

(No. 4267.)

## "EARN."

REPORT of the Mauritius Marine Board on the loss of the British bark "EARN," of the burthen of 311 tons, register No. 82,733, which was wrecked on the reefs of Providence Island on the 29th October 1890.

The Board met at the Port Office on Wednesday, the 18th February 1891, at noon.

## Present:

E. ARNAUD ESNOUF, Esquire, Acting Senior District Magistrate of Port Louis, President of the Board.

JOHN WILSON, Esquire, Harbour Master.

EDWARD CLEATHER FRASER, Esquire, of Messrs. Ireland, Fraser & Co., Agents for Lloyds, in Mauritius.

JOHN COWIN, Esquire, Marine Surveyor.

JOHN PASCOE ELLIS, Esquire, Marine Surveyor.

ROBERT FREELAND, Esquire, President of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Board met to consider the causes of the loss of the British bark "Earn."

The evidence before them is the mate's log-book and the master's protest and his chart. The former was negligently kept, and the second, the master's version of the disaster, given from memory.

The Board also examined the only two witnesses found in Mauritius, whose evidence was of little importance, except that they saw the vessel in shoal water on the reef, and assisted in the manœuvres to again reach deep or blue water, and, further, they described the vessel stranding on the reef.

The Board, considering that (1st) no proper record was kept of the ship's position and of the daily proceedings; (2nd) that no supervision of the ship's log-book was exercised by the captain; (3rd) the absence in the chart of any trace that the captain consulted it after the 27th October, and his neglect to supply himself with one of a newer edition (which he could have done); (4th) the captain's inconsiderate tacking the ship to the eastward at 3 a.m., when he ought to have continued his board to the south-west until daylight, thus avoiding the only danger within a radius of 30 miles; and (5th) the inert efforts made by the captain to save the cargo and the stranded vessel; and, finally, the absolute abandonment of the vessel with only 15 inches of water in the well, is of opinion that Captain Walter Mayes showed absolute incapacity to execute the duties of ship master, and entire absence of the sense of responsibility as to the lives and property intrusted to his charge, and that his master's certificate be cancelled.

(Signed) E. ARNAUD ESNOUF,  
Acting Senior District Magistrate  
of Port Louis and President of  
the Board.

J. WILSON, Harbour Master.

JOHN COWIN, Marine Surveyor.

JOHN P. ELLIS, Marine Surveyor.

EDWARD C. FRASER, Agent for  
Lloyds' in Mauritius.

ROBERT FREELAND, President of the  
Chamber of Commerce.