

C O P Y.

Singapore, 7th February, 1902.

The Secretary,
The Salvage Association,
19, Birchin Lane,
LONDON, E.C.

Dear Sir,

S.S. "INDRASAMHA".

We are in receipt of your favour of 10th January, contents of which have our attention.

From subsequent telegrams and letters you will have learned that this has turned out to be a very serious case, and one involving questions of considerable difficulty and delicacy.

We confirm our cable of yesterday, in which we gave you the present position. Surveyor's reports are not yet completed, so we are unable to forward copies by this mail.

As indicated in our last, there has been considerable difficulty experienced, both by ourselves and agents of the steamer, in getting Surveyors to put on paper what they really did think about the case. Lloyd's Surveyor shelters himself behind his instructions, which state that he is not required to state the cause of any damage, merely to recommend repairs and see that they are carried out. The report of Mr. Pittock, formerly Lloyd's Surveyor here, and quite the most experienced Surveyor here, amounts to giving "structural weakness" as the cause. We understand that the Captain is of opinion that the riveting is bad, but Mr. Pittock, while admitting, in conversation, that the riveting is "coarse", maintains that it is sound enough, and that the damage to rivets, of which about 5,000 will have to come out, is due to the vessel

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"panting" under stress of heavy weather : he is further of opinion that this panting was due to the construction of the ship. He describes her as "wall-sided" and "club-footed", and considers that for a vessel of her size and shape she has an insufficient number of beams and stringers in the forehold. He is of opinion that if repairs were confined to making good the riveting the same thing would happen again the first time she met with heavy weather. He recommends that the forehold be temporarily strengthened with hardwood beams, and the damaged riveting made good.

You have, on previous occasions, asked us to freely express our own opinions on matters of this sort, but in this case the considerations involved are so highly technical that we hardly see our way to do so. We may mention, however, that we have unofficially consulted the best technical authorities in the place, and that on the whole they support the "structural weakness" theory. We regret that we are not at liberty to mention names.

We shall no doubt hear from you again shortly.

We are, Dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Syme & Co.



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