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Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

Ref:- M.15385/23.

17th July, 1924.

Dear Sir,

D. I duly received your letter of the 10th instant, calling attention to the case of the s.s. "PORT AUCKLAND", which, after leaving Lyttelton on the 20th June, 1923, encountered heavy weather and sustained considerable damage, including the buckling of some of the shelter deck plating and beams.

With regard thereto I have to state that this case was very carefully investigated in October last, when the Committee had before them particulars of the loading at the time of the damage and calculations based thereon, and upon other assumed conditions of loading, and came to the conclusion that the buckling of the deck was due to the abnormal conditions of loading, and not to inherent weakness in the structure of the vessel, and there is every reason to believe that the owners have made arrangements to prevent such abnormal conditions of loading being adopted in any of their vessels in future.

The responsibility for the proper loading of a vessel must rest with the owner and/or master, and the Committee think that this is sufficiently well recognised to

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render it unnecessary to write specially to shipowners and shipmasters, as suggested in your letter.

I may add that the Committee have at present under consideration the question of the stresses to which vessels are subjected when proceeding in ballast trim with a large quantity of bunker coal on board, and when a decision has been arrived at in the matter I shall have the pleasure of writing to you again.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

The Assistant Secretary,
Mercantile Marine Department,
BOARD OF TRADE,
3, Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
S. W. 1.



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