

(No. 7240.)

"LOYAL BRITON" (S.S.).

FINDING and Order of a Naval Court, held at Syracuse on 18th December, 1908, to investigate the circumstances attending the stranding of the s.s. "LOYAL BRITON," of Cardiff, Official Number 115386, at Calabernardo Noto, on 18th November, 1908.

The Court, having heard and carefully considered the circumstances and evidence given touching the stranding of the s.s. "Loyal Briton," are of opinion and find as follows:—

That the stranding was caused by set of current to north owing to the strong (S.E.) Sirocco gale, which about the period just prior, and at the time of the stranding had been exceptionally severe, causing the steamer to be north of her dead reckoning position, and, owing to previous bad weather, position could not be verified by observation or deviation, ascertained for compasses. We consider course set was correct according to the deviation placed before us, although no allowance was made for current, which is not a constant quantity. We consider more care could have been exercised by towing patent log instead of trusting to revolutions of the engines for estimating the speed and distance run. The non-use of lead:—taking into consideration this particular coast line, we think the lead would have been no practical guide, and therefore do not consider the non-use of the lead has contributed to the cause of the casualty.

From all evidence placed before us, the master appears to have paid personal and careful attention in navigation of ship, and, as navigation was in personal charge of the master, we do not consider the officers to be affected. That proper discipline and ordinary routine appears to have been maintained most satisfactorily.

The Court do not think, under the circumstances, that the certificate of the master should be dealt with, but consider a reprimand deserving for non-use of patent log.

J. LOBB, British Vice-Consul, President.

ARTHUR ELLIS HARDING,
s.s. "Adjutant," of London, 102776.

FREDERICK JOHN CARTER,
Master s.s. "Drake," of London,
O.N. 125677.

A. P. BROWN, Merchant at Syracuse.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the
23rd day of February, 1909.)

(12465—4.) Wt. 4—71. 120. 2/09. D & S.