

Myles. September 26-28, 1889.

*September 26-28.*—All day of the 26th the Canadian steam-barge *Myles*, of Hamilton, had been some eight miles north of Portage Lake Ship Canal, Michigan, vainly trying to make headway against the wind. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the weather became stormy and a heavy sea made up. The craft being obliged to seek shelter stood for the canal entrance. The captain supposing from his chart that the water there was some sixteen feet deep, whereas it is only a little over thirteen, thought he would have no difficulty in making the harbor with his vessel which was drawing fourteen feet. As soon, however, as her bow was inside she struck bottom and swung broadside round with her stern against the east pier. The shock broke her large steam-pipe and unshipped her rudder. The crew of the Ship-Canal Station, (Tenth District,) went immediately to her assistance in the life-boat, ran lines, and tried to get her off but were unsuccessful. The captain decided that a tug would be necessary and so the surfmen secured one and carried her hawser to the barge. The only result of the tug's efforts was to swing the steamer around and pull her about a ship's length inside. After several futile attempts to release the *Myles*, in which a number of lines were parted, the tug abandoned the undertaking and went for some lighters to remove the cargo, which consisted of corn. The next

UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE.

119

day the surfmen remained by the vessel and turned back three steamers that were on their way into the canal, there being no room in the channel for them to pass in while the barge was aground. One of these steamers might otherwise have met with a serious accident as she arrived off the entrance after nightfall. The tug did not return to the scene until the morning of the 28th. She brought two lighters which the surfmen aided to load with the barge's cargo. This sufficiently lightened the stranded vessel and she floated off and was towed into the harbor, having sustained some damage. She had a crew numbering twenty men and was bound from Washburn, Wisconsin, to Kingston, Ontario.