

Round Bars for Rivets for Chantiers de Normandie Steam Trawler, Yard No. T.8, ordered from Societe Lorraine des Acieries de Rombas, Rombas, by Comptoir Siderurgique de France.

The name of this Works was deleted last year from the List of Steel Manufacturers recognised by the Committee on account of non-compliance with the requirements of Circular No.1618 relating to Annual Inspection.

The Paris Office stated that the Firm had received an order for rivet bars intended for a vessel building to class in France, and the Firm accordingly applied for this Works to be reinstated in the List.

The Surveyor at Metz was therefore authorised to make the usual examination of these Works, and was also informed that material for the rivet bars mentioned above might be utilised for the purpose of forming part of the series of tests required, but he was not to sign any documents concerning this material until his report on the whole Works had been examined in this Office.

The Paris Office now forward a translation of a letter received from Messrs. Comptoir Siderurgiques de France, in which they state that all the material ordered by them for the above vessel from Messrs. Acieries de Longwy, on the approved List, except 7 tons of "ronds" and "plats", which, as the Acieries de Longwy Steelworks could not supply this material without delay, had been ordered from Messrs. Acieries de Rombas.

This material is now ready, but the Comptoir Siderurgique understand from the Acieries de Rombas that owing to the expenses consequent upon the re-entering of the name of this Firm on the approved List, and of the little importance of the tonnage of material ordered, the latter Company have decided to cancel their request for re-entry.

The Comptoir Siderurgique point out that as a result they must either cancel the material already made

by the Acieries de Rombas or place a fresh order with other Steelworks, involving a delay of 6 to 8 weeks.

Alternatively, they suggest the material be inspected and tested by the Surveyor to Bureau Veritas, subject to the Committee's agreement.

They add that they quite understand that this course would be quite exceptional and would in no way create a precedent.

They hope that in view of the fact that the quantity of the material in question is only small and of the inconvenience of the delay to the building of the "T.8", the Committee will agree to this proposal.

IT IS SUBMITTED the Paris Office be informed that, in the special circumstances of this case, it has been decided that the Metz Surveyor may attend at these works for the purpose of testing the round bars and flats under notice, but it should be distinctly understood that no further material can be accepted from these works unless they comply with the requirements of Circular No.1618 relating to the Annual Inspection of Steelworks.

It should be pointed out that when these works were originally approved, it was stated that Bessemer steel and Open Hearth steel were manufactured, and, if this is the case at present, the Surveyor should take special steps to ensure that the steel presented to him for testing has been made by the Open Hearth process.

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