

"ANDROS VENTURE"

It is submitted Mr. Campbell be informed that this case has received the most careful consideration and that no possibility has been overlooked in an effort to see if the Maltese Cross could be assigned to the machinery.

Unfortunately, it has become obvious that the Committee could not assign this record without making a complete breach of the Society's Rules. The Maltese Cross is a statement of fact implying that construction has been carried out in accordance with the Rules and under the supervision of the Society's Surveyors. In the present instance, it has become unfortunately clear that when the first visit was made by one of our Engineer Surveyors, the main machinery was already ready in the shops.

We have had lengthy correspondence with our Offices in Montreal and New York in order to ascertain how these circumstances arose.

Mr. Riddell's letter of the 3rd April, 1952, to Mr. Campbell is only part of the correspondence which they exchanged at that time, when the question of classification was still under only consideration. This is clear from Mr. Campbell's letter two days later in which he stated "the writer expects to be in New York the later part of next week when this business will be taken up with our Principals". In fact it was not until the following August that the definite request for the Society's Survey was actually made. On the 7th April, 1952, whilst the discussions were still in hand, Mr. Riddell replied to Mr. Campbell's letter stating inter alia "I will be glad also to have your assurance that due notice will be given to our Surveyors by the Manufacturers of the machinery and components to enable them to attend for necessary tests or trials"

As far as can be ascertained, no such assurance was given and, in fact, it now appears that even in April, 1952, manufacture of the machinery had already commenced and that in August, when the official Survey Request Form was signed, the principal parts had already been made.

These unfortunate circumstances give cause for nothing but regret and do not offer the Committee any opportunity to assign the Maltese Cross for the machinery without being guilty of a mis-statement of fact and a failure to observe the long-standing practice of this Society.