

(No. 6582.)

“MANCHESTER TRADER” (S.S.).

IN the matter of a formal investigation held at the Admiralty Court, Court House, Quebec, P.Q., on the 28th and 29th August, 1903, before Captain R. SALMON, Wreck Commissioner, assisted by Captains JOHN TEMPLE and HENRY ROUS, Assessors, into the causes attending the stranding of the British s.s. “MANCHESTER TRADER,” near South Point, Anticosti, Gulf of St. Lawrence, on Monday, the 10th August, 1903.

*Report of Court.*

The Court, having carefully inquired into the circumstances attending the above-mentioned shipping casualty, finds:—

(1) That the “Manchester Trader” was properly equipped, and in a good and sea-worthy condition, when she left Montreal.

(2) That she had proper and sufficient charts and sailing directions for the navigation of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

(3) That the coast in the vicinity of the place where the vessel stranded is properly charted for the purposes of navigation.

(4) That the course set at 9 o'clock p.m., on August 9th, to pass about six (6) miles to the southward of South Point, Anticosti, was a safe and proper one, but the master should have recognized on sighting South West Point light that he was a number of miles to the Northward of his course, and should have altered his course materially.

Again at 6.22 o'clock a.m. on August 10th, on sighting South Point lighthouse almost ahead, the master had a second indication that he was considerably to the Northward of his course, and had he acted with any judgment, the stranding would never have occurred.

(5) That the vessel stranded about 6.45 o'clock a.m. on August 10th, near South Point, Anticosti, through the wrongful act of the master, Michael Swords, steering improper courses after receiving two convincing proofs that he was very much out of his reckoning.

(6) That the master did not take proper and sufficient means to save his vessel after the stranding.

(7) The Court suspends the certificate, numbered 025282, of the master, Michael Swords, for a period of six (6) months from the date hereof, but recommends that he be granted a certificate as first mate during the period of his suspension as master.

(Signed) R. SALMON,  
Commissioner.

We concur.

(Signed) J. TEMPLE, }  
Master Mariner. } Assessors.  
(Signed) H. ROUS, }  
Master Mariner. }

Quebec, P.Q., 29th August, 1903.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the 6th day of October, 1903.)