

COPY. Secretary

'H'

23rd May, 1924.

Dear Dr. Milton,

I am favoured with your letter of the 21st instant, from which I am very glad to learn that you are kindly arranging to join in the survey of the "NAUSICAA" at Southampton on the 27th instant.

I learn on inquiry of Messrs. Flannery, Baggalley & Johnson, who represent the owners in the matter, that the survey is being arranged for as early as possible on Tuesday morning, and Mr. Nicholas and some others who are joining in the survey will be travelling by the 8.30 a.m. train from Waterloo on Tuesday morning, arriving at Southampton West at 10.33 a.m. I hope that this will fit in with your arrangements.

In connexion with this case, I should explain that the owners called here and saw the Chairman and urged that, in view of the divergence of opinion as to the cause of the corrosion and their own extreme anxiety in the matter, it was very desirable that the Society should endeavour to obtain the benefit of the advice and opinion of a high independent metallurgical and chemical authority.

We have all along taken up the position that the Society was not concerned with the chemical composition of the

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material but merely with the mechanical tests, and that the composition of the metal was one for which the steel makers were responsible.

The Chairman finally agreed, however, to accede to the owners' suggestion and consulted Sir Robert Hadfield, whose name had been mentioned to him. Sir Robert very kindly came to lunch with the Chairman and Deputy on Tuesday last, and although unable, in view of the many calls upon his time, to undertake the investigation himself, he has been good enough to look over the papers and has suggested that Mr. F. W. Harbord, of 16, Victoria Street, who has been a Member of Council of the Iron and Steel Institute for many years and has received the Bessemer Gold Medal, would be a most suitable man to go into the question, in consultation with your goodself and with any other representatives of the owners and/or the builders on Tuesday next.

Mr. Harbord unfortunately is away on business on the Continent, and will not be back for a week, but Mr. E. F. Law, his partner, has kindly arranged to attend on Tuesday and join in the investigation, consulting Mr. Harbord afterwards as may be necessary in the matter.

It will be desirable to obtain drillings so that the material will be available for carrying the investigation further if it should then be considered necessary to do so.

I think it best to give you the foregoing explanation so that you may know exactly how the matter stands.

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Hoping that you are in the best of good health and that  
this survey will not interfere unduly with your arrangements,  
and with kindest regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

James T. Milton, Esq., D.Sc.,

Selgars,

Horndean Road,

EMSWORTH, Hants.



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