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MURDER CHARGE

Accused Almost a "Deaf Mute"

EVIDENCE IN GLASGOW TRIAL

THE trial on a charge of murder of a 37-year-old man, stated in medical evidence as being of a mental age between nine and ten years, opened at the High Court of Justiciary in Glasgow yesterday before Lord Wark. The trial will be resumed to-day. The accused, William Wilson, is practically a deaf mute, and an interpreter sat in the dock and translated the evidence for him.

Wilson appeared at a previous sitting in February, when Lord Cooper referred the case to the High Court in Edinburgh, where it was considered before a bench of five judges. Counsel on his behalf then held that, in the interests of the accused, he could not consent to his detention as a criminal lunatic without trial when he himself wanted trial. He submitted that accused was not insane. Their Lordships decided that the question of the panel's capacity to plead should be left to be determined by the jury in the course of the trial, when the whole facts would be before them.

Wilson is charged with robbery and murder. It is alleged against him that on October 31 or November 1, 1941, on the king of a disused colliery at New Stevenston, Lanarkshire, he assaulted William Dick, then residing at 5 Wagner's Square, New Stevenston. The charge further alleges that accused struck Dick several blows on the head, face and body with stones, robbed him of a magnifying glass and a wallet containing £20, "and did murder him."

DOCTOR'S EVIDENCE

The first witness yesterday, Dr George Macdonald Scott, Medical Officer of Barlinnie Prison, stated that he had examined Wilson on several occasions. Accused was practically a deaf mute, and it was exceedingly difficult to elicit information about his previous history. He had never learned to read or write. Accused kept his own house, and kept it clean and tidy. Witness said that Wilson was generally simple and childish, but possessed a certain shrewdness and cunning.

In reply to Mr R. Sherwood Calver, Advocate-Depute, who conducted the Crown case, Dr Scott said he was convinced that Wilson was not certifiably insane, and was fit to plead. He communicated with accused mainly by means of "baby talk" and gestures. Wilson, he added, had the mentality of a boy between nine and ten years.

Answering Lord Wark, witness expressed the belief that accused appreciated his position.

Cross-examined by Mr J. F. Strachan, K.C., for the defence, witness said that accused's mental condition had been brought about by his deafness and muteness, which shut him out from normal education. Each time he had seen Wilson he was more than ever convinced that he could give instructions. He knew he was charged with a capital offence.

Re-examined, witness was asked for accused's answer when he was questioned whether or not he knew the punishment for the crime with which he was charged. Dr Scott said accused indicated that he might be "strung up."

(Continued in Next Column)

TUBERCULOSIS

Obstacles to Early Treatment

LOCHGELLY AREA INCREASE

FIFE County Council's Public Health Committee, at a meeting at Cupar yesterday, considered a memorandum by Dr G. Matthew Fyfe, M.O.H. for the county, on the increased number of cases of diphtheria and tuberculosis in Lochgelly area.

Dr Fyfe pointed out that for the Lochgelly and Beath district the 15 to 25 years age group was the one most heavily affected. In the county as a whole there had recently been a decided increase in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The belief that the disease was something to be ashamed of and hidden dried back. Too often not even the death of one member of a family after prolonged illness induced survivors to seek the treatment and guidance that was freely offered. In many cases the economic factor played a part, for the breadwinner could ill afford to be absent from the household income for an extended period.

It was difficult to persuade an early case of tuberculosis to take the long view. It would be beneficial if the teaching of hygiene in schools were overhauled and extended. The provision of increased ultra-violet light therapy at schools during winter months was worthy of consideration.

In regard to nutrition, Dr Fyfe stated that the close relationship which adequate feeding bore to resistance to disease should be borne in mind in the present urge towards the development of arrangements for communal cooking and feeding. Precautions were particularly necessary in the mining areas, where husbands would be increasingly provided for at piithead canteens, and mothers left more and more to themselves at meal times would tend increasingly to subsist on cups of tea.

The Department of Agriculture had done much to eradicate infected animals from dairy herds. On the other hand, little was being done in connection with the examination of bulk samples of milk for tubercle bacilli. Considerable cost might be involved by the procedure, but it would be worth while.

