

s.s. "CLYDEFIELD".

A letter has been received from the Newcastle Office regarding the case of the above Tanker, which has been lengthened 30'6" by fitting an additional oil cargo tank.

The vessel was under survey for this purpose from the 4th June until the 8th August, 23 visits having been paid by the Surveyors during the alterations.

A fee of £105 was charged, the account having been rendered on the 15th August.

It appears from the letter received from the Newcastle Office, above referred to, that the work which has been carried out by Messrs. Smith's Dock Co. was apparently taken at a very low figure in competition with Firms on the Continent, and the fees have to be paid by the Repairers themselves in accordance with their contract.

Messrs. Smith's Dock Co. have been in communication with the Newcastle Office, pointing out that they consider the fees charged are somewhat high, and ask whether a reduction in the account could be made.

They refer to similar structural alterations which were carried out on four vessels at Middlesbrough, viz:- "MANIPUR", "MAGDAPUR", "MANGALORE" and "MATHURA".

These vessels were shortened by 26', and the fee of £75, which was charged in the case of the "MANGALORE", was reduced to £50 in the cases of the remaining three.

Mr. Turnbull considers that as 23 visits only were paid during the alterations, the suggestion to reduce the fee from £105 to £75 might be sympathetically considered in the circumstances.

This suggestion is submitted for favourable consideration.

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