

Called at the Finance Branch, Ministry of Shipping, Great George Street, and had a conversation with Mr. G. Paterson respecting the Department's letter dated 24th ultimo, in which it is stated that the Society's claim for the fees in connexion with the survey of the S.S. "NERBUDDA", during construction, has been passed on to the Builders for attention.

I enquired why this course had been adopted in the case of this vessel, when, in accordance with the arrangement made some time ago with Mr. C. J. O. Sanders, all standard vessels handed over to private ownership during construction were to have a suitable proportion of the difference between the ordinary survey fee and the fee at $1/4$ per gross ton charged to the Controller General of Merchant Shipbuilding.

Mr. Paterson stated, in reply, that an agreement was made with Lord Inchcape in February last in which his lordship undertook to purchase 150 vessels from the Admiralty and re-sell them to private owners, at the same time undertaking to pay all charges against the Admiralty in respect of these vessels including the fees of the Classification Societies. In conformity with this arrangement the account for the Admiralty's proportion of the fees due for the survey of this vessel was passed on to the Builders.

J.M.
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