COPY LETTER FROM CAPTAIN G. NEILL.

s.s. "CLAN MACNAB" BATAVIA 11/6/33.

" I beg to report that we arrived here on the evening of the 7th. inst., and shortly after we were in our coaling berth the Chief Engineer reported that the coupling between the turbine and tunnel shafts was cracked.

I immediately got in touch with Lloyd's surveyor and asked him to inspect same that night; the surveyor recommended the crack to be cut out and then welded and would not agree to the suggestion of the Chief Engineer that bands be shrunk on the flanges and a clamp fitted on the body of shaft.

I advised you by cable that night of the damage to shaft and next morning received your reply to shrink on bands and fit heavy clamp which as you will see from the above was what the Chief Engineer suggested.

I showed your telegram to Lloyd's surveyor and he discussed the matter with the Dry Dock Co. who are the only firm capable of doing the work at this port, and the surveyor refused to accept your proposal.

I had by this time received an estimate for the welding including taking out the intermediate tunnel shaft and replacing them again of about £500 and your proposal they estimated would cost about £700 (later they said that they understood the clamp was to be welded).

On/

s.s. "CLAN MACNAB", contd. 11/6/33.

On morning of the 9th. inst., I received your cable saying Lloyd's were in agreement with you as to the method of repair, and that they had cabled the surveyor.

On receipt of this I called on the Surveyor and while he agreed to the bands being shrunk on would not agree to the clamp until he had consulted with the exclusive surveyor at Sourabaya and he did not get in touch with him until after 2.p.m. however, after a discussion with the Chief Engineer I gave orders to start work on the clamp at noon.

The coupling was brought on board this morning and it will take about 24 hours to get it and the other shafts connected up and the clamp they hope to have ready by 10.a.m. tomorrow morning. The Surveyor has just informed us that he has cabled Lloyd's about reduction of speed and I was making up a cable to advise you of this when Agent came on board with your cable.

I got in touch with surveyor and he has agreed that on receipt of Lloyd's cable to leave the speed to my discretion.

Lloyd's last cable was sent at deferred rate and took 24 hours to come through so I trust this will arrive tomorrow.

Both the Chief Engineer and myself are quite satisfied that the repair is very strong and we will do all possible to make the passage home consistent with safety.

I regret the delay to the steamer but as calling a survey was necessary I could not do any more than let you know his opinion

even/

s.s. "CLAN MACNAB", contd. 11/6/33.

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even although we felt the steamer was being detained longer than if he had accepted your proposal at the start."
