

Our Ref: 490 /15.

9th December

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Lloyd's Register of Shipping, screwshaft being further examined, steam block being re-examined, and to the steam generator being specially examined, at the survey.

Dear Sir,

s. s. "Oostcappelle".

In respect of our above vessel, it will be noted that the general examination of the vessel was carried out during her dry docking from 10-2-58 to 21-2-58 when on your recommendation the Committee was pleased to approve our request for the Special Survey to be differed until January 1959 for which no doubt we are ever thankful to you. The Load Line Certificate itself expires on 31st January 1959 and the last annual endorsement on the certificate was done on 7th March 1958.

As you know, due to exchange difficulties with our Government, the replacement has become rather a difficult problem. However, our representatives lately have gone abroad to negotiate for a suitable vessel to replace this vessel. In all probability we feel that should the negotiations be fruitful, of which we have every hope, the vessel cannot come before the month of March/April 1959.

Under the circumstances we are to request you most earnestly to grant us further extension of the validity of the Load Line Certificate as well as to differ the Special Survey till June 1959 as it will greatly help us to maintain our good connections with the shippers by way of offering our schedule service of this particular vessel which has served them since 1925 on this coast and of which they are still proud of in spite of her old age. Here we may also bring to your kind notice that under no circumstances acquisition of crew is possible for less than 6 months for coastal ships on this coast and the present contract with the crew expires at the end of December 1958.

If necessary you may have further general examination of the vessel but as regards the dry docking, we have to point out that as you know dry dock facilities are not easily available even after applying months in advance and by the time the dry dock may be available, the ~~expiry~~ of the validity of the extended period will also expire and if at all the ship is dry docked it will not serve the purpose hitherto mentioned of serving the shippers.

Once again we hope that you will be good enough to grant us the necessary extension and no doubt your recommendations and good offices to the Committee will go a long way in our efforts to help ourselves as well as the shippers.

Thanking you in anticipation, we remain,

Yours faithfully,

For The Merchant Steam Nav. Co. Pr. Ltd.

NMK:MGK.

Lloyd's Register Foundation

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