

which came into contact with an obstruction on the hull.

When vessels have to anchor in areas where drifting mines may be found it is necessary that all obstructions should as far as possible be removed and gangways triced up before dark in order to minimise risk.

5. In regard to the great importance of the destruction of mines with a view to prevention of loss of life and shipping, attention of Masters is called to the necessity for strict compliance with the provisions of Chapter II., "Admiralty Instructions for British Merchant Ships," June, 1919, and especially Section xiii., which includes the following:—

"Whenever practicable, vessels should attempt to sink or destroy mines by gun or rifle fire, but no mine is to be sunk in any fairway where the depth of water at low water spring tides is less than 7 fathoms (12^m8), except when a mine is drifting towards a vessel at anchor, and no vessel is to approach within 200 yards (182^m9) of a mine whilst attempting to sink or destroy it.

"The attention of Masters is drawn to the great desirability of taking every opportunity of sinking drifting mines, as their co-operation will help to free the seas of them within a reasonable period."

Before hoisting the mine flag or reporting a mine which has been left afloat, every care should be taken to confirm that the object actually is a mine, in order to prevent unnecessary confusion; the mine flag is a square flag white over blue diagonal.

Note.—This Notice is a repetition of the former Notice quoted above.

Authority.—The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

By Command of their Lordships,

F. C. Learmonth,

Rear-Admiral and Hydrographer
of the Navy.

Admiralty, London,
1st January, 1923.

Board of Trade.—1923.

SEVENOAKS GAS.

(SPECIAL ORDER.)

(Application for Special Order under Section 10 of the Gas Regulation Act, 1920.)

NOTICE is hereby given, that application is intended to be made to the Board of Trade forthwith by the Sevenoaks Gas Company (hereinafter called "the Company"), whose address is 88, High Street, Sevenoaks, in the county of Kent, for a special Order (hereinafter referred to as "the Order"), under Section 10 of the Gas Regulation Act, 1920, for all or some of the following purposes (that is to say):—

To repeal, alter or amend Sections 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Sevenoaks Gas Act, 1881, and to make new provisions as to the issue by sale by auction or tender of shares or stock hereafter issued under the powers of the said Act.

To relieve the Company from the obligation to hold more than one general meeting in the year; to authorise the directors of the Company to declare and pay interim or half-yearly divi-

dends without the sanction or direction of a general meeting; to make provisions as to the closing of the register of transfers; and to relieve the Company and the directors thereof from the obligation to make up half-yearly balance-sheets.

To authorise the Company to form out of revenue as part of their working expenses (a) a Special Purposes Fund to be applicable to meet expenses incurred by reason of accidents, strikes or circumstances which due care and management could not have prevented or in the replacement or removal of plant or works; and (b) a Renewal Fund to be applicable in or towards defraying the cost of maintenance and renewal of the gas works, mains, pipes, plant, machinery and apparatus of the Company or for such other purposes as may be defined in the Order.

To authorise the Company to vary the prices charged for gas according to the purposes for which it is supplied.

To authorise the Company to charge and recover a minimum annual sum in respect of a supply of gas laid on for stand-by purposes to premises having a separate supply of electricity or gas.

To repeal Section 41 of the Sevenoaks Gas Act, 1876, and to make new provisions as to the qualifications for election as a director of the Company; to define certain actions by directors which shall not be deemed to disqualify them from holding office; to require notice to be given of candidature for election as a director and of opposition to re-election of directors; to empower the directors of the Company to act notwithstanding vacancies in their number.

To empower the directors of the Company to appoint one or more of their number as a managing director or managing directors, and to make special provisions as to the remuneration, powers and tenure of office of persons so appointed.

To relieve the Company from the obligation to supply gas for all or any purposes from any main of which the capacity is insufficient, or so as to interfere with the sufficiency of the gas required for lighting or domestic purposes.

To enlarge the powers of the Company of cutting off supplies of gas in cases where they are authorised to discontinue a supply, and to enable the Company to disconnect service pipes at the meter, and to prohibit the reconnection of such service pipes without the consent of the Company, and to confer upon the Company for such purposes all necessary powers of entry on premises.

To empower the Company and their officers and servants, where any person entering into occupation of premises previously supplied with gas by the Company does not require to take a supply of gas from the Company, or to hire from the Company all or any of the pipes, meters, fittings or apparatus on such premises, to enter into such premises and remove such pipes, meters, fittings and apparatus.

To provide that any engines, stoves, ranges, pipes and other gas fittings let for hire by the Company shall not be subject to distress or liable to be taken in legal proceedings, and shall remain the property of and removable by the Company though fixed to the premises in which they are installed.

To authorise the Company and any local authority, company, body or person producing, selling or distributing gas to enter into