

COPY

Feb. 4, 1918.

The Secretary,
Lloyd's Register of Shipping,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

ult I am in receipt of Mr. French's letter of the 29th inst., enclosing a copy of the Secretary's letter, London, addressed to Mr. French, having reference to the Aux. Wood Schooners, "ESQUIMALT" and "LAUREL WHALEN", built at Victoria, and in reply thereto I beg to state that all soft wood vessels built and building on the Pacific Coast, classed or unclassed, are constructed with unseasoned timber, as it is impossible to get it otherwise, and as they are not built under cover, the amount of rain which falls during their construction does not give the timber any chance of drying.

These vessels are expected to be recaulked above the light water line decks and waterways, stanchions, etc., on the termination of the maiden voyage, more especially after a voyage across the Equator to such Ports in Australia.

I may add that the outside planking seams above the light water line are painted three coats over the caulking instad of being pitched for that express purpose.

The "ESQUIMALT" and "LAUREL WHALEN" on completion were found in every way efficient, staunch and tight, the machinery examined under full speed trials for four hours and found satisfactory.

The pumps were tried and found efficient, probably these were put out of order by some chips or shavings finding its way to the suction; this I may add is known to have occurred and the Builder's attention has always been drawn to same.

Signed W. COLLINGS.



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