

Rec 13/9/71

Reston Sept 11th 1871

H. E. Mudge Esq

Lloyds, Liverpool

Dear Sir,

Re Schooner "Belle"

Your favor is to hand and I must say that I am surprised at its contents that now when I ought to have received the very character of 5 years I cannot have it unless I case in and salt a 9 years keelson; the vessel has gone away and I have no doubt will be away some time. Besides it is only throwing away time and money as the vessel is built ^{entirely} for the Pig Iron & Iron ore trade and will have on an average three cargoes per month of this material tipped into her. How can we case a keelson to stand against this? Your surveyors know the thing is impracticable; I have always done all that your surveyors could wish and this would have been done if thought necessary.

Surely your Committee can give her the character until her half time survey and then if required it can be salted but it will not be required as the vessel was over twelve months in frame and the keelson and Hag were in during this time; hoping you will consult Mr Carey and lay this before your Committee and agree to let me have the Certificate and I will undertake to do all your

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wish when the vessel is in this port

In all probability the vessel will come to Liverpool on her return voyage and I will guarantee to salt the keelson if required, rather than she should be classed H A 1.

(Signed) ^{7 Ironmaster} William Allsop
Builder Harcourt owner
per W. W. Allsop

Surveyor's Remarks

As this vessel was laid down prior to the promulgation of the Circular No 265 of May 1870, if the fore and after ends of the keelson be cased in and salted I am of opinion such will meet the requirements of the Rules

12th Sept / 71

Sgd. M. B. D.



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