

Hopper Barge "B.H.C. 13".

Mr. Milton's letter of the 10th instant regarding this barge stated that the tests carried out under working conditions on the 10th instant showed that leakage was taking place from the well into the buoyancy chambers, and that a further test would be necessary.

Mr. Milton subsequently stated on the 12th instant that leakage was discovered from the deck angles to the coamings, and that the barge would again be examined on the 13th instant. It was therefore naturally concluded that a second test had been made on the 12th instant and that the leakage from the deck angles was only discovered on the second occasion and was separate and distinct from the leakage discovered on the 10th instant.

A letter enclosing a sketch has now been received from Messrs. Harrison and Milton explaining that the leakage discovered in the deck angles to the coamings was through the rivets and not due to defective caulking, and that this leakage was the same as that referred to in their letter of the 10th, although differently described.

It is submitted the Surveyors be informed that they ^{did not} ~~should have made~~ it clear in the first instance that the leakage from the well into the buoyancy space occurred through the rivets of the deck coaming angle, their second letter of the 12th instant making it appear that the leakage through the deck angles was additional to that found on the occasion of the first test from the well into the buoyancy spaces.

It is also to be regretted that in the special circumstances of the case the Surveyors did not satisfy themselves as to the soundness of the riveting by examining and testing by hammer before filling the sludge well thus necessitating a further test.

Lr. 19.11.13.

C.B.
18.11.13. *PM*

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