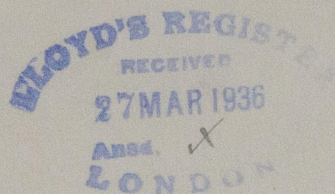


M. Dept.



Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

55, Fawcett Street,

Sunderland, 26th March, 1936.

Reference

Dear Mr. Barwick,

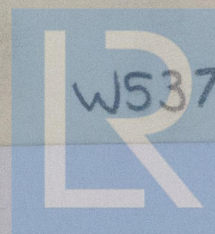
The "VARDULIA" enquiry has just finished and it is expected that the court will meet on Tuesday next to give its answers to the questions asked by the Board of Trade.

The enquiry has been the most friendly of all I have attended.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the stowage of the Cargo and the vacant spaces left in the various holds and 'tween decks.

The Board of Trade put forward calculations based on some stowage experiments made by one of their Surveyors at Hartlepool, while the seaman's side put forward figures given by a coal manager. But no matter which of these figures are correct, it will not throw much light on the cause of the disaster.

There has been a suggestion that either Nos. 1 or 2 hatchways, or both, were stove in. This suggestion was based on a report that on a previous voyage there was trouble with these hatchways. It was pointed out however, that only the wedges and tarpaulins were started and they were refitted without difficulty.



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26th March, 1936.

It was suggested that the damage to the bulkheads forward as reported by Millar, might have been at least a source of danger in that water might more readily enter the forward well. This was dealt with by the Owners' Representatives who were sure that no harm could come to the ship from that cause. As regards the nature of that damage Millar's recommendation that repairs might be left to the Owners' convenience was supported by the local Board of Trade Surveyor, a Representative from the Repairers and by the Owners' Representatives.

I am certain that there can be no reflection on the Society or any of its Surveyors.

Two of the assessors, Robb and Thompson are staying in the same hotel and I had a long talk with them last night about the case and will be continuing it to-night.

In addition I have had a talk with Mr. W.B. Donaldson and his Superintendents.

Mr. Metcalfe has been in attendance all the time and will also attend on Tuesday to hear the findings.

I am hoping to have a talk with the Surveyors to-morrow morning regarding the new Annual Survey Regulations and propose returning to London to-morrow night.

I do not consider that it will be necessary for me to return to hear the findings, as no questions can be raised then and I am suggesting that Dr. Pickworth should attend the Court and report the result.

-3-

26th March, 1936.

I had a talk with the Newcastle Surveyors about the freeboard Surveys on Monday, and also gave Messrs. Sellex and Pile some idea of the new proposals.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. Wall

A.J. Barwick, Esq.,

LONDON.



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27.3.36

For Mr. Llewellyn
knows.

AS
J.P.
J.P.

LONDON

V.V. BULAWA, 1900



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