

(copy)

From the "Englishman" of 30/9/75

The survey of the "Magnolia"

To the Editor of the Englishman

Sir,— In reply to Captain Stewart's assertion that he surveyed the "Magnolia", allow me to ask him whether coming on board and sitting in the cabin constitutes a survey? If so, he surveyed the ship. Drawing your attention to a copy of his report, he states the ship had four new staple iron knees, three new hanging knees, and 350 new iron bolts with knees renewed out. Is this outside work? I observe Captain Stewart has not the hardihood to state he was ever below in the vessel's hold, or in the dock under the vessel. Did he ever try the caulking?

Captain Stewart must not think we were all asleep and not stirring at 5.30 A.M., for the only time he came to the dock, till he took particulars in the cabin, we saw him, and I will tell you exactly what he did. He came on the pier head, walked to the top of it, and returned to his boat. He was not on the dock premises for five minutes altogether, and at no time within 30 yards of the vessel. Captain Stewart's own letters will prove he never surveyed the vessel before the 16th, for on that date he refuses to do so. If he had surveyed her why was there a difficulty in insurance? Surely Captain Stewart does not mean he surveyed the vessel, and refused to report to his companies till he thought he would get a fee out of me. How also, if he surveyed the ship, could there have been any difficulty in insurance, for he will not, I should think, attempt to say he surveyed her the time he came on board and sat in my cabin, and after having told me the day before "I must now undo the

"work I did yesterday." What did this mean?

As for Captain Stewart stating the metal is wrinkled, you see his letter to that effect, dated after I refused to pay his fee.

If Captain Stewart has magnifying eyes sufficiently powerful to see through my ship's planking, then he may have surveyed her while passing in his boat; but I think the underwriters and public will agree with me in thinking no surveyor can survey a ship without going into her hold or under her bottom.

I challenge Captain Stewart to state on oath, was ever in either place and when? I can prove he was not.

(sd) J. B. T. Cator,
Master.

"Magnolia", September 30, 1875.

P. S. - Let me draw your attention to the fact that Captain Stewart states in his declaration that work done under native supervision is not to be depended on. In his letter of 17th he states my repairs are to be done under native supervision as a reason for not coming. Now, if that is a fact, how dare he say in his report that repairs have been done to his satisfaction? Does he mean he is satisfied with work that is not to be depended on? You will also observe Captain Stewart says in his report of 2nd September, "I attended this day to ascertain what repairs had been effected in order to be able to report, &c." Now if he had recommended the said repairs as he states, he would, I think, have known a little more than that leads us to believe, and why did he not embody such recommendation in a proper report like the other.

surveyors?

The other surveyors always required candles, ladders, &c., to make survey. Did Captain Stewart do that? Was his letter saying he would not survey the ship an idle boast, or what?

(sd) J. B. T. Cator



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