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HERFORD

DRAMA OF SHIP'S LUCKIEST MEN

Conflicting Stories Told Of Blairgowrie's Condition

"Daily Express" Special Representative. IN an atmosphere charged with tense drama created by accusations and counter-accusations, the inquiry into the loss of the steamer Blairgowrie, of Glasgow, which sank last February with her crew of twenty-six in the North Atlantic, continued at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster, yesterday.

All day long witnesses for the company owning the ship, for the Board of Trade, for the officers and crew, mounted the improvised witness-stand, told their stories, and stood down.

Some had surveyed the ship, some had visited her before she sailed on her last voyage, some had sailed in her. Only those who had manned the ship on her last voyage were conspicuous by their absence. For none of them survived.

Some had died, whether they took to the boats, or whether they went down to quick and merciful death on that dark winter's night, no man knows.

The mystery will never be solved. When the Europa, steaming through a hurricane at 18 knots to her aid, came up to where the ship had been, she and her men had disappeared. Not even wreckage was seen.

The Absent Crew. In the minds of those in court yesterday the ghosts of ship and men were vividly present.

Lord Merrivale, Wreck Commissioner, Sir Donald Somervell, the Solicitor-General, the members of the Board of Trade, and the examining counsel, there to ascertain the reason why the ship went down and twenty-six men lost their lives, showed from time to time a vivid consciousness of that ghostly company.

A man's name, the mention of a hatchway, the prosaic description of the quality of the canvas in a tarpaulin, lit up from time to time with poignancy the slowly told drama of the Blairgowrie, and her tragic end. The story of yesterday's proceedings is the story of three men. One was an Army deserter who had never been to sea, and died on his first voyage.

Another was a man who, on the previous voyage, had been third mate and whose life was saved because he stayed on shore to sit for his second-mate's certificate.

The third was a man who had been dismissed the ship for drunkenness and had brought grave charges against the ship's condition.

The soldier who deserted was Frank Lloyd. He was signed on at Scrooby to take the place of an apprentice who had been taken ill.

Freedom—And Death. "I was surprised to learn later," said Mr. James McNaught, partner of George Nisbet and Co., Glasgow managers for the owners of the Blairgowrie, giving evidence, "that Lloyd had never before been to sea, and was an Army deserter."

When Mr. McNaught learned of this, the unfortunate man had paid with his life for his anxiety to get out of the country.

The second man whose story is so closely related to the Blairgowrie is James McCully, who, on the voyage before the last, was third mate.

He stood by his ship in cross-examination yesterday, maintaining loyally that she was a good sea boat and in good condition. He had sailed in her, and would have sailed again, but that he was ambitious.

To that fact he owes his life. Mr. McClelland passed his examination. He is now out for his certificate as first mate.

Accusations. The third man was David McCully. A statement entered by him was read by the Solicitor-General. McCully was ship's carpenter, and is now on a voyage to the Far East.

"The Blairgowrie," said McCully's statement, "was the worst ship I have ever been in, and I have been at sea for thirty years. If I could have got out of it in America I would have done so rather than risk a voyage back in a vessel in her condition."

James McClelland, giving evidence afterwards, said that McCully's statements were exaggerated.

In answer to the accusations made by McCully, Mr. McNaught made a counter-accusation. "McCully was dismissed his ship for drunkenness," he said. "His statement is a travesty of the truth."

Mr. K. C. representing officers and seamen at the inquiry, stated that previously McCully had a good character.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

CHERRY LADY POYNTER. In our issue of December 5, 1934, we referred to a receiving order having been made against Cherry Lady Poynter, and we now record that on April 9, 1935, the court granted an order of discharge, subject to a month's suspension which has now expired.

