

50.
The Secretary
Lloyd's Register of Shipping
London.

~~11. Chancery Lane~~
Leith 24th June 1849

Sir,

S.S. 'Ella'

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th inst. Instead however of giving me the information for which I asked in my letter to you of 10th inst. you merely give me some remarks apparently supplied by Mr. Sturrock after seeing my letter to you. This I am unable to accept in place of a Survey Report, as it is neither specific enough in pointing out what he considered defective nor gives any recommendation as to what in his opinion is necessary in order to remedy these defects.

In like manner you pass over my enquiry as to what you would propose as a fair test of the Boiler with regard to the pressure of steam now carried.

I beg to draw your attention to the fact that on the 21st May last Mr. Dawkins applied for and I paid him £6. for special Survey No. 2 on Hull & Machinery and Certificate; - and to the additional fact that I have neither received the Certificate promised by your Surveyors nor any report except a verbal one from either. Their reports to me personally & verbally were

as follows:-

Mr Dawkins - "I find the hull of the ship and everything connected with my department in excellent order, - and you have in fact done more than was required at this time".

Mr Shurrock - "I recommend you to have nothing to do with the Machinery Certificate, as in order to give that I would require work done upon the Boiler which might cost about £100; and as you will require a new Boiler in two years I could not advise you to spend money in such repairs as I would ask in order to give the certificate."

Mr Shurrock never said one word about the Boiler being so far inefficient or defective as to imperil the vessel's safety nor hinted at such a thing: he gave no particulars as to defects nor asked anything to be done.

~~Both Mr Dawkins and he were however quite explicit & unanimous in stating that the only result as regards the classification would be the withholding of the fig 1. for equipment.~~

I am therefore quite at a loss to understand either your letter or the action of your Committee in passing the 'Ella' in a recent Supplement to your Register as I now find has been done, without giving me an

an opportunity of knowing the reason nor of doing any thing to prevent it.

I must say that I consider this very bad treatment and very unlike what I expected and have hitherto experienced from your Society. I give the most emphatic repudiation to what is implied in your last letter, that dated 20th inst - viz:- that I "decided to send the vessel to sea in so unsatisfactory a condition" - making it appear as if I had done so against the opinion of your Surveyors, - and I am very much surprised that such a grave charge should thus be insinuated now for the first time, without the shadow of foundation.

What I now request is that you will immediately withdraw the red ring from the Register, - and furnish me with a copy of the Report of your Engineer Surveyor which I ought to have had at first and surely in any case before the Committee took the extraordinary step they have done, for which I can find no parallel nor justification.

I am, Sir,
Yours obed^t Serv^t
James Cosmack



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