

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

Date of Casualty.	Vessel's Name, Age, and Class.	Reg.	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. July 28	Laura, 30 years ..	Barquentine	326	11	Oil ..	Stranded; slight damage	..	West Ledge, Cook Strait	..	..	The casualty was caused by a sudden gust of wind filling the sails whilst the vessel was being put about to avoid striking the rocks on the port side, and was contributed to by an error of judgment on the part of the master in attempting to make an anchorage inside the harbour in the darkness without having sufficient knowledge of the entrance and lights, and with an inadequate chart. He should have hove to and signalled for a pilot. He was ordered to pay half the costs of the inquiry, £3 14s.	
Aug. 3	Arapawa, s.s., 12 years	Schooner	128	14	General	Stranded; damage, £1,200	..	Waitara Bar	S.W.	Fresh breeze	The stranding was probably due to the heavy wind and sea on the previous night having silted up the channel, which on the previous day showed sufficient depth of water. The Court found that no one was to blame for the casualty	E. J. Keatley.
" 5	Kaiaia, aux., 10 years	Ketch ..	24	3	Cement	Struck snag; damage, £20	..	Mahurangi River	..	..	Struck a snag whilst proceeding down river, and knocked three holes in hull	H. Subritzky.
" 13	Pateauna, s.s., 36 years	Schooner	550	55	Mails ..	Struck wharf; damage, £350	..	Manukau Harbour	W.S.W.	Strong	When approaching wharf the strong flood tide and wind caused her to touch the ground and cant her into the wharf end, the iron-work on which tore away her starboard bow-plates	T. B. Sewell.
" 14	Will Watch, aux., 24 years	Ketch ..	48	5	Coal ..	Broken shaft; damage, £300	..	Off Kawan Island	..	..	The crank shaft and casing broke and caused damage to the machinery. Cause not known	J. Moura.
" 21	Vixen, aux., 36 years	Ketch ..	5	4	Timber	Fire; damage, £10	..	Off Patiki Island	..	Calm ..	Slight fire in engine-room caused by leakage from a tin of benzine	F. J. Ramband.
Sept. 6	Haere, 16 years ..	Schooner	99	5	General	Damaged rudder	..	Off Hokianga Bar	E.	Light ..	The rudder split in two vertically, and was temporarily repaired by crew	M. Himainer.
" 10	Rothesay Bay, 43 years	Barque	699	..	Rails ..	Bumped against wharf; considerable damage	..	King's Wharf, Wellington	S.E.	Strong	Through being bumped against the wharf in the strong wind and heavy sea the vessel sustained considerable damage	F. W. Whitton.
" 11	Te Atu, aux., 16 years	Cutter ..	28	3	General	Stranded; no damage	..	Mohaka River, Hawke's Bay	N.E.	Strong	Strong current in river caused the vessel to take the ground. Floated off on following day	A. Knight.
" 12	Wairau, s.s., 19 years	Schooner	59	9	..	Stranded; damage, £80	..	French Pass	S.E.	Light ..	The Court found that the casualty was caused by the wrongful default of the mate in failing to keep the vessel in the red sector of the French Pass light and on the course laid down by the master. The Court was further of opinion that the master should in the circumstances have remained on the bridge until the vessel had cleared the Piege Rocks. The master and mate were ordered to pay the cost of the inquiry, £7 17s.	J. Knox.