

Lloyd's Register of British & Foreign Shipping,

LOYDS REGISTER. Ocean Chambers, Lowgate,
LONDON

REC'D 27 OCT 1913 Hull, 25th October 1913.

ANS'D 27/11 (Letter to
Mr. Wilson)



Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant in regard to the Hopper Barge "B.H.C.13" (Hull Report No.26743) and in reply to state that the Building of this barge was begun in February of this year, Mr. Warren's Works where the vessel was built being in Mr. Demarest's District.

In visiting the vessel with Mr. Demarest I found the work then in progress satisfactory and Mr. Demarest on several occasions expressed his satisfaction with the work done at Mr. Warren's Yard.

The Owners representative was in fairly regular attendance at the works and on no occasion did he make any complaint to us of the work being done on the vessel.

When Mr. Demarest received instructions to proceed to Nantes, I took over his entire district in addition to my own, pending the arrival of Mr. Laws, and in consequence of our being thus shorthanded, and there being a pressure of work in all parts of the District, these works did not receive the attention they should have done, and about three weeks elapsed before I found an opportunity of going to New Holland.

On visiting the works on the 25th of June, my first

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visit after Mr. Demarest's departure, I found the vessel practically completed with the exception of a number of deck fittings and the crew accommodation, the belting having been fitted the wooden plugs and caulking referred to could not be seen.

It was probably during the interval between the last visits of Mr. Demarest, and the 25th of June that the indifferent workmanship complained of was done, as the Builder now informs me that about this time he lost most of his best workmen who found better employment at Petroleum Tanks building for the Government, at Killingholme.

When I tested the deck with water a few days before the vessel left for Blyth it was found in good order and perfectly tight, there was no leakage whatever from any of the parts referred to in your letter. At this date the vessel was making no water, as, in order to test the pumps water had to be put in her.

I regret that I did not in the case of this vessel make my usual thorough examination of vessels built in my district before launching, not realizing, then, the length of time that had elapsed between Mr. Demarest last visit and my own.

I very much regret that this unfortunate affair has occurred, I however, consider that the District in undermanned and that another Ship and Engineer Surveyor is required.

We have been endeavouring to carry on the work in the

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district in a satisfactory manner until the large new dock was opened, which will probably take place shortly, before asking that another Surveyor should be appointed to the District although I have considered for some time that one was required.

The District is large and scattered, the number of vessels using the Port increasing, and a lot of time is taken up in travelling.

I have added New Holland to my own District, as Mr. Demarest found he could not, without very late hours, give it the attention required and I find that it is not possible, with the District I have now to specially look after, to give the amount of time to the General Superintendence of the District that I consider it requires.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Secretary,
LONDON.

Allison B. Wilson.

P.S. Mr. Demarest's last entry in journal is dated 16th May,
Progress of work, Plating and Riveting Shell.



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