

**FATAL COLLISION AT SEA.** The Deputy Coroner (Mr. E.F. BLAKE) held an inquest at the Gem Inn, Hill-street, Ryde, touching the death of Martin KRISTENSEN, aged 20, an able seaman, who was killed under the circumstances detailed below, in a collision about 25 miles S.S.E. off St. Catherine's.

Jacob HULTBERG, a seaman on board the '*Maggie Trimble*', a full-rigged ship, on a voyage from Iquique, Chile, with a cargo of nitrate, said deceased who was a native of Faroe Island, Denmark, was also an able seaman on board. There were sixteen hands, he told. On Thursday evening it was witness's watch on deck from 12 till 4. Deceased had his turn below during that time and turned in about 20 minutes past 12. He occupied the foremost bunk, at the side of which was the bowsprit. About half-past 5 witness noticed a vessel on the starboard bow, and saw she was coming straight into them. Witness sang out "Call the man in the forecast." This was done, and three of them came running up directly. A collision took place immediately afterwards, the ship which struck them being a bigger ship than their own. From the time witness reported a light until the vessel struck them about four minutes elapsed. They were struck on the figure-head. Witness's vessel was on the starboard tack, the other on the port tack at the time. As soon as she got the wind in her sails the other vessel went on and left them. Their captain hailed her, and asked her name, but there was no reply, except that some one on board asked what damage had been done. The voice sounded like an American or Nova Scotian. The other vessel's bowsprit struck their jibboom and broke it; the cathead and anchor struck their fore-gear and broke the bowsprit. Not seeing deceased, witness called him, and then went below, and found him jammed between the bowsprit and the under part of the deck. The bowsprit had been driven to the starboard side, and had raised the bunk and jammed deceased, and they had not been able to extricate him till that day (Saturday). They had tried to get him out the previous day. But had not succeeded. When they got him out he was quite flattened. Death must have been instantaneous. Deceased was a heavy sleeper. Thought the other vessel was not properly lighted. It was very foggy.

Charles VIDUNG, a Norwegian, also a seaman in the same ship, said he was in his bunk when the collision occurred.

Mr. A. WOODWARD, surgeon, said he examined the body, which was lying on the main deck, quite dead. The head was quite smashed in, and death must have been instantaneous.

The captain of the '*Maggie Trimble*' said their vessel ought to have given way, and they would have done so had they seen the lights. Unfortunately, they did not see them until it was too late.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

The funeral of the deceased took place on Tuesday afternoon. The only mourner was the Captain of the '*Maggie Trimble*'. It was stated that some of the seamen wished to follow the remains of their shipmate, but the captain refused them. The poor fellows had been so long penned up on ship board that the skipper was afraid to trust them on shore!

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