

THE "LISMORE" INQUIRY

Court and Stowage of Cargo

WITNESSES AND A LIST.

From Our Own Correspondent.

DUBLIN, Wednesday

The inquiry was resumed here this morning by Mr. George P. Cussen, District Justice, assisted by Captain J. H. Webb and Captain Louis Brady, master mariners, Mr. F. G. Miller, marine engineer, and Mr. W. J. Wares, naval architect, into the circumstances attending the loss of the City of Cork Steam Packet Company's steamer *Lismore*, which foundered on July 10 last at midnight, when 16 miles off the Hook Head, Co. Wexford.

Mr. E. A. Swayne, K.C., and Mr. Costello (instructed by the Chief State Solicitor) appeared for the Department of Industry and Commerce; Mr. A. K. Overend, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. D. & T. Fitzgerald), appeared for the owners.

Mr. CUSSEN said that before any further witnesses were called he desired to say the Court did not consider the evidence so far tendered had given them sufficient detailed information as to how the cargo of the *Lismore* had been stowed. They should be told how many tiers of axles were placed on the main deck and what was the area of space between the winches and the rail in which the axles were placed. In addition, they did not know till they had heard the last witness that there was a checker on each hold, and they were at a loss to understand why the Cork Steamship Company could not supply them with the amount of cargo stowed in each hold and the weight of cargo on the main fore-castle and poop decks. They did not desire to hear any further witnesses until Mr. Perry, the supercargo, was recalled and gave evidence on these matters.

Mr. SWAYNE said that it had been his intention to ask permission to recall Mr. Perry.

ATTITUDE OF WITNESSES.

Mr. CUSSEN said it was desirable to have these statements before the Court. They did not think that some of the witnesses were quite candid with the Court. Mr. Perry in his examination did not say that there was a checker on each hold.

Mr. OVEREND suggested that the Court should adjourn till the following day, when he would have the exact list of cargo in each hold and the amounts of weights on the main fore-castle and poop decks ready. They had done their best, he continued, to prepare for an inquiry at short notice. He wished to make it plain that his clients were not withholding anything. They were anxious to assist the Court in every way to try and find out the cause of this unexplained mystery.

Mr. J. MORONEY, cattle dealer, Cork, gave evidence that Mr. Horgan, who was sending 271 head of cattle by the *Lismore*, instructed him to look after the loading. When the cattle were being put on board he noticed that the vessel took a list to starboard, and later on, when she was proceeding on her voyage, he observed that she had a very perceptible list to port, which was visible to anybody.

JOSEPH STANLEY, ship inspector, Department of Agriculture, Cork, stated that he saw the *Lismore* leaving Penrose Quay on July 10, and as she was going down the river she had a very visible list to port. It struck him that the list was out of the ordinary. He at first thought that it was due to rocking, but he kept the vessel under observation, and he could see, when she was two and a-half miles on her journey, that she was badly listed.

Replying to Mr. Overend, WITNESS stated that at three o'clock he did not notice any list to starboard, but he could easily discern that the boat was not straight when she was going down the river.

The Court then adjourned till to-morrow morning, when Mr. Perry will be further examined as to the loading of the ship.

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