



Windsor Castle 18,867 tons 1922



Carnarvon Castle 20,141 tons 1926

After the War

With the war over and a resumption made towards normal life, delivery of two new mailships, *Arundel Castle* and *Windsor Castle* was taken in 1921 and 1922. At 19,000 tons they were already half as large again as the pre-war *Balmoral Castle*, and were larger than any ships that had served on the route before. They were also of a very new design. It has been said that this might be called the multiple funnel period, and certainly the two new Castles well fitted the description for they featured four smoke stacks, one of them in reality being a dummy. These ships provided many amenities not hitherto thought of, including a permanent swimming pool for first class passengers. When the *Arundel Castle* arrived back from South Africa on her maiden voyage she was crowded to capacity carrying many distinguished passengers, including General Smuts and members of his Cabinet on their way to England for the Imperial Conference of 1921.

New Design

It was in 1926 that Union-Castle introduced another complete change in ship design. The ship was the *Carnarvon Castle*, which besides being the first Union-Castle ship to exceed 20,000 tons, was also the first of a long line of ships, both passenger and cargo, powered by diesel engines. In complete contrast to her predecessors with their four tall slender funnels, *Carnarvon Castle* had two large squat funnels. There followed in 1930 the *Winchester Castle* and in 1931 *Warwick Castle*, both of a similar design.

Freight Contracts

In 1928 a new freight contract was signed. Under the terms of this contract Union-Castle Line agreed to provide extra refrigerated space for deciduous and citrus fruit. This space was to be increased annually so that by 1933 5,000 tons for deciduous and 7,000 tons for citrus fruit would be provided if required.

Five years later a further freight agreement was concluded, this time for ten years. In order that the provisions of this agreement might satisfactorily be carried out orders were placed for the building of two new mailships, each of 25,000 tons, to be named *Stirling Castle* and *Athlone Castle*. This agreement was followed two years later by a new mail contract. This was for ten

Athlone Castle 25,567 tons 1936

