

(No. 4909.)

"A. B. CROSBY."

BAHAMA ISLANDS, INAGUA.

At a Court of Inquiry held on the 28th day of February and 8th day of March, A.D. 1894, at Matthew Town, in the Island aforesaid, before MICHAEL BELALES BARBES, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Island, and Acting Resident Justice for the Island and district of Inagua. In the matter of the stranding of the British three-masted schooner "A. B. Crosby," of Turks Island, John W. Sheldrake, master, on a voyage from Macoris, St. Domingo, on the morning of the 21st day of February, A.D. 1894, to New York, U.S.

The "A. B. Crosby" is a wooden vessel, schooner-rigged; she was built at Parrsborough, N.S., in the year 1884, is of the burthen of 174 $\frac{71}{100}$ tons, owned by William Yule and John Munroe, now of the City of New York, U.S.; she was manned by a crew consisting of the master, whose certificate of competency is No. 81,175, cook, and five seamen. The "A. B. Crosby" left the port of Macoris on the morning of the 10th day of February 1894, and while coming out of port scraped the bottom, and, as the master says, in his opinion no damage was done, but from further evidence I cannot but believe that the "A. B. Crosby" did receive some damage, as divers prove that on examination at Hogstye considerable of her metal had been torn off her bottom, and no doubt this had been done on scraping the bottom at Macoris, and considerable evidence goes to show that the "A. B. Crosby" was badly strained on trying to go through the Mono Passage, as it was at this time that she sprung a leak, and master thought it best to run for Crooked Island Passage, as he found that she did not make any headway through Mono, but rather losing ground, and then on the evening of the 18th, while between Cape Nicolas Mole and Inagua, I find that vessel laboured very heavily in a N.E. gale, causing mizen-mast and bowsprit spring, and next I find "A. B. Crosby" in Hogstye, failing to reach Inagua, in a very crippled condition. Captain very properly got divers to examine vessel, although, finding her in very bad condition, I think he was right in making the attempt to reach either Inagua or Long Cay, and lastly we find "A. B. Crosby" on reef, stranded in consequence of her taking wrong cant to port, and then became a total loss. In my opinion I think Captain Sheldrake did all he could under the circumstances, and I therefore do not blame him for the loss of "A. B. Crosby."

(Signed) M. B. BARBES,
Acting Res. Justice and Collector.