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M.V. "FORT HEARNE" & "FORT ROSS".

These two wood ships owned by the Hudson Bay Company are operating inside the Arctic Circle in the vicinity of the mouth of the Mackenzie River. The operating season lasts for only two to three months in the summer, the ship being icebound for the remainder of the year. It is intended to arrange for the ships to return south for Special Survey as required by the Rules. Annual surveys require to be carried out at the Arctic base from which they operate.

The Canadian Government has agreed for Load Line purposes to the Society accepting the survey reports of a responsible person and counter-signed by the Master, Chief Engineer and by an Officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In the case of the "Fort Ross" the British Corporation agreed to this procedure for classification purposes and the Montreal Surveyors in their letter of January, 16th ask if the same procedure can be approved for the new sister ship the "Fort Hearne".

The annual surveys so far carried out on the "Fort Ross" have been most extensive and cover more than the Rule requirements for annual surveys.

As it is not practicable to send a Surveyor all the way to the Arctic to carry out such surveys it is submitted that the Montreal Surveyors be informed that the procedure previously approved by the British Corporation for the "Fort Ross" can be accepted for the "Fort Hearne". However, in addition no opportunity should be missed of obtaining a report from any fully qualified Surveyor, such as a Surveyor of the Canadian Steamboat Inspection, who may visit the area. The Hudson Bay Company are no doubt in a position to provide this information should such a visit be contemplated at any time.

Initialed JT

21st February, 1950.



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