

RETURN of WRECKS and CASUALTIES to SHIPPING reported to the Marine Department from the 1st April, 1896, to the 31st March, 1897.

Date of Casualty.	Name of Vessel, also Age and Class.	Rig.	Registered 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.		
1896. April 8	Queen of the South, s.s., 19 years	Schooner	121	12	..	General	Collision; no damage	3 miles off Napier Breakwater	N.	Light ..	The steamer struck fishing vessel "Girola," and carried away her bowsprit. Casualty caused through the "Girola," having no lights up	Edward John Harvey.
12	Waipara, s.s., 33 years	Schooner	63	8	..	General	Stranded; partial loss	South Spit, Okarito River	W.N.W.	..	Vessel grounded on South Spit on entering the river	Nicholson Wood.
15	Coromandel, 21 years, 100 A1	Barque..	848	16	..	Coal	Stranded; partial loss	Eastern side of Buller River, Westport	N.	Strong breeze	Stranding partly due to unreadiness of tug-master to put way on vessel after he gave orders to cast off headlines, and to unhandiness of tug's crew; also to absence of arrangements for signalling from tug to pilot in charge of ship. The ultimate cause of stranding was due to order given by pilot to port the helm, and to slacking-up of tow-line immediately after, ship being then in a critical position. Harbour Board blamed for inefficiency of crew of tug and for want of more careful supervision over their employees. Master to blame in entirely trusting to advice given by pilot, and for not using every means to secure his vessel immediately after stranding. Costs of inquiry, amounting to £90 17s., ordered to be paid as follows: Captain Leech, pilot, two-fourths; Captain Nolan, tugmaster, one-fourth; and Westport Harbour Board, one-fourth	Lewis Williams.
25	Marramarra, s.s., 12 years	Lugger..	45	5	..	Coal	Stranded; slight damage	3 miles off Patea	N.W.	Gale ..	Casualty caused by striking a snag off Patea, on passage from Waitara to Wanganui	James Reardon.
May 3	Coromandel, 21 years, 100 A1	Barque..	848	16	..	Coal	Capsized, total loss	Near Railway Wharf, Wellington Harbour	After getting vessel off from stranding at Westport, she was brought to Wellington in a leaky condition by Captain Bendall, who beached her near the Railway Wharf, and, as tide fell next day, she capsized. Captain Bendall blamed for beaching ship without communicating with harbour authorities, and ordered to pay £15 17s., costs of inquiry	William Bendall.
12	Ocean Rover, 12 years	Schooner	139	7	..	Wheat ..	Loss of masts, spars, sails, &c.	About 25 miles east of Cape Brett, on voyage from Lyttelton to Noumea	S.E. to N.E.	Whole gale	Casualty caused through heavy gale and terrific seas	John Johnson.
13	Norah, 14 years	Schooner	48	3	..	Ballast..	Stranded; no damage	S.W. side of Ruakaka River, near Whangarei	N.E.	Fresh gale	Casualty caused through large raft of logs being moored across channel, which prevented vessel going up river for safety and shelter	Edward McDonald.
18	Waikato, s.s., 4 years, 100 A1 Lloyd's	Schooner	3071	50	..	General	Fire on board; partial loss.	On voyage from London to Auckland, lat. 48° 49' S., long. 114° 55' E.	Fire broke out in No. 5 hold, and was extinguished in about five hours. Supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion among some bales of oiled canvas	John William Croucher.