

Extra COPY

LOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING

12th March, 1948.

PARIS.

The Secretary
London

Dear Sir,

I beg to report that, having been informed by Mr. Brunel-
liere, the Nantes Surveyor, that the classification of the
"COLONEL WILHELM" had been transferred to the Bureau Veritas, I
paid a visit to the Cie Havraise Peninsulaire, Managers of this
vessel and old clients of the Society.

Replying to my questions and remarks regarding this
surprising information, the Ingenieur en Chef of that Company
stated that this decision had been taken by the Havraise and
submitted to the Owners (French Government) who did not make any
exception to it because, according to the new Merchant Marine
Policy, which is coming into force on the 15th instant, the vessel
will become shortly the property of her present Managers. He also
showed to me a copy of a letter addressed to the Society by his
Company, in which the transfer of class was notified.

In addition to the "reasons" of the Manager's decision,
as given in their above said letter, the Ingenieur en Chef alleged
that the fact we have not a local Surveyor in each port and in
each steel manufacturing place was causing some inconvenience to
his Company. I objected that the Society's Surveying Staff in
France was now practically as numerous as in Pre-War times when
no inconvenience had been brought to our notice by the Cie Havrai-
se. Then he made reference to a question of testing of Refrigera-
ting Condenser coils, which took place on that ship fourteen months
ago and regarding which they considered that the Society's decision
caused also some inconvenience to his Company, etc... It is
obvious that the Managers decided, first, to class the vessel to
Veritas and then to find reasons for doing so. In the circumstances,
I tried to know their intention regarding the two other vessels
("MADAGASCAR" and "VILLE DE REIMS") classed with us and I have
been informed that they will remain to our class; but, however,
the Ingenieur en Chef added that "he hoped that the Society's Sur-
veyors will take their age into account when carrying out their sur-
vey." I may add that the "MADAGASCAR" is at present at Rouen under
the inspection of the Society's surveyor at Havre.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

© 2021

Lloyd's Register
Foundation