

S.S. "SEIYO MARU".

The 2nd Special Survey No.1 of this vessel became due at the end of July, 1930.

The vessel was under survey at Harima by the Society's Kobe Surveyors from December, 1929, to February, 1930, and on receipt of the Surveyors' report the class was continued, subject to No.1 keel plate and Nos.4 & 5 plates in F strake on the port side and indented plating on port and starboard sides being dealt with at the Owners' convenience. At that time the Surveyors also reported that No.3 hatchway at the main and shelter decks had been enlarged in accordance with an approved plan.

On the 18th August Mr. Cox, the Principal Surveyor for Japan, wrote enclosing a translation of a letter he had received from the Owners of the vessel, in which it was stated that, owing to business depression, they had had to lay her up and were unable in the meantime to settle the fees for the survey held between December, 1929, and February, 1930, which amounted in all to 555 yen.

Mr. Cox suggested, subject to the Committee's approval, that a letter should be addressed to the Owners stating that the Committee would agree to a settlement being postponed, but that in order that the classification might remain undisturbed in the meantime to request them to furnish a letter undertaking that the account would be settled and all surveys which might be overdue would be held and all necessary repairs effected before the vessel proceeded to sea, and should she be offered for sale they would inform intending purchasers accordingly. This course was approved and Mr. Cox was so informed by letter from this Office on the 4th September, 1930.

As stated above, Mr. Cox's letter intimated that



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that the Owners were laying the vessel up, was dated the 18th August, and the entry in Lloyd's Index for August and up to the 23rd September reads as under :-

"Left Shimonoseki on the 23rd May for Takao".

On the 24th September the entry appeared that the vessel was trading in the Far East.

Her name did not appear in the Index for the 26th September and subsequent issues up to the 15th October when the entry read:-

"Left Japan for Portland, Oregon, arrived 12th October"

The following cablegram has this morning been received from Mr. Cox, viz (decoded) :-

"SEIYO MARU Referring to your letter of 4th

"September have letter from Owners date 27th October

"undertaking agreed terms. Vessel is now reported

"sinking North Pacific will make further enquiries."}

and in Lloyd's Index of today's date she is reported as having been abandoned in sinking condition South West of Aleutian Islands on the 3rd November.

It will be seen, so far as the surveys are concerned, that the 2nd Special Survey No.1 only became due at the end of July last and that, so far as repairs are concerned, ⁱⁿ the last report from the Kobe Surveyors the repairs only appear to have related to some indented plating.

It is submitted for consideration whether, in the circumstances, a cablegram might be sent to the Kobe Surveyors enquiring whether, in view of the undertaking furnished by the Owners, they had been advised of the fact that the vessel was again being placed in commission and was to sail for Portland, Or.

5th November, 1930.



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