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NEW STEAMER FOR BANGKOK.

From Vice Consul in charge, Carl C. Hansen,

Bangkok, Siam, January 27, 1917.

The S.S."Kepong", which arrived in Bangkok during the middle of January on the first voyage from Singapore, was built in Hongkong for the Straits Steam Ship Co., and is the third new vessel placed by this company on the Singapore-Bangkok run within the past two years.

The "Kepong" was especially constructed with reference to carrying as large a load as possible over the river bar, which obstructs the free passage to Bangkok, and can cross the bar with about 1,500 tons of cargo, while fully loaded takes 2,700 tons.

During December, 1916, a total of 86 steamers, of 69,390 tons, called at the port of Bangkok, and as the demand for cargo space for the shipment of rice increased, the freight rates advanced from 30 Mexican cents per picul in the beginning of November to 65 cents in December on the Bangkok-Singapore run, and from 55 to 95 cents on the Bangkok-Hongkong run.