

~~CONFIRMATION OF LETTER.~~

Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Enclosure.

26th April, 1918.

Dear Sir Thomas Storey,

With reference to the questions raised by you regarding the cases of the steel steamer "SACRAMENTO", and the wood schooners "LAUREL WHALEN" and "STASIA", built on the Pacific Coast, I beg to say that careful note has been taken of the points, and enquiry will be made of the Society's Surveyors in the matter.

Attention had already been called to the case of the "LAUREL WHALEN", and in connexion therewith I cannot do better than enclose an extract from a letter which we have received from Mr. Collings, the Senior Surveyor at Seattle, who was sent out from the Clyde because of his great practical experience which includes wood ship construction.

When we receive a reply from the Surveyors I will not fail to let you know the result; but in the meantime I think it well to offer, for the information of Sir Robert Balfour who raised the question with you, a few remarks on the general subject of the survey and classification of vessels.

As you are aware, the Committee have fully

appreciated the importance of providing an ample and efficient Staff to ensure that as far as possible every care shall be taken in the construction of vessels built in the United States of America and Canada. The urgent demand for tonnage, and the unprecedented arrangements which have been made to accelerate the production of Ships, have rendered the duty of the Society and its Surveyors exceedingly difficult; but, as you are aware, the Committee have, from time to time, taken measures to cope with the great onrush of work to the best of their ability.

A large number of Surveyors on the permanent Staff, and of other Surveyors experienced in Shipbuilding, Marine Engineering, and Steel Testing, have been sent from the United Kingdom, and Surveyors of approved experience in America have also been appointed.

Before the War the Society had only 20 exclusive Surveyors in the United States and Canada, and now has 118.

The Committee and the very competent Staff of Surveyors are doing everything they can to ensure efficiency, but, as Sir Robert Balfour will readily understand, the results cannot be so uniformly satisfactory as they were in pre-war days, when it was possible for Shipbuilders and Engineers to employ only skilled men, and to give ample time and attention to every detail.

It is gratifying to know, however, that the testimony

(3)

which we have received from many quarters clearly shows that in the opinion of practical men this Society is accomplishing, under great difficulty, results in the way of satisfactory supervision of Merchant Ship construction which no other Organisation could hope to attain, or even approach.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Thomas J. Storey, K.B.E.



© 2021

Lloyd's Register
Foundation

0007 3/3