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Wood Screw Drifter "RENNYHILL" ex "DYKER LASSIE" ex "FOGBANK";

No. 86854 in the Supplement to the Register Book;

95 tons gross; Built in 1919-5 mo.; Port - Kirkcaldy;

Owner: J. Muir (J.T. Graham, Mgr)

Classed: 11 A1
For fishing purposes
3.20

LMC 3.20
(CL)

This is a case of a wood drifter which was built for the Admiralty at Hull in May 1919, the timbering and beams being of oak, the outside planking being of oak and elm with the topsides of oak.

She was employed in line and herring fishing during 1921, afterwards laid up at Anstruther, and purchased by the present Owner in May 1922.

She was engaged in herring fishing from August to November 1922.

The representatives of the Owner recently informed the Leith Surveyors that during last season indications of dry rot had been found to exist, and that the Owner was taking up the matter with the Admiralty.

The vessel was bought on the strength of her having been built to this Society's classification, and the Owner's Representatives stated that should a settlement with the Admiralty not be obtained, the matter would probably be discussed in the Law Courts, although they were advised that they have no claim for error of description and that no guarantee is given by this Society. It was also stated that the Underwriters had refused to accept the vessel, even as a harbour risk.

In the circumstances, the Society's Leith Surveyors were instructed to hold a Special Survey on the vessel in conjunction with Mr. T. Richardson, one of the Surveyors at Aberdeen who has had considerable experience in wooden vessels.

The Surveyors report that from the stem to the after end of the fish room, the timbers, planking, inside bilge stringers, centre and side keelsons, and ceiling were found to be generally attacked by dry rot. Portions of the timbers, centre and side keelsons had already been removed and there were no arrangements for ventilation of the space behind the ceiling.

Indications of dry rot were also found in the counter and on parts of the main rail on the bulwarks on both sides. In the bunkers where the woodwork had been coated with tar, no signs of dry rot were found; also no dry rot was visible in the machinery space.

The Surveyor under whose inspection the vessel was built was requested to furnish his remarks on the case and he states that "during construction most careful observation was kept to see that the materials of every description were sound and free from sap. It must be born in mind, however, that at the time this vessel was constructed seasoned timber was difficult to obtain and she was not built under cover, but exposed during the whole course of construction to the weather. In these circumstances, it would be very necessary, when such a vessel was laid up, that thorough ventilation should be maintained through every part of the structure. That rot has set in at such an early stage seems to point to the fact that this precaution cannot have been taken in the case of this vessel".

The Chief Ship Surveyors state that "it might be remarked that during the war when so many vessels of this type were built in different parts of the Country, the wood could not (owing to the celerity of their construction) have been properly seasoned (i.e. they were built of green timber) but they have not given any trouble due to dry rot.

"It is considered the home-grown wood used in the

"construction of this vessel must have lost its vitality
"prior to the tree being felled, and therefore the initial
"growth of the fungus causing dry rot was existent in the
"wood prior to it being cut or sawn to shape, and in these
"conditions it is only natural to expect that unless special
"attention was given to the vessel when she was laid up, the
"growth of the fungus causing dry rot would proceed with
"extreme rapidity".

The case occupied the attention of the Classing
Committee on Tuesday the 5th instant, when the Committee
decided to expunge the class with a black line (6.23),
indicating that from reported defects the vessel is not
entitled to retain her class.

7th

7th June, 1923.



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