

(No. 6581.)

“ R. MORROW.”

REPORT of a Court of Inquiry held at Cape Town on Friday, the 7th day of August, 1903, to investigate the circumstances attending the casualty to the British barque “ R. MORROW,” of Maitland, Nova Scotia, official No. 83279, off Mouille Point, Cape Colony, on the 26th of June, 1903.

Judgment.

From the evidence brought at the inquiry, and reading the log kept by the master and signed by him and the mate, we deduce the following:—

(1) That the ship was towed to a position from which Rotten Island bore N.N.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., and Mouille Point S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. (magnetic).

(2) That sail was made, and in beating to sea the ship fell to leeward, and at the time the ship was close on to Mouille Point she missed stays, and before she could be brought round she struck the rocks off that point.

(3) Finding the ship close under the land, the anchors were let go and signals made for assistance. The tugs came out and she was towed from the anchorage to the Cape Town Docks.

From the limited evidence before us there is nothing to show the spot where the ship struck.

It was a nasty night and two courses were open to the master, viz., to persist in beating to sea, or run back to an anchorage. He chose the latter course, and we are of opinion he committed an error of judgment, and no blame is attached to him, and his certificate is returned.

J. W. H. RUSSOUW,
Acting Resident Magistrate,
President.

ISAAC FULTON.

J. SNODDON,

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the 23rd day of September, 1903.)