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Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

24th January, 1934.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 13th instant, respecting the preliminary enquiry which the Board are to make regarding the cause of the loss of the s.s. "CULMORE" on the 13th ultimo, whilst on a voyage from Blyth to Rochester with a cargo of coal, I beg to inform you that this vessel was surveyed afloat by the Society's Surveyors at Southampton from the 30th October to the 30th November last, when the Special Survey No.3 was held, except the drydocking. She was subsequently drydocked at Hull on the 2nd December, when the survey was completed.

With a view to furnishing you with the information required as set forth in your letter, I have been in communication with the Society's Surveyors at Southampton, who state in reply to your enquiries:-

- (1) Double bottom tank suction examined, but unable to state the number in each tank now.
- (2) Double bottom tanks pumped up in the presence of the Surveyor, but unable to state which particular ballast connection or connections used.
- (3) Double bottom tank air pipes were provided with efficient means of closing.
- (4) Unable to recall type of freeing port, but these were all carefully examined and found in order.

W580-0003 1/2

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s.s. "CULMORE".

- 2 -

- (5) Lashings for well and raised quarter deck hatchways were in accordance with the Rules.

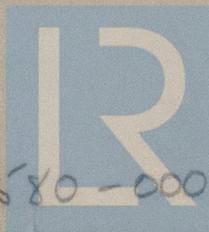
As regards the reference contained in the last paragraph of your letter to a transverse wood bulkhead having been fitted forward of the fore end of the well hatchway, the Surveyors state that a transverse wood bulkhead was fitted in the hold about one frame space forward of the forward end of the well hatchway. They add that a short middle line bulkhead of steel was fitted at the forward end of the hold and supported the above wood transverse bulkhead at the centre. Apart from this middle line bulkhead and a short one, also of steel, which was fitted under the bridge, there were no other middle line or longitudinal bulkheads in the hold.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Assistant Secretary,
Mercantile Marine Department,
BOARD OF TRADE,
Great George Street,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.



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