"ARAMAC" (S.S.)

AND

"ARAWATTA" (S.S.).

Marine Board of Queensland.

Report and decision of the Marine Board on the circumstances attending the s.s. "ARAMAC" striking on the rocks near the Customs House, Brisbane River, and subsequently colliding with the s.s. "ARAWATTA," on the 12th instant.

Having heard the evidence of the master, mate, second mate, chief engineer, second engineer, carpenter, and two quartermasters, the Board find that the "ARAMAC," a steel screw steamer of 2,114 tons gross, official number 96634, registered at Brisbane, William Eaton (holding a pilotage exemption certificate for the port of Brisbane, No. 611) in charge, and owned by the Australian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, returned from Moreton Bay, after having had her compasses adjusted, on the 12th instant, and in attempting to round Kangaroo Point, about 2.45 p.m., struck the rocks off the Customs House.

After clearing the rocks the anchor was let go, and the engines reversed to take the way off; the engines were then put "slow ahead," and the vessel proceeded to berth at the Eagle-street wharf. The lines were got ashore, but were not fast, when the master left the bridge, leaving the engines "slow ahead," and the vessel collided with the s.s. "ARAWATTA," damaging her port quarter.

After careful investigation, the Board find that Captain Eaton navigated the s.s. "ARAMAC" with great want of care, and in direct violation of the Regulation governing the speed of vessels navigating the Brisbane River; further, that in rounding Kangaroo Point he seemed to lose all control of his actions. They have, therefore, decided to cancel his certificate of exemption from pilotage for the port of Brisbane.

The Board have fully weighed the evidence dealing with the alleged jamming of the steering gear, and are of opinion that it did not contribute to the accident.

By direction of the Board, at Brisbane, this 23rd day of May, 1904.

ADHD. MOROAN,
Secretary.

(Imprinted in London by the Board of Trade on the 29th day of July, 1904.)

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