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30th October, 1928.

Dear Mr. Dekkers,

I am favoured with your letter of the 26th instant, and note what you say regarding the case of the s.s. "ZONNEWIJK".

I am very sorry indeed to learn that you feel you have any cause for complaint in this case, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to explain the position to you.

It was only on the 9th October that my attention was called to the fact that the accounts outstanding for the special survey during construction of the three steamers recently built by the Clyde S.B. & E. Co. had not been paid. The special survey during construction in each case was completed and accounts rendered for the fees, but I was informed that the Shipbuilding Company had gone into liquidation, and was unable to make any arrangements for the payment of the account.

Realising that it might be injurious to the Owners of these three vessels, which were all trading at sea, if no steps were taken in the matter with a view to the classification fees being paid in order to enable the certificates of classification to be issued and the classification inserted in the Register Book, I thought it advisable in the interests of the Owners to call their attention to the matter.

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I consulted the Society's Solicitors on the question and was advised that as the payment of the Society's fees is a condition precedent to the classification of the vessels, the best course in the interests of the Owners was for them to arrange to pay the fees, in order to obtain the classification certificate, and then to enter their claim against the shipbuilding company to the liquidator.

This course has already been followed in the case of one of the steamers; the classification completed, and the certificates issued, and the classification is now being recorded in the Society's Register Book.

I regret exceedingly that you appear to be under a misapprehension in this matter. I had no knowledge whatever of the financial position of the Clyde S.B. & E. Co., and therefore it was quite impossible for me to have taken any steps to protect your interests in this case. If you yourself had been aware of the financial status of the company, and had required the production of our classification certificate before paying the last instalment, there would have been no difficulty in arranging for the reports to be expedited and the certificates prepared and handed over on completion of the vessel against the payment of the fees.

It is the invariable practice of the Committee to require the fees to be paid before the Classification Certificates are issued. This condition is of universal application, and I am extremely sorry that you should feel any annoyance at its being

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opted in this case.

I can assure you that the Committee regard your company as one of the Society's highly valued clients, and would not dream of doing anything that might give you the slightest cause of offence. It was as I thought in your own interests that it was desirable to let you know the position of affairs as soon as we were apprised of it ourselves, and I sincerely hope that you will understand the Society's attitude in the matter.

I have brought the cases of the three vessels in question specially under the notice of Sir George Higgins, our chairman, and he has consulted his colleagues in the matter, but with every desire to meet your wishes, they do not see how the Society can adopt any other course than that which has always been allowed in such cases.

I therefore trust that you will see your way to accept the suggestion which has been made, and arrange for the payment of the fees at your early convenience, claiming against the Shipbuilding Company, as has been done in other similar cases.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours faithfully,

W. C. Dekkers, Esq.,
P. O. Box No. 313,
ROTTERDAM.



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