

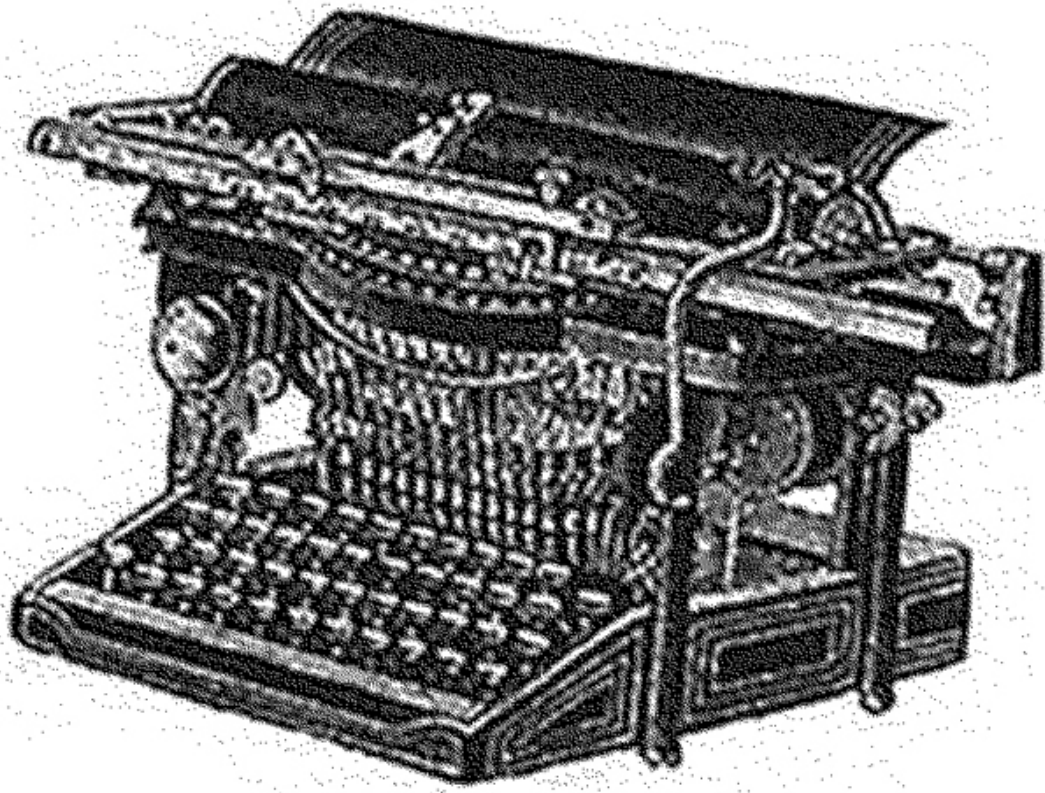
The Nation

May 16, 1912
Vol. 94, No. 2446

On February 23, 1910, Andrew Fursueth, president of the International Seamen's Union of America, presented a petition to Congress. In connection therewith he made a statement to that body which contained the following prophecies, remarkable enough in the face of the Titanic disaster:

Safety at sea! What a lot of rot has been written and spoken on this subject! Safety at sea is promoted, first, by a good vessel, stanch and well found; second, by good boats and *enough of them*; third, by a crew sufficient in number and skill to handle the vessel while she is afloat, to lower, man, and handle the boats when the vessel must be abandoned. . . . Now, let me entrust you with a very deep secret. There is not sailing to-day on any ocean *any passenger vessel* carrying the number of boats needed to take care of the passengers and crew, nor a sufficient number of skilled men to handle those boats which are carried.

Mr. Fursueth added that "vessels that cannot sink and will not burn have not yet been built." If the public wished safety, it must insist, he declared, that there should be a standard of individual efficiency for the deck crew, and that there should be provided for these men "a decent place to live, eat, and sleep in." To do so, he concluded, would be to help save thousands of lives.



OldMagazineArticles.com