

Received 21st December, 1911.

Answered _____

Translation of ~~Extract from~~ letter dated 19th. December. received from

Emile Berenguer, Inspector with power of Attorney, of Mr. A. Achaque

Vessel's Name _____

Sir,

As Agent with power of Attorney of Mr. A. Achaque, shipping ~~ing~~ Owner at Algiers, I beg to ask your powerful assistance and your kind co-operation in the following matter:-

I came to Glasgow with a view to examining and buying the English steamer "COMMANDANT" 273/72 register tons, built in 1905 and classed 100 A1 in Lloyd's Register, at present in Dry Dock at Ardrossan. It has ~~been just~~ ascertained that the bottom of the said vessel is seriously damaged.

The most important ^{stipulations} ~~paragraph~~ in my contract (memorandum of agreement) is the following:-

"The steamer is purchased subject to inspection of Hull, Engines and Boilers. Sellers to open out Engines and Boilers as customary and if anything found defective, same to be made good by Sellers to the requirements of Lloyd's Surveyors for her class etc".

Besides the bad condition of the bottom (plates indented, frames bent and stern posts broken) I ascertained that certain plates of the ^{hull} ~~hull~~ and of the deck were very corroded and even eaten

away and had lost much of their thickness; moreover the engine seems to have had a shock in consequence of the breaking of the cog wheel of the turning gear, a fact which may have the consequence of making the line of shafting out of the level. As in accordance with my agreement, I am put under your high superintendence, of which I am particularly happy, I am so free as to ask you for your kind protection respecting the defence of my interests concerning the state of the ~~"COMM"~~ "COMMANDANT", to which I call your special attention, the more so as Lloyd's Register of British & Foreign Shipping having been officially recognised by the French Government (ministerial decree of the 5th. September, 1908 consequent upon the law of the 7th. April 1907), vessel's classed in your Register are admitted by our French Authorities as absolutely good with no restriction whatever, and on account of this fact ^{they are} exempt from certain formalities.

As the "COMMANDANT" having been repaired and overhauled, will sail for the port of Algiers where she will be registered as a French vessel and ^{from} ~~at~~ which port she will be ^{sail} ~~registered~~, it would be regrettable if the commission of the French Government which will survey the vessel on her arrival at Algiers and to which I will state that she is classed 100 A1 in Lloyd's Register, would make difficult and disconcerting remarks concerning her condition. For these various reasons, I beg to put myself under your high protection, with a view to the vessel being put into good condition in every respect and in all her parts, so as to do honour to the class 100A1 which she must possess.