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(No. 6389.)

"ERA" (S.S.), "HERO" (S.S.),
AND "MAELGWYN."

Department of Navigation,
Sydney,
• 4th June, 1902.

THE following is the decision in the Court of Marine Inquiry, held at Sydney, before His Honor Judge BACKHOUSE, assisted by WILLIAM JACK and CHARLES TAYLOR, Assessors, into the circumstances attending the collision between the British steamship "ERA," (official No. 95,955), in tow of the British steamship "HERO," (official No. 101,078), and the British ship "MAELGWYN," (official No. 89,625), which occurred in Newcastle Harbour, on 18th December, 1901.

NORMAN C. LOCKHART,
Secretary.

That the British steamship "Era," in tow of the British steamship "Hero," and the British ship "Maelgwyn" were in collision in Newcastle Harbour on the 18th day of December, 1901.

That by such collision the British ship "Maelgwyn" suffered serious damage.

That the immediate cause of such collision was the wrongful act of Peter August Bjorkman, the master of the steamship "Hero," in improperly porting his helm without notice and so neutralising the effect of the star-board helm on the steamship "Era."

That whilst the Court is of opinion that such act directly brought about the collision, and without it there would have been none, it considers that the course taken by the master of the "Era" would have brought his vessel nearer to the "Maelgwyn" than she ought to have been.

The Court orders that the certificate of the said Peter August Bjorkman of competency as master of a coast trade ship, numbered 719, and dated the 18th day of April, 1894, be suspended for a period of three months from the 18th day of December, 1901.

Dated this 17th day of April, 1902.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE,
Judge.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the
29th day of July, 1902.)

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