

s.s. "DALIA"

The attached letter received from Mr. G.H.Court, of the Maritime Insurance Co.Ld., refers to a communication received from his Cape Town Agency to the effect that this vessel, which is specially fitted for the carriage of livestock, loaded a cargo of rails on her first outward trip, and is somewhat hogged. The Agency cannot vouch for this information, but suggest that this Society may have received a report. Mr. Court therefore desires to know if anything is known here about the matter, and states that any reply will be treated in the strictest confidence.

This vessel, which is of 5188 tons gross, was built by Messrs. R.Duncan & Co., Port Glasgow, in 1931-2 mo. She is classed 100A1 "With freeboard", and is owned by the Union Government of South Africa (Railways and Harbours Administration).

Since she was built, two reports have been received from the Society's Surveyors. A report from the Cape Town Surveyor of a survey held in May last stated that the port and centre boilers were examined and found good, and in a report of a docking survey held at Port Natal ^{in the same month} the Surveyor stated that the ship was examined in dry dock, bottom and rudder cleaned, examined and recoated, and he recommended her to remain as classed.

It has been ascertained that the vessel sailed from the Clyde on 28.2.31, and left Workington on 19.3.31 (at which port it is assumed she loaded the cargo of rails referred to) and arrived in Table Bay on 19.4.31.

From the above it will be seen that no reference is made to any question of hogging, but it is thought that it might be advisable to inform the Society's Surveyor at Durban confidentially of the letter received from Mr. Court, and to request him to make a special examination of the vessel when next she is placed in dry dock in his district, in order that he may make a confidential report to this Office as to whether any hogging has taken place.

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