

group trade review

SHIPPING:

U-C represents

Royal Viking Line

Since October 13 Union-Castle has been acting as general agent for Royal Viking Line in the UK and Ireland. This follows the closure of the Bergen Line office in London, which previously held the agency.

Royal Viking Line has transferred to an office in Rotherwick House. Commenting