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S.S. "WATCHFUL".

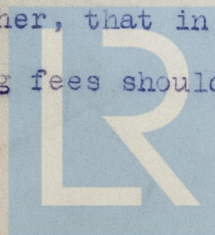
This vessel, which is over 44 years old, was under survey at Greenock for damage repairs between February 1925 and ~~January~~ ^{June} 1926, when some conditional repairs recommended by the Surveyors to the bilge keelson ^{IN} ~~and~~ fore hold, hatch coamings, rest bars and covers were not effected.

The vessel was seized by the Repairers for debt, and they repudiated liability for the Society's fees, namely 15 guineas on the hull and £2 on the machinery. She was subsequently sold, it being understood for the purpose of being converted into a hulk. The Glasgow Committee suggested at that time that the fees should be waived, as no good purpose would be served by endeavouring to recover them.

The 4th S.S.No.2 became due at the end of September last.

The new Owner was informed that it was the Committee's practice to expunge the class in cases where a vessel was converted into a hulk, and he was asked to advise when the vessel was dismantled. In reply he stated he was under the impression that he could run the ship for a year without incurring any extra expense, and desired to be advised of his position.

The case was referred to the Glasgow Committee, who forwarded a letter from the Greenock Surveyors stating that in their opinion the 4th S.S.No.2 should be carried out forthwith in view of the age of the vessel, and the Glasgow Sub-Committee of Classification, in forwarding this letter, stated that if it was the new Owner's intention to run the vessel she should be specially examined and any repairs considered necessary should be carried out to enable her to retain her class, and further, that in such circumstances the question of the outstanding fees should be re-considered.



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The new Owner was accordingly informed on the 17th September that in the first instance, for the retention of the vessel's class, outstanding fees due for surveys held from February 1925 to June 1926 required to be paid; and provided this be done it would be necessary for the steamer to be submitted for a general examination, including the survey of the boiler, and all necessary repairs effected in accordance with the Surveyor's recommendations; in which case, upon receipt of a satisfactory report, the Committee would be prepared to agree to the class remaining undisturbed for the present, subject to the Special Survey No.2 being completed as required by the Rules.

The Owner now states he is at a loss to know who is to pay the outstanding fees which were incurred before he acquired the vessel. He further states that he lost his three years earnings on the coal hulk "ARGONAUT", and cannot find the necessary money to redock the "WATCHFUL". If it were possible for the vessel to go to sea with a superficial inspection he might be able to use her, but he would be glad of the Committee's views as he is unacquainted with the working of steamers.

It is submitted the Owner might be informed that for the survey required it would not be necessary to dock the vessel, but as previously intimated the vessel would require to be generally examined afloat, the boiler survey to be held, and any repairs found necessary would require to be dealt with, and subject to a favourable report being received, the class could remain undisturbed for the present, subject to the Special Survey being completed etc.

It is further suggested for consideration that, in the circumstances, the previous decision that the question of the outstanding fees should be waived might be adhered to.

26.10.26