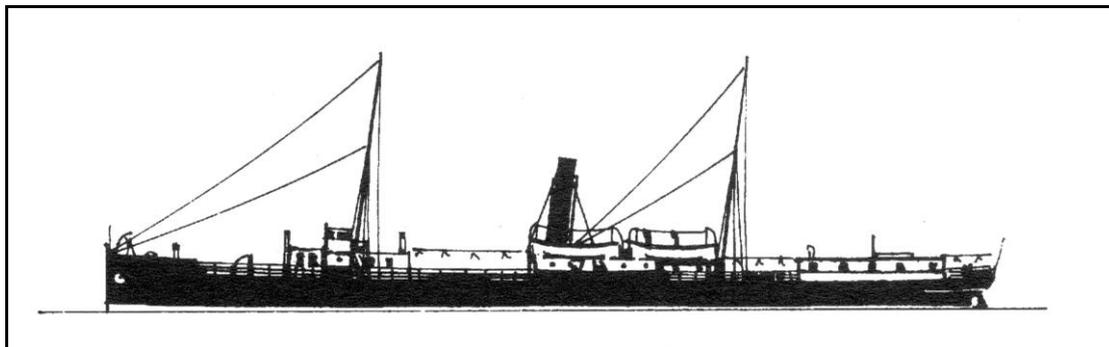


TAMSUI 1885.



Tamsui

The Evening Post 5th August 1885 reported the arrival of Tamsui on her second voyage to New Zealand with “new season’s tea.”

S.S. TAMSUI, FROM FOOCHOW.

The China Navigation Company's steamer Tamsui, which arrived in port yesterday, was cleared by the Health Officer during the afternoon, and was berthed alongside the Queen's Wharf at 5.30 pm. She left Foochow on 10th July, and, on the 14th, experienced heavy gale, which compelled her to slow down for twelve hours; had moderate weather the 23rd, when she picked up the S E. trades: on the 27th the wind increased with heavy S E. swell, and from the 29th to the 31st the wind came from the west with tremendous seas, which broke on board in large quantities, causing the vessel to labour heavily. Sighted Cape Egmont on the 2nd inst, and next day experienced a violent gale from SSE, rendering the vessel almost unmanageable; at 5 a.m. she took shelter in Queen Charlotte Sound, remaining there till 6 yesterday morning, when she left the Sound, and came into harbour as reported yesterday. After discharging the Wellington cargo, the Tamsui proceeds to Lyttelton and Port Chalmers. Messrs Johnston & Co. are her Agents.

NEW SEASON TEAS.

—
Ex TAMSUI.

—
NOW LANDING.

—
SAMPLES on view at the Warehouse
of
JOSEPH NATHAN & CO.

NEW SEASON'S TEAS.

—
OUR FIRST SHIPMENT
is to hand per s.s. Tamsui,

And musters can now be seen at our Offices.
W. M. BANNATYNE & CO.

It was also reported that “Four antelopes arrived by Tamsui from Foochow for a Mr John Bathgate.” – no doubt to the disappointment of the cook who had been hoping for some fresh meat during the voyage.

Two days later it was reported that “Three Chinamen were charged with smuggling cigars from the Tamsui and were fined £5, £3 and £1 10s respectively.” It would appear that information gained during the previous year’s visit to New Zealand was not totally wasted on the more entrepreneurial members of the ships crew.

7th August. Tamsui sailed from Wellington for Lyttelton at 5 pm.

9th August. Tamsui arrived Lyttelton at noon, Captain Varden, from Foochow via Wellington.

11th August. Tamsui sailed for Port Chalmers 1 pm.

The Press 12th August offered the following information. -

“Whilst in Lyttelton Tamsui loaded:-

For Hong Kong- 59 sacks.shoes, 13 pkgs zinc, 32 pkgs copper, 1 box glass, 271 pkgs. General.

For Sydney—250 sacks bran, 301 sacks potatoes, 14 cases cheese.

For Townsville—100 sacks oats.

According to the latest advices from China, it is stated that the China Navigation Company's large steamship Woosung. Captain Williams, was loading a cargo of new season's tea for New Zealand. She was to leave Foochow in the first week in August, so that she will be due in New Zealand about the end of the present month.

Otago Daily Times. 13th August. Tamsui arrived Port Chalmers yesterday with new seasons tea from Foo Chow. - 2782.chests, 8901 half-chests, 131 pkgs tea plus a quantity of Chinese goods.

The China Navigation Company's steamer Tamsui from Foochow, via Wellington and Lyttelton, arrived at Port Chalmers yesterday morning, and made fast alongside the George Street Pier. She left Foochow on July 10. and experienced a succession of variable winds and bad weather throughout the passage; arrived at Wellington on the 4th inst.; discharged cargo for that port, and left again at 5 p.m. of the 8th inst.; had light winds with misty weather, and reached Lyttelton at noon of the 9th inst.; discharged Christchurch cargo, and left again at 1 p.m. of the 11th inst.; had fresh N.E. winds with very clear weather down, the coast, crossed the bar at 7.45 a.m., and made fast to the wharf at 9.30 a.m.

The ss.Tamsui proceeded up the Victoria Channel yesterday afternoon with the intention of discharging cargo at the Dunedin wharf. Unluckily, however, she grounded between Ravensbourne and Black Jack's Point, and it was considered advisable for her to return to Port Chalmers, which she did at 5.30 p.m. Should the weather have moderated this morning she will proceed up the harbour again.

Otago Daily Times. 14th August. The s.s. Tamsui steamed up to Dunedin and commenced discharging her cargo of the new season's tea at the wharf.

Dunedin August 16th. Since the Tamsui has been at the wharf her crew have been doing a thriving business in selling cigars. Four constables were stationed on the wharf last night, and one arrest has been made.

	CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY (LIMITED).
For SYDNEY, QUEENSLAND PORTS; and HONGKONG.	
The s.s. TAMSUI, 1750 tons, H. Vardin, com- mander, will be despatched from Dunedin, as above, on or about MONDAY, 10th August, taking Pas- sengers and Cargo at lowest current rates.	
For full particulars apply to	
NEILL and CO. (LIMITED), Agents, Bond street;	
Or to	KEITH RAMSAY, Vogel street.
Inu	

Otago Daily Times. 17th August. “There appears to have been some extensive smuggling carried on by the crew of the Chinese vessel Tamsui, lying at Rattray Street Wharf—sufficiently extensive, at all events, to call for the active intervention of the police and customs authorities. Cheap cigars appear, to have been the order of the day since the vessel reached port, various members of the Chinese crew

dispensing their wares at enticingly low prices to all comers. It is stated, indeed, that a customs official (in a detective capacity) became the happy purchaser of one small lot, but failed to reap any benefit from the coup, as a strong family likeness prevented him from afterwards identifying the vendor. As a result of this traffic the wharf at which the vessel lies was watched by the police on Saturday evening, and there was a good deal of excitement among the assemblage which gathered to watch proceedings. One arrest was made by Sergeant Rooney, that of a man named John Cameron, who will be charged at the Police Court this morning."

The West Coast Times a week later gave their own version of the smuggling incident.

"Chinamen are, as a rule, to use a homely expression as "Like as two peas." This fact has just found an illustration in Dunedin. It appears (says the Dunedin Herald) that some of the Celestials on board the Tamsui have been doing a little bit of quiet smuggling in the cigar line. One of our Customhouse officials getting on the scent, disguised himself and went aboard the vessel for the purpose of grabbing the offenders. He speculated a shilling, and was supplied with some choice weeds. Turning his back for a moment to speak to some person on the gangway, the officer did not notice that John slipped away. Determined not to be beaten, he demanded that all the Celestials within "cooey" of the vessel should be paraded before him. A muster was called but after the most minute inspection, the officer failed to identify the Mongolian who had sold him the cigars. When questioned on the subject each individual John merely shook his head, and ejaculated No Savvy."

17th August. Tamsui sailed for Bluff.

Otago Daily Times 18th August *The China S.N. Company's s.s. Tamsui left Port Chalmers yesterday afternoon for Hongkong, via the Bluff, Sydney, and Queensland ports. She takes 900 sacks of grain for Sydney and 100 tons of scrap iron for Hongkong, and will fill up at other ports. She has also 12 Chinese passengers. She will also take 4000 bags of grain at the Bluff for Sydney.*

Southland Times 18th August. Tamsui ss.919,tons, Jardin, (**Oops!**) from Dunedin. Nichol Bros, agents.

"Tamsui 1028 boxes.tea, 203 chests tea, 8 cases tea, 6 cases ginger, order.; The China Navigation Co.'s ss. Tamsui left Port Chalmers at 4.45 p.m. on Monday, and arrived alongside the wharf at 11.15 a.m. yesterday, having experienced strong westerly winds and clear weather throughout. She has a number of Chinese passengers for Sydney and Hong Kong. The Tamsui is almost a new vessel, having been built in 1880 by Messrs Scott and Company, of Greenock. Her decks are flush and are rather lumbered aft with deck houses, but she has good cargo carrying capacity. Her length is 250 feet, and breadth 31 feet. The crew, with the exception of the officers and engineers, are Chinese. She will take in about 7000 bags of grain, and will sail for Sydney this. afternoon. The Harbour Board's tug Awarna left for Stewart Island noon yesterday. She was delayed in sailing owing to the arrival of the Tamsui.

The arrival of the s.s, Tamsui at the Bluff with 1236 packages of tea from Foochow, marks an advance in the commercial importance of this district. The consignment is not a large one, but is probably the forerunner of more extensive direct shipments. An endeavour is being made to give the Tamsui a good outward cargo, so that the China Steam Navigation Co. may be induced to look upon our ocean port as one worthy of their consideration in future arrangements."

Southland Times 21st August. Sailed August 20th Tamsui ss. 919 tons, Varden, for Sydney. Nichol Bros., agents.

“The Tamsui left yesterday at 9 a.m. bound for Hong Kong via Sydney. This vessel presents a different appearance to steamers usually visiting this port inasmuch as she has been designed to carry cargo and that of a very serviceable as well as very valuable character. She was not built for passenger traffic, so that a good deal of ornate finishing and furnishing is dispensed with, On the other hand every consideration has been given to. make her thoroughly seaworthy and capable of landing her tea and sugar cargoes in splendid condition, which she does. Captain Varden expressed himself as highly pleased with our port, which he considered equal to any in the colony. The shipping facilities which he received surprised him, as he took in a cargo of 9000 sacks in very little over a day, and could have increased the quantity had it been to hand. The visit of the Tamsui we hope marks a fresh departure for Invercargill. She brought in the first direct shipment of tea from China to the Bluff, to the order of Messrs Scrutton and Co. We hope we will see this line of steamers make the Bluff a regular port of call.”

“All Aboard.— The Customs officials and police at the Bluff are probably not at all sorry for the departure of the s,s. Tamsui. It took two of them at a time during the two nights that the steamer was in port to prevent “John” from doing too big a trade with contraband cigars and tobacco. Before the steamer sailed yesterday morning the Customs officer had also to perform a duty of rare occurrence here. There being a number of Chinese passengers en route for Sydney and Hong Kong it was necessary for poll tax purposes to see that all were on board prior to the vessel leaving the wharf. Mr Bertland was equal to the occasion, and the generalship displayed by him to readily tick off their names reflects great credit on his military abilities.”