

Easy Enough.

ROUGH SEA NEEDN'T CAUSE SHIPWRECK.

SAILOR INVENTS DEVICE TO CALM THE DEEP.

Literally Pours Oil on Troubled Waters and Thereby, He Claims, Makes it Possible to Ride Out Any Storm—Interests Government in Simple Mechanism.

Declaring that no ship need ever be lost simply because of rough weather, Harry W. Stocking, deep-water sailor and inventor, now residing here, has, after several year's endeavor, secured the attention of the government to a device patented by him for the purpose of spraying the ocean with oil in time of storm.

Since time began sailors have known the efficacy of oil on water, and with the discovery of petroleum in great quantities many ships were equipped with oil tanks for this purpose. However, the use of oil as a means of saving ships or in stilling water for other purposes is seldom used. This because when laboring in a heavy sea it was heretofore impossible in a storm to make use of the oil. No ship could carry enough oil to still the water while the ship was under way. By the time the ship could be stopped and oil poured on the water the damage would be done.

Here is where Stocking's device came in. He simply applied a mechanism that took the oil to windward and let it loose. When a ship is running before the wind in a storm and anything goes wrong, a sea anchor is thrown overboard and the ship's head held in a position that

keeps her out of the trough. Stocking rigged up a tank of oil on the stern of the ship and attached a pliable hose to the hawser that held the sea anchor. As soon as the anchor is thrown overboard the oil starts through the hose and is spread from the anchor. This means that the wind blows the oil from the anchor, forty or fifty fathoms in the rear, toward the ship, and calms the waves before the ship is stopped. This device has been exhibited along the Pacific Coast, on the Atlantic and in the China Sea.

The sea anchor, a conical affair, drags through the water, retarding the movement of the ship. The anchor rides on the crest of the waves and is equipped with six-foot spreaders. A barrel of oil will keep down the waves for twenty-four hours, according to the inventor's experiments. At Catalina Island Stocking has frequently rode out the worst storms in a launch with the use of one gallon of oil to each twenty-four hours.

The oil when it strikes the water spreads out in a thin film, a drop of oil covering from five to seven feet of water. The wind, which primarily causes waves, glides over the oil and the farther the oil spreads the greater the space calmed. With larger quantities of oil used it has been found possible to launch lifeboats in the roughest water and get them safely away from ships, piers or other places.

Other uses to which, Stocking says, his invention can be put successfully is on the dangerous bars in the north. On one occasion he took a ship over the Columbia bar by having a launch anchored outside, releasing the oil and letting it flow toward his ship. The oil could be used in building breakwaters, taking men to and from lightships, launching lifeboats from the beach, towing log rafts and in rescuing crews or merchandise from ships that have been beached and over which huge seas break.

Stocking first put his idea into use

in the China Sea a number of years ago, equipping a sea anchor with oil-spraying pipes. This worked so well that twice more on the China run he used oil. Later he patented the idea, and, after giving exhibitions to seafaring men on both oceans, he has determined to try and have American warships equipped, and later all vessels.