Mr W. G. Marshall Lochore, said that it should not be impossible to arrange for a little propaganda to eliminate hereditarily acquired bones in the black-out and introduce more air. He moved that they appoint a special sub-committee to go into the whole question and to consult with other committees of the Council and other Authorities if necessary.

Mr James Hope, East Wemyss, said they got that report every year, but they required action to get the problem solved.

The matter was remitted to a special sub-committee.

Dr Ivy Mackenzie, who said he had examined Wilson on several occasions, was of the opinion that accused was sane and fit to plead.

Evidence was given by boys regarding the finding of the body on the bing, one of whom, John Forrest (12), 115 Loanhead Road, New Stevenston, said that they saw what appeared to be a pile of stones. On going forward they saw that it was the body of a man. There was a stone on the side of his face. They ran to the police office to tell of what they had seen.

Church News

CHURCH MAN-POWER

Ministers' Services to State

EDINBURGH POSITION

A report on the question of the man-power of the Church and on the subject of the children of women war workers was submitted by the Rev. D. W. P. Strang to a meeting of Edinburgh Presbytery of Church of Scotland in Tolbooth-St John's Church yesterday. The Rev. W. White Anderson, the Moderator, presided.

Mr Strang read letters which the Committee on Church and National Service agreed to send to the secretary of the Assembly Committee dealing with the subject of man-power, and in the case of the children of war workers, to the Scottish Education Department. In the letter on man-power, it was pointed out that the total number of ministers in the Presbytery was 165. Of these, 102 were over 50 years of age and 63 under 50 years. Thirteen of those under 50 years were on active service as chaplains, one was on active service as a combatant, and three were with huts and canteens. There were, therefore, 46 men of military age not absent with the armed Services. The Presbytery was satisfied that was not an undue number to meet the needs of a large city area. The majority of the ministers were nearer rather than farther away from the age of 50, and the greater number of the ministers themselves felt that in their present circumstances they ought not to forsake their parishes for duty away from home. Reviewing the circumstances, the Presbytery was convinced there were too few ministers who could be easily released. Almost all ministers who were remaining in their parish areas had charged themselves with national service, both of a spiritual and social character.

WOMEN WAR WORKERS' CHILDREN

In the letter regarding the children of women war workers, it was stated that the Local Authority and the Church Committee were agreed that in the matter of guardians for children, private arrangements with friends or relatives were naturally best, and such arrangements seemed to be going steadily forward. It appeared that the demand for war-time nurseries had not yet been very marked, and that the supply was now even in excess of the demand. So far, there had been two exceptions to that rule—the districts of Gorgie and Lochend—and the Church had assisted the Local Authority by offering such accommodation as was available.

Fifty-three ministers and 53 elders were elected Commissioners to the General Assembly.

YOUTH CLUB LEADERSHIP

It was reported by the Rev. J. A. Sammon that the Committee appointed to organise the Edinburgh Girls' Training Corps was now engaged in selecting and training leaders. Most of the leaders were being chosen from the teaching profession, but the Edinburgh Churches Joint Committee had been invited to nominate six leaders.

Mr Sammon also pointed out that a conference on "The Christian approach to the leadership" was to be held at Moray House from April 24 to 26. Clubs under many auspices were coming into existence, and the leadership of such clubs offered a fine vocation for some of the best young men and women in the Church.

Attention was drawn by the Rev. Dr J. B. Aitken, the Clerk, to the jubilees this year of three of the ministers in the Presbytery. They are the Very Rev. Dr Norman Maclean, who was ordained in 1892; the Rev. Andrew Douglas, Nassau, Bahamas, who was ordained in the same year; and the Rev. Thomas Low, late of West Calder, who was ordained in 1892.

It was agreed to instruct the Clerk to send to the three ministers the cordial congratulations of the Presbytery.

Good wishes were also expressed to the Rev. J. A. Brown, of Slateford, on his semi-jubilee; and to Mr James Boyd, Windsor Place Church, Portobello, who has completed 31 years service as an elder.

