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Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

12th April, 1932.

Dear Sirs,

S.S. "ALABAMA"

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On the 17th ultimo, a letter was received from Mr. G. Rodgers, of Messrs. Matthews, Wrightson & Co. Ltd., addressed to Sir George Higgins, the Chairman of this Society, forwarding your letter of the 5th ultimo, regarding the case of this vessel.

I explained to Messrs. Matthews, Wrightson & Co., that Sir George was abroad, but that the matter would be carefully considered and dealt with on his return.

Sir George has returned to the office today, and gone into the question, and he desires me to write to you as follows:-

Sir George very much regrets to find that the explanations contained in my letter to you, dated the 3rd February, have not been considered satisfactory by you; and although it is not possible to add much to the very full and detailed statements contained in that letter, I beg to offer the further remarks on the subject.

With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter,

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I have to observe that the point referred to is dealt with, in so far as it is possible to deal with it, in my letter of the 3rd February, where it is stated that Mr. French in his discussions with all the Surveyors involved in this case was impressed with the unanimity of their statements that, when the condition of the deck plating was observed, the Master dismissed it as having no connexion with the damage. Further, my letter reports a statement by Mr. White to the effect that had the Master put forward, either verbally or in his list of damage, any claim for repairs to the wavy deck plating, he (Mr. White) would have had to consider it, even if he disagreed with the Master.

With regard to paragraph 3, and the postscript to your letter, I may say that it is not the concern of this Society to determine whether Mr. Silleman did or did not exceed his duty in signing a document on behalf of the Owners without the knowledge or authority of the Owners' Agents. On the question of fact, however, the letter of Messrs. Simpson, Spence & Young, dated 25th January, seems conclusive.

Respecting the question raised in paragraph 4, I have to state that the list of damages was, so far as is known, not requested by the Surveyors but offered to them for their inspection, and the reference to the second list is necessary in view of the point that was made in regard to the first list, namely, that the latter only dealt with articles of equipment, stores, etc.

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The remarks contained in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 have been noted, and so far as can be seen no exception can be taken to them.

Touching paragraph 12, I can only say that, as before stated, the Surveyors' justification of their action in signing the statement referred to was that the (to them) accredited agent of the Owners had also signed it.

With reference to paragraph 13 and 14, it is only possible for me to say that it is difficult to see how any contradiction exists here. The phrase regarding English speaking individuals present at the survey does not entirely rule out the Captain, for it is agreed that the Captain's knowledge of English and his capacity for speaking it were small, but that involves no contradiction with the statement that the Master dismissed the buckling as having no connexion with the damage.

In this connexion I should perhaps explain that in writing to the Society's Surveyors in the United States on the 5th January last, I included a paragraph to the following effect:-

"With regard to the statement alleged to have been made by the Captain regarding the slight waving of the deck plating, it has been pointed out by the Owners' Manager that the Captain, who is an Italian, does not know English very well, and it has been suggested that, on account of his slight

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"knowledge of English, there may therefore have been a
"misunderstanding between him and the Surveyors on the
"subject as to what he actually said or intended to say."

I very much regret to say that I do not see how
I can usefully add anything to the foregoing remarks, which
I hope will be satisfactory to you.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Messrs. "Petroleum" Soc. Anon. di Nav.,
Vico Demarini, 13,
GENOA.

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