

S. S. "GAASTERKERK", No. 21443 in the Register Book.

A letter has been received from the Rotterdam Surveyors stating that the Owners are considering fitting a bow of "Maier" form, which will have the effect of increasing the length of the vessel on the load water line by 7 Metres (23 feet). The Surveyors raise four points in regard to the freeboard and the structural compensation which might be considered necessary.

The case is similar to that recently dealt with in this Office for the "RODNEY STAR" - see endorsement dated 21.11.31.

It is submitted the Rotterdam Surveyors be informed as follow :-

- (1) This proposal is made in respect of an existing ship, and must be considered from this point of view. In the present case the form of the new bow is such that the displacement remains practically the same, and in these circumstances it is considered that no addition to the existing scantlings need be made.
- (2) The present freeboard, being the minimum permitted by the Regulations, will be increased on account of the increased length. On the basis of the information available, the increase in freeboard will be about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
- (3) It will be apparent from the above paragraph that any increase in length will involve a corresponding increase in the present freeboard.
- (4) Provided bulkheads be fitted forward and aft of the tonnage opening, temporary covers be fitted over the tonnage opening, and the usual conditions be complied with, a Summer freeboard corresponding to a moulded draught of about 26'-5" could be assigned.



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