

(Translation).

Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

BOULOGNE.

12th January, 1938.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 10th instant regarding the renewal of the thrust shaft of the trawler "EXCELLENT" and requesting me to amplify my observations in French in order better to inform the Committee, I beg to confirm the terms of my letter of the 30th December, and to emphasize that :

1.) The Owner of the "EXCELLENT" having spent 20,000 Frs on the renewal of this shaft refuses to get another one, as this one is giving full satisfaction, although not in accordance with the Society's Rules. I have seen him again on two occasions, but he is adhering to his standpoint.

2.) I pointed out <sup>to you</sup> that the shaft was ordered urgently in order to avoid any stoppage of the vessel, at a time of international difficulties when transports were requisitioned, so that immediately the part was made it was conveyed with difficulty to Boulogne where the machining was completed. These events, of course, would not have prevented the necessary precautions being taken to ensure the part being tested in accordance with the Society's Rules as regards quality of materials, and I did ask the makers for a test by the Society's Surveyors, or failing that to leave enough material to allow of the necessary test pieces being cut, but he thought that it would be quicker to ask the Bureau Veritas to carry out the test.

3.) I am , however, convinced that Makers and Owners prefer the Bureau Veritas test, not because it is more reliable, but because it is less expensive for them owing to this Society's Surveyor having to travel all the way from Antwerp.

In this connection I mentioned to you the case of the propeller shaft of the "NOTRE DAME DE LORETTE" which was the subject of some correspondence with the Owner and which cost him Frs. 1380 for the Society's test. I must tell you that as a result of this Mr. Gournay tried to set me up against the Bureau Veritas by asking me the basic cost of each survey for each of his vessels. I replied in clear and categorical terms that he was free to have his vessels classed with whatever Society he wished, and that Lloyd's Register were not a business concern but a public utility undertaking, whose fees were determined in accordance with the services rendered by the Society's Surveyors, and that I had no intention of comparing them with those of other classification societies. Finally, Mr. Gournay decided to continue to place his trust in the Society's classification.

I also mentioned to you the case of an order of boiler tubes for which the makers asked both Societies for a quotation of the survey fees. The result of the enquiry was as follows :

Bureau Veritas :	Frs 1,665
Lloyd's Register:	" 2,950

It should be understood that Owners are not technicians and are only influenced by the fees to be paid, and that in

consequence our work as Surveyors is often rendered difficult by having to make Owners understand that it is in their interest to obtain the maximum of security by insisting on the best quality of materials. In each case we have to use all our influence, especially in a fishing harbour.

I always advise makers to leave enough material to forgings for cutting test pieces in order to enable me to carry out the tests recommended by the Rules, but where this condition cannot be fulfilled I suggest to the Committee to see if it is not possible to carry out these tests at a scale of fees as reduced as possible, in view of the fact that cases of renewal of large forgings are rather rare and that the Society has no Surveyor stationed near the makers' works.

I know and I deplore that the thrust shaft of the "EXCELLENT" does not fulfil the conditions required by the Society's Rules, and the Committee are the sole judge in this matter, but it is regrettable that a classification Society should be able to accept what our Rules reject.

As for myself I deemed it my duty to give you, first of all, details of the facts, as they occurred, and the consequences, and I beg you to excuse me if, for purposes of information, I have <sup>allowed</sup> my way of thinking and acting to be known

I am, Dear Sir,

The Secretary,  
LONDON.

Yours faithfully,  
(s) R. Masset.

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Foundation

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