

No 61
Copy of correspondence relating to defects
in frames of No. 61, building under special
survey, by Mr J. G. Lawrie

Glasgow 6th March 1873

Rec 24/4/73

C. Besant Esq

Dear Sir,

I have consulted my Iron Merchants
through whom I bought the iron to which you object -
They say that it is the same as the iron the Blochairn
Coys are supplying to all the Ship Builders on the Clyde,
and that if this iron is sent back the reply I will get is
certain to be that they, the Blochairn Coys, decline to supply
any more iron.

The cracks through the rivet holes arise
from the reverse frames being thoroughly pried home to
the main frame - I offer to put a doubling strap at
each place where there is a cracked hole - For the future
I fear you must be contented with less plying home, or
take the doubling strap when a crack occurs.

What am I to do? I can do no more
to please you! - I request your immediate attention to this
matter, as I am building the ship to be ready at a
time, and if I am obliged to delay and my men go away,
I will have great difficulty in recovering them

I am

Yours most truly
(signed) J. G. Lawrie

Glasgow 6th March 1873

My dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of this day's date, I can

only say the frame in question is, in its present state, defective and it must be conceded the description of iron (which you have admitted) is not good enough to stand the necessary plying up; therefore you will agree with me that unless properly plied up, it must of necessity be pronounced bad workmanship
I am

Yours truly

(signed) Christopher Besant

J. G. Lawrie Esq

Glasgow 8th March 1873

C. Besant Esq

Dear Sir,

What do you wish me to do about the angle iron for my steamer No 61? Please let me know and oblige

Yours most truly

(signed) J. G. Lawrie

Memorandum - Glasgow 10th March 1873

from - C. Besant

Lloyds Surveyor

To - J. G. Lawrie Esq

Whiteinch

Your note dated 8th instant did not reach me until my return from your yard this evening; therefore having given you my verbal opinion on the matter it will not be again necessary to state it.

Glasgow 10th March 1873

C. Besant Esq

Dear Sir,

Referring to my note to you of the 6th inst. and to my conversation with you today, I must again ask you what it is you wish me to do - Any evidence you wish

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I wish that the iron is the same as that furnished by the Blochairn people to all the Ship Builders on the Clyde, is at your service at once, if you will state what that evidence is.

Better work I cannot do, and so long as you insist on the frames being so closely plied together cracks will occur at the holes.

Your proposal that my people should go into another yard and examine the frames made there, whether holes are cracked, is plainly impossible, because they could not make a sufficiently careful examination without giving offence.

Probably the best plan will be to make a report to London and send the correspondence, in order that steps may be taken without delay to ascertain whether any fault is due to me in any way, my very best exertions will be used to correct it; but in the meantime you place a barrier in my way, and you will not say what steps you wish me to take.

You say that the workmanship is what you want. I offer any evidence that you wish that the iron is the same as what is used in all the yards on the Clyde.

Please be expeditious and oblige

Yours most truly
(signed) J. G. Laurie

P.S. The above proposal to write to London is your own suggestion

(init.) J. G. L.

Glasgow 11th March 1873

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, I can only

repeat

repeat, it will be necessary that you remove the whole of the cracked reverse frames in question in your No. 61

I am, Yours truly

J. G. Lawrie Esq (signed) Christopher Besant

Glasgow 12th March 1873

C. Besant Esq

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge your favor of yesterday in which you say you repeat it will be necessary &c &c

You never said this before, permit me to state, and I have asked you several times what you wished me to do - Through these un-necessary delays the iron is ^{now} all used, and one half of the frames are riveted up.

You stated in the presence of two of my foremen, that you had an impression I had ordered inferior iron to that used by my neighbours in order to get it at a reduced price - That impression I am ready to disprove -

I call upon you to report the circumstances to London and to send the correspondence, which please do without delay, and oblige

Yours most truly

(signed) J. G. Lawrie

Glasgow 12th March 1873

J. G. Lawrie Esq

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of this day's date I respectfully beg to draw your attention to Sec. 3, page 46 of the Rules, which speaks of the quality of the iron required; also Sec. 23, page 3 pointing out the course that should be

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pursued, if you are not satisfied with my recommendations, this will give you the opportunity of sending the correspondence to London

