



# SMOKE SIGNALS



J.W.

## Best Wishes on Retirement

Retiring on his 65th birthday is the Chief Engineer of the *Carnarvon Castle*, Mr. James Lyon, who was born in Dundee, Scotland, on 24th August, 1895. His father, who had joined the Union-Castle Line early in 1900, transferred his home to London in 1906. On 2nd January, 1911, Mr. Lyon began his apprenticeship with the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Coy. Ltd. (Donald Currie, Managers), at their works at Blackwall, and in January, 1915, through the Company's good offices, he was transferred to Messrs. Barclay Curle & Co. Ltd., shipbuilders on the Clyde, where he completed his apprenticeship in 1916.

He then applied for and obtained a sea-going appointment with the Union-Castle Line; but, since at this period in the First World War the submarine campaign was at its height, and the men who built the ships were as valuable as those who manned them, Barclay

Curle, acting on their wartime powers, refused to release him.

Mr. Lyon, however, at every opportunity tried to get into more active service, and in 1917 he was accepted as an E.R.A. in the Royal Navy, and for the remainder of the war he served on H.M.S. *Malaya*.

Immediately on demobilisation he rejoined the Union-Castle Line as a Junior Engineer on the *Grantully Castle*. He passed through the different ranks and obtained his Chief Engineer's Certificate first in Steam and later in Diesels.

In May, 1941, he held his first position as Chief Engineer when he was appointed to the *Sandown Castle*. He has since served as Chief Engineer of the *Samtrent*, *Roxburgh Castle*, *Athlone Castle*, and completed his sea-going career with the arrival home of the *Carnarvon Castle* on 15th July.

Mr. J. Lyon (fourth from left) pictured at his farewell party

## Salty is our Tongue

Into our post bag recently came a copy of *People*, a magazine published in Australia. It was interesting to read in an article dealing with "nautical customs and graphic expressions that come from the sea and ships" the following reference:

"The Clan Line ships, familiar sights around Australia's coasts, fly a handsome house flag every Scotsman knows—a red lion rampant in a white diamond on a red ground. But even many seafaring Scots don't know that each vessel of the Line carries its own flag on the jack-staff, the small staff right in the bows.

This individual flag is the tartan of the clan after which the ship is named. The lion of the line's house flag is also part of this flag."

(The flag is actually composed of a red lion rampant in a white diamond on a tartan ground—Ed.)

