

(No. 7182.)

“WESTRALIA” (S.S.).

The Court of Marine Inquiry, at Sydney.

IN the matter of a formal inquiry, held at Sydney, before His Honour Judge BACKHOUSE, assisted by JOHN JAMES SIMPSON and CHARLES TAYLOR, Assessors, into the circumstances attending the grounding of the British ship “WESTRALIA.”

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

1. The British ship “Westralia” (Official Number 106415) touched the ground in the vicinity of Port Hacking, on the coast of New South Wales, on the morning of the eighteenth day of June, 1908, when she was on a voyage from Hobart, Tasmania, to Sydney, New South Wales.

2. By such touching the “Westralia” suffered serious damage.

3. The morning was at first clear, but at the time of the touching there was a thick fog.

4. Such touching was caused by the wrongful act of Henry Lyttleton Dunsford, the master of the “Westralia,” in recklessly navigating his vessel in a fog at a much greater speed than was prudent, and in contravention of the regulations for preventing collisions at sea, and in steering a course which must necessarily have brought him very close to the land.

5. The Court orders that the certificate of competency of the said Henry Lyttleton Dunsford, as master of a foreign-going ship, numbered 016687, and dated the twenty-ninth day of June, 1888, issued by the Board of Trade, be suspended for a period of twelve months from the eighteenth day of June, 1908.

Dated this tenth day of July, 1908.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE,
Judge.

I, John Macvicar Anderson Bonthorne, Registrar of the Court of Marine Inquiry at Sydney, 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 grounding of the British ship “Westralia.”

Dated at Sydney this tenth day of July, 1908.

J. M. A. BONTHORNE,
Registrar of the Court.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the
1st day of September, 1908.)