

(No. 4923.)

“BANKS PENINSULA” (S.S.)

REPORT of a Court of Inquiry held at Stanley, under the provisions of the “Wrecks Inquiry Act,” before GEO. ANDERSON, S.M., C. T. SMITH, J.P., H. G. SPICER, J.P., and ALEXANDER BATES, Nautical Assessor, relative to the stranding of the S.S. “BANKS PENINSULA,” on the North Point Reef, on the morning of the 18th March 1894.

The Court, having examined Arthur James Lloyd, master; Walter D. Lewis, mate; R. M. M’Kenzie and Vincent Ferrara, seamen, find as follows:—

That the s.s. “Banks Peninsula” left Strahan on the 17th March instant, bound for Launceston, *via* N.W. coast ports, in ballast, with 39 passengers on board. At 2 o’clock a.m. of the 18th instant passed Penguin Island, bearing south 1½ miles; steered N.E. till half-past 3 a.m., distance run 10 miles; then steered E. by S. until 4 a.m., making 7 miles, then left the deck in charge of the chief officer, giving him the course E. by S. ½ S. About 5.15 a.m. she struck on the North Point Reef; the wind at the time was fresh east, and the tide about half flood; it was daybreak, and the hut was showing clearly; the engine was then stopped, and the after trysail set; the vessel then canted round and came off. Arrived at Stanley about 6.15 a.m., where on examination it was found that propeller blades were broken and brackets damaged. Two new blades were put on the starboard, and one on the port propeller; the vessel then proceeded on her voyage.

The Court find that, although the course E. by S. ½ S. given by Captain Lloyd to the chief mate might have taken the vessel outside the reef in calm weather, he showed an error of judgment in not making due allowance for a fresh easterly breeze, and a set of tide to the westward. Also that the mate, W. D. Lewis, was in default in not keeping a more vigilant look-out, as the evidence shows that the day was breaking and the Stanley hut visible at the time of the casualty. The Court orders the master, A. J. Lloyd, and mate, W. D. Lewis, to pay by equal shares the cost of the inquiry; viz.—

	£	s.	d.
Nautical Assessor’s fee	-	2	2 0
Court costs	-	0	4 0

(Signed) H. G. SPICER, J.P.
CH. TH. SMITH, J.P.
GEO. ANDERSON, S.M.

I concur in the above report.

(Signed) ALEX. BATES,
Nautical Assessor.