

(No. 6279.)

“BOWMAN B. LAW.”

FINDING and Order of a Marine Court of Inquiry held at Singapore on the 29th day of October, 1901, to investigate the circumstances attending the loss by fire of the British barque “BOWMAN B. LAW,” at Tegal, in Java, on the 11th October, 1901.

The “Bowman B. Law” was a sailing vessel, barque rigged, 1359 tons registered tonnage, official number 90,074, belonging to the port of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and owned by William Law & Co.

It appears from the evidence given before the Court that she sailed from New York on the 2nd June, 1901, with a cargo of 55,302 cases of petroleum and a crew of nineteen hands all told, and the master's wife and two children as passengers, and arrived at Tegal, in Java, on the 24th September.

There appears to have been some trouble with six of the crew, whom the captain was obliged to have confined in jail for refusing to work, and it was necessary to engage coolies to work the cargo.

On the 11th October, between 2 and 2.30 a.m., the watchman discovered that the vessel was on fire. The fire was first discovered forward, but there is no definite evidence as to where it actually originated. There were 42 native coolies sleeping on the hatches. They had broken off work at 6 o'clock the night before, and the hatches were closed and covered with tarpaulins.

After the fire was discovered measures were taken to save the crew and others on board, and no lives were lost. The vessel continued to burn until she sank.

Finding.

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

The “Bowman B. Law” was lost by fire on the 11th October, 1901, at Tegal, in Java. There is no evidence to show how the fire was caused. The Court is satisfied that after the fire was discovered it was not possible to do anything to save the vessel.

E. L. BROCKMAN,
Acting First Magistrate,
President.

CECIL A. SEVERN,
Lieutenant, R.N.,
R. PENNEY,
Master, “Heng Wau I,”
J. DOUGLAS,
Master, barque “Colburga.” } Assessors.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the 20th day of December, 1901.)