

S.S. "RISALDAR".

In accordance with instructions, I telephoned to the Springwell Shipping Co., Ltd., that their request would be submitted to the Committee at their next meeting tomorrow, but that in the meantime there seemed little doubt that a general examination would be required at Rotterdam and that approval would not be given for any voyage other than that direct to Shanghai via the Suez Canal.

On Saturday morning I had a call from Mr. F. P. Longton, one of the Directors, who explained that his application was made with a view to fighting the ring of British Shipbreakers now operating against purchasers of old tonnage under the 'scrap and build' scheme.

He explained that the prices offered for breaking up in this country were out of all proportion to the value of the material, but that as a 'scrap and build' purchaser was forced to break up under the terms of his contract with the Board of Trade, the Shipbreakers could afford to wait until the end of his contract period when he would be forced to accept their low and totally inadequate offer.

He went on to say that the only means of fighting this ring was to sell for breaking up abroad, and that in the case under review they had received a good offer from a recently formed firm of Shipbreakers in Shanghai, but that unfortunately negotiations were dependent upon an unqualified extension of classification to cover the voyage out with cargo, so that if general examination were required at Shanghai, such qualification would cancel the proposition.

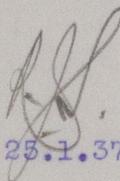
He emphasised that most of the 2nd S.S.No.3, including drilling of the shell plating, the internal examination of all double bottom tanks and examination of all holds etc. had already been fully complied with and that the outstanding items and repairs recommended were of comparatively little importance.

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The vessel was now at Calcutta, but it would be impossible for them to arrange for any examination now as she was under chartered until arrival at Rotterdam about the middle of April.

Having regard to the extent of the work already done, however, he asked whether the Committee would be prepared to extend the class to the end of August, i.e. twelve months from the date of the last examination made by the Calcutta Surveyors and added that the previous application made to this end by the late Owners was not on their behalf.



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