

(No. 6755.)

"LA BELLA."

Shipping and Seamen's Act, 1877.

Wrecks and Casualties.

(For Stipendiary Magistrates and Justices of the Peace.)

Colony of New Zealand, } Report on a shipping casualty to the barquentine "LA BELLA." to wit.

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

I, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate, having been on the 17th day of October, 1904, applied to by David Johnston, Esquire, 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 "La Bella," of the Port of Lyttelton, on the 13th day of October last, at Happy Valley, near Wellington, did duly proceed with the said investigation, to wit, on the 19th day of October instant, and had before me, and examined on oath, divers persons and witnesses, to wit:—

George Charles Axel Mylius ... captain.
Alexander Blue ... first mate.
Frank Chapple ... boatswain.
Oakley Heathcote ... A.B.

all of the barquentine "La Bella,"

the original depositions of whose evidence are hereunto annexed,* signed by me, being assisted therein by George Gordon Smith, master mariner, holding a certificate of competency, No. 02666, from the Board of Trade, and Andrew Anderson, master mariner, holding a certificate of competency, No. 340, from the New Zealand Government, who were duly appointed by me 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 the said ship called the "La Bella," is 76077, of which George Charles Axel Mylius is master, who holds certificate No. 030794, issued by the Board of Trade, and which ship belonged to D. C. Turnbull and Co., of Timaru.

2. That the loss or damage herein more particularly mentioned happened on the 13th day of

* Not printed.

October, 1904, at about 10.20 o'clock in the forenoon, at Happy Valley, near Wellington.

3. That the loss or damage appears by the evidence to have been caused by the vessel dragging her anchors owing to the fierceness of the gale, and having her sails blown away.

4. That the nature of the loss or damage done was loss of rudder, damage to plates and frames. That the vessel was insured for £2,500 in the Standard Insurance Company. That the "La Bella" is barquentine rigged. Her port of registry Lyttelton, her registered tonnage 376 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 the barquentine "La Bella" went ashore on the beach off Happy Valley on Thursday the 13th instant, about 10.20 a.m. She had run into heavy weather when off Flaxbourne on the afternoon of the 12th instant, and from 4 p.m. of that day till midnight the master had made several unsuccessful attempts to wear the ship. Off Flaxbourne she had broached to. She became unmanageable through the sails being blown away owing to the severity of the gale, and was gradually blown on shore.

I consider that the captain, the mate, and the crew did all that could be done under the circumstances.

Given under my hand this 19th day of October, one thousand nine hundred and four, at Wellington, New Zealand.

(Signed) A. MCARTHUR,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

I concur in the above Report.

(Signed) GEO. G. SMITH,
Assessor.

I concur in the above Report.

(Signed) A. ANDERSON,
Assessor.

A true copy.

GEORGE ALLPORT,
Secretary, Marine Department,
New Zealand.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the 23rd day of December, 1904.)