I am, Yours truly
(signed) Christopher Besant

Glasgow 14th March 1873

C. Besant Esq

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 12th inst. and I must again request that you report the circumstances to London, and that you send the correspondence

I am, Yours truly
(signed) pro J. G. Lawrie
JML

Glasgow 14th March 1873

My dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of this day's date, I beg to say if you take objection to my recommendations the course pointed out in memo. of 12th instant is the only and proper one for you to take, and if you deem it necessary you are the person who should lay the correspondence before the Committee

I am, Yours truly
J. G. Lawrie Esq
(signed) Christopher Besant

Glasgow 17th March 1873

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of the 14th instant. (You seem resolved to waste as much time as possible. The two clauses to which you refer have nothing to do with the matter it appears to me. Please understand that unless

ordered

ordered by other authority than you, I have no intention of removing the angle iron - If you insist upon it I will write to London, and I will send up all the correspondence that they may see the extent to which you facilitate our progress - If however you compel me to write I will not take that trouble without making it clear how much I have been molested - The blunder you made about the ground tackle of the "St Nicholas" cost me £300, as it brought me in for demurrage, and I never complained about it much.

I do not want to say a word unpleasant, nor to have a row, but there is a limit to endurance, and I think it has now been reached

I am, (Yours truly
(signed) J. G. Lawrie

P.S. There is no doubt that it is for you who should write and you can tell your story your own way

Glasgow 17th March 1873

J. G. Lawrie Esq.
Dear Sir,

Having today visited your yard in conjunction with my Colleague, Mr. Moverly, and finding the broken reverse frames in your No 61 Building under special survey (so repeatedly complained of) are being repaired in a most objectionable manner, I have respectfully to inform you, that, in consequence of your still continuing to act adverse to my recommendations, I am compelled to decline farther survey, and again refer you to Sec. 23 page 3 of the Rules, which clearly shows you are the proper person to appeal to the Committee.

It will also be my duty to notify the owners of the

the existing state of matters.

Your letter of this day's date to hand a reply to which will be found above

I am, Yours truly
(signed) Christopher Besant

Glasgow 18th March 1873

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of yesterday and I will communicate with London immediately. I will ask Mr Waymouth to do me the favor if he can spare the time to come North. I think and I require that you will defer making any report to the Owners until the result of this reference to London is ascertained. Please let me know if you agree to this

I am, Yours truly
(signed) J. G. Lawrie

C. Besant begs

Telegram

19th March 1873

from Lloyds Surveyors

To Tomlinson, Hodgkiss & Co

Glasgow

Liverpool

to Lawrie building a screw steamer for you

Tomlinson Hodgkiss & Co's Reply to the above Telegram
Lawrie is building steamer for us on account of
Biscayan Steam Ship Company

Glasgow 19th March 1873

Messrs Tomlinson, Hodgkiss & Co

Liverpool.

Gentlemen,

Referring to my telegram of today and your reply; I have to inform you that in the frame of the screw steamer

steamer building to your order by Mr J. G. Lawrie, under special survey, that some thirty one reverse frames are broken, several in three places, and consecutively. Mr Lawrie refuses to remove them, consequently when reporting on this vessel for class, it will be my duty to bring this with any other defects before the Committee, which will assuredly interfere with the grade contemplated by you

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours truly

(signed) Christopher Besant

Glasgow 19th March 1873

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 18th instant to hand and contents noted ^{you say} yesterday: "Please let me know if you agree" to it, my reply is most certainly. I have already put myself in communication with Messrs Tomlinson & Hodgetts & Co Liverpool, who are acting for the Biscayan Steam Ship Company

I am Yours truly

(signed) Christopher Besant

J. G. Lawrie Esq,

Liverpool 20th March 1873

Christ Besant Esq

Lloyds Register of Shipping
Glasgow

Dear Sir,

Your telegram of yesterday and letter to hand, and we beg to thank you for calling our attention to the bad frames in the Steamer Mr Lawrie is building for us. Capt. Pentreath also wrote us on the subject and we have told him to call on you. We have written Mr Lawrie insisting on the frames being taken down and hope there may be no further trouble. We have however lost confidence in Mr Lawrie

Your most obedient servants

(signed) Tomlinson, Hodgetts & Co