

CHARGE OF OVERLOADING A STEAMER

British Master Fined

From Our Own Correspondent

NEWPORT, Tuesday
At Newport yesterday Captain Jerome Hagarty, master of the steamship *Lonsdale*, was charged with overloading his ship at Rostrevor, Co. Down, on May 14 last.

Mr. V. GELDARD, prosecuting for the Board of Trade, said the vessel was trading between Bristol Channel ports and Ireland. She had taken a cargo of coal from Ayr to Rostrevor, where an officer of the Board of Trade went on board before the hatches had been touched and found the vessel substantially overloaded. The vessel had only 4 in. freeboard instead of 7 in. That meant that she was overloaded to the extent of 13 or 14 tons. As there would be bunkers and stores, it was calculated the ship was overloaded to the extent of 20 tons. That was a serious matter for a small vessel and for the crew. The Board of Trade took a serious view of the case, and hoped the Bench would impose a penalty that would show that masters of coasting vessels must observe the regulations. The maximum penalty was £100, and £100 for every inch the vessel was overloaded. Until recently the penalty was only £100, and the Government took such a serious view of such offences that they had substantially increased the penalty.

Captain ROBERT DAVLES, surveyor to the Board of Trade at Belfast, said he examined the ship when the cargo was intact. Hagarty told him he knew the vessel was overloaded and said it was an accident. He had received a telegram from the owners asking him to telephone them, and it was while he went to the 'phone that the overloading took place.

In Court HAGARTY said he was called away when the ship was three parts loaded. During his absence the mate did not look after the loading properly. He had now lost his berth as master.

The MAYOR (Mrs. Alderman Hart), fining the defendant £25, and 10 guineas costs, said that the Bench took a serious view of the case, and the penalty would have been heavier but for the fact that Hagarty had lost his position.

HAGARTY, saying that he had not sufficient money to pay the whole of the fine, was advised by the Court to consult the owners.

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