

Extract from letter received from Mr. J. B. Conway appointed to represent interest of Owners, & Underwriters on Hull of Ship.

Dunedin July 30<sup>th</sup> 1884.

Correspondence has been going on between the Agents (Dalgety's) and the Grain Agency Co. Christchurch re the payment of disbursements & to day they have refused definitely to have anything to do with the Latona, without a certificate of fitness to carry her present cargo to Great Britain is given by the Surveyor to Underwriters Association (Captain Russell). A cablegram would have been sent to you to day, but we came to the opinion it would be better to wait until to morrow, when Captain Russell will be here from Invercargill & see if he will modify his report. The Underwriters say they have no interest in the matter, but will advise Captain Russell to modify his report (there is a chance of his doing so) the Agents (Dalgety) say they think he will not dare to refuse, against the overwhelming opinion against him, which you will see before you get this by my last letter, but I am not so hopeful, as he has the Grain Agency at his back. It is the opinion of all here who know the circumstances that the W. S. Agency Co want to get the cargo out of her & so make her a constructive total loss as they don't want the grain sent home now.

Our case is getting serious, for we expect every day the vessel will be arrested & so complicate matters, putting aside the delay of the vessel, which to you is ruinous. It is my candid opinion you will lose your vessel if prompt arrangements are not now made to pay disbursements, you will see that the surveyors report is made out in the interests of shippers of cargo, by this not condemning the vessel as unseaworthy, but only so far as the carrying of her present cargo is concerned.

(signed)

J. B. Conway