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VESSELS OWNED BY THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

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The Society's Surveyor at Calcutta was authorised in August last to arrange for Tail Shaft Surveys and Boiler Surveys of small harbour craft owned by the Madras Government to be carried out <sup>in the Madras district</sup> by a competent and independent local Surveyor, and was also informed that the Special Survey No.1 on the Tug "KERALA" could be similarly held at Cochin if desired.

A letter has now been received from the Surveyor stating that he has returned from Cochin, where the "KERALA" was put through Special Survey No.1, and that it was the original intention to visit the vessels working in this port at the Special Surveys only, the annual surveys being carried out by a local independent Surveyor in the Madras district; after examination of the "KERALA", however, it is felt that the visits from Calcutta should be more frequent, say every two years, owing to the excessive wastage found on the "KERALA's" bottom, probably due to the nature of the water in the harbour, where all rivers and streams flowing into it have to pass through heavy undergrowth and vegetation. In the case of the "KERALA" the Surveyor states that the bow plating on both sides, both garboard strakes complete, and both screw shafts, have to be renewed, although the vessel is hardly four years of age.

The Surveyor has discussed these matters with the Engineer-in-Chief of the Madras Government, who is agreeable to this method of survey, and is satisfied to fall in with all his recommendations and suggestions. He has therefore appointed Mr. Hugh Lockley, of Madras, whom he states has had a wide experience both at Home and in India in Ship and Engine Repairs, to act on the Society's behalf.

In the port of Cochin there is no one with sufficient experience available, and Mr. Lockley will attend to work in that port also whenever the occasion for his services may arise.

It is thought that the arrangements made by the  
Calcutta Surveyor are satisfactory, and might be approved,  
and it is submitted he be informed accordingly.

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