

COPY

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING

12th March, 1940.

PARIS.

The Secretary  
London

Dear Sir,

I beg to report that, having been informed by Mr. Brunel-  
liere, the Nantes Surveyor, that the classification of the  
"COLOMBEL VIELJEUX" had been transferred to the Bureau Veritas, I  
paid a visit to the Cie Havraise Peninsulaire, Managers of this  
vessel and old Clients of the Society.

Replying to my questions and remarks regarding this  
surprising information, the Ingenieur en Chef of that Company  
stated that this decision had been taken by the Havraise and  
submitted to the Owners (French Government) who did not make any  
exception to it because, according to the new Merchant Marine  
Policy, which is coming into force on the 15th instant, the vessel  
will become shortly the property of her present Managers. He also  
showed to me a copy of a letter addressed to the Society by his  
Company, in which the transfer of class was notified.

In addition to the "reasons" of the Manager's decision,  
as given in their above said letter, the Ingenieur en Chef alleged  
that the fact we have not a local Surveyor in each port and in  
each Steel manufacturing place was causing some inconvenience to  
his Company. I objected that the Society's Surveying Staff in  
France was now practically as numerous as in Pre-War times when  
no inconvenience had been brought to our notice by the Cie Havrai-  
se. Then he made reference to a question of testing of Refrigera-  
ting Condenser coils, which took place on that ship fourteen months  
ago and regarding which they considered that the Society's decision  
caused also some inconvenience to his Company, etc... It is  
obvious that the Managers decided, first, to class the vessel to  
Veritas and then to find reasons for doing so. In the circumstances  
I tried to know their intention regarding the two other vessels  
("MADAGASCAR" and "VILLE DE NANTES") classed with us and I have  
been informed that they will remain to our class; but, however,  
the Ingenieur en Chef added that "he hoped that the Society's Sur-  
veyors will take their age into account when carrying out their sur-  
vey." I may add that the "MADAGASCAR" is at present at Rouen under  
the inspection of the Society's Surveyor at Havre.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Lloyd's Register  
Foundation

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