women and children.

The first I pulled out, died of fright, another had a life preserver on it, for it was impossible to swim as the drowning people would hold you under the water. By this time the Tug "Wade" was afire from end to end, so close had the fire crept, that not a window was left in my tug, which was not cracked, and the flag pole was burned to her house. My shirt was burning and I was blistered from the shoulders to my hands, but I was like a wild man and did not feel it until a larger Tug Boat, named "Golden Rod" of New Town Creek, N. Y., played a hose on Tuge Boat "Wade" and put the fire out and rolled tug "Wade" off beach. My Tug "Wade" would otherwise have had the same fate as the General Slocum. I seemed to have the strength of a dozen men at that fatal time, as I had no time to count how many I saved or get their names, or no man did who had done his duty, as this terrible disaster was all over in Thirty-minutes.

When there was no more lives to save, I went over-board and chopped the rope out of the Tug Boat "Wade" wheel, and started pumps and kept pumping night and day till the Tug was put in dry dock, ten days after.

I sent eight women and children to my home, to be cared for and clothed by my wife, in charge of my fireman at that time by name Edward P. Carroll. My wife clothed them and then asked a man by the name of Frank Donnelly to take them all to their homes.

After all was over I used the Tug Boat "Wade" as a ferry, taking Doctors, Nurses, Firemen, Policemen and supplies. During the fire I tied a rope to the port side paddle wheel and the other end to a tree on N. B. Island as there was only 4 ft. of water there, then I shouted to the maddened passengers to take hold of the rope and walk to shore, till I could not speak above a wisper, but not one was saved in this way. At last the rope was burned off the

paddle wheel. They did not seem to realize, that they could walk ashore by aid of this rope. There was a human person or more on each paddle of the wheel until the fire crept up and burned the paddle off. A number was saved in this way, by Fireman P. Lynch, who was in a row boat and handed them over to me on the Tug Boat "Wade". There also was a number who jumped on the tug and walked ashore, as dry and well, as when they went aboard the General Slocum, so near was the Tug "Wade's bow to the paddle box wheel, and the stern on shore.

The next morning at 3 A. M., I could not sleep, as the horror was every before me. I got up and went down to the Tug Boat "Wade", at 142d St. & East River Dock, and started her up the Sound. I met two fishermen sailing their sloops down. They hailed to me and asked me to take (11) bodies from them. They had picked them up on the Sound, and had no time to land them, so I took them on my boat and went as far as White Stone on the Sound and picked up (28) bodies by 5 O'Clock that morning.

The first of these (28) that I picked up, was a woman with a child in each arm, another with a child wrapped up in her skirt. I kept picking up bodies for (10) days.

Mr. Goulden.— We have with us to-night Mr. Higgins, member of the Board of Education, who we would like to have speak to us.

Mr. Higgins.—I would like to ask if that man has any children here. I would like to have his children see what an honor has been done to their father. We like to have deed of heroism like this to present to our children in the schools. I came here especially to-night to see this noble hero honored. I am very glad indeed that the North Side Board of Trade has endorsed Mr. Wilsey, he has always done all he possibly could both for the teachers and the schools.

Mr. Goulden. We shall ask the President of the North Side Board of Trade to join us in complementing Capt. Wade.

President Stephens. I think Cong. Goulden has covered most of the ground and that there is not any more to be said.

I am very glad Captain that the medal was presented here and that you and your friends have the pleasure of meeting the members of the North Side Board of Trade.

Mr. Goulden. We are honored this evening with two past presidents, Mr. Wells and Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis. All that I have to say Mr. President is that I envy you the honor of being President of the North Side Board of Trade this evening. I think you will always remember that you were president when this presentation took place.

Mr. Goulden. I wish the Board would take up the matter of recompensing Capt. Wade for the loss he sustained on that occasion or see what could be done.

Capt. Wade. I never have looked for anything like that or expected it.

(Medal was passed around and everyone looked at it.)

Mr. Goulden. The medal could not be bought for \$50,000.

President. Someone here has a very handsome piece of flowers will they please come forward and present it.

(A mans sister was saved from the Slocum by Capt. Wade she presented the flowers.)

Mr. Goulden. We have with us Engineer Lynch to whom a medal was presented here some time ago. If every thing goes well I hope to have the honor of presenting another soon. Mr. Lynch responded.

Mr. Barnard. There was one remark that Captain Wade said and that was "would do the same thing again". I hope there is not a man here present, of whom the same thing could be said, if the occasion presented itself.

Mr. Friedman. There is evidently little left to be said on this occasion after the plain statement of facts that have been made by the authorities of the National Government, and the line of proof that Cong. Goulden has given us this evening. There was no fakeing about the presentation of this medal. The man that has earned it ought to be proud of the honor bestowed upon him by the United States government.

Mr. Haas. Cong. Goulden has not left anything for the rest of us to say. I think the strongest thing that Capt. Wade said was "to hell with the boat, and I have worked ten years to earn her and I can work as long again to get another".

Board adjourned at 10:07 P. M.

Read & Approved,

Secretary.