

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 Casualty.	Number of Lives lost.	Place where Casualty occurred.	Wind.		Finding of Court of Inquiry.	Name of Master.
				Crew	Passengers.				Direction.	Force.		
1926. Nov. 17	Combine, sail, 16 years	F. and A.	24	3	Nil	Timber, 29,050 ft.	Nil	Auckland N.Z.	S.S.W.	5	When leaving the western wharf under lower sail, moderate wind, laying head to wind, swing on stern caused new 4½ in. doubled coir rope to part. Vessel not being under command, bumped into s.s. "Kaiaipoi." Foretopmast carried away, jib and jib topsail torn, and one plank of port bow stove in. That the collision was caused by an error of judgment on the part of the master of the "Centaur," in that he left the wheel-house with no one in charge to go below to attend to a defect in the engine, and gave no signal that his vessel was not under command. The Court is of opinion that if the master of the "Centaur" had maintained his course and speed, or had given a signal that his vessel was not under command, the collision would have been avoided, and that it was his failure to comply in this respect with the regulations that caused the collision. The Court is further of the opinion that the master of the "Centaur" acted as he did from want of knowledge of the regulations, and it regards it as important that oil engineers, before being granted a certificate entitling them to control a vessel carrying passengers, should be required to prove to the Examiner of Seamanship a knowledge of the rule of the road. The master of the "Centaur" will be ordered to pay £10 towards the cost of the inquiry	W. J. Lang.
Nov. 28	Mollyhawk, s.s., 3 years	F. and A.	180	4	Nil	Vehicles	Nil	Auckland N.Z.	S.W.	Squally		G. Webb.
Nov. 28	Centaur, o.e.v., 14 years	..	4	1	10	Nil	Nil	Auckland N.Z.	S.W.			S. Hunter.
Dec. 11	Wahine, s.s., 12 years	Schooner	1,798	94	267	General, 90 tons	Nil	Lyttelton, N.Z.	N.W.	8 to 9	While berthing at No. 2 wharf, during N.W. gale with heavy squalls, the vessel blew down to the wharf. A pile caught the lower half of the main-deck gangway-door, forcing it in	W. D. Cameron.
Dec. 12	Omana, s.s., 13 years	F. and A.	1,513	33	Nil	Poles, 100 tons	Nil	Auckland, N.Z.	N.W.	4	When berthing, wind and tide put her inside line of wharf, and she touched wharf, damaging two plates well above water. Could not be avoided as vessel refused to answer helm	J. Benton.
Dec. 13	Hikitia, s.s., 1 year	Crane ..	357	18	Nil	Nil	Nil	Lat. 33-25° S., long. 172-32° W., Pacific Ocean	S.E.	4	Vessel received shock, apparently caused by striking submerged object awash. Ship examined inwardly and no indication of damage found	J. G. Fullerton.