

(No. 6849.)

"EMMA SIMS."

Shipping and Seamen Act, 1903.

Wrecks and Casualties.

(For Stipendiary Magistrates and Justices of the Peace.)

Colony of
New Zealand, } Report on a shipping casualty to
to wit. } the "EMMA SIMS."

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

I, the undersigned Stipendiary Magistrate, having been on the 22nd day of June, 1905, applied to by John Mills, Esquire, Collector of Customs at the port of Lyttelton, for a formal investigation, pursuant to section 235 of "The Shipping and Seamen Act, 1903," and other provisions of the said Act, respecting a shipping casualty to a certain British ship, called the "Emma Sims," of the port of Lyttelton, on the 19th day of March last, in the Karamea River, Westport, did duly proceed with the said investigation, to wit, on the 23rd day of June instant, and had before me and examined on oath, divers persons and witnesses, to wit:—Alfred L. Kemp, master mariner; Frederick Charles Must, mate; William Somerville, engineer (oil, &c.); Philip John Carman, inspector of machinery—the original depositions of whose evidence are hereunto annexed,* signed by me, being assisted therein by William Rennie, master mariner, holding a certificate of competency, number 10012, from the Board of Trade (Glasgow), and William Cameron, master mariner, holding a certificate of service, number 2567, from the Marine Department, N.Z., and James Williamson, engineer surveyor, Marine Department, 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 said ship called the "Emma Sims," is 101135, of which Alfred Labruyere Kemp is master, who holds a certificate of competency number 342, issued by the Marine Department, N.Z., and which ship belonged to William Henry Walker, of Karamea, Sawmiller, and John Henry Porter, residence unknown, joint owners.

2. That the loss or damage herein more particularly mentioned happened on the 19th day of March, 1905, at about 7.30 o'clock a.m. in the River Karamea, Westport.

3. That the loss or damage appears by the evidence to have been caused by the grounding of the said ketch on a spit in the Karamea River.

* Not printed.

4. That the nature of the loss or damage done was the straining of the hull. That the vessel was insured for £500 in the Alliance Insurance Company. That the vessel is ketch rigged. Her port of registry is Lyttelton; her registered tonnage 61 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

1. The said ketch is fitted with two oil-engines of 16 h.p. each, which she used as auxiliary to her sails.

2. On the morning of the 19th March, 1905, the said ketch proceeded to the bar of the Karamea River, fully laden with a cargo of timber, on her voyage to Wellington in tow of the tug "Te Kapu."

3. When nearing the bar, and while in a narrow part of the river, the tug took the ground.

4. The master of the ketch, not having room to pass the tug, decided to put back.

5. With this object he gave the order for the engines to go astern.

6. They commenced to go astern and then suddenly stopped and the ketch went ashore, where she remained for three weeks and was then refloated.

7. The engineer was overcome by the fumes in the engine-room, and was brought on deck, where he subsequently revived.

8. The said occurrence was purely accidental and could not have been avoided under the circumstances.

9. The master and those under him did all that was possible to avoid the accident.

10. No one is to blame for the accident.

Given under my hand this 23rd day of June,
1905, at Lyttelton, New Zealand.

(Signed) H. W. BISHOP,

S.M.

I concur in the above Report.

(Signed) W. CAMERON,

Assessor.

I concur in the above Report.

(Signed) WM. RENNIE,

Assessor.

I concur in the above Report.

(Signed) J. WILLIAMSON,

Engineer assessor.

A true copy.

GEORGE ALLPORT,

Secretary for Marine, N.Z.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the
22nd day of September, 1905.)