It must be a matter of satisfaction to Lady Poynter and her friends that the court should have felt that this was a case for such a nominal condition.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD. The following is the solution of yesterday's crossword puzzle: Across—1, Camel; 2, Sabot; 3, Upstart; 10, Fable; 11, A-one; 12, C-haracter; 14, Lynch; 15, Run; 16, Eilat; 17, Queer; 18, Rum; 21, Fugate; 22, Escarot; 23, Eilat; 24, Irish; 25, Colleen; 27, Tiger; 28, Tiger. Down—1, Copal; 2, Ma-ligerting; 3, Lurch; 4, De-hire; 5, Eartot; 8, Silt; 9, Book-keeper; 8, Treat; 13, Rufus; 17, Quest; 18, Beant; 19, R-all-y; 20, Mutes; 21, Feint; 22, Ether.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS. BEB at Chinghai; 17, BRISBANE at Chabudo; 18, CALOCTA at Borneo; 19, DORSET at Calicut; 20, ESCAPEE at Solapur; 21, GURDIPUR at Solapur; 22, HAWK at Solapur; 23, HAWK at Solapur; 24, HAWK at Solapur; 25, HAWK at Solapur; 26, HAWK at Solapur; 27, HAWK at Solapur; 28, HAWK at Solapur; 29, HAWK at Solapur; 30, HAWK at Solapur; 31, HAWK at Solapur; 32, HAWK at Solapur; 33, HAWK at Solapur; 34, HAWK at Solapur; 35, HAWK at Solapur; 36, HAWK at Solapur; 37, HAWK at Solapur; 38, HAWK at Solapur; 39, HAWK at Solapur; 40, HAWK at Solapur; 41, HAWK at Solapur; 42, HAWK at Solapur; 43, HAWK at Solapur; 44, HAWK at Solapur; 45, HAWK at Solapur; 46, HAWK at Solapur; 47, HAWK at Solapur; 48, HAWK at Solapur; 49, HAWK at Solapur; 50, HAWK at Solapur; 51, HAWK at Solapur; 52, HAWK at Solapur; 53, HAWK at Solapur; 54, HAWK at Solapur; 55, HAWK at Solapur; 56, HAWK at Solapur; 57, HAWK at Solapur; 58, HAWK at Solapur; 59, HAWK at Solapur; 60, HAWK at Solapur; 61, HAWK at Solapur; 62, HAWK at Solapur; 63, HAWK at Solapur; 64, HAWK at Solapur; 65, HAWK at Solapur; 66, HAWK at Solapur; 67, HAWK at Solapur; 68, HAWK at Solapur; 69, HAWK at Solapur; 70, HAWK at Solapur; 71, HAWK at Solapur; 72, HAWK at Solapur; 73, HAWK at Solapur; 74, HAWK at Solapur; 75, HAWK at Solapur; 76, HAWK at Solapur; 77, HAWK at Solapur; 78, HAWK at Solapur; 79, HAWK at Solapur; 80, HAWK at Solapur; 81, HAWK at Solapur; 82, HAWK at Solapur; 83, HAWK at Solapur; 84, HAWK at Solapur; 85, HAWK at Solapur; 86, HAWK at Solapur; 87, HAWK at Solapur; 88, HAWK at Solapur; 89, HAWK at Solapur; 90, HAWK at Solapur; 91, HAWK at Solapur; 92, HAWK at Solapur; 93, HAWK at Solapur; 94, HAWK at Solapur; 95, HAWK at Solapur; 96, HAWK at Solapur; 97, HAWK at Solapur; 98, HAWK at Solapur; 99, HAWK at Solapur; 100, HAWK at Solapur.

These Names Make News the Bs didn't have it

W E had hoped for a Bs' Ascot. After all, today should be Brantome's day.

Insensately, I backed three horses in big races yesterday. They were The Blue Boy (recommended by my chauffeur), Badruddin (recommended by Mr. Higgins, who cuts my hair), Boethius (recommended by Mr. Somebody who does something-or-other).

Embassy waiter who brought me melancholy result had himself backed Bondsman.

PIERRE DE SOURDELLE, Seigneur and Abbé of BRANTOME, was a 16th century French writer. His best-known work is the fairly bawdy "Lives of Gallant Ladies."

Brantome has most remarkable dole in Périgord, exports truffes and freestone.

UNWONTED absentee from Ascot both yesterday and on previous day (when he had, two runners): Lord CARNARVON. At least, none of my hawks could find him.

"Forchic" (to you) has not his Egyptologist's father's academic leanings. He would rather ride to win a £100 race than have a £1,000 race won for him by a professional jockey.

HAS had misfortune to sell a Derby winner and an Eclipse Stakes winner at give-away prices. Hopes to win one of next year's classics with two-year-old colt His Grace.

"Don't say I didn't warn you."

ONE trouble about British art is probably that there aren't enough Old Etonians mixed up in it.

Only O.E. artists who come to mind are Gerald Kelly and late Hon. John Collier.

But another who has won fame abroad, is JOSSELYN BODLEY, show of whose work opens at Leicester Galleries on June 25.

BORN in France, bi-lingual son of famous Oxford historian, he was meant to carry on Bodleian tradition.

Within a fortnight of leaving Eton he was established, while parents sniffed, in Quarter Latin. No one sniffs now. He is 42.

Recently had New York show, arranged entirely by cable. Pictures for it were all painted in 6 weeks, sold by 2nd day of show.

HE paints "house-scapes"—close-ups of French farm and other buildings. Secures with palette-knife what he calls "leprous texture" of crumbling plaster. Settling down here now, he finds

What's On Today? The Lord Mayor presides at Festival Dinner in aid of the Royal Hospital and Home for incurables, Pinner, Mansion House, 8 (starts June 29).

International Horse Show, Olympia, 2.15 and 8 (starts June 29).

Westminster, 8.30. Robert Rastbury, "The Coroners Society of England and Wales Dinner in aid of the Royal Hospital and Home for incurables, Pinner, Mansion House, 8 (starts June 29).

Boley Club of London Dinner in aid of the Royal Hospital and Home for incurables, Pinner, Mansion House, 8 (starts June 29).

Annual Festival of South African Church Institute, Westminster School Hall, 8.30.

Oregonian Association Festival, St. Paul's Cathedral, 8.

Parliamentary House of Lords—Government of India Bill, Lord Justice's motion on Coal Mines Act, House of Commons—Supply, Dominion's Office Vote.

