

(No. 1182.)

“HERO” (S.S.) AND “HERGA” (S.S.)

REPORT and decision of the Marine Board of New South Wales in the matter of the collision between the “HERO” and “HERGA.”

The Board held an Investigation into the circumstances connected with the collision between the above-named vessels, and found the “Hero” to be a screw steamer of 985 tons, belonging to the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. She was proceeding down Sydney Harbour, in ballast, bound to Newcastle, and came into collision with the “Herga” on the night of Monday, the 29th of August, at about 10 o'clock. The night was dark, but fine. The “Hero” only sustained slight damage. The “Herga” is a screw collier of 250 tons register, belonging to the Coal Cliff Company. She was inwards bound with a cargo of coals, and had to be beached to prevent her sinking in deep water. No person was lost or hurt by the collision. The Board reported that the said collision was caused by the wrongful act or default of the master of each of the vessels; by the master of the “Hero,” in having committed a breach of the 120th section of the Navigation Act, which reads as follows: “And the master of every ship or vessel navigating any harbour, river, channel, port, or place within the jurisdiction, shall, so far as may be practicable, keep on that side of the fairway or midchannel thereof which lies on his starboard hand”; and by the master of the “Herga” for attempting to cross the course of the “Hero.” The Board therefore reprimand Thomas M’Gee, the master of the “Hero,” and David Howell, the master of the “Herga,” and caution each of them as to their future conduct.

(Signed) FRANCIS HIXSON,
President.

Sydney, 29th September 1881.