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FFLES, Judge.

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(No. 1173.)

“EURO” (S.S.)

REPORT of Inquiry, held at Port Adelaide, S.A., into  
the wreck of the steamship “EURO.”

The following are the particulars of the proceedings  
instituted by the Marine Board of South Australia in  
connection with the total loss, on the 24th August 1881,  
near Beachport, Rivoli Bay, of the steamship “Euro,”  
of Port Adelaide, 284 tons register, official No. 71,757,  
John Dowell, master, possessing a South Australian  
certificate of competency, numbered 127.

This steamship was on a voyage from Port Adelaide  
via Port Robe to Beachport, Rivoli Bay, having on  
board nearly seventy persons and about thirty tons of  
general cargo. Fine weather with a very smooth sea  
was experienced. When off Nora Creina Bay, within  
about nine miles of Rivoli Bay, at about 3.30 p.m., she  
struck, and in about twenty minutes sank in seven  
fathoms of water, less than one mile from the shore.  
One passenger, a lady, lost her life, but the remainder  
and the crew reached the shore in safety, some in the  
boats and others on pieces of timber (deck cargo), and  
were afterwards conveyed overland to Beachport.

A preliminary inquiry was held at these offices on the  
31st August and resumed on the 2nd September 1881,  
before Captain R. H. Ferguson, S.M., President, and  
Captains J. W. Smith and A. McCoy, and John  
Formby, Esq., and S. D. Glyde, Esq., J.P., Wardens,  
into the circumstances attending this casualty. The  
President and Captain J. W. Smith were afterwards  
appointed by the Board to visit Mount Gambier and  
Rivoli Bay, to examine and take the evidence of pas-  
sengers and others resident in that neighbourhood.  
From the evidence of the passengers, crew, and several  
old traders on the coast the Board came to the con-  
clusion that the case was one which demanded an  
official enquiry in accordance with the Marine Board  
Act, 1876, and gave instructions accordingly.

The official inquiry was held in the Oddfellows' Hall,  
Port Adelaide, on Monday, the 10th, and Tuesday, the  
18th October 1881, before Messrs. R. J. Turner, S.M.,  
F. J. Sanderson, S.M. (Collector of Customs), and  
J. Neill, J.P. Mr. Harold F. Downer represented the  
Marine Board, and Mr. Symon, Q.C., with Mr. J. E.  
Dempster, appeared for Captain Dowell. At the Police  
Court, Port Adelaide, on the 19th October, the Court  
gave their finding, which was as follows:—

“The Court find that the locality of the rock on  
which the steamer ‘Euro’ struck on August 24th is  
not sufficiently defined by the evidence, and having in  
view the great difficulty under the circumstances in  
arriving at a correct idea of the distances from the  
shore, there is a doubt as to whether the master’s state-  
ment that the rock was one not marked on the chart  
may not be true, and we, therefore, do not feel justified  
in dealing with his certificate.”

THOS. N. STEPHENS,  
Secretary, Marine Board.

Marine Board Offices,  
Port Adelaide, 28th October 1881.