

(No. 933.)

“OCEAN KING.”

FINDING of a Court of Inquiry, held at Port Nolloth, into the circumstances of the loss of the British barque “OCEAN KING” near Port Nolloth, on the 23rd January 1881.

27th January 1881.

After careful consideration of the circumstances attending the loss of the “Ocean King,” and the evidence of the officers, the seaman Larsen, and Captain Carstens, with Captain Evans’ written statement submitted to the Court, we are of opinion that the loss of the vessel is attributable to her striking on sunken rocks about 4 or 5 miles from the mainland, about 20 miles south of Port Nolloth. None of these rocks are indicated on any of the charts of the West Coast of Africa. Taking into consideration the fine weather and land in sight at 12 o’clock midnight, and the ship’s course altered to a north, and shortly afterwards again to N. by E. course, which is a safe one to make Port Nolloth, with the ship from 4 to 5 miles off land, the Court does not attribute any default or wrongful act on the part of the master, officers, or crew in the loss of the vessel, and recommend the Board of Trade to grant the master and mate fresh certificates in lieu of those they have unfortunately lost.

(Signed) CHARLES BARBER,
Acting Resident Magistrate.
W. RICHARDS,
Nautical Assessor.