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Four ships are at present building for Egyptian owners in Polish shipyards, two of 3,200 tons D.W. at Szczecin and two of 5,000 tons at Gdansk.

The Surveyor reported that about 60% of the steel is of Russian origin. The two Szczecin ships are already launched and prefabrication has commenced on the two ships at Gdansk.

It was agreed that provided extensive tests be carried out by our Surveyors on the steel with satisfactory results, the ships could be surveyed for class, but the assignment of the Maltese Cross could not be recommended.

The Gdansk Surveyor now cables stating that:-

1. The steel in the Szczecin ships is of high tensile quality and the Surveyor suggests is therefore unacceptable for class.
2. The builders propose to abandon the proposal for classification of the first Gdansk ship as the Maltese Cross cannot be obtained.
3. The builders request classification with Maltese Cross for the second Gdansk ship, in which there is only 40% of Russian steel on which all necessary check tests could be carried out.

There is no fundamental objection to the use of high tensile steel in merchant ship construction provided we are satisfied with its characteristics, and the Surveyor is being informed accordingly.

The question of the Maltese Cross for the second Gdansk ship has been referred by the Chairman to the Classing Committee for consideration.

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Lloyd's Register
Foundation