

(No. 4993.)

## "KOW SHING" (S.S.)

FINDING and Order of a Naval Court held at Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate, Nagasaki, on the 7th day of August 1894.

The steamship "Kow Shing" was an iron vessel, schooner-rigged, of 1,355 tons registered tonnage, official number 87,100, built at Barrow-in-Furness, and belonging to the port of London.

It appears from the evidence given before this Court that she sailed from Taku on or about the 23rd day of July 1894, bound for Asan in Korea, with no cargo, but with 1,100 Chinese troops on board. That everything went well until the morning of the 25th July, when about 9 a.m. the "Naniwa Kan," a Japanese man-of-war, signalled to her to stop and anchor, which she did in 11 fathoms, with the island of Shopai-ul bearing about N.E., distant  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. That after communicating with the "Kow Shing" twice by boat, and ordering the officers to quit the vessel, which they were prevented doing by the Chinese troops, the "Naniwa Kan" about 1 p.m. discharged a torpedo at the "Kow Shing," and this not striking her, the "Naniwa Kan" fired a broadside of five heavy guns at her, and continued firing both heavy and machine guns from deck and tops until she sank about an hour later. That when the firing commenced numbers of the crew and Chinese troops jumped overboard, amongst them the master, Thomas Ryder Galsworth, the first mate, Lewes Henry Tamplin, and a quartermaster, Lucas Evangelista (a Manila man), who are the only members of the crew at present known to be saved.

The Court, having regard to the circumstances above stated, finds as follows:—

1. That the ship was sufficiently seaworthy and well found in all necessary respects.
2. That the conduct of the officers and crew before and up to the time of the sinking of the vessel was satisfactory and free from blame.
3. That the cause of the sinking was due to her having been repeatedly struck by heavy cannon shots from the "Naniwa Kan," a Japanese man-of-war.
4. That no efforts on the part of the master and crew would have availed to avert the catastrophe.
5. That the Court attaches no blame whatever to the master, Thomas Ryder Galsworthy, or any of the officers or crew.
6. The expenses of the Court, fixed at 6*l.* 4*s.*, are hereby approved.

Dated at Nagasaki, this 7th day of August 1894.

(Signed) JOHN J. QUIN,  
H.B.M. Consul, President.  
JOHN MITCHELL,  
Master, ship "Cape York."  
THOMAS E. COWELL,  
Master, ship "Drumeltan."

British Consulate, Nagasaki.