

COPY.
PORT OF

25th. April, 1942.

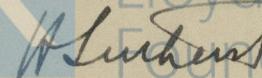
Dear Sirs,

I think it well to inform you that at the request of Mr. Swan, I made a special examination of the worm and worm wheel of the steering engine on the motor-vessel "EMPIRE GRACE". In view of previous trouble with the sister vessel this gear was opened here after about 14 hours running, where it was found that the wear on gunmetal worm wheel had been excessive. Powdered gunmetal was found lying in somewhat alarming quantity all around the gear and in the lubricating oil. The wear on the tooth flanks was found on the side facing to starboard, to be normal, but on the side facing to Port the tooth flanks were most irregular, and the bearing surfaces on this side were totally different to those on the other.

In view of this I asked Mr. Swan to communicate with the builders, who at first took the view that it was solely a question of lubrication. With this I could not agree, and suggested to Mr. Swan that a responsible official should see the gear as now found. After some delay, Mr. Ross(?) came over and at once and unhesitatingly agreed that the workmanship was not satisfactory. He proposed to arrange for some specialists in gear cutting to supply a new worm and wheel on the vessel's return, and an Interim Certificate has been issued by me to this effect.

On arrival here a report was made that the refrigerating cooling fan motors had developed bad commutation, and new brushes have been fitted here. The motors have been tried under all conditions, but not for any very prolonged period, and it has been recommended these be again examined and tested on the vessel's return.

The above information is embodied in my report to London, and it is considered that you should be advised of what has transpired since the vessel left your Port.

The Surveyors,
BELFAST.I am, Dear Sirs,
Yours faithfully,
W. L. Sutherland