

(No. 4313.)

"CUMBERLAND"

AND

"DALHOUSIE" (S.S.)

REPORT of a Special Court of Inquiry held at Rangoon on the 11th April 1891 to inquire into the cause of the collision on the night of the 1st April 1891, between the British ship "CUMBERLAND," of Workington, 1,798 tons, and the I.M.S. "DALHOUSIE," off Krishna Lightship.

The Court, after due consideration of the evidence, finds that the collision between the I.M.S. "Dalhousie" and the sailing ship "Cumberland" was caused by the officer on watch on board the "Dalhousie," Mr. C. D. Carey, improperly altering his course when there was no necessity for doing so.

It is proved by the evidence and by the admission of Mr. Carey himself that if the "Dalhousie" had kept her course no collision would have occurred.

It is proved that the two ships were proceeding so as to pass clear of each other, *i.e.*, green to green. Instead of allowing the "Dalhousie" to continue that course the officer on the watch, when he was about one-third of a mile from the "Cumberland," put the helm of the steamer hard-a-port, which error was the cause of the collision directly afterwards. Mr. Carey asserted that the "Cumberland" had no proper lights burning, but the evidence of the look-outs of the "Dalhousie" and that of the crew of the "Cumberland" proves clearly that she had her lights burning brightly.

No blame attaches to the captain and officers of the "Cumberland," as it is proved that she kept her course throughout.

The Court is further of opinion that the look-out on board the "Dalhousie" was very imperfectly kept, as the leadsman was the first to notice the lights of the sailing ship.

At page 44 of Gray's Rule of the Road for Preventing Collisions at Sea, the following regulation absolutely meets the case of this collision, namely:—

"The only way in which A can get into collision with the vessel showing the green light on her own starboard side, or ahead, is by porting to it, and there is therefore no necessity to make a rule to tell the master of A not to port in such a case."

(Signed) A. L. HOUGH, President.
H. KRAUSS.
C. STABB.
J. THOMAS.

Rangoon, 14th April 1891.

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The Merchant

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