

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF WRECKS AND CASUALTIES,
1870 TO 1886.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER.	Casualties.	Tonnage.	Lives Lost.	Damage.
				\$
1870.....	335	210	901,000
1871.....	274	81,035	81	2,100,000
1872.....	290	99,109	237	2,507,338
1873.....	350	99,523	813	2,844,133
1874.....	308	106,682	109	2,029,965
1875.....	286	99,427	78	2,468,521
1876.....	452	153,368	404	2,942,955
1877.....	468	177,896	153	3,952,582
1878.....	414	161,760	187	3,444,875
1879.....	533	198,364	339	4,119,233
1880.....	445	179,993	217	3,820,652
1881.....	440	210,719	399	4,922,423
1882.....	451	193,655	271	3,138,423
1883.....	366	158,826	259	2,029,752
1884.....	324	119,741	253	2,965,321
1885.....	346	144,726	198	2,753,667
1886.....	329	129,803	52	1,779,512
Total	6,411	2,314,627	4,260	48,721,352

Average number of wrecks, &c.

541. The number of casualties in 1885 exceeded that of 1884 by 22, but with that exception was smaller than in any year since 1875, and the number of lives lost was less than in any year since 1878. The average number of casualties annually, exclusive of 1886, has been 380, and of lives lost 263, so that the figures for 1885 were in both cases considerably below the average, and as the amount of shipping involved is continually increasing, it is believed that increased care in the construction of vessels, greater attention to the qualifications of masters and mates, and increased efficiency in the service generally, are tending very greatly to reduce the risks both to life and property.

Disastrous wrecks.

542. There was no specially disastrous casualty in 1886. The great loss of life in 1873 was occasioned by the wreck of the White Star steamship "Atlantic," at Marr's Head,