

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMITTEE.

ANTWERP, June 20th, 1911.

30, Rue Des Escrimeurs.

DEAR SIR:

Paris Conference:

We had the pleasure a few days ago to send you the Report prepared by the London Commission on the question of Freight. We shall be pleased to receive as soon as possible the Reports of the National Associations on this draft.

Owing to a meeting of the Interparliamentary Union which several of our members will have to attend, and which is to be held at Rome on October 5th, the Permanent Bureau, in agreement with the French Association of Maritime Law, has finally fixed the date of *our Paris Conference on the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th of October.*

Shipowners' Liability in case of loss of life or personal injury:

The proceedings and discussions of the Brussels Diplomatic Conference on the question of Limitation of Shipowners' Liability have shown how desirable it would be to determine by international convention the conflict of laws now existing with regard to Shipowners' Liability in respect of loss of life or personal injury. We beg to enclose the documents and particulars that have been laid before the Diplomatic Conference in reference to this matter.

The views expressed at the Diplomatic Conference prove that several Governments, representing very maritime interests, would have great satisfaction in seeing a uniform settlement of this question arrived at, so as to assure to the persons injured or their heirs the benefit of a fixed limitation fund,

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calculated at so much a ton. From the documents sent, you will observe that although the serious nature of certain casualties at sea requires that there should be a limit of liability for personal injuries, still on an average the burden which this risk represents for the owners is, in fact, very small and much lighter than is generally believed. This is a practical side of the question which will, no doubt, appeal to you.

We have therefore to request the National Associations and Committees to be good enough to send us as soon as possible their report on the following question, which will be submitted for discussion to the Paris Conference:

“Should the liability of Shipowners in respect of personal injuries, be limited to a fixed amount, such liability to be independent of the liability in respect of material damage and such amount to be calculated at £7 per ton gross register?”

Conventions on Collision and Salvage:

We have much pleasure in informing you that the German Reichstag, in a recent sitting, has authorized the ratification of the Conventions signed in Brussels in September last, on Collision and Salvage. Various other Parliaments are also examining bills of like effect. We therefore earnestly request all our members to exert all their influence to secure that the ratifications may be exchanged between the various Governments in the course of this year.

We are, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly.

THE PERMANENT BUREAU:

The President,
A. BEERNAERT.

The Hon. Gen. Secretaries,
LOUIS FRANCK,
LESLIE SCOTT.

The Vice-President,
CHARLES LE JEUNE.