

(No. 3917.)

“BARON BLANTYRE.”

FINDING of a Marine Court of Inquiry, held at Singapore, into the loss of the British ship “BARON BLANTYRE,” of Greenock, Off. No. 67,924, 1,585 tons.

Having gone carefully through the evidence, we find that the ship “Baron Blantyre” struck on the Two-fathom Patch, 1½ miles to the north-westward of Timbaga Rocks, in Banka Straits, on the afternoon of August 28th, 1889, and there foundered, and that her loss was occasioned by the gross neglect of both master and mate.

The log book was washed overboard when the accident happened, and no one on board is able to remember any of the cross bearings taken after rounding Lalarie Point, but there was a leadsman in the chains, and when soundings of from 13 to 15 fathoms were reported (which clearly indicated that the ship was not in the centre of the channel, but well over on the Banka side), the course was not altered to the westward, but continued straight on till she struck, and it is evident that proper attention could not have been paid to the bearings, as Lalarie Point must have been brought to bear to the southward of S.E. ¼ S.

We also express our surprise that, although the wreck was not abandoned till August 31st, no measures were taken by the master or either of his officers to ascertain its exact position. We believe that the master and every one on board did all they possibly could to save the ship after she struck, but taking the whole of the facts of the case into consideration, we suspend the certificate of James Taylor, the master, for 12 months, and we severely censure Edward Williams, the mate, for neglecting to point out to the master that in steering the course he did he was disregarding the Sailing Directions. We recommend that James Taylor be granted a mate's certificate during the time his master's certificate is suspended.

(Signed) S. LESLIE THORNTON,
Acting Senior Magistrate of
Police, President.

A. WHITEHOUSE,
Lieutenant, R.N.,
A. C. BING,
Master Mariner,
W. B. BUTLER,
Master Mariner, } Nautical
Assessors.

This 18th day of September 1889.