

(No. 6723.)

"BELL FLOWER."

In the matter of a formal inquiry held at Newcastle before his Honour Judge MURRAY, assisted by WILLIAM ARTHUR WORRALL and WILLIAM CHARLES MCGIBBON, Assessors, into the circumstances attending the stranding of the British ship "BELL FLOWER."

Report of Court.

The Court, having carefully inquired into the circumstances attending the above-mentioned shipping casualty, comes to the decision following:—

1. The British ship "Bell Flower" (official number 117656) stranded in Newcastle Harbour, in the State of New South Wales, on the morning of the 9th day of July, 1904, and subsequently sank.

2. The ketch "Bell Flower" was on a voyage from Port Macquarie to Sydney, and, meeting with a strong south-easterly gale, when to the southward of the Port of Newcastle and finding it impracticable to beat to windward, the ship leaking, the pumps having choked, and the mainsail having carried away, the master, Charles James Harris, determined to take shelter in that port and succeeded in entering safely, until, as he was passing from under the lee of Nobby's, a southerly squall struck the ship—the wind at that moment shifting to the southward—and forced her to the northward; the master let go his anchors, the port anchor fouled, the starboard anchor dragged, and the ship was stranded on the old or inner northern breakwater, and finally sank; and the Court finds that no person connected with the navigation of the ship is to blame for the loss, that the ship was well-found, and that everything that could reasonably be done was done to save her.

Dated this 8th day of August, 1904.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Judge.

I, Henry Harold Septimus Chippindall, Registrar of the Court of Marine Inquiry at Newcastle, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the decision of the Court in the matter of the inquiry into the circumstances attending the stranding of the "Bell Flower."

Dated at Newcastle this 20th day of August, 1904.

H. H. CHIPPINDALL,
Registrar of the Court.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the 21st day of October, 1904.)

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