

Extract of letter from Mr. J. B. Conway. Overlooker
on behalf of owners, and underwriters on ship Latona

Dunedin 14th July 1884

The Surveyor is Captain Russell who was called by the
Master & Agents to survey the ship when she first arrived
& also in dry Dock & on whose report (a copy of which I
sent you) the repairs of the vessel had been determined
upon & carried out. He expressed himself quite satisfied
with the repairs prior to her loading, as everything was done
to make the vessel in first class order & to retain her
character of A1 at Lloyds. I believe he had made her
Certificate out, but when he found she was making water
he would not give it & sent us a letter to that effect 12 days
after the repairs were finished & 10 days after the vessel was
loaded ready for sea, a copy of which I will enclose.

We had reason to believe the Surveyor (Captain Russell) was
influenced by the underwriters of the cargo, as he is in the
service of the underwriters association here & we called
another survey (independant) which has turned out in our
favour, a copy of which I enclose, as she has been proved to
be making only $\frac{5}{8}$ in per hour & slowly taking up.

The Underwriters have done all they could to separate the cargo
from the vessel, I suppose having repented taking the risk, but
I don't think after this last survey, they can offer any further
objection, but there is no doubt Captain Russell will do all in
his power to throw obstacles in the way, as he has been completely
thrown over. He showed his petty spite to-day, by going on board
the ship & telling the mate he would condemn the Chain Cables.
But we have provided for that in last independent survey,
Captain Thomson being a most eligible, having been Harbour
Master for many years & now Dock Master of this port, his
opinion is far before that of Captain Russell, especially as
Captain Russell is interested & he is not. David, Law & Co.

associated with him (Captain Thomson) is a very respectable
master shipwright whose opinion is of weight as it is well
known no man could tamper with him.

(signed) J. B. Conway



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