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Private & Confidential

15th November, 1938.

Dear Mr. Morrison,

I duly received your letter of the 10th September last regarding the case of the steamer "AYMERIC", and very careful consideration has been given to your remarks in this connection.

With regard to your statement that in your opinion Mr. Black carried out the work entrusted to him in a satisfactory manner, if this had been the case, it is difficult to understand why upon Mr. Butler seeing the vessel in Calcutta it was necessary to require extensive repairs to bilge brackets, shell plating, upper and bridge deck plating, deck plating in bunkers, mainframes in bridge space.

The opinion held in this Office is that Mr. Black should, during his continuation of Mr. Macdonald's work, have observed the necessity for work of this nature and have reported the matter to you, when no doubt you would have taken steps to visit the vessel to satisfy your self as to what was required.

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Another point which occurs to us is that it might have been possible for you to have so adjusted the work in the port that Mr. Black could have been employed on some of the more minor surveys which you were undertaking at that time, which would have given you an opportunity of inspecting the "AYMERIC" yourself. It is agreed that your time was fully occupied with survey work of one nature or another at that time, but it would appear that some of the work upon which you were engaged was not so important as the present case.

With all the facts before them the Committee are unable to alter their decision that Mr. Black cannot again be employed on the Society's work, and in this connection perhaps I may indicate the responsibility which they would be assuming should a further similar case occur and any question of legal liability were to arise.

I may add that there is no suggestion that you were in any way neglecting to take what you considered to be the best steps in the circumstances and there has never been any question about your willingness to serve the Society at all times to

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the best of your ability.

Yours sincerely,

T. S. Morrison, Esq.,

HONG KONG.



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