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S.S. "BIRCHLEAF".

In view of Mr. Salmon's statement that the ship is weak and requires additional strengthening in the machinery space, it is submitted that Mr. French, the Chief Surveyor for the United States and Canada, be requested by cable to survey the vessel as early as possible, either at Halifax or New York, preferably Halifax. He should carefully examine riveting and structure in way of Engine and Thrust seating and sides of machinery space to ascertain if there is any movement, and report fully by cable on the case for the information of the Committee.

Mr. French should be informed that in two similar cases of converted transverse vessels examined in this Country, the construction of the hull and engines were both found satisfactory and the trouble arose from using lubricating oil of low viscosity.

*J.F.R.* *C.F.*  
23. 4. 17.  
*J.M.*

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