

Mr. G. H. Helmbold  
Assistant Deputy Administrator

September 28, 1944

Harold J. O'Connell, Director, Food Control

SS THOMAS DONALDSON

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I have read with interest the correspondence forwarded from your office on the storing of the SS THOMAS DONALDSON which was the subject of a cable from Captain Frankel. I was especially interested in Paragraphs 2 and 4 of the memorandum from M. C. Duguid, American Export Lines' Port Steward, to L. S. Andrews the Operating Manager. They read as follows:

"2. All perishables, meats, butter, eggs, fresh vegetables, fruits, fish, and milk powder were graded and passed by the inspectors, of the Department of Agriculture and their certificates are on file in this office.

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4. All trucks delivering meats, butter, eggs, and cheese have their doors sealed after inspection at the plant by the Department of Agriculture Inspectors and then delivered to our piers where the seals are broken and contents weighed by the Customs Inspectors."

These paragraphs emphasize the controls established by this Division and which you and I reviewed with Mr. Schell recently. Moreover, in this instance, they enable us to provide the assurance that the quality and weights of all important commodities were up to specifications. They, therefore, narrow the possible causes of the complaints down to the element of understoring and the possibility of reefer breakdown or mishandling of the foods during the voyage.

Harold J. O'Connell

cc: Captain Conway

HJO'C/ko

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