

RETURN OF WRECKS AND CASUALTIES TO SHIPPING REPORTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, ETC.—continued.

Date of Casualty.	Vessel's Name, Age, and Class.	Rig.	Register Tonnage	Number of		Nature of		Place where Casualty occurred.	Wind.		Finding of Court of Inquiry.	Name of Master.
				Crew.	Passengers.	Cargo.	Casualty.		Direction.	Force.		
1926. Oct. 2	Opua, s.s., 24 years	Schooner	288	18	Nil	General, 8 tons	Total loss	Near Cape Palliser, N.Z.	N.E.	Light	The Court found that the casualty was contributed to by an error of judgment on the part of the master in setting too fine a course from Castlepoint to Cape Palliser, and in having no lookout with a knowledge of the coast during the second officer's watch: further, that the second officer, who was unacquainted with the coast, committed an error of judgment in failing to call the master after 2 a.m. when the weather towards the land became so hazy. There is no evidence of neglect or default by any officer or member of the crew. The certificates of the master and second officer were returned, but the Court ordered the master to pay £6 6s. and the second officer £3 3s. towards the cost of the inquiry.	E. H. Fowler.
Oct. 8	Tokelau, a u x. ketch, 2 years	Ketch	38	6	Nil	General, 20 tons	Total loss	Fakaofu, Union Islands	S.W.	4	Engines failed to start when required, and vessel would not manoeuvre under sail in sufficient time to prevent the mishap. Ship total loss. All cargo landed, but partly damaged.	T. Rowlands.
Oct. 13	Kaituna, s.s., 22 years	Schooner	1,208	32	Nil	Coal, 1,500 tons	Grounded	Tauranga Harbour, N.Z.	N.W.	Smooth	While entering Tauranga Harbour ship touched lightly, and remained fast for one and a quarter hours, coming off with own engines. Went ashore again on bank other side of channel and remained fast three hours, coming off with rising tide and own power. Bottom of vessel slightly damaged.	H. M. Hurley.
Oct. 15	Omana, s.s., 13 years	F. and A.	49	6	Nil	General, 10 tons	Grounded	Off Tiritiri Island, N.Z.	N.W.	Fresh	Cleared Motukete passage at 1.20 a.m. Helmsman told to steer for Tiritiri light, which was visible ship's head compass S.E. by E. Later heavy rain obscured light. Continued on same course for one hour, then slowed down for fifteen minutes as no land visible owing to heavy rain. Was about to put to sea when vessel struck. Floated off seven hours later. Proceeded to Auckland; vessel made very little water. No damage to cargo or ship.	R. McKinnon.
Oct. 20	Colac, s.s., 6 years	F. and A.	1,938	38	Nil	General, 4,112 tons	Grounded	Panama Canal	S.E.	2	While steaming through Panama Canal struck soft mud through vessel sheering to port, apparently without cause. No damage	J. C. Leslie.