



Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

55, Fawcett Street,

Sunderland, 31st March 1936.



Reference

Dear Mr. Barwick,

In accordance with Mr. Watt's suggestion I attended the Court of Enquiry into the loss of "VARDULIA" this morning and was present to hear Mr. Judge Richardson's findings.

The following points are those which I considered might be of interest to you:-

With reference to the "SILVERPINE" collision he stated the damage which "VARDULIA" sustained did not have any effect in causing the loss of the ship.

He found that the vessel, including hull and machinery, was in a good and seaworthy condition, and that her Certificates were up to date. He referred in detail to the Classification Surveys which had been carried out from March, 1933 onwards.

He stated quite definitely that "VARDULIA" was safe and stable when she left West Hartlepool.

He referred at length to the evidence on the question of Stowage rates and rejected the figures given by the B.O.T., stating, he considered the rates given by them lower than would be obtained in practice.

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Shifting of cargo or influx of water or both may have been responsible, but the only direct evidence was contained in the wireless messages from the Master and hence there was necessity for caution in suggesting the cause, and the casualty must to a large extent remain a mystery of the sea.

No possible blame, in his view, attaches to anyone but useful lessons nevertheless could be gleaned from the occurrence and in this connexion he suggested that the question of trimming and the duties of the Foreman Trimmer might be investigated and also stated it seemed desirable to call into question the propriety of the interdependence of Freeboard and tonnage regulations to the effect that extension of space exempted from tonnage should be accompanied by reduction in the height of the most vulnerable region and stated that in effect the reduction of tonnage in relation to deadweight is accompanied by reduction in the margin of safety.

Yours sincerely,

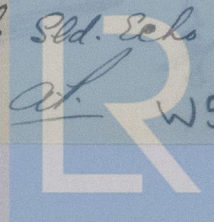
A. Pickworth

A.J. Barwick, Esq.,

LONDON.

P.S. A fairly comprehensive account of the findings is contained in the Sld. Echo a copy of which I am posting to you A.P.

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