

RADIO NEWSREEL

FOR the benefit of our readers who suffered the disappointment in the failure of the B.B.C. to broadcast the Launching Ceremony of the "Clan Mactaggart" in Radio Newsreel on the night of October 8, we reproduce below the official script of this commentary as recorded, but not put over the air.

SPEAKER: Robin Russell.

ORIGIN: Glasgow Studio.

TITLE: Launch of the "Clan Mactaggart."

DATE: October 8, 1948.

Cue Material.

At Greenock Dockyard to-day (Friday) Mrs. Leif Egeland, wife of the High Commissioner for South Africa, launched the "Clan Mactaggart," a cargo liner designed to trade between this country and South Africa. She is expected to be ready for service early next year.

RUSSELL: This is Robin Russell calling Radio News Reel from Scotland—from the yard of the Greenock Dockyard Company. In a few minutes' time Mrs. Leif Egeland, the wife of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, will perform the launching ceremony of the "Clan Mactaggart." Some time next year listeners in South Africa will be able to see this fine ship, as she has been specially designed for the Clan Line to trade between this country and South Africa, and doubtless she will be a frequent visitor to Capetown, Port Elizabeth, and East London, Durban. The "Clan Mactaggart" is the 39th vessel built at Greenock for the Clan Line, and she is the 6th Clan vessel to be launched from this yard since 1946, and others are on the way—I can see them all around here on the stocks. Meanwhile, whilst we are awaiting the launch you can hear work still going on. By the way, a very famous Clan Liner lies just a few hundred yards away from here. She is being refitted and will sail again—the "Clan Davidson." In her wartime guise as H.M.S. "Bonaventure" she was a depot ship to midget submarines, and was active in the famous attack on the German battleship "Tirpitz," and later in the action

against the Japanese cruiser "Takao" near Singapore in 1945.

The launching party are just on the point of moving up to the platform under the bows of the new "Clan Mactaggart." It takes the name of the "Clan Mactaggart" lost by enemy action in the Atlantic in 1942. The launching weight is 4,900 tons, and her approximate gross tonnage will be 7,950, and her nominal sea speed will be 16½ knots.

I can see the champagne bottle for the christening being put into position, and it's wrapped in red, white and blue silk and topped with a sprig of white heather for Good Luck. Here is Mrs. Leif Egeland coming along now; she is about to be presented with a bouquet of marigolds, blue anemones and white carnations, the South African colours, and I will just take the microphone over and see if the rivet boy who is presenting the bouquet has anything to say.

No, I am afraid the tiny rivet boy seems a bit tongue-tied, and Mrs. Leif Egeland, a tall, graceful, fur-clad figure smiles to him and thanks him, and passes on to the launching platform, just a few yards ahead. There's a surprising—almost surprising lack of delay, and we'll just wait now as she goes forward to christen the ship.

VOICE: Good Luck—I christen you "Clan Mactaggart," and wish you well, and all those that sail in you. (Cheering.)

RUSSELL: A perfect launch—almost noiseless, you see there's no drag chains—she slid down there most gracefully—she's in the water now—the "Clan Mactaggart's" in the water and through the great yawning gap of the now empty stocks I can see her as the tugs close in to take over. I can see right over the Firth of Clyde, and further over to the West you can see the hills of Argyll.

Well, the "Clan Mactaggart's" well afloat now, and I can just make out the crest on the bow, the Scottish lion rampant—the Scottish lion rampant, which, I might add, is the houseflag of all Clan Line vessels—and as we say up here, "She's Clyde built."