

Copy.

Ministry of Shipping,
Transport Department,
15th April, 1917.

T.N.O.60264/17.

Gentlemen,

44600.

With reference to your letter of 10th instant, embodying copy of a telegram received from the Captain of the S.S. "BIRCHLEAF", relative to the vessel's crankshaft, I have to acquaint you that your suggestion that Lloyds Engineer Surveyor from New York should be called in is approved, and to request that you will arrange accordingly. Any further opinion that may be obtainable at Halifax should also be obtained.

The Director of Contracts is communicating with the Builders as to whether they can offer any explanation as to the cause of the defects which have developed in the crankshaft.

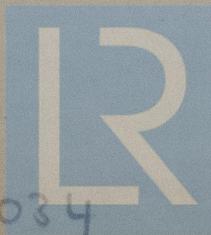
Since writing the foregoing, your letters of 12th instant, forwarding copies of a telegram from the Master of the "BIRCHLEAF" and a report from your consulting Engineers have been received, but subject to your opinion, it would appear that the action indicated above meets the case for the moment.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
B.A. KEMBALL COOK.

(Signed)

Director Naval Sea Transport.

Messrs. Lane & Macandrew Ltd,
3, Gracechurch Street,
E.C.



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