

COPY.

17th May, 1900.

Gentlemen,

With reference to Mr. Turpin's letter of the 5th instant, respecting the proposal of the Owners of the S.S. No. 170 now being built by Messrs. Workman Clark & Co. Lim. to dispense entirely with Portland cement inside the double bottom, except under the boilers, and to coat the inside surfaces with cement wash or a thick coat of bitumastic varnish, I am directed to inform you that this matter received the attention of the General Committee at their meeting this day.

This matter has received careful consideration and I am directed to inform you that provided the bottom plates are fitted clemcher fashion to allow the water to run freely to the middle line, the flat keel plates be covered with cement between the inside butt straps, and no cement be put on the keel plates immediately under each of the centre suction pipes, so as to allow of the suction pipes being extended down to within $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the plate, in order to ensure that practically all water can be readily pumped from each of the double bottom compartments; also, provided the surfaces of the inside double bottom be well coated and special care be taken to thoroughly clean the double bottom on completion this proposal to dispense with the cement will be approved by the Committee, subject to the receipt of a letter of consent from the Owners of the vessel, and to inspection of the double bottom after every voyage, with the desirability of which the Committee feel sure the Owners will agree.

The approved sketches of Midship Section and Profile of this vessel forwarded for reference are returned herewith.



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Foundation

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Referred to the Chief Ship Surveyor