

LLOYD'S LIST, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1920.

THE LOSS OF THE  
 "NIPPONIER."

CREW LANDED AT DOVER.

The Lutine bell at Lloyd's was rung yesterday morning to announce that the Norwegian steamer *Rio de Janeiro* had put into Dover Harbour on the evening of Jan. 5 to land the Master and crew of the Belgian steamer *Nipponier*, which had sunk in the Bay of Biscay owing to damage received during the hurricane between Dec. 31 and Jan. 4. This vessel has figured on the re-insurance market since Jan. 1 owing to a wireless message having been received at Rame Head stating that she was in distress in latitude 46 deg. 20 min. N., longitude 7 deg. 15 min. W.

She was proceeding from the Tyne to Algiers with coal, and experienced terrific weather in the Bay of Biscay. The steering gear went wrong and a leak put out the fires. Eventually she fell in with the *Rio de Janeiro*, which took her in tow, but the hawser parted. The crew stuck to the vessel with the *Rio de Janeiro* alongside until she sank. The shipwrecked crew have proceeded from Dover to Antwerp.

The *Nipponier* was a wooden screw steamer of 2342 tons gross, and 1417 tons net, and was built at Victoria (B.C.) in 1918. She was launched under the name of *War Skeena* and arrived in the Clyde on Feb. 14 last from Victoria (B.C.) via Norfolk (Va.). Her name was then changed to *Nipponier*.

During her brief existence a series of mishaps have occurred to the vessel.

On her voyage to the Clyde as the *War Skeena* a fire broke out on board when off the Irish Coast. Her next voyage was from the Clyde to the West Indies in March, during which she was compelled to put into Queenstown owing to boiler and engine trouble, and on her homeward voyage from Martinique she had to be towed 600 miles to the Azores owing to her boiler tubes leaking. In consequence of there being no material at Ponta Delgada (Azores) to carry out the necessary repairs, she was towed to Havre by the Dutch tug *Thames*.

From Havre she proceeded to Bilbao, and apparently the voyage was completed without any untoward incident, but on her return voyage from Bilbao to Antwerp, with a cargo of ore, she encountered heavy weather and put into Dover to adjust the steam steering gear, and on her arrival at Antwerp she reported that the steam pipe covers were damaged and hatch tarpaulins had been carried away.

Again, on her voyage homeward from Bilbao to Antwerp in November, when in latitude 49 deg. N., longitude 5 deg. W., she sent out a wireless message asking to be towed to the nearest port. In response to her signals the steamer *Burgondier* proceeded to her assistance and towed her into Tor Bay on Nov. 23. It was then reported that the *Nipponier* had shipped much water on deck on Nov. 15, and that the water had penetrated into the coal bunkers, and the engines therefore had to be stopped, as the vessel could not get steam up owing to wet coal.

**NIPPONIER.** — Dover, Jan. 6. — Norwegian steamer *Rio de Janeiro*, for Hamburg, put into Dover Harbour last evening to land the master and entire crew of Belgian steamer *Nipponier*, which sank in the Bay of Biscay owing to damage received during the hurricane between Dec. 31 and Jan. 4. All crew safe. [See also under *Euripides*.]

London, Jan. 6. — The crew of 24 of the Belgian steamer *Nipponier* were landed at Dover last night. The vessel was proceeding from the Tyne to Algiers with coal, and experienced terrific weather in the Bay of Biscay. The steering gear went wrong and a leak put out the fires. Eventually she fell in with the steamer *Rio de Janeiro*, which took her in tow but the hawser parted. The crew stuck to the vessel with the *Rio de Janeiro* alongside until she sank. The shipwrecked crew have proceeded to Antwerp.