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Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

Enclosure.

5th January, 1932.

Dear Sir,

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Since writing my letter of the 2nd instant, enclosed herewith, regarding the case of the s.s. "ALABAMA", I have to state that the Owners' Manager and their London representatives, have called and had an interview with the Chairman on the subject, and have handed in affidavits sworn by the Captain and the Second Officer and Chief Engineer of the vessel.

I enclose herewith extracts from these affidavits, from which you will see that they contradict the statement contained in your letter of the 8th ultimo, to the effect that "the Captain of the vessel is reported to have stated that this (the slight wave in the deck plating) had existed prior to the damage sustained through heavy weather on a voyage from Baytown to London in March".

By whom was the Captain reported to have made this statement?

These affidavits also appear to be in disagreement with the statements in your letter to the effect that Mr. Richardson "Also observed this slight wave in the deck plating when the vessel arrived in

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New York for permanent repairs, and was likewise informed it had existed before the damage for which the survey was called".

By whom was Mr. Richardson so informed?

You will also observe that the affidavit asserts that no waving of the deck was observable at New York when the vessel was in a light condition.

In your letter of the 8th ultimo, it was stated that "Mr. White, representing the Underwriters, obtained from the Master a list of the damage to deck fittings and movable items, which were included in the specification on which tenders were invited, but no mention was made in this list of the slightly buckled deck plating".

In this connexion the Owners' Manager points out that the list referred to as having been furnished by the Master, was simply a list of articles of equipment and stores which had been destroyed or lost, and that such list did not purport to contain anything beyond that, and certainly was not intended to include any damage of a structural nature.

With regard to the statement alleged to have been made by the Captain regarding the slight waving of the deck plating, it has been pointed out by the Owners' Manager that the Captain, who is an Italian, does not know English very well, and it has been suggested that, on account of his slight

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knowledge of English, there may therefore have been a misunderstanding between him and the Surveyors on the subject as to what he actually said or intended to say.

As the case in dispute between the Owners and the Underwriters is of extreme urgency, I have to request that you will immediately upon receipt of this letter and my letter of the 2nd instant, give the matter your immediate and personal attention, and call upon Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Richardson to furnish full information without delay; and if you are in a position to send a reply on any of the essential points by cablegram, it will be a convenience if you will kindly do so by night letter.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

James French, Esq.,

NEW YORK.



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