

## FASTER U-C MAIL SERVICE TO SOUTH AFRICA

On 16th July, 1965, *Windsor Castle* will inaugurate the speeded up mail service to South Africa. The present voyage time of 13½ days between Cape Town and Southampton will be reduced to 11½ days and the service will be operated by 7 ships instead of the present 8.

The existing schedule was introduced in August, 1936 but, looking ahead to the time when an improved service could be brought into operation, the *Pretoria Castle* and *Edinburgh Castle*—the first Mail ships to be built after the War—were given a substantial reserve of speed. *Pendennis Castle* and *Windsor Castle* and *Transvaal Castle* were built with the faster schedule in mind and the completion next year of the two new Cargo Mailships will make possible the introduction of the new schedule, which calls for a service speed of 22½ knots.

### Regularity of Service

The well-known slogan—"Every Thursday at 4 p.m. a Mailship sails for South African sunshine"—will undergo a change from 16th July, 1965, when the vessels will leave Southampton every Friday at 1 p.m. From Cape Town departures will be at 1 p.m. each Wednesday instead of 4 p.m. Friday. Arrival days will be Monday at Southampton and Wednesday at Cape Town.

### Capetown Castle, Athlone Castle and Stirling Castle

The inauguration of the new schedule will mean that these ships will no longer be required in the Mail Service. *Athlone Castle* and *Stirling Castle* will be withdrawn and *Capetown Castle*, after a short refit, will be retained as a one class ship to be used in the main for passengers only. She will operate an extra service between Southampton and Cape Town, taking 15 to 16 days on the voyage. General calls will be made in either direction at Madeira. During the South African fruit season *Capetown Castle* will bring cargoes of fruit to the United Kingdom.

R.M.S. Windsor Castle



The Mail Steamer Dane

## Over a Century of Service

Readers may be interested to trace in the table below the record of progress of the South African Mail Service.

1857	Inaugurated by the <i>Dane</i> (530 tons). Monthly service, to complete the voyage in not more than 42 days.	Union Steamship Co.
1863	Monthly service, the voyage to be completed in 38 days.	Union Steamship Co.
1868	Service increased to twice a month.	Union Steamship Co.
1876	Weekly service, the voyage to be completed in 26 days.	Shared between Union Co. and Castle Line.
1888	Time reduced to 20 days.	Shared between Union Co. and Castle Line.
1893	Reduced to 19 days.	Shared between Union Co. and Castle Line.
1900	Amalgamation of Union and Castle Lines to form Union-Castle Co.	
1900	Time of voyage reduced to 16 days and 20 hours.	Union-Castle Line.
1903	Time reduced to 16 days 15 hours.	Union-Castle Line.
1936/38	Voyage to be completed in not more than 14 days. Inaugurated 21st August, 1936, but not in full operation until 1938.	Union-Castle Line.
16th July, 1965.	Inauguration of faster service by <i>Windsor Castle</i> (38,000 tons) the voyage between Southampton and Cape Town to be completed in 11½ days.	Union-Castle Line.