

CASES OF S.S. "TAIREA" & "TAKLIWA".

Mr. Scott telephoned today as follows :-

When I went over and saw the British India people about sending a Surveyor to Calcutta, I first saw Mr. Ritchie, but it was not in his department. He is a P. & O. Director. He referred me to Mr. Langridge, whom I met in his room with Mr. Hotblack. Mr. Langridge said that these matters were dealt with in the Secretary's Department. He took me to that Department. He found that Mr. Hamilton, the Secretary, had just gone. I therefore saw the Assistant Secretary, who had a file of the papers regarding the two cases, and seemed to know all about it.

I explained fully to him the object of my visit. He took notes of what I said and said the message would be sent to Lord Inchcape, and they would take his instructions in the matter. You will therefore see that there was no indication either one way or the other as to whether the decision would be final or not because they at Leadenhall Street were not in a position to make a decision. The decision is with Lord Inchcape and is conveyed to us in the letter from the British India Co.

As regards what may be done now. Will Mr. Redman tell Sir Thomas this? In view of the intimation which we have now received from the Builders stating that two of their most important men are going out in all probability to fight the case on behalf of the Builders as against the Owners and this Society's local Surveyors, I think we should see Lord Inchcape at once, explain the position to him and ask him whether he still thinks it undesirable for us to send out a special Surveyor, of course, at our own expense.

If Lord Inchcape is not in town, I think we should 'phone to Dr. Montgomery to go and see him at Glenapp in Scotland, because the impression I got when I went round to

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Leadenhall Street was that there was no one there who could give a decision in the matter without Lord Inchoape, and we will only be wasting time to bother them about it. I do not think we should waste any time over it but do it at once.

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