

(No. 4325.)

## "PER ARDUA."

**FINDING** and Order of a Naval Court held at the British Consulate-General at Valparaiso on the eleventh and twelfth days of May 1891, to investigate the circumstances attending the stranding and loss of the British barque "PER ARDUA," of Liverpool, official number 63,347, when on a voyage from Caldera to San Antonio (coast of Chili), and the cause of such stranding and loss.

The "Per Ardua" was a composite vessel, barque-rigged, of 813 tons registered tonnage, official number 63,347, built at Southwick (Durham), and belonging to the port of Liverpool.

It appears from the evidence given before this Court that she sailed from Caldera on or about the 8th of April 1891, in ballast, and with a crew of 18 hands all told, bound for the port of San Antonio, and was stranded off the coast of Chili, in latitude 33° 49' S., and longitude 71° 50' W., on the 20th of April 1891.

The Court, having deliberately weighed and considered the evidence and observations preferred by the master and the crew of that vessel, and by another witness who has appeared before it, finds,—

That, although the loss of the vessel is attributable solely to the wheel being disabled and the rudder damaged by a heavy swell which struck the ship, sufficient allowance was not made by the master for the indraught, the ship on the morning of the 20th day of April being closer to the land than she ought to have been.

The Court is of opinion that the ship should have been put on the port tack (heading off the land) not later than midnight on the 19th day of April 1891, and not again kept on towards the land until her position had been ascertained; that, otherwise, the master, Frank Hart, appears to have navigated his vessel in a seamanlike and proper manner, and, when a casualty was inevitable, to have done everything in his power to avert disaster.

Therefore the Court, in returning to Frank Hart, the master, his certificate, doth admonish him to be more careful in future.

Dated at the British Consulate-General, at Valparaiso, this 12th day of May 1891.

(Signed) A. F. HOWARD,  
H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Valparaiso, President.

REGINALD B. COLMORE,  
Lieutenant R.N., H.M.S.  
"Champion."

JOHN JONES,  
Master of British Merchant  
Ship "Kildonan," of Swansea, O.N. 60,413.

JOHN F. BENCE,  
Master of British Merchant  
Ship "Caldbeck," of Liverpool, O.N. 50,284.

W. J. K. MILLN,  
Assistant Paymaster, H.M.S.  
"Champion," Clerk of the  
Court.