

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

Dunedin 18th July 1884

With regard to the Lloyd's Surveyor Captain Russell which I spoke about in mine of 14th inst. It has turned out that he has got the reports of his first & 2nd survey away from the office (Dalgety's) under pretence of making some extracts from them, but in reality to get possession of them & has not given them up & refuses to do so, on account of our having thrown him over & called in another survey. Fortunately I have sent you one copy home & kept one myself & as Dalgety's had a copy of the first one, we can do without them, so far as extending the protest goes. Mr. Spence (Manager Dalgety's) is very wroth about the matter & has written a strong letter to the Underwriters association about the matter. It was Mr. Spence who recommended him to the Master & he is so much the more vexed about his conduct now. However as I said in my last letter of the 14th inst. our last independent Survey covers all necessary matters as to the ship's seaworthiness in every respect. We have a good report of the work done to vessel from Mr. Menelaus shipwright who inspected the work for us (he was recommended & approved of by Lloyd's Surveyor) and as I was by the ship the whole time the repairs were going forward & paid the strictest attention to every item of it, I can fully testify that the ship is strong & staunch in every part & have done so in my report on the matter, a copy of which I will enclose, as also the Inspector's report. as the little water she is making I have not the least doubt she will be tight enough in a little, when she gets shaken up a bit, she is only making bare $\frac{1}{2}$ in per hour now, there are very few wooden ships making less. I think, under all the above testimony, that Captain Russell's dictum of unseaworthiness will not amount to much as it is well known here, that

opinion dont amount to much when opposed to more
practical & uninterested surveyors.

(signed) J. B. Conway



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