

147

(No. 4981.)

“BANKS PENINSULA” (S.S.)

REPORT of an Inquiry held under the provisions of “The Wrecks Inquiry Act,” at Launceston, on the 19th day of July, 1894, before ERNEST WHITFIELD, Esquire, Police Magistrate, and Captain W. R. BARWOOD, Nautical Assessor, to inquire into the circumstances under which the screw steamer “BANKS PENINSULA” of Hobart, 34 tons, struck upon the Black Reef, at the entrance of the Tamar River, on the 3rd day of July instant.

The witnesses examined were Frank Alfred Lloyd, master; Walter James Rogers, first mate; Anthony Winter, chief engineer; and Peter John Skog, able seaman.

The evidence taken was to this effect:—The screw steamer “Banks Peninsula” left Launceston at 3 p.m. on 3rd July instant with 10 tons of general cargo and three passengers, bound for Strahan. She arrived off She-oak Point at 20 minutes past 6 p.m., it then being dead low water, and the night dark but clear. The vessel appears to have run out on the line of the leading lights, and after following the line of light for a short time, the course was altered to the westward, West Head being then visible. She continued this course for about 10 minutes, when she struck slightly. The engines were at once stopped and then put slow ahead again. Within a minute or so she again struck, this time heavily, stripping the starboard propeller and stripping two blades off the port one. The man at the wheel received the order “hard-a-port.” She answered her helm without losing headway, and was steered for Lagoon Bay, and next day brought up to Launceston. Her sternpost was then found to be bent, which made steering difficult.

We are of opinion that the master, Frank Alfred Lloyd, whose name we find does not appear on the ship's register, neither was he in possession of a River Tamar certificate, did not use sufficient judgment in navigating his ship, and consider he should have kept on in the line of light until clear of the Hebe Reef.

The Court finds that the master, Frank Alfred Lloyd, has committed a grave error in judgment, and has imperilled the safety of his vessel and those on board, and adjudge that his certificate be suspended for the period of three months.

(Signed) ERNEST WHITFIELD,  
Police Magistrate.

I concur in the above finding.

(Signed) W. R. BARWOOD,  
Nautical Assessor.

*Cost of the Inquiry.*

Nautical Assessor - - - 5l. 5s.