

(No. 6806.)

“BRIER HOLME.”

REPORT of a Court of Inquiry appointed under “The Inquiry into Wrecks Act, 1874” (38 Vict., No. 2), to hold a formal investigation into the cause of the wreck of the “BRIER HOLME.”

The Court sat at Hobart, on the 27th day of February, 1905, and the following persons were examined:—

Oscar Larsen,
Edward Noyes, and
Master-Gunner O'Rourke.

The Court finds that the barque “Brier Holme” left London on the 21st day of July, 1904, laden with general cargo, bound for Hobart, and from the evidence of Oscar Larsen (who is the sole survivor of the crew of the ill-fated vessel), the “Brier Holme” struck on the west coast of Tasmania, on the night of the 5th November last, and became a total wreck; but there is no evidence before the Court to enable them to determine who was responsible for the loss of the ship. We are of opinion that the ship's reckoning was in error, but there is no evidence as to the cause of the error.

The position where the vessel struck is located by Edward Noyes as about 15 miles north of Port Davey.

From the evidence of Larsen, it appears that the captain and his two officers each took an observation on the 4th November, but were unable to take any observation on the 5th November, owing to the state of the weather.

The evidence taken at the Court of Inquiry does not support the idea put forward by Larsen that the vessel was blown up as soon as she struck the rocks.

W. O. WISE,
President Court of Inquiry.

E. McFIE,
Nautical Assessor.

Hobart, 8th March, 1905.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the 6th day of June, 1905.)

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