

Extract from Lloyd's List, 22nd October, 1929.

Cadet Training Ship "KOBENHAVN".

**THE OVERDUE "KOBENHAVN."**

**EVIDENCE BEFORE DANISH COURT**

An inquiry into the disappearance of the cadet training ship *Kobenhavn* was held in the Maritime and Commercial Court, Copenhagen, last week. On behalf of the owners, the East Asiatic Company, a report giving details of the vessel's voyage, her stay at Buenos Ayres, her departure from that port and the searches which were subsequently made, was submitted.

In reply to a question from the President of the Court, Baron Juel-Brockdorff the marine superintendent, stated that the search was abandoned when it was discovered that the vessel reported to have been seen near Tristan da Cunha was the Finnish barque *Ponape* and not the *Kobenhavn*. In the report it was stated that when she left Buenos Ayres the *Kobenhavn* had a displacement of 5150 tons, and was ballasted with sand and water. Before leaving Buenos Ayres Captain Andersen, the vessel's master, wrote a number of letters home, and in a report to his owners which was the last direct communication received from the vessel, he expressed his satisfaction regarding the outward voyage and the ability of the cadets. He had also written to Captain Christensen, under

whom he had served in the *Kobenhavn*, and expressed the intention of following the same route as they had taken previously. In depositions which were read the two pilots who took the *Kobenhavn* out from Buenos Ayres expressed their conviction that the vessel was thoroughly seaworthy and in good order.

When she left Buenos Ayres, the *Kobenhavn* carried 45 cadets in addition to the master, officers and crew, who numbered 15. Nine of the cadets had an average age of 20 years and sailed as able-bodied seamen. The cadets came from all parts of Denmark, one from England, one from Sweden and one from Germany.

In the report it was further stated that the *Kobenhavn* was in wireless communication with the Norwegian steamer *William Blumer* on Dec. 21 and 22. On the first day the *Kobenhavn* covered only five miles, but all was well on board. On Dec. 22 the wireless operators promised to listen for each other next day, but the *William Blumer* was unable to communicate with the *Kobenhavn*, and the operator supposed that she had gone out of range. In reply to a question from the President, Baron Juel-Brockdorff stated that the master of the *Kobenhavn* had instructions to report his position every day, and his omission to do so between Dec. 14, when he left Buenos Ayres, and Dec. 21 was no doubt due to atmospheric disturbances. It was unlikely that the wireless was out of order as the operator said nothing about it on Dec. 21 and 22.

Captain Christensen, the former master of the *Kobenhavn*, and the leader of the search in the motor ship *Mexico*, stated in a letter that he had sailed for ten years, as seaman and master, in sailing vessels and had never seen a better or more strongly built vessel than the *Kobenhavn*.

Evidence was given that the ice conditions in the water concerned were very difficult last season. Captain Mortensen, who took the *Kobenhavn* over from Baron Juel-Brockdorff and made five round voyages in her, also gave evidence and stated, in reply to a question, that she was undoubtedly sufficiently manned; the cadets in their third year were as least as good, on account of their training in the same vessel, as more experienced seamen. The cadet who was left at Buenos Ayres on account of eye trouble also gave evidence and spoke of the good discipline on board. Finally, Baron Juel-Brockdorff gave details of the vessel's dimensions, &c., and stated that she was insured with the Assurance-kompaniet Baltica for one million kroner.

The report of the proceedings now goes to the Danish Board of Trade, and the law officers of the Crown have to consider whether action should be taken against anyone. According to the "Nationaltidende," the majority of the parents of the missing cadets (all except eight) are now satisfied with the searches that have been made, and it is understood that there is no prospect of proceedings being taken against anybody.

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