

April 25, 1933

THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER REVISION OF RIVER RULES

TO THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION:

The history of the appointment of the three Committees and a statement of the respective matters assigned to them are set forth in the report of the Committee appointed to consider revision of Great Lakes Rules, being Document No. 183, printed in February, 1933.

Your Committee appointed to consider the revision of the River Rules prepared and considered a detailed analysis of the differences between the River Rules and the revised International Rules. In quite important instances they are such as are manifestly related to practical differences between river navigation on the one hand, and ocean navigation on the other hand; notably the greater congestion of traffic in river navigation and more frequent variations in courses, due to curves in river channels, currents, shallows, etc.

The River Rules have been in effect for many years. River Pilots and all concerned in river navigation have been educated under these Rules and feel pride in special familiarity with the operation thereof. In our opinion, based on long familiarity with those concerned, the opposition that would be developed by an attempt to handle any proposed changes by the method of blanket legislation with exceptions on specific points would be so serious as to prevent any reasonable hope of success.

So far as the present status of the matter is concerned, *this Committee makes with regard to the River Rules the same recommendation as has been made with respect to the Great Lakes Rules; that is, that steps be taken to insure including in any resolution or*

legislation an appropriate provision whereby the River Rules will be specifically excepted from the coverage of the revised International Rules.

When this shall have been done, it will be practicable for the Association to give specific and detailed consideration to any specific changes in the River Rules which anyone may believe to be desirable.

Your Committee has not, from a general study of the matter, developed any point or points upon which, in its opinion, a change is so clearly desirable as to make advisable action on the part of the Association in the direction of bringing about specific legislation to that end. But the subject is so broad and covers so many points that we ask that this expression be not taken as indicating a final attitude in respect to all or any changes that might be suggested.

JOSEPH M. RAULT
SELIM B. LEMLE
CARL G. STEARNS

By: VICTOR LEOVY,
Chairman.

SECRETARY'S NOTICES

REMINDER

Annual Meeting, Friday, May 12, 1933, at 8 p.m., at the Bar Association, Room 10.

COMMITTEES OF THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES
1932-1933

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

John W. Crandall, New York.
Stuart S. Janney, Baltimore.
Ira S. Lillick, San Francisco.
Leonard J. Matteson, New York.
L. deGrove Potter, New York.
Joseph M. Rault, New Orleans.
FitzHenry Smith, Boston.
J. Frank Staley, Washington.

Admiralty and Aviation (1931)—Messrs. Bradley, Conger, Farwell, Graham, Knauth, F. M. Murphy (dec'd).

Affreightment (1931)—Messrs. Dean, Siddall.

Amendment of Suits in Admiralty Act (1932): Mr. Campbell (New York), Chairman; Messrs. Gidiere and Betts. (Note: The Bill was enacted.)

Arbitration—Messrs. T. Catesby Jones (Chairman), Hatch, Krusen, Oast, Prizer.

Collision, Civil Jurisdiction—No committee since 1902.

Collision, Penal Jurisdiction (1932)—Messrs. Clark, Griffin, McGrann.

Collision, International Rules Revision (1932)

Inland Rules (U. S. Code, Title 33, Chapter 3, Sections 151-231): Mr. McGrann (New York), Chairman; Messrs. Griffin, Griffith, Gould, Farwell and Shortridge.

Great Lakes Rules (U. S. Code, Title 33, Chapter 4, Sections 241-293): Mr. Sherwin Hill (Detroit), Chairman; Messrs. Duncan, Hinslea and Branand.

(Note: Report rendered in January, 1933.)

River Rules (U. S. Code, Title 33, Chapter 5, Sections 301-351): Mr. Leovy (New Orleans), Chairman; Messrs. Lemle, Rault and Stearns.

(Note: Report rendered herewith.)

Extension of Admiralty Jurisdiction (1929)—Messrs. Hupper (Chairman), Lillick, Lord.

Government Tort and Contract Liability (1925)—Committee continued to resist changes adverse to rights of suitors—Messrs. Betts (Chairman), Bailey, Janney.

Hague Rules—Messrs. Englar, Hickox, Veeder, cooperating with Mr. Haight, Chairman of B/L Committee of International Chamber of Commerce.