Regret was expressed that for health reasons Mr L. M. Rusk had decided to resign from the position of hon. treasurer of the Presbytery. The question of the appointment of a successor was remitted to a committee.

Ayr Presbytery and Maintenance of Ministry Fund

At Ayr yesterday—the Rev. Harry J. Marr, moderator, presiding — Ayr Presbytery adopted a report by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee on a request of the Deacons' Court of Sandgate Church, Ayr, that the Presbytery should recommend the General Assembly to formulate a scheme whereby the amount contributed by each congregation to the Maintenance of Ministry Fund should bear a reasonable relation to the minister's stipend.

The report of the Committee was submitted by General Sir Charles Fergusson, the convener, and bore that, after careful consideration of the facts it was not prepared to advise the Presbytery at the present stage to press for Assembly action.

The Very Rev. Dr Forgan maintained that the real unit to be considered in connection with the Fund was not the congregation of the parish, but the individual member of the church. Members should have brought home to them their obligation in regard to this matter.

Church and Post-War Problems

The Rev. Professor John Baillie, addressing the Presbytery of Greenock yesterday, dealt with the report of the Commission on the Interpretation of God's Will in the Present Crisis.

The Commission, he said, had dealt with the presentation of the Christian Gospel to the men of our time. It had been felt that there was need to clear the mind of the Church in a general way as to the nature of the Church's concern in the more particular problems of the earthly social order and the right of the Church to offer guidance on such things as society, industry, and international problems. There had been discussed, too, post-war problems—the problem of international reconstruction, the feeding of Europe, the punishment of the Nazis, and, above all, the re-evangelisation of Europe.

Calls Sustained

Hamilton Presbytery yesterday agreed to the translation of the Rev. J. Esson Gillon, Bellshill MacDonald Memorial, to Maxwell Church, Glasgow.

Calls to the Rev. George L. B. M'Alister, Glenesk, Angus, from Cambusnethan North, and to the Rev. Walter Miller, a recent missionary of the Church who is now locum tenens at Moncrieff Church, East Kilbride, from the congregations of the West Church in Hamilton, were also sustained.

A meeting of the Presbytery of Annandale at Lockerbie yesterday sustained a call to the Rev. Douglas W. Watt, St Enoch's—Knox Church, Glasgow, by the congregation of Well Road Church, Moffat, and provisionally fixed the induction for May 13.

Hamilton Presbytery agreed yesterday to emphasise the importance of ministers within the bounds of the Presbytery making their intentions with regard to undertaking national service at or before the next meeting.

At a meeting of Linlithgow and Falkirk Presbytery at Linlithgow yesterday, the Rev. John P. Bayne, Bo'ness, was appointed Moderator.

MOTHERS ON WAR WORK

Care of the Children

GLASGOW DISCUSSION

Is the mother of a child under five years of age performing a greater national service by going to work at munitions or by remaining at home? That was a question debated at yesterday's meeting of Glasgow Presbytery of the Church of Scotland, and the latter point of view found support to the extent of being included in a resolution unanimously approved.

The Presbytery agreed to a resolution which, while carrying a representation to the Public Health Authorities that the greatest national service mothers of children under five years could render at this time was by caring for their own children at home, expressed willingness to give the utmost assistance and to take such steps as were possible in the matter of providing foster-mothers.

The matter was raised by the Rev. G. Kerr M'Kay (Balshagray) when presenting the report of the Home Mission and Church Extension Committee. Whatever their private and individual views might be, he said, they were faced with the fact that there was a large number of children under five whose mothers were engaged on war work, and the Church had been asked to co-operate in a scheme for the children's care. The Secretary of State for Scotland had prepared a scheme whereby foster-mothers or guardians might be provided.

COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTION

It had been suggested by the Presbytery Committee that, where possible, ministers might make a list of women in their own congregations or parishes who would be willing to act as foster-mothers or guardians, and, at the same time, prepare a list of mothers engaged on war work who sought the assistance of such guardians. When these lists were as complete as possible they should be submitted to the Public Health Department of Glasgow Corporation, from whom further information could be obtained.

