

26/12/24 -

A TOTAL LOSS.

WRECK OF THE KONINI.

CARGO IRRETRIEVABLY DAMAGED.

The steamer Konini, which went ashore at Cable Bay, near Bluff, in the early hours of Monday morning, is in much the same position as she was on Tuesday. Although she is in one of the most exposed parts of the coast, the weather has remained fine, and she still sits bolt upright in the water, and but for the serried row of rocks and the bursting breakers, almost looks as if she were simply riding at anchor. But a close-up view and an actual inspection of the ship soon dispels the illusion. The Konini will never sail the seas again. She has been given up as a total loss, and it is only a matter of time, possibly even days, when a stiff blow comes from the westward, and then good-bye to the Konini!

INSPECTION OF THE VESSEL.

Captain W. J. King, wharf superintendent for the Union Steam Ship Company at Dunedin, inspected the wreck on Tuesday morning. He found that the position of the vessel was hopeless and an inspection of the cargo showed that the salt had been irretrievably damaged by the water, which made of it a solution. The cargo of gypsum, which is to a great extent liable to damage through the action of the water, was also considerably affected, and in the opinion of Captain King, the vessel and her contents are a dead loss. In addition to visiting the vessel by sea, Captain King walked overland and inspected her from the land side where she lies a cable length from the shore.

In the afternoon a motor launch and dinghy went out to the wreck and brought ashore the bonded stores, returning about half-past 5, after which Captain King, his work completed, returned to Dunedin on Wednesday morning.

During Tuesday morning and afternoon, motor cars were continually arriving at Ocean Beach, carrying passengers from far and near, who had come down to see the ship; incidentally a sight worth witnessing as she lies on the reef, with the surf breaking on the rocky shore. With a good blow coming in from the west, the waves smash themselves in cataracts of spray half way up the face, and when heavy weather comes, the old salts predict, the Konini will break up very quickly. Konini is the Maori word for the native fuchsia.

Lloyd's Register
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W687-0170