Interest on Admiralty Decrees on Appeal (1927)—Messrs. Kremer (Chairman), Houston, Henderson, Griffiths, Judge Swan (Mr. Kremer resigned in 1930. Committee inactive since report was re-committed in 1928).

Legal Costs (1932): Mr. Sprague (New York), Chairman; Messrs. Young and Whip.

(Note: Report rendered in April, 1933).

Liens (1925)—Messrs. Putnam, Dean.

Membership—The Executive Committee.

Merchant Shipping Code (1926)—Messrs. Niles (Chairman), Burnham (resigned), Betts, Henderson, Rault, Goulder (died), Kremer (resigned), Griffiths.

Passenger Insurance—No committee since 1923.

Restatement of Conflict of Laws by American Law Institute (1932): Mr. Chas. C. Burlingham, Chairman; Messrs. Chas. R. Hickox, Alfred Huger, George H. Terribery, and the President, *ex-officio*.

(Note: The proposed text was recommitted in 1932 and is under further consideration at the Washington meeting, May, 1933.)

Shipowners' Limitation (1931)—(Vestris Committee) Messrs. Campbell, Englar, Hupper, to watch and report.

Southern District Calendar Practice and Appointment of Commissioners upon Default Decrees in Southern and Eastern Districts (1932): Mr. Houston, Chairman; Messrs. Erskine, Ash, and Underwood. (Note: The reform was accomplished.)

PROPOSAL OF NEW MEMBERS

The secretary, by direction of the Executive Committee, requests that the names of proposed new members be sent to him before May 10, if action is desired on May 12.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMITTEE

The Oslo Conference has been set for August 22-25, 1933.

The Agenda for this Conference will be as follows:

1. Brussels Conventions on Limitation of Shipowners' Liability, Maritime Liens and Mortgages, Bills-of-Lading and Immunity of State-owned ships.

The various national Associations will report upon the position with regard to the ratification of these Conventions and on the state of the national law in their respective countries. The question of expediting the putting into force of the said Conventions will be considered.

2. Jurisdiction and penal sanctions in cases of collision at sea.
3. Civil jurisdiction in cases of collision at sea.
4. Arrest of ships.

As regards the questions of Jurisdiction and Arrest of ships, the Sub-Committee of the International Maritime Committee appointed to prepare a draft convention on penal jurisdiction, a draft Convention on civil Jurisdiction, and to prepare a report on the question of arrest of ships, met in Antwerp last November.

The first pamphlet of preliminary reports issued in anticipation of the Oslo Conference will include the draft conventions prepared

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by M. Leopold Dor as a result of the deliberations of the Sub-Committee. Copies are expected shortly.

INTERNATIONAL BILL OF LADING RULES
(HAGUE RULES)

The Sub-Committee of the French Senate charged with the consideration of the bill already passed by the Chamber of Deputies, whose object is to embody into French law the principles adopted by the Brussels Convention on Bills-of-Lading, has reported favorably on that bill.

ARNOLD W. KNAUTH,
Secretary.

[1949]

MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Annual Report, 1932-1933

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand May 1, 1932	-----		\$1,477.57
Dues received: 1930	-----	\$25.00	
1931	-----	75.00	
1932	-----	1,085.00	\$1,185.00
Interest at Savings Bank	-----	38.88	1,223.88
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			\$2,701.45

DISBURSEMENTS

Miscellaneous printing	-----	\$596.55	
Addressing	-----	22.57	
Subscription to Comite Internationale			
Maritime	-----	250.00	
Subscription to American Maritime Cases	-----	75.00	
Deposit at Government Printing Office for documents	-----	5.00	
Stenography and miscellaneous secretarial disbursements	-----	328.09	
Expenses of Annual Meeting	-----	66.20	
Check tax	-----	.24	1,343.65
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Balances on hand April 30, 193³2:

Central Hanover B. & T. Co.	-----	255.72	
Seamen's Bank for Savings	-----	1,102.08	1,357.80
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			\$2,701.45

BACK DUES POSITION, MAY 1, 1933:

1932—119 members	-----	\$595.00
1931— 55 members	-----	275.00
1930— 16 members	-----	80.00
1929— 5 members	-----	25.00
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		\$975.00

ARNOLD W. KNAUTH, *Treasurer.*