

THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27 1948

## THE MONARCH OF BERMUDA

### NO TRANSFER TO FOREIGN FLAG

FROM OUR SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

The Minister of Transport has not seen his way to sanction the transfer of the British turbo-electric liner Monarch of Bermuda, of 22,500 tons gross, to a foreign flag. The proposed sale of the ship by the British marine underwriters, whose property she now is, to an Argentine shipping company was conditional on the grant of permission to transfer the vessel from the United Kingdom register.

Negotiations respecting the future of the ship have been resumed at the point where they were interrupted by the Argentine offer. The Ministry is in contact with the Australian Government and with the underwriters. If these negotiations are successful the Ministry may be expected to buy the ship, which is now lying at Rosyth, and to arrange with the Australian Government for the necessary work to be done so that she could be employed in carrying emigrants from this country to Australia.

The price mentioned throughout in discussions which the marine underwriters have had with prospective purchasers has been £250,000, including the costs they have incurred in repair work already undertaken, and in maintaining the liner since the fire of March 24 last. According to a Reuter message from Sydney, Mr. Arthur Calwell, Australian Immigration Minister, stated yesterday that Australia would recondition the ship at a cost of £1,000,000. She would make four voyages a year between the United Kingdom and Australia, and from 1949 would carry 6,800 settlers annually to Australia.



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