

RETURN of WRECKS and CASUALTIES to SHIPPING reported to the Marine Department from the 1st April, 1898, to the 31st March, 1899.

Date of Casualty.	Name of Vessel, also Age and Class	Reg.	Tonnage	Number of		Nature of		Number of Lives lost.	Place where Casualty occurred.	Wind.		Decision of Court of Inquiry, &c.	Name of Master.
				Crew	Passengers.	Cargo.	Casualty.			Dir-ec-tion.	Force.		
1898. April 2	Wakatipu, s.s., 22 years	Schooner	1258	45	58	General	Collision; partial loss	..	Victoria Wharf, Dun-edin	N.E.	Fresh breeze	S.S. "Wakatipu" was coming up harbour with flood-tide and strong fair wind. When near- ing Victoria Wharf she got into shallow water, and, refusing to answer her helm, ran into the "Laira," which was moored to wharf, and sank her. Captain Smith and his officers exonerated from blame	George Gordon Smith.
"	Laira, 28 years	Barque..	492	13	..	Wool and tallow	Collision; partial loss	..		N.	Hard gale	Vessel was found to be on fire in No. 3 hold at 3 a.m. Magazine was opened and 20 tons gunpowder thrown overboard, and also some cases of rockets and other explosives which were in that hold. Fire was extinguished without much other damage to cargo and ship	Peder Hoigh.
"	Tekoa, s.s., 8 years	Schooner	2647	48	..	General	Fire on board; partial loss	..	Lat. 49° S., long. 162° 40' E. On voyage from London to Dun-edin			Vessel was found to be on fire in No. 3 hold at 3 a.m. Magazine was opened and 20 tons gunpowder thrown overboard, and also some cases of rockets and other explosives which were in that hold. Fire was extinguished without much other damage to cargo and ship	Joseph John Hamon.
"	St. Kilda, 30 years	Schooner	189	8	..	Coal	Stranded; partial loss	..	Entrance to Waanganui River	W.S.W.	Light ..	Casualty caused through wind failing just before crossing the bar	James White.
May 2	Aoree, s.s., 12 years	Ketch ..	49	9	..	General	Fire on board; slight damage	..	Queen's Wharf, Welling- ton	..	..	Fire originated at head of steward's bunk; supposed to have been caused by box of matches being knocked over, or its contents got at by rats	William Tinney.
"	Wairoa, s.s., 14 years	Ketch ..	48	6	..	Produce	Stranded; slight damage	..	Harding Point, Cook Strait	S.E.	Moderate	Vessel was on voyage from Motueka to Wel- lington, and in early morning, while in sole charge of mate, C. A. Ricketts, and in thick hazy weather, ran on rocks, and remained fast for a quarter of an hour, when she floated off	Frank Perry Ricketts.
"	Kawatiri, s.s., 14 years	Schooner	286	18	..	General	Shaft disabled	..	Port Hardy, D'Urville Island	W.N.W.	Strong breeze	In steaming to anchorage in Port Hardy, vessel going slow, engine broke down. The inter- mediate shaft was found to be bent, and coupling-bolts to stern shaft broken. Vessel was towed to Wellington by s.s. "Ohau"	Berthold Ap- stein.
"	Hercules, 1 year	Schooner	51	5	3	General	Loss of propel- ler	..	Okarito River	..	..	After crossing bar the propeller dropped off, vessel having auxiliary screw worked by oil- engines	Edward Alfréd Stenbeck.
"	Wanderer, 37 years	Cutler ..	23	3	..	Coal	Stranded; total loss	..	1½ miles south of Mars- den Point, Whangarei	E.	Strong breeze	Casualty occasioned by mainsail being blown away in fierce squall	George Frost.
"	Aratapu, 20 years	Brigan- tine	122	7	..	Timber and general	Stranded; partial loss	1	Whangamata Beach, south-east of Coro- mandel Peninsula	N.E.	Gale ..	Casualty caused through cables parting and wind suddenly falling light; vessel was driven ashore by heavy sea	William Gilmer.
"	Wakatu, s.s., 9 years	Schooner	95	14	12	Produce and general	Loss of two prop- eller-blades	..	Off Ohau Bay, Cook Strait	S.S.W.	Gale ..	Vessel pitching in heavy sea; two blades of propeller were carried away	James Willis.