

(No. 6433.)

“ORETI” (S.S.).

Shipping and Seamen's Act, 1877.

Wrecks and Casualties.

Colony of New Zealand } Report on a shipping casualty to the
to wit. } S.S. "ORETI."

To the Honourable the Minister having charge of the Marine Department of New Zealand.

I, the undersigned, Stipendiary Magistrate, having been on the 20th day of August, 1902, applied to by David Johnston, Esq., Collector of Customs at the port of Wellington, for a formal investigation, pursuant to section 240 of "The Shipping and Seamen's Act, 1877," and other provisions of the said Act, respecting a shipping casualty to a certain British ship, called the "Oreti," of the port of Wellington, on the 15th day of August, 1902, at Farewell Spit, did duly proceed with the said investigation, to wit, on the 20th day of August instant, and had before me, and examined on oath, divers persons and witnesses, to wit,

Oscar Jarman, master of "Oreti,"
Tasman Arthur Gibbons, first mate on "Oreti,"
Henrich Necoloy Rachlew, lamprimmer on "Oreti,"
James Albert Campbell, engineer on "Oreti,"

the original depositions of whose evidence are hereunto annexed, signed by me, being assisted therein by Frank Walker, holding a certificate of competency, No. 032961, from the Board of Trade, and Walter Manning, holding a certificate of competency, No. 215, New Zealand, who were duly appointed to act as assessors; and, upon such investigation and examination of witnesses as aforesaid, I find and report as follows, that is to say:—

1. That the official number of said ship called the "Oreti," is 75,219, of which Oscar Jarman is master, who holds a certificate of competency No. 467, issued by the Marine Department of New Zealand, and which ship belonged to Messrs. Seagar & Jacob Joseph, of Wellington.
2. That the loss or damage herein more particularly mentioned happened on the 15th day of August, 1902, at about 5.30 o'clock in the forenoon at Farewell Spit.
3. That the loss or damage appears by the evidence to have been caused by beaching the vessel.
4. That the nature of the loss or damage done was nil. That the vessel is not insured. That the "Oreti"

12813—120—10/1902 Wt 67 D & S—1

is schooner rigged. Her port of registry is Wellington; her registered tonnage is 117 tons. That no lives were lost through the casualty.

And I, the said Stipendiary Magistrate, further state my opinion on the matter aforesaid to be as follows:—

That at 4 a.m. on the morning of the 15th August, 1902, the vessel was then at a point some seventeen miles from land on a course directly on to the land. The master who had not been on deck since 11 p.m. the previous night was called by the chief officer and given the position, and he told the chief officer to give the seaman who acted as second officer directions to take a four point bearing and call him when abreast the light. The acting second officer, who is not certificated and who does not appear very intelligent, failed to call the master, though he took the bearing and continued his course, and beached the vessel, from which position she was extricated by the exertion of the master and crew, after being ashore some twelve hours. Owing to the small number of men employed on the vessel, viz., the master, one officer, one engineer, four A.B.'s, two firemen, one cook, one steward, and one boy, the vessel had no certificated officer on watch at the time of the casualty, and the seaman in charge of the deck was negligent, and such negligence was the cause of the casualty. The master was negligent in not personally ascertaining the position at 4 a.m., and in not remaining on deck when he must have known the vessel was approaching a somewhat hazardous part of the coast. The vessel was carrying live stock, and two passengers, and great caution was requisite. The vessel carried the bare number of officers and men required by law, but the practice of leaving a vessel in charge of a lamprimmer appears very unsafe.

I suspend the master's certificate for three months, and order him to pay the costs of the inquiry. Assessors' fees £4 4s., counsel £3 3s., witnesses £1 4s.

Given under my hand, this 22nd day of August, 1902, at Wellington, New Zealand.

(Signed) W. R. HASELDEN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

We concur in the above Report.

(Signed) WALTER MANNING, } Assessors.
FRANK WALKER, }

A true copy.

GEORGE ALLPORT,
For Secretary Marine Department,
Wellington, New Zealand.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the 7th day of November, 1902.)