

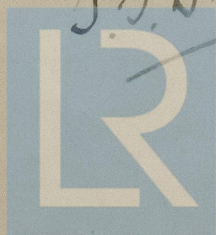
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Messrs. Waltons & Co. are acting for the Underwriters in the case of a British vessel which was given a seaworthy certificate by one of the Society's Surveyors after she had undergone certain repairs on account of fire. No suggestion is made that the repairs were not carried out properly or that she was not entitled to a certificate in respect of these repairs. The writers go on to ask this question - "whether one of your Surveyors in giving a Seaworthy Certificate would confine himself to whether the repairs recommended had been carried out properly and the vessel was in that respect fit to go to sea again, or whether it would be also his duty, or at all events, within his province, as a Surveyor, to refuse to give a certificate if the fire-fighting equipment was not efficient." They add that in this case the ship owners had not complied with the Board of Trade Notice to Shipowners No. M.140 on the Prevention and Extinction of Fire on Cargo Ships, under the heading of "Water Service Pipes".

The general question which they put could, it is considered, be answered easily, but it is a question whether an answer should be given without being more precisely informed as to the particulars of the case in question.

A fact which might be of interest to the writers, if it is not already known to them, is that the Board of Trade Notice M.140 is a recommendation only and is not compulsory on the owners or masters of cargo ships.

18th January, 1940.



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