

RETURN OF WRECKS and CASUALTIES to SHIPPING reported to the Marine Department—continued.

Date of Casualty.	Name of Vessel, also Age and Class.	Rig.	Register Tonnage.	Number of		Nature of		Place where Casualty occurred.	Wind.		Decision of Court of Inquiry, &c.	Name of Master.
				Crew	Passengers.	Cargo.	Casualty.		Direction.	Force.		
1902.												
Oct. 31	Jane Douglas, s.s., 27 years	Schooner	75	9	..	General	Stranded; slight damage	Mouth of Hokitika River	Calm	..	Casualty caused by vessel failing to answer her helm owing to tide catching her bow, and the channel being too narrow and crooked to give room to turn	James Jamieson.
Nov. 9	Elingamite, s.s., 15 years	Schooner	1675	58	136	General	Stranded; total loss	Western King, Three Kings Islands	..	..	Vessel was going slow when she struck on the Three Kings in a fog. Court found that master was guilty of grossly negligent navigation, and that after the wreck he committed a grave error of judgment in allowing No. 1 boat to leave the ship, and to leave with only half the complement of people the boat was able to carry. The master and first officer were to blame for not having all the boats properly equipped, and the tackle exercised in boat-drill. The rafts were abandoned by the boats. Those in the boats should have stood by the rafts as long as possible. The master and officers should have kept both rafts together until a concerted plan of action was arrived at. While returning the certificates of the first and second officers to them, the Court was of opinion that their conduct was not commendable either in handling the boats or in leaving passengers adrift on rafts. The Court ordered the certificate of the master to be suspended for one year, and to pay £50 towards the cost of inquiry	Ernest Bacot Atwood.
" 15	Eliza Firth, 8 years	Brigantine	143	8	..	Produce	Loss of mast..	Queen Charlotte Sound	N.W.	Hurricane	Foremast cut away to save ship going ashore in a gale	John Frederick Hansen.
" 25	Aotea, s.s., 6 months	Schooner	90	13	..	None	Stranded; partial loss	Lizard Island, Queensland	S.E.	Moderate	Casualty caused through wrong course being steered. The navigation was handed over by the master to the chief officer, which the Court considered to be by no means desirable. The master's certificate was suspended for three months, and the chief officer was severely censured for not ascertaining the ship's position more accurately before altering the course to the southward	Matthew John Bunney.
Dec. 11	Athenic, s.s., 1 year	Schooner, 4-masted	7883	124	7	General	Stranded; no damage	Wellington Harbour	N.N.W.	Moderate	Vessel was proceeding down Wellington Harbour when she took the ground at a place where shoaling had occurred without the knowledge of the authorities. She remained aground between 5 and 6 hours, when she floated off with the rising tide	Charles Howard Kempson.