

COPY.

W1206-0140 $\frac{1}{2}$

8th. February 1909.

Dear Sir,

S/S "SINGU".

Messrs. Finlay, Fleming & Co., Rangoon, have informed me that they propose to dry-dock the above-named steamer at Bombay, about the 12th. Instant, and to then effect a permanent repair of the defect in her bottom plating.

In view of the steamer having come under my inspection for S S No.1 in April 1908, I am considerably interested in her present condition and would be much obliged by your kindly acquainting me with the result of your examination of her bottom plating.

I would observe that towards the end of January 1907, the steamer was examined by me in dry dock for an Annual Survey and, some pitting of her bottom plating inside the oil tanks being found, the tanks were then cleaned and the bottom inside covered with cement. Later when undergoing S S No.1, the cement in the bottom of her oil tanks appeared to be sound.

I gather that the leak in the bottom occurred close to a suction of the oil pipe line and it appears to me that this particular spot in each oil tank is bare and active corrosion likely to be still going

going on there. I would suggest that the short piece of suction pipe in each oil tank be removed to admit of a thorough inspection of the plating there being made, any excessive wastage of the material through corrosion dealt with, as required, and afterwards the bare portions of the plating be efficiently protected by a covering of cement. The pieces of suction pipe would require to be shortened and re-fitted - in consequence of the layer of cement placed below.

The removal and subsequent shortening and re-fitting of the suction pipes in all oil tanks - though entailing some expenditure of time and money - appears to be now a necessary measure and would certainly have been recommended by me at the time of the vessel undergoing her S S No.1, had the necessity for it then been apparent and moreover with a vessel only 4 years old one does not feel justified in going so far without ample cause. I may say that I have discussed this matter with one of the Company's Commanders here and requested him to mention the same to the Managing Agents in Rangoon, who will therefore be prepared for some considerable work being now done.

Of course, the foregoing remarks are tendered merely as views and suggestions.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. Whittell Esq.,

Bombay.