

(No. 7555.)

“ERIC” (S.S.).

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

IN the matter of a Formal Investigation into the stranding and subsequent loss of the British steamship “ERIC,” on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, on the 14th of August, 1912, held in the Court House at Halifax, N.S., on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th and 28th of August, 1912, by Commander HENRY ST. GEORGE LINDSAY, R.D., R.N.R., Dominion Wreck Commissioner, assisted by Captain NEIL HALL and Captain J. W. HARRISON, acting as Assessors.

Finding.

The Court, after reviewing the evidence, which, on account of all log-books, documents, &c. being lost, was given entirely from memory by all persons examined, finds that the vessel was well found and equipped, and was apparently navigated in a proper and seamanlike manner up to the morning of the 14th of August, 1912, and that the cause which led to the vessel being stranded was owing to the master, William Gladstone Corner, being over-confident as to his position and in approaching and trying to make—as there is little doubt but that he intended to do so—such a well-known danger as Sable Island, and even in the face of the soundings taken at 8, 9, and 10.15 a.m. on the day of the stranding, and presuming the position at 4.15 p.m. on the 13th to be correct, he showed very poor judgment on finding the water shoaling so perceptibly in not taking another cast of the lead shortly after 10.15 a.m., or hauling off to the eastward, or stopping his ship until the weather either cleared or he was able to find out his position; and therefore the Court suspends his certificate for a period of three months from this date—28th August, 1912.

The Court also criticises the want of co-operation by the officers in the working up of the ship's position and compass errors as a check on the master's work.

(Signed) H. ST. G. LINDSAY,
Wreck Commissioner.

Concurred in.

(Signed) NEIL HALL,
(„) J. W. HARRISON, } Assessors.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the
4th day of October, 1912.)

(26473—4.) Wt. 107—71. 120. 10/12. D & S.