

1st March 1914.

Dear Mr. Buchanan,

The difficulty which has arisen in connexion with the wire tackle & hawsers supplied by Messrs Cockerill to their 535 steamer being of smaller size than are required by Table 31 of the Rules will, in my opinion, be somewhat hard to adjust. The vessel was handed over some weeks ago to the Russian Owners & is now in commission for her regular run. The builders urgently require the Classification Certificates, as without these they are unable to satisfy the Owners or obtain from the latter payment of the final monetary instalment under their contract. I hope this unfortunate matter will not affect the excellent relations which exist between Cockerill & ourselves which I have been at great pains to bring about. To be on really good terms with the leading firm of Belgian Engineers & Shipbuilders is of some moment to us. Cockerill exercise great influence with the Government of Belgium. They are also manufacturers of steel, forgings, &c & financially interested in many concerns.

Could it not be arranged for the Classification Certificates to be sent to us & for us to deliver them to Cockerill on the distinct understanding that the matter of the wires will be put right with the least possible delay. The Surveyor at Odessa might

builders & owners, for the necessary wires can not be sent to
Atena in a few days & moreover the vessel is running & she
could have to be found in port. I am only approaching
the matter from the point of delay & the annoyance thereby
occasioned the builders & owners.

Whether the Surveyor concerned should have discovered the
discrepancy in the vessel's equipment of wires in good time &
avoided the present difficulty, I do not propose to discuss.

Personally I am put out over the present awkward position,
which reflects disapprobably on us & through us on the Society.

I have found, for some time, that the pressure of work
in this port & district gives each member of the Staff more
than ~~enough~~ to do & the Surveyor, termed the Principal, ~~has~~ ^{is}
therefore unable to look into & direct matters as he would
like to do.

Yours truly,
J. H. F. M.

Charles Buchanan Esquire,
London.



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