The Rev. John Mackay (John Knox Church) moved an amendment which suggested that the mothers would perform a greater national service by caring for their children at home, and this was ultimately agreed to for inclusion in the resolution passed by the Presbytery.

War damage to churches in Scotland was mentioned in a report submitted by the Very Rev. Dr John White (The Barony.) In a reference to churches which had been damaged beyond repair, or where the damage could not be dealt with at present, he said that matter would be taken up later with the War Damage Commission. That would be the time for Presbyteries to decide whether or not such churches were to be rebuilt on the present sites or transferred.

A petition from the kirk-session of The Cathedral asking for the release of the Rev. A. Nevile Davidson from service as chaplain with the Forces was approved for transmission to the War Office. Mr David Jackson, who concurred in the petition, has been asked to resume his duties as minister of the Cathedral in view of circumstances.

The Rev. Alex. Macdonald (St Columba) was elected Moderator, to succeed the Rev. W. J. Baxter (Dowanhill.)

Jedburgh and Kelso Presbytery

The Rev. J. Falloon, Trinity North Church, Kelso, succeeded the Rev. A. Thomson, Morebattle, as Moderator at the meeting of Jedburgh and Kelso Presbytery held at Kelso yesterday.

The following overture by the Rev. John M'Laren, Jedburgh, was adopted:—"That the Presbytery of Jedburgh and Kelso overture the General Assembly to take into consideration the inadequate provision made for the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund for the ministers dependent upon it and the decline of Christian liberality in the church towards this fund, and to instruct the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to consider what steps may be necessary for the reorganisation of the fund and to report thereon to the next Assembly."

Aberdeen Presbytery

At a meeting of Aberdeen Presbytery yesterday, the Rev. M. Arnott, joint convener of the Presbytery's Youth Committee, submitted a report on Sunday schools within the bounds of the Presbytery, and declared, with regard to the decrease in attendance which had been recorded annually for a number of years, that, at the present rate of decrease, in nine years there would not be a single Sunday school scholar in the Presbytery of Aberdeen. After discussion, the Presbytery remitted the matter to the Home Mission Committee for consideration and a report.

The Rev. Dr J. B. Burnett, Fetteresse, pointed out that it ought to be remembered that undoubtedly one factor in regard to the decrease in attendance at Sunday schools was that so many of these evening halls had been required by the authorities, and arrangements apart from the usual had often not been popular or satisfactory.

SHIPS' DASH FROM GOTHENBURG

Seaman Tells of Air Attack

SEAMEN who escaped in Norwegian ships in a dash from the Swedish port of Gothenburg to Britain told a thrilling story in London. Of the 11 ships which tried to get away, a certain number reached Britain. Two returned to Gothenburg.

"It was misty when we left," said a 20-year-old seaman. "Bombs from Heinkels missed, so they machine-gunned the decks. The captain was wounded, but he stayed on the bridge.

One ship attacked by four trawlers and bombers off Denmark escaped in a snowstorm.

Forty seamen and passengers from the ships reached King's Cross, London, yesterday, some wearing ski-ing suits.

WAR SAVINGS IN SCOTLAND

THE Scottish Savings Committee announce that the sales of Savings Certificates and Defence Bonds and the increase in balances due to depositors in the Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks in Scotland for the week ended March 24 amounted to:—

Certificates	£500,046
Defence Bonds	404,060
Increase in Savings Banks balances	391,350
	£1,315,456

The total sales of Savings Certificates and Defence Bonds and the increase in balances due to depositors in the Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks in Scotland since the commencement of the campaign amounted to:—

Certificates	£42,847,680
Defence Bonds	44,527,154
Increase in Savings Banks balances	37,137,105
	£124,511,948

NO TOBACCO RATIONING

MR A. H. MAXWELL, Tobacco Controller, in an interview yesterday, said he had no intention of rationing cigarettes or tobacco. There was no reason even to contemplate such a course.

This statement scotches a rumour that cigarettes are to be rationed under a points system.

