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Lloyd's Register of British & Foreign Shipping,

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

13th November, 1913.

Gentlemen,

D. I am in receipt of Mr. Milton's letter of the 12th instant, in reference to the case of the Hopper Barge "B. H. C. 13", and with regard thereto I am directed to observe that from Mr. Milton's letter of the 10th instant it would appear that when the first test was carried out under working conditions on that day there was found to be leakage into the buoyancy chambers from the well. It is difficult to understand how it was that the leakage from the deck angles to coamings now reported by Mr. Milton to have been found on the second test on the 12th instant was not discovered on the occasion of the first test on the 10th instant.

I have further to point out that in all cases in which decks are tested by hose the gunwale angles and hatch coaming angles are passed on hose tests and close examination and testing by knife. It is considered that the defective caulking now reported at the deck angles should have been observed at an earlier stage upon close examination, and the Committee desire to be furnished with any remarks which it may be deemed desirable to offer as to why the defective

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caulking escaped the Surveyor's attention.

The Committee much regret that a third test under working conditions has been found to be necessary, and I am to impress upon you the necessity of devoting the greatest care and attention to this case, particularly in view of what has already transpired concerning the construction of the vessel.

Mr. Harrison, the Principal Surveyor, was requested on the 22nd ultimo to join in the survey of the Hopper Barge in question, and I have to desire that he will be good enough to join in the further report asked for above.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant to the Secretary.

The Surveyors,

NEWCASTLE ON TYNE.



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