

s.s. "AYMERIC"

Several important matters arise out of this report:-

(1) The nature of the survey carried out at Hong Kong, the survey report being signed by Mr. Black "for self and Mr. Macdonald", in this connection see page 3 of Mr. Butler's report where he states "it is considered that Mr. Peskett had no alternative but to take the action he did ..... Making due allowance for increased wastage that may have taken place, the condition of the vessel, in my opinion, is not consistent with the proper carrying out of the survey held at Hong Kong in March 1937".

(2) The permission given to employ Mr. Black. Mr. Black is the representative of the British Corporation in Hong Kong, and the permission to employ him seems to have been subject to no qualification other than "when occasion demands".

(3) The fact that Mr. Morrison appears to have taken no part in the survey and did not sign the report.

A summary of the survey work in Hong Kong between the dates covered by the survey of the "AYMERIC" has been made by Mr. Butler, from which it appears that Mr. Morrison's survey work generally amounted to 2.2 visits per day, not including Sundays. This, however, is subject to a reduction of unknown amount, as, for example, in the case of the survey held on the "EMPRESS OF ASIA", the report on which was signed by both Mr. Morrison and Mr. Macdonald, 18 visits have been credited to both Surveyors.

On the evidence in this Office it would appear that there was small justification for the employment of Mr. Black.

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