

S.S. "BRITISH TOMMY" - Cables.

The Owners, the British Tanker Co., to whom this vessel has recently been delivered, state that since delivery they have experienced trouble due to the cables riding the windlass. It is stated they are satisfied that the windlass is designed for the proper size of cable with the usual standard link, and, finding large variations both in length and diameter of the link, they concluded that the cables were old cables of originally larger diameter which had been retested in accordance with the Act for cables of the size required in the vessel.

In accordance with their suggestion, enquiry has been made of the Superintendent of the Proving House at Cradley Heath, and it is clear that this is not the case, but that the cables are new.

In regard to the size of links, there is no generally recognised standard, and while in older vessels accuracy of pitch was not important, in modern vessels where large cables are used hauled in by power-operated windlasses in which the cable lifters grip alternate links, accuracy of pitch is more necessary.

These proportions have been standardised to some extent by the Admiralty, and cables for merchant vessels are usually made in accordance with this standard, windlass makers constructing the cable lifters to suit such standards. These standard links depend for their dimensions on the size of cable iron used in making the ordinary links.

For the cable required on the above vessel, viz: 1-9/16", the standard link would be 9.38 inches in length, but according to

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Traill, the maximum length for such link would be 9.53" and minimum 9.22". From the Owners' letter the links vary between 9.94" and 9.31" in length, and it will therefore be seen that they are larger in some cases than standard practice.

It is submitted there is no objection to communicating the source of manufacture to the Owners, and also the Superintendent's remarks, as this will confute any idea that these cables were not new. It would appear preferable not to comment on the size of the links, but to allow matters to develop, it being obvious that for the efficient working of the vessel it may be eventually necessary to design special cable lifters on the windlass to suit the range of length of the links.

WJ

BH
7.12.21

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Lloyd's Register
Foundation

W312-0059(212)

recastle Deck, Angle, Bulb Angle,
Plate, Tee Bulb, or Channel.....

Deck. Material and thickness

Steel
blood sheet

5x2 1/2