

Private and Confidential

Bernard Weymouth Esq

Secretary to Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping.

My dear Sir,

Enclosed please find a statement made gratuitously by Mr. W. H. Norman, late assistant in the Caledonia Dock (the dock that I recommended the Master of the "Magnolia" not to go into) I can assure you that I have every reason to believe, what Mr. Norman says is strictly correct, from my knowledge of the Native character in that dock, in fact I do not consider Native supervision safe and as you well know, it is impossible for a surveyor to be constantly present during repairs, it requires some responsible man, besides the Superintendent of the dock, (who is seldom present during the working hours) to supervise the work. The absence of a European Foreman (who would of course be paid were he there) in the above dock together with the facilities for cheating the Vessel and scamping the work that his (the foreman's) absence renders a very easy matter, enables the Caledonia Dock to go in at cheaper rates than the rest of the docks, and my fear is that, if some stop is not put to this irregular proceeding the other docks will follow suit. It may possibly be argued that the Captain and officers of the ships can superintend their own repairs, but besides this being a very bad precedent, I distinctly aver that not knowing the people they have to deal with they would be - cheats right and left, besides which I am afraid many of the ship Carpenters whilst they have the shore before them, too often see 2 or 3 bolts where there is only one. This, of course, is not intended as a sweeping assertion, nevertheless in too many instances it is a correct version.

I enclose official Correspondence to you regarding the "Magnolia" by this mail and beg you will use your discretion in presenting to or with-holding the enclosed statements from the Committee.



Trusting my explanation of this business  
your approval

I remain

Very dear Sir  
Yours sincerely  
J. H. Stewart

12 Hastings Street  
The 8 October 1875

Bernard

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October 5<sup>th</sup> 1875



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Lloyd's Register  
Foundation

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J. R.

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