

24 SEP 1931

S.S. "BENEFICENT"

This vessel was built by Messrs. Wm. Pickersgill & Sons Ltd., and was completed in May last, the last date of survey being May 11th, 1931.

The Owners, Messrs. James Westoll Limited, state that owing to trade depression the ship has remained in the Builders' hands until the present date. They have now secured employment for her, which will enable them to place her in commission on or about the 1st November next, and they request that, after examination of the vessel by the Society's Surveyors, the subsequent Periodical Surveys shall be treated as becoming due 4, 8 & 12 years respectively from the date of such examination; and that, in the circumstances, the examination in dry dock may be dispensed with, in view of the fact that the vessel is just as she was when launched.

Section 9 of the General Regulations relating to the Classification of Steel Vessels provides that the Owners' request in regard to the dates when the Surveys will become due may be granted by the Committee, subject to a satisfactory examination in dry dock. This regulation reads as follows:-

"In any case in which a vessel upon completion is not immediately put into commission, but is laid up for a period, the Committee, upon application by the owner, prior to the vessel's proceeding to sea, may direct an examination of the vessel to be made in dry dock by the Society's Surveyors, and if as the result of such survey the vessel as regards hull, engines, boilers and equipment (including boats) be reported in all respects free from deterioration, the periodical surveys shall become due at periods of 4, 8 and 12 years respectively from the date of such examination."

In the present instance the vessel was launched on the 16th April last, and has remained in the Builders' hands, and in view of the comparatively short time that has elapsed since the vessel was on the stocks, the Owners' request that the examination in dry dock might be dispensed with is submitted for the favourable consideration of the Committee.

If this is approved, it is submitted that provided a general examination be made of the vessel whilst lying afloat, and a satisfactory report received from the Surveyors, the Periodical Surveys might become due at periods of 4, 8 and 12 years respectively from the date of that examination.

The Sunderland Surveyors should be informed accordingly, and requested to report upon the result of their examination in due course.

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