

COPY OF LETTER from W.E.J. Ord, Esq., San Francisco, to
Sir Robert Balfour, dated 30th March, 1918.

"SACRAMENTO".

I enclose copy of my letter dated 21st March to Mr. J.S. Blackett, who is Chief Surveyor to Lloyd's Register on the Pacific Coast.

The above is a new steel steamer built by the Seattle Construction & Drydock Company at Seattle, and classed in Lloyd's Register. She sailed from Puget Sound to Honolulu and arrived with engine trouble, the cause of which is at present unknown to me although I have heard the machinery was tampered with.

You will however notice the reported defective riveting of the decks and there seems no excuse for the Classification Surveyor passing work of this kind because if the decks were not properly tight it would seem that this should have been discovered. I quite appreciate that under present conditions we cannot expect things to be the same as in normal times, nevertheless Lloyd's Register has a standard of efficiency to maintain and if things like this pass their inspection I am afraid underwriters and ship-owners are likely to lose confidence in their classification. This is especially undesirable at the present moment in view of the competition from the American Record.

I also think Lloyd's Register would do well to give closer supervision to wooden auxiliary vessels which are now being

classed by them. For instance the "Stasia" put into San Francisco the other day with the band on her rudder-head fractured thus disabling the steering gear. This band was of too light constructions and is being replaced with much heavier material. She is also leaking, the cause of which is not yet ascertained and had some minor damage around the deck principally due to poor construction.

The "Laurel Whalen" sailed from here the same day as the "Stasia" put in here having also put in with exactly the same trouble as the "Stasia" and her rudder-head was also replaced with heavier material. Both vessels were built at the Cameron Genoa Mills Shipbuilders Company, Ltd., yard at Victoria, B.C.



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