

s.s. "HOFUKU MARU"

This Japanese ship is classed with this Society and the Society's freeboard was marked, and certificates were issued on the 11th March, 1919.

From the accompanying copy of a cable received by Lloyd's from their Agent at Cebu it would appear that the ship is loaded and ready to sail for New York, via San Pedro, at her Indian Summer mark, and that the Captain claims that he has special authority to load to this draught from the Philippine Islands.

It is stated that the shippers require a certificate of seaworthiness.

It may be noted that the Indian Summer line corresponds to the Tropical line under the International Convention.

The port of Cebu is in latitude 10-20 N.

In accordance with the International Convention the Tropical zone extends North to lat. 10°N, and therefore it would appear that this port is outside the tropical zone, and therefore it would be a technical offence to load beyond the Summer line. In view of its protected position, however, it is probable that the Japanese Authorities would not take any exception to a Japanese ship leaving Cebu loaded to its Tropical loadline provided the conditions were such that the ship would rise to its Summer line before entering the summer zone, as appears probable in this case.

In these circumstances, it is submitted that it would not be considered to be a contravention of the conditions of the Society's classification if the ship left the port of Cebu loaded to the Tropical line, and it might meet the wishes of the shippers if Lloyd's informed their Agents at Cebu that no objection would be taken by this Society to the ship being loaded to the Tropical ^{Indian} , or/Summer line, provided the voyage were continued south of latitude 10°N until the ship rose to her Summer line.

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