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*St Michael's Rectory, Cornhill,*

*London, 10th July, 1935.*  
E.C.3.

LLOYD'S REGISTER  
RECEIVED  
11 JUL 1935  
And 17 JUL 1935  
LONDON

Dear Sir,

"Millpool"

We think you may be glad to have from us a short report of this Inquiry so far as it has gone. It has now been in progress for three days during which time Mr. W.L. McNair and we ourselves have been in attendance, as well as Dr. Montgomerie and Mr. Watt. Up to the present there have been no developments which in Mr. McNair's view or our own rendered it necessary or desirable for Mr. McNair to intervene in any way or to apply for the Society to be made a party to the Inquiry.

To-day evidence was given by the following members of the Society's Surveying staff namely:-

- Mr. C.A. Miller
- Mr. A.E. Stevenson
- Mr. W. Watt
- Mr. C. Stephenson
- Mr. J.T. Findlay
- Mr. A. Urwin



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All these witnesses gave their evidence satisfactorily, and we do not think that their conduct or the Society's organisation is at all likely to be seriously criticised.

At one point in the cross-examination by Mr. Hayward of Mr. Stevenson Lord Merrivale intervened with the remark that Lloyd's Surveyors were not on their trial.

In the course of his opening on the first day the Solicitor General made a reference to the fact that Lloyd's Underwriters are represented in the constitution of the Society; his remarks in this connection were not quite as forcible as we could have wished, but at that time the findings in the "Blairgowrie" case had not been announced and we think that the Solicitor General felt somewhat hampered by the necessity of avoiding any observation which could be construed by implication as an unfavourable comment upon the Classification Society concerned in that case.

We may mention that during the hearing this morning there was some discussion regarding an engine survey report signed by Mr. R. D. Shilston, one of the Society's surveyors at West Hartlepool. Mr. Shilston was not one of the surveyors who had been asked to attend by the Board of Trade Solicitor and we offered to arrange Lloyd's Register of Shipping

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No. fm  
for his attendance. This offer was accepted and Dr. Montgomerie telegraphed to Mr. Shilston accordingly. This afternoon however the Solicitor General and Mr. Hayward agreed that his attendance was not necessary and accordingly the previous instructions were countermanded.

We have reviewed the position with Mr. McNair this afternoon on the rising of the Court and he is quite satisfied with the present position and does not consider that there is anything to be gained by any intervention on his part. He will of course continue to attend on the Society's behalf and if in the final speeches any attack or serious criticism should be developed he will then intervene and ask to be allowed to reply to it.

Mr. McNair considered that the terms of the letter which we addressed to the Board of Trade Solicitor on the 4th inst. (of which you have a copy) were very suitable, and in view of this letter he does not consider it necessary that any further offer should be made on the part of the Society to produce the whole of the vessels' records or to tender the evidence of Dr. Montgomerie.

We think that the Enquiry will probably last all tomorrow and part or all of Friday; but now that our Surveyors have been disposed of we do not think that there is any further necessity for Dr. Montgomerie's constant attendance. We should like him if possible to

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be available (i.e. in London) so that in the event of any crisis he could be summoned; but if this could be arranged, we do not think that he need be troubled actually to attend the Inquiry further.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

Parke, Pennington & Co.

The Secretary,  
Lloyd's Register of Shipping,  
71 Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.



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Foundation

