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*Secretary.*

15th January, 1925.

My Lord,

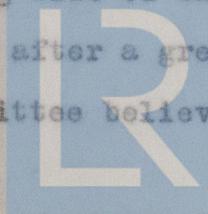
S.S. "BUCKLEIGH" and "CHULMLEIGH".

Your Lordship's letter of the 9th instant, regarding the date of build of the above vessels, was read to the General Committee of this Society at their Meeting today, when they also had before them a letter from Messrs. Bartram & Sons, Ltd., the builders of the vessels, and the Committee have further considered the matter.

In reply, I am directed to point out that the Society's Rule, Section 7, page 10, on this subject reads as follows:-

7. Date of Build. - The date of completion of the Special Survey of vessels built under the Society's inspection will be taken as the date of build provided it be within six months of the date of launching for vessels not exceeding 7,000 tons gross; nine months for vessels above 7,000 and not exceeding 14,000 tons gross; twelve months for vessels above 14,000 and not exceeding 20,000 tons gross; and fifteen months for vessels above 20,000 tons gross. When, however, the Special Survey is not completed within the period allowed, the date of build will be taken as six, nine, twelve or fifteen months after the date of launching, as the case may be.

This Rule, which in recent years has been slightly modified owing to the increasing size of ships, was adopted by the Committee many years ago after a great deal of discussion and consideration, and the Committee believe that it is the most



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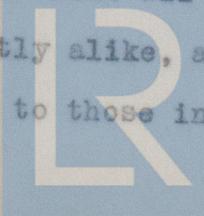
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satisfactory and liberal Rule dealing with this subject in existence; and so long as it remains the Rule the Committee feel that they are bound to adhere to it unless in very special circumstances. Certain exceptions (of which I regret I am unable to furnish you with a list as you desire) were made during and for a period after the war in the exceptional conditions then obtaining, but, as intimated in my letter of the 8th instant, the Committee for some time past have been endeavouring to bring the practice strictly within the Rule.

It is open, however, to any Member of the Committee to propose an alteration in the Rule, and if your Lordship considers that the Rule can be improved, I would suggest that you might approach your representatives on the Committee to bring the matter up, and it will then be referred to a Special Meeting of the General Committee and receive the most careful consideration.

In the meantime, however, the Committee very much regret that, with every desire to meet your wishes in the matter, they do not see their way to depart from the Rule in the case of the two vessels in question.

With regard to your Lordship's reference to all being treated alike in future, I need hardly assure you that it is the earnest desire of the Committee to treat all builders and owners, as far as they possibly can, exactly alike, and that in the case of any vessels similarly situated to those in question the Rule will be adhered to.



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I should add that whatever date of build may be recorded in Lloyd's Register Book, the legal date of build of a ship is that which appears on her Official Register, and it is understood that the date of build on the Official Registers of these vessels is 1924.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

Secretary.

The Right Hon. Lord Glanely,

Lackham,

LAYCOCK, Wilts.



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