

CLOSING WEEK

OF

LAKE NAVIGATION

The steel freighter Stormount of the M. T. Co.'s fleet is expected here to winter and also to go on the dry dock.

The wooden steamer Lake Michigan was slightly damaged by fire at Sarnia a few days ago. The fire broke out in the crew's quarters near the smokestack.

The steamer Henry Steinbrenner was sunk at Round Island above the Soo on Monday in a collision with the steamer Benonid. No lives were lost, the crew of the sunken steamer escaping to the lighthouse.

The steamer Bickerdike which intended to go to Montreal, has gone into winter quarters at Kingston.

The Marine Board of Inquiry, composed of Capts. L. A. Demers of Ottawa, Ash of Montreal and Coles of Collingwood, which conducted an investigation here respecting the wreck of the C.P.R. steamer Athabasca on Flower Pot Island on the night of October 13th, have announced their decision, finding Capt. Alex. Brown responsible for the accident. The judgment is a scathing indictment of the captain and is in part as follows:—"The evidence tends to show that the captain does not understand the workings of the compass, and the only way he assured himself that his compass was correct was when in sight of ranges; moreover, he was even more ignorant of the name of the makers of his compass, although he had been master of the Athabasca for three years. The lead line was not resorted to, and he does not seem to have taken the most common precaution to avoid danger. Both his scrap log and official log were written in pencil, the spelling was execrable, and on the date of the accident erasures had been made and observations and remarks added. We consider that his way of keeping logs was both farcial and valueless."

As a result of the inquiry the court suspended the ticket of the master, Capt. Alexander Brown, for nine months, exonerating the other members of the crew from blame.

The decision caused considerable surprise here, where the general impression, more especially in marine circles, was that the responsibility would be attributed to the wheelsman. Much sympathy is expressed for Capt. Brown who has spent years in attaining the position that he has held for the past three years and who is looked upon as a careful and capable navigator.

PEOPLE AND AFFAIRS