

T.S.S. "CRISTOBAL COLON"
Classed #100A1

This vessel went ashore at Bermuda on 25th October. The Naval Authorities commenced salvage operations, but abandoned the work after two days as it was considered to be beyond their resources. Lloyd's Agent reported on 6th November that the situation had become more serious owing to heavy weather and pounding. The ship was badly ^{hogged} and it was believed that her back was broken.

The following cablegram has been received from the Director General of the Spanish Merchant Marine, Valencia :-

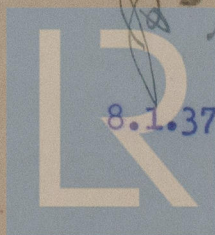
"DIRECTOR MERCHANT MARINE REQUESTS YOU ORDER BY CABLE EARLIEST POSSIBLE INSPECTION ESTIMATE COST REPAIRS AND POSSIBILITIES OF SALVAGE INCLUDING TOWAGE STEAMER CRISTOBAL COLON ASHORE BERMUDA ISLANDS STOP ALL EXPENSES ACCOUNT SPANISH MERCHANT MARINE OFFICE PAYABLE HERE".

The Society has no Surveyor stationed at Bermuda, and if the work were undertaken it would be necessary for an Exclusive Surveyor to proceed from New York. Attention is drawn, however, to the fact that the Surveyor is required to express an opinion as to the possibilities of salving the vessel, and in this connection two points arise :-

- (1) it is doubtful if any of the Surveyors at New York have had experience of the specialised work of salvage, and
- (2) whether it would be expedient to permit the Society's Surveyors to express an opinion on such a problematical question.

With regard to the statement in the cablegram that the expenses are payable in Valencia, it may be stated that the Society is unable to transfer to London the money which it already holds in Spain.

The request is submitted for the consideration of the Committee.



8.1.37

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