

171 JAN 1934

Tugs "SAUCY", "ST.SAMPSON", "ST.AUBIN" and "ST.DOMINIC" owned  
by the Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co.Ld.

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In September last a letter was received from the Shanghai Surveyor enclosing two communications from the Owners stating that it was their intention to allow the classes of these vessels to lapse as they became due for survey, in view of the attitude of the Chinese Government in refusing to recognise survey certificates issued by this Society in the port of Shanghai. In his covering letter the Surveyor states it appears that the Harbour Master stated that he was unable to grant a towing licence unless these tugs held a certificate of survey of the Bureau of Navigation, a body formed in 1930, its intended functions being the measurement and survey of all vessels trading to Inland Waters and Non-Treaty ports. Formerly it was the practice to issue towing licences on presentation of survey certificates of the Customs Surveyors (now abolished), Lloyd's Register or other approved Society. The Surveyor added that in these circumstances the question of the retention of the classes of these tugs would be considered by the Owners at the next Board Meeting, and he suggested that action might be deferred pending receipt of a further letter from him.

A letter has now been received from the Surveyor stating that the Owners have finally decided to withdraw these vessels from classification.

As the Surveyor has taken the matter up with the Harbour Master and the Owners, and as the Chinese Government apparently declines to accept the certificates of this, or any other, Society, it is not seen what action could usefully be taken with a view to retaining these vessels in this Society's classification.

In these circumstances it is a matter for consideration whether action might not be taken in accordance with the submission in the endorsement attached to each case.

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