

(No. 4766.)

“B O N A N Z A.”

FINDING and Order of a Naval Court held at Montevideo at the British Consulate-General, on the 4th day of July 1893, to inquire into the circumstances attending the abandonment of the ship “BONANZA,” of the port of Yarmouth, N.S., official No. 71,017, when on a voyage from Buenos Ayres to Falmouth for orders, and to inquire into the conduct of the master, certificated mate, and crew of the said vessel.

The “Bonanza” was a sailing vessel, ship rigged, of 1,079 tons register, official No. 71,017, built at Plympton, N.S., and belonging to the port of Yarmouth, N.S.

It appears from the evidence given before this Court that she sailed from the port of Buenos Ayres on or about the 16th September 1892, bound for Falmouth for orders, with a cargo of wheat and a crew of 16 hands all told.

Annex 8.—A sworn statement made by the master of the s.s. “Bamboro,” 97,953, of Newcastle, was handed into the Court and read by the Clerk of the Court. The original statement is appended.

Annex 9.—A sworn statement made by the chief mate of the s.s. “Bamboro” was handed into the Court, and is appended.

Annex 10.—A sworn statement made by the carpenter of the said s.s. “Bamboro” was also read to the Court, and is appended.

Annex 11.—A sworn statement made by John Blair, master of the s.s. “Highland Glen,” 99,006, of the port of London, was also read before the Court, and the original statement is annexed.

And the unanimous opinion of the Court is that the master of the “Bonanza” is in no way to blame for what occurred to the ship under his command, and that the crew behaved well, and did their utmost to keep the ship afloat. The Court also are of opinion that the steps taken by the master in calling for assistance and abandoning his ship were perfectly justified.

The expenses of the Court, 6l. 14s., are approved.

Dated at Montevideo this 4th day of July 1893.

(Signed) ALFRED GRENFELL,
H.B.M. Acting Consul-General
and President of Naval Court.

R. F. DENSMORE,
Master of the ship “Gloaming.”

THOS. G. EVANS,
Master of the barque “Elliot.”

Annex No. 8.

Sworn statement of the master of the s.s. “Bamboro,” 97,953, of Newcastle, Daniel Jones.

“On the 24th June 1893, in lat. 27° 32' N. and long. 45° 50' W., I saw a ship at 6.30 a.m. showing a ‘flare-up,’ so kept straight for her. We approached her in about 20 minutes, when found her to be the ship ‘Bonanza,’ official No. 71,017, of Yarmouth, N.S., showing signals N.S., which means ‘I have sprung a leak.’ I stopped the engines when close to her, and then the captain of the ‘Bonanza’ lowered his boat and came aboard of the steamer, stating how he was situated, that his ship was in a sinking condition and crew exhausted, who had promised to keep her afloat as long as they could, but insisted on leaving on the first opportunity rather than risk staying on board and trusting to the boats in case of the ship sinking meantime. She had been sailing towards the track of steamers. I consented to take them off, giving them time to recover all their effects, which they did by 11 a.m. I did not go on board myself, but sent chief mate, at request of the master of the ship ‘Bonanza,’ to confirm his statement concerning the condition of the ship. He returned shortly after and reported that she was leaking badly, and that he had sounded the

well and found, as far as I can remember, about two feet of water in the well; meantime the crew brought their effects on board. About 10 o'clock the mate again went on board the ‘Bonanza,’ by my orders, as the master requested to ascertain if the ship was still making more water.

“The mate returned shortly after on board the s.s. ‘Bamboro,’ and reported to me that there were about three feet of water in the well, as far as I can recollect, and increasing rapidly. The crew and captain of the ship ‘Bonanza’ then came on board my vessel, abandoning their own. I then proceeded on my voyage, watching her, but did not see her sink, losing sight of her at about 12.30 p.m. We anchored in the roads of Montevideo on the evening of the 27th June, and came into the inner roads on the 28th, and landed the crew with all their effects of the said ship ‘Bonanza.’

(Signed) “DANIEL JONES,
“Master ‘Bamboro.’”

I hereby certify that the above statement was made on oath at this Consulate-General at Montevideo, on the 29th day of June 1893.

(Signed) ALFRED GRENFELL,
H.B.M. Acting Consul-General,
Montevideo.

Annex No. 9.

Sworn statement of Wm. M. Thomas, chief mate of the s.s. “Bamboro,” official No. 97,953, of Newcastle:—

“On the 24th June 1893, in lat. 27° 32' S. and long. 45° 50' W., I saw a ship about 6.30 a.m., which turned out to be the ‘Bonanza,’ of Yarmouth, N.S., official No. 71,017, showing a ‘flare-up’ light. Kept our steamer for her, and found she was flying signals N.S., which means ‘I have sprung a leak.’ The captain came on board about 8 a.m., and wished to be taken off with all his crew, stating his ship was in a sinking state. I returned on board the said ship by order of the captain of my ship, at the request of the captain of the ‘Bonanza,’ to sound the pumps, and I found 23 in. in the well. I noticed that a large quantity of wheat had come up the pumps and was lying about the decks. I did not examine the cargo or the ship more than I have just stated, and I returned to my ship and reported what I had seen to my captain. The captain ordered me to return to the ‘Bonanza’ to get provisions, and during the time I was on board I sounded the pumps again, and found 30 in. I brought the provisions off to the s.s. ‘Bamboro.’ Shortly after my getting on board, the captain and crew abandoned the said ship ‘Bonanza,’ and came aboard with the remainder of their effects. When all were on board safe, we then steamed away on our voyage to Montevideo, it then being between 10 and 11 a.m. I did not see the ship ‘Bonanza’ sink, and about noon we lost sight of her in the horizon, being then still afloat. We arrived in Montevideo Roads on the night of the 27th, and came into the inner roads about 7 a.m. of the 28th, and landed all the crew of the ‘Bonanza’ and their effects.

(Signed) “WILL THOMAS,
“Chief Mate,
“s.s. ‘Bamboro.’”

I hereby certify that the above statement was made on oath before me, at the British Consulate-General at Montevideo, the 29th day of June 1893.

(Signed) ALFRED GRENFELL,
H.B.M. Acting Consul-General,
Montevideo.

Annex No. 10.

Sworn statement of James Davies, carpenter of the s.s. “Bamboro,” official No. 97,953, of Newcastle.

“On the 24th June 1893, I saw a ship about 6.30 a.m., with her yards aback, about a mile off; we were then making straight for her. When we passed her I saw the captain on the poop and heard him hail our ship, saying, ‘We’ve sprung a leak.’ We stopped our

engines and stood by the ship. After about half-an-hour the captain of the ship 'Bonanza,' which she turned out to be, came on board of our ship. About 9 o'clock the chief mate gave me orders to go on board and came with me. When we got on board I went down to the after hold to lend the mate a hand to get some provisions up. I did not see any water down in the hold as far as I went. The mate then told me to take the provisions that we had collected on board our ship, but before going, to sound the well, which I did, and found 30 inches of water. I then went on board as ordered. I did not see the ship sink; we lost sight of her about 2 or 3 o'clock p.m. The time I sounded the well of the ship 'Bonanza' was about 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

(Signed) "JAMES DAVIES,
"Carpenter s.s. 'Bamboro.'"

I hereby certify that the above statement was made on oath before me at the British Consulate-General on the 29th day of June 1893.

(Signed) ALFRED GRENFELL,
H.B.M. Acting Consul-General,
Montevideo,

Annex No. 11.

"I, John Blair, master of s.s. 'Highland Glen,' do hereby make oath and declare that on Sunday, 25th June 1893, in lat. 27° 21' S., and long. 45° 32' W., I saw a ship on fire at noon, came up with her and sent the boat with chief officer to see if there was anything alive on board and to get the ship's name. She proved to be the 'Bonanza,' of Yarmouth, N.S.; she was completely on fire from stem to stern. The chief officer then returned to the s.s. 'Highland Glen' and we continued our course, and an hour and a half after lost sight of her.

"Sworn at the British Consulate at Montevideo this 30th June 1893.

(Signed) "JOHN BLAIR, Master."

I hereby certify the statement on the other side to have been made before me on oath at the British Consulate-General, Montevideo, this 30th day of June 1893.

(Signed) ALFRED GRENFELL,
H.B.M. Acting Consul-General,
Montevideo.