

RETURN OF WRECKS AND CASUALTIES TO SHIPPING REPORTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1920, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1921.

Date of Casualty.	Vessel's Name, Age, and Class.	Rig.	Registers Tonnage	Number of		Nature of		Number of Lives lost.	Place where Casualty occurred.	Wind.		Finding of Court of Inquiry.	Name of Master.
				Crew	Passengers.	Cargo.	Casualty.			Direction.	Force.		
1919. Nov. 8	Clutha, p.s., 9 years	..	173	7	..	General	Collapse of boiler; damage, £1,500 to £2,000	1	Clutha River	..	W.	Shortage of water in the boiler caused the crown of the furnace to collapse and allow the steam to escape. The Court found that the accident was due to the negligence of the fireman in allowing the water in the boiler to become so reduced as to cause the collapse of the furnace. The fireman succumbed to the injuries he received	K. Tsukigawa.
1920. Feb. 25	Kittawa, s.s. ..	Schooner	708	25	..	Chaff	Stranded; trifling damage	..	Manukau bar	..	W.	When crossing the bar a heavy rain squall obscured all land-marks. The Court exonerated the master and crew from any blame	E. R. Nicholas.
About Mar. 26	Kahu, aux., 31 years	Schooner	25	4	..	Maize	Foundered; total loss	4	Not known	..	S.E.	The ship was lost at sea with all hands on or about 26th March, 1920, whilst on a voyage from Motiti Island to Auckland. The Court was of opinion that she foundered in exceptionally bad weather	John Leafberg.
"	Sampson No. 2, o.e.v., 6 years	Cutter ..	3	1	General	Collision; damage, £50	} ..	..	Near Turua, Thames River, Auckland	..	..	The launches were in each case being steered by passengers, and the collision was probably due to their inexperience	A. M. McMahon.
"	Nancibel, o.e.v., new	Cutter ..	5	1	..	Collision; damage, £70							..
April 5	Fannie, 48 years	Hulk ..	9	..	..	Fire; total loss..	..	..	Whangaroa, Chatham Islands	..	..	The owner was cleaning engines with benzine when an explosion took place, and the vessel took fire and was totally destroyed	..
"	Port Melbourne, s.s., 8 years	Schooner	5,852	93	General	Fire ..	..	..	Galveston, U.S.A. ..	..	N.	Vessel was loading sulphur when it took fire in No. 2 lower hold. The fire was put out by water, and no more sulphur shipped. Damage to ship (if any) not ascertained	F. Kearney.
"	The Portland, 10 years	Schooner	59	4	..	Fire; damage, £30	..	..	Wharf, Auckland	..	..	Fire was caused by heat from donkey-boiler	A. Nelson.
"	Inga, s.s., 16 years	Schooner	570	20	Coal and timber	Stranded; considerable damage	..	..	South Taranaki Bight	E.S.E.	Light	The Court was of opinion that the casualty was contributed to by the default of the master in failing to use the patent log and by the neglect of the chief officer in failing to call the master, as instructed, when she was passing Otomotua Point, as this would have given the master an opportunity of discovering that the vessel had run off her course through apparently being affected by a set inshore. The Court considered that the conduct of the second officer called for severe censure and that of the master for some censure, and ordered them to pay the cost of the inquiry (£11 11s.) in equal shares	J. H. Bull.