

# AUSE OF "CAMBAY STAR" DISASTER

## Improper Loading

## PILOT CENSURED FOR DERELICTION OF DUTY

(From our staff Correspondent)

The loss of the "Cambay Star" was primarily due to vessel being improperly loaded and trimmed. The master of the ship, who himself was drowned, was responsible for loading, and her sinking is due to his wrongful act and fault."

This is the conclusion arrived at by the marine court of Bombay presided over by Mr. Sunder P. Advani, Third Additional City Magistrate, which was appointed to hold inquiries into the causes and circumstances of the disaster which met the cargo-vessel s.s. "Cambay Star", which sank in the Arabian Sea with thirty men on board on the night of January 10, 1939.

o survivor remained to tell the tale of woe or throw  
light on the causes of the tragedy.

g the inquiry, it was  
ed that the vessel was  
sea-worthy when she left  
on her way to Malabar.  
n it encountered some-  
lverse climatic conditions  
high seas.

Court has severely cen-  
sured the carelessness of the  
Mr. J. J. Collier, for not  
fulfilling his duty of examin-  
ing the overloaded condition of  
the vessel when it left Karachi.  
The discontinuation of the  
practice of carrying free pas-  
senger on cargo-boats is also  
recommended.

## HANDICAPS

court of inquiry had in  
sittings in the course of  
about fourteen witnesses  
examined. The inquiry  
considerably handicapped  
absence of any survivor  
ness of the disaster, and a  
at picked up from the  
was the solitary remnant  
tragedy.

On January 10, when the  
"Cambay Star" sank, the wea-

# INSOLVENCY ACT

## Governor's Assent Given

His Excellency the Governor has, it is understood, given his assent to the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act Amending Bill, passed during the last session of the Assembly.

Now only one Bill remains, to which assent has not yet been given. This Bill, the Civil Procedure Act Amending Bill, being an all-India measure, requires the sanction of the Governor-General, which is awaited.

# KARACHI PROTEST

## Leftist Meeting At Rambaugh

In accordance with the instructions issued by Mr. S. C. Bose, a public meeting was held in Karachi on Sunday evening



conditions from the log-  
of s.s. "Hashmi" and  
r vessel showed that on  
ateful day the sea was  
and the vessels were  
g heavily.

These reports, it was  
t that the weather chang-  
the worse after the  
ay Star" left the shores  
rachi. But expert wit-  
and the assessors agreed  
his change would not have  
sufficient to affect the  
of the vessel if she had  
in a proper stable condi-

## SECONDARY CAUSE

Court, therefore, held  
the weather conditions may  
contributed to the loss of  
Cambay Star", which was  
y due to an insufficient  
n of stability caused by  
per loading and trimming  
e vessel.

Though there was no exact  
available, it was found  
the "Cambay Star" was  
on or about January 10.  
in or about Latitude 18-16  
ongitude 70-45 E, where the  
boat was sighted. All hands  
board the ship, 28 in num-  
and two passengers were  
ned.

## FAULTY LOADING

Including, the Court found  
the loss of the vessel was  
arily due to its being im-  
erly loaded and trimmed.  
e master of the ship was  
onsible for this loading and  
sinking was due to his  
gful act or default.

had been argued, the report  
eds, that 135 bags of salt-  
stowed on top of No. 2  
h were late in arriving  
side the steamer, and were  
ed on top of Hatch No. 2  
rder to avoid damage to  
of grain stowed in the  
l's Hold. Salt-petre had  
already stowed in the ves-  
Hold with bags of grain  
mat separation, and the  
ssors saw no reason why the  
e mentioned 135 bags of  
Petre should not have been  
ed in the ship's Hold.  
he goods were arriving  
alongside the vessel, the  
ought to have been reserv-

at the Rambaugh Maldan to  
observe the All-India 'Forward  
Bloc' Day. A resolution to that  
effect was passed.

The meeting was presided  
over by Swami Govindanand.

Among the past or the pre-  
sent Congressmen attending the  
meeting were Dr. Lilaram Pher-  
wari, Mr. Alim T. Gidwani and  
Ghanshyam Mirchandani.

The meeting of the Select  
Committee on the Bill for the  
Registration of Vaidis and  
Hakims is due to be held on the  
18th instant.

ed in the Hold for the same, or  
this cargo should have been  
shut out.

## PILOT CENSURED

Next to the responsibility of  
the ship's Master who himself  
was drowned it cannot be  
gainsaid, the Court held, that  
the Pilot Mr. J. J. Collier, had  
not performed his duties dili-  
gently. Admittedly, it was one  
of the official functions of the  
Pilot to see that the vessel was  
not overloaded. Instead, it ap-  
peared that Mr. Collier had  
taken things for granted and  
not even cared to examine the  
"load line mark" on both sides  
of the ship as he should have  
done, particularly when the  
vessel was low on the water  
with considerable cargo on the  
deck.

"For this act of indifference"  
the report asserts "the present  
pilot should be taken to task so  
that it might be an eye-opener  
to others in the future".

Lastly, the report recommends  
that the rules regarding the  
stowage of dangerous goods such  
as salt-petre must be strictly  
enforced and the practice of  
carrying free passengers on  
cargo-boats may be stopped  
forthwith.

Finally, it is hoped that the  
amount of labour and money  
devoted to this inquiry would be  
well spent if some good came  
out of the above recommenda-  
tions.

The Court has also expressed  
sympathy for the relatives of  
those who met their watery  
grave with the ill-fated vessel.

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