CONVENTION OF ROYAL BURGHS

Mr Thomas Johnston, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, speaking at the Convention of Royal Burghs in Edinburgh yesterday. It was the first occasion on which, as Mr Johnston observed, either a Secretary of State or a Secretary for Scotland had, during his term of office, addressed the Convention. Others seen in the picture are Lord Provost Darling (in the chair) and, on his left, Dr Charles Warr and Lord Alness.

DISTRICT NEWS

Edinburgh and South-East

THE LATE SHERIFF BROWN.—Tributes to the late Sheriff C. H. Brown, K.C., were paid in Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday. Sir George Morton, K.C., who had been deputising for Sheriff Brown during his illness, presided, and was accompanied on the Bench by Sheriff-substitute Macdonald Gillchrist, and Jameson. Sir George Morton said that a well-known figure had passed from amongst them after 15 years. Yet that day it was not the lawyer they were mourning so much as the man. Sheriff Brown had a fine wit and sense of humour, and everyone appreciated his felicity of language. His memory would long be cherished in the Court. Tributes were also paid by Mr James Somervell, W.S., on behalf of the Society of Procurators, and by Mr T. G. Muir, the Procurator-Fiscal.

POLISH ARTISTS' EXHIBITION.—By the sale of catalogues at the "Through Polish Eyes" Exhibition in the Scottish National Gallery, which closed on March 28, the Edinburgh Lady Provost's Comforts Fund, benefited to the extent of £18 15s. The catalogues were published by the Polish Weekly Digest of Stirling, and sold by the members of the Women's Voluntary Service, assisted by ladies who gave their services voluntarily. The Commissioner for the Polish Soldier Artists' Exhibition, in intimating this donation, expresses his gratitude and thanks to the British Council, the Edinburgh Photographic Society, Mr Stanley Cursiter, Director of the National Gallery of Scotland, and all those who assisted in the organisation and maintenance of the Exhibition.

JOHN O'GROAT ASSOCIATION.—At the annual business meeting of the Edinburgh John O'Groat Benevolent Association—Mr George Mowat, M.A., B.Ed., president—the secretary's report showed that there has been an increase in membership during the year and the treasurer reported a balance of £25. The following office-bearers were appointed:—President, Mr G. Mowat; vice-presidents, Mr T. Bruce and Mr D. Swanson; educational convener, Mr J. Oliver; assistant convener, Mr D. Grant; treasurer, Mr R. G. Malcolm; assistant treasurer, Mr Angus Munro; secretary, Mr Charles Ewart; assistant secretary, Mr James Chalmers.

Glasgow and West

CLYDE TRUST SALARIES.—Clyde Navigation Trustees, at their meeting in Glasgow yesterday—Mr Neil Cuthbert presiding—agreed to grant an application made on behalf of the clerical staffs for an amended war-time cost-of-living bonus similar to that granted by the Joint Industrial Council for Local Authority Services in Scotland. The increases, which will cost the Trust £1660 in a full year, take effect from January 1, 1942. The bonus scale which takes the place of the increases granted from July 1, 1941, is as follows:—On salaries under £40 10 per cent.; £45 to £200—15 per cent., with a minimum of £12 per annum; £200 to £325—£30 per annum; £325 to £350—such amount as will bring the total remuneration to £365 per annum; £350 to £500—£15 per annum, provided that the increase shall not operate so as to increase any salary, plus emoluments, beyond £515 per annum.

NEW HOSTEL CAMP.—Clydeside has now three fully equipped and furnished hostel camps ready to accommodate war workers who may be bombed out of their homes. Two have already been opened by Mr Thomas Johnston, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, and the third will be opened on Saturday by Colonel Walter Elliot, M.P. This camp, like the others—a fourth is still to be completed—is built from a master plan which has been adapted to suit individual site conditions. Modern in conception, it is aimed to give as much comfort as is possible with economy, speed of production, occupying a 20-acre site away from the "target area" of industry, but sufficiently near to factory and workshop for easy and rapid transport morning and evening. A feature of the enterprise is the trouble taken to provide for the comfort and recreation of the 2000 men who will occupy the four camps in an emergency. The Scottish Special Housing Association are the builders on behalf of the Department of Health for Scotland.