Cricket: Middlesex v North, Lord's; Surrey v Cambridge University, Oval; Lancashire v Yorkshire, 2 and 7.30; Hampshire v Gloucestershire, 8.

Racing: Ascot.



Damita & Flynn

Wild boy wins thru. Elected president of Incorporated Association of British and Irish Millers, at annual convention at Sheringham, LEWES.

Not the biggest of the financial giants, who grind wheat for Britain's bread, but a giant physically. Stands 6ft; 8ins.—barefoot!

CONVENTION ends today. Last night Read slept for third and last time in special titan bed built for him at Sheringham hotel. His father was president of association in 1914.

NINETY-FIVE years ago today death sentence concluded sensational trial of valet FRANCOIS COIRVOISIER for murder of his master Lord William Russell. Cut his throat as he lay asleep in bed.

Case is notable as first recorded in which newspaper description of murderer elicited vital evidence: shopkeeper recognised description as that of man who had left in her shop parcel which was found to contain plate stolen from victim's house.

Convoisier, confessed, was hanged 6/7/34. "No connection with the brandy, which I like."

William Hickey

YOUTH CONDUCTS HIS OWN OPERA AT 21

AND MAKES A HIT. Opera: "Iernin." By George and William Lloyd. Theatre: Lyceum.

A LEAN, pale-faced, shock-headed young man of twenty-one conducted his own opera (libretto contributed by his father) in the West End's largest legitimate theatre last night.

The opera was first produced in the Lyceum's native Penzance last year. It created such a stir locally that Lloyd père collected the money for the London presentation. It is only the second English opera put on for a West End run since the war.

There is ruggedly Celtic, a tale of a lady who, after some years as a stone statue on a Cornish moor, wakes up and finds she is alive again.

Denounced as witch. A passing noble falls in love with her, and though she is denounced as a witch, he lifts his fiancée to go off with her into the hills.

A great pity that, while they were about it, they could not collect enough capital to stage it in first-class style.

It is sad to say, but not one of the all-British cast of principals has either vocal or acting ability of grand opera calibre.

Chorus work is far the best feature.

Lloyd as a composer shows remarkable promise. This, his first opera, is worthy of lavish production by experts.

He continues in the operatic field he is liable to be heard from in an important way. C. B.

Gardeners' Plot

Privet hedges are now making rapid growth, and where they are thin it is advisable to trim them in order to encourage bushiness.

Some gardeners are apt to push their trimmings into any hole in the hedge, in order to fill it up the gap. This only helps to make a bigger gap and prevents the young growths, which would naturally meet, from doing so.

It is better to trim down one or two growths on a stake for filling holes.

A MESSAGE TO JAPAN

NO MORE "DIFFICULTIES". Sir Samuel Hoare, Foreign Secretary, speaking at a farewell dinner to Mr. Matsudaira, the Japanese Ambassador, in London last night, said he wanted him to take back a message from the English people.

"Anglo-Japanese relations have not been entirely free from disturbing factors in recent times," Sir Samuel went on.

"I will only mention the recent report that we have received from North China, and the difficulties that are bound to arise from time to time between two great powerful and industrial countries, each of them trading over the face of the world."

"I hope Mr. Matsudaira will say to those in Japan that there are many men and women in England who wish to see these difficulties removed, just as there are large numbers of men and women in Japan who wish to see them removed."

SIR A. SCOTT TO RETIRE

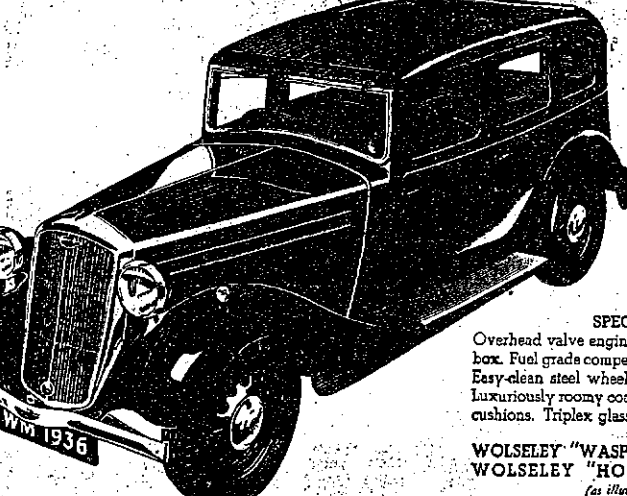
65 YEARS AT LLOYD'S. The retirement of Sir Andrew Scott from the secretaryship of Lloyd's Register of Shipping and Aircraft will be officially announced today.

Sir Andrew has spent sixty-five years with Lloyd's. He entered the Glasgow branch office as a boy in 1869, and was transferred to London in 1874.

He was appointed secretary thirty-one years ago and, since then, has been the organising genius behind the famous organisation.

FINED UNDER WAGES ACT. Fines and costs totalling £11,15s. were imposed at Spalding, Linco. yesterday, on F. Tiner and Sons, Northgate Nurseries, Finchbeck, for paying wages less than the minimum rate.

The proceedings, which were in respect of two employees, were taken under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.



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