

COPY.

Four vessels of the dredger and barge type have recently been sold to French Owners. They are now at Southampton and an urgent message has been received from the new Owners requesting that the Society should assign International Convention Freeboards to these vessels for the purpose of their voyage from Southampton to Toulon.

These vessels are:-

"FOREMOST III" Classed 100A1 Dredger

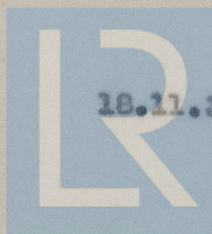
"JAMES NO.64")
"JAMES NO.65") Classed 100A1 Hopper Barge. For Channel Purposes.

"ERMI" Classed 100A1 For Harbour Purposes. A Barge.

The Board of Trade is responsible for the alterations to the vessels to enable them to make the intended voyage, but the Board refuse to issue a certificate, which they state must be issued by the Assigning Authority for the French Government, i.e. Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

This procedure is not in accordance with the Instructions recently issued and acted upon, but it is submitted for consideration that it be approved in this instance, subject to the Surveyors being satisfied with the preparations for the voyage;

If this is approved the French Owners should be informed by cable that certificates will be issued today.



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