KIRKINTILLOCH BANK AGENT DEAD.—The death occurred yesterday at Kirkintilloch of Mr Andrew Matson, agent of the local branch of the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd. Mr Matson was for 27 years teller in the Trongate branch, Glasgow. He succeeded the late Mr Robert Anderson as agent at Kirkintilloch in 1936, being later appointed actuary of the Savings Bank of Kirkintilloch. He was a native of Kirkintilloch and was keenly interested in local institutions, being treasurer of the local Charities Day Committee, District Nursing Association, and the local branch of the National Lifeboat Institution.

COURT-MARTIAL CASE CONCLUDES.—The Court-martial case at Glasgow, in which two soldiers were accused of assaulting a third, concluded yesterday, and the Court's decision is to be promulgated. Pte. A. McNeil, Pioneer Corps, alleged that he was struck repeated blows on the head until he fell on the floor through exhaustion. The two accused are Sergeant E. Catton, H.L.I., and L.-Cpl. J. H. Beaton, H.L.I. The assault was alleged to have taken place in a small room at Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow, when McNeil was awaiting an escort to take him to his unit in Wales. Major H. G. Willmer, K.C., for the defence, yesterday said that both N.C.O.s were regarded as trustworthy and reliable men by their own commanding officers. Both men had a very responsible task. Sergeant Catton was placed in charge of the detention barracks, and every prisoner who came to Maryhill passed through his hands, and he was responsible for their welfare. "The fact is," he said, "that Sergeant Catton was left in charge of the detention barracks with very little supervision."

FRAUDS ON SHOPKEEPERS.—Two men understood to belong to Glasgow, John Craig and John Campbell, were sentenced to 18 months imprisonment by Sheriff Johnston at Dumfries Sheriff Court yesterday for frauds on shopkeepers. They pleaded guilty to pretending to various shopkeepers in Dumfries and Dundee that they could supply matches and thereby induced the shopkeepers to pay them sums of money amounting to £264 18s. They were further charged with attempted frauds on shopkeepers in Dumfries, Lockerbie and Annan, the amount involved being £149 12s 6d. Another charge was of having on 26th September at a shop in George Street, Stranraer, defrauded a boot merchant of £36 10s in connection with an order for 250 pairs of boots and ten gross of laces.

George Henry Price, charged with the murder of Reginald Sanderson, who was found dead in his jeweller's shop at Annieland, Glasgow, on March 14, appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday. There was no plea on the murder charge and accused was committed to prison for further examination.

Central and North

SOLDIERS ROB DEALER.—When three soldiers—Sergeant Thomas Mackie, Sergeant Murray, and George Hughes—were each sentenced, in Inverness Sheriff Court yesterday, to six months imprisonment for robbery, Sheriff Ross said that such a gross breach of behaviour could not be tolerated in this country. They pleaded guilty to the theft of a pocketbook and £461 from a general dealer who was flourishing £5 notes in a bar in the town. The dealer, who had a complainer in the street, held his hands behind his back, and one of them took possession of the money, all of which was recovered later by the police. £257 being found in the billet of the accused.

ANGUS WAR BONUSES.—By a majority, Angus County Council agreed (1) to consider each case on merits regarding supplementing military pay of employees on service; (2) administrative, clerical, and technical staffs (excluding nurses) to be paid war bonus as follows:—10 per cent on salaries to £200, 6 per cent. on salary in excess of £250 and not over £300, and 3 per cent. on any portion of salary in excess of £300 and not over £350, no award to increase any salary beyond £360; (3) teachers—6 per cent. on first £300, 3 per cent. on the portion of salary over £300 and not over £350, no bonus to increase any salary beyond £360. The awards are to be retrospective as from January 1, 1942. Mr Wm. Irving, factor, Cortachy, was co-opted in place of the late Mr John R. Taylor as member for Fern and Tannadice.

OFFICE TEA RATION HALVED

Industrial Workers Not Affected

OFFICE workers have had their tea ration cut by half. Up to Monday tea clubs were allowed 1 lb a week for every 20 people working in industrial, business, or commercial undertakings. The allowance has now been halved for office workers, states the Food Ministry.

In anticipation of the cut, milk supplies for all workers' tea clubs were halved, but as the tea reduction is not to apply to industrial workers, they may, on application, have the original amount of milk restored.

To enable officers to entertain civilian friends, Service officers' Sunday clubs have been licensed as catering establishments.

Pre-war manufacturers of non-alcoholic vegetarian products and British wines are now licensed to use dried fruits or nuts.

GREY TUNIC SUIT. Introducing the new-length Jacket with Claret-shade Buttons and Ribbon to tone. Price, 15 Gns.

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LOSS OF TRAWLER ON SCOTTISH COAST

Second Hand Blamed

FAILURE of the second hand to keep a proper look-out and to see that a correct course was steered were stated at Fleetwood to have been responsible for the loss of the tops, Mull of Kintyre, of the Fleetwood trawler Nordale on January 15, with the loss of five lives.

The Ministry of War Transport inquiry decided to suspend the competency certificate of second hand Jack Powell, of Hamilton Street, Longsight, Manchester, for nine months.

Mr F. A. Sellars, K.C., Wreck Commissioner, criticised the carrying of only one compass. Trained compass deviation cards should be placed in recognised places aboard trawlers, and with life-saving equipment should be handed to the skipper before leaving port.

Pointing out that at the time the Nordale was steaming with sidelights inboard, Mr Sellars said: "This practice is strongly condemned and must cease forthwith."

WILLS AND ESTATES

Bequest to Earl Haig's Fund

JOSEPH BANKS (75), of Hallow Park, near Worcester, formerly chairman of Bradleys (Chester), Ltd. Net personalty, £582,402; gross ..... £607,631.

He left £2000 to the British Empire Cancer Campaign; £1000 to the British Sailors Society; £250 to Earl Haig's Fund (Scottish Branch), and many other charitable bequests.

Sir Albert Barratt (81), of Totteridge Park, Herts, chairman of Barratt & Co., sweet manufacturers, from 1912-21. Net personalty, £102,739; gross ..... £181,009.

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL, DUNBLANE

GENERAL A. F. A. N. THORNE, General Officer, Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command, as vice-president, presided at the quarterly meeting of H.M. Commissioners of the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, yesterday. It was reported that the strength of the school was:—Queen Victoria School boys, 199; Duke of York's Royal Military School boys, 55—a total of 254.

RUBBER POLICY

British and Dutch Look to the Future

QUESTIONS IN AMERICA

WASHINGTON, Tuesday.—America can now produce over 700,000 tons of synthetic rubber, said Mr Jesse Jones, Secretary for Commerce, to the Truman Defence Committee. He said this figure could be increased if necessary.

There had been abnormal purchases by Russia, Britain, Canada, and other parts of the British Empire, which had kept down America's reserve stock in 1940, but the position to-day was much better than was contemplated in 1940, so far as natural rubber was concerned.

Mr Jones estimated that at the fall of Singapore Britain had rubber reserves totalling 100,000 tons. Now America was exporting rubber to Britain.

Asked if the Dutch and British were reluctant to release stocks and raise the percentages of the base quotas," he replied:—"I could not say that they were reluctant to release stocks sufficient to provide America with a reasonable stock pile, but apparently they did not want the quotas to be increased to such an extent that post-war markets would be seriously affected."—Reuter.

Expansion of Production in India

NEW DELHI.—A communiqué issued to the Press states that no international commitment is being allowed to impede immediate expansion of rubber production in India to the utmost possible extent, contrary to the suggestion which has been made. As to the international rubber agreement, most of the territories covered by the agreement have now passed into Japanese control, and it is pointed out that there is nothing in the agreement to restrict the quantity of rubber which can be obtained from existing plantations.

The question of bringing new land under cultivation has been raised, but it must be realised that it takes seven years before a rubber tree is ready for tapping, so a decision on this question does not form part of the immediate problem facing the Allied Governments.—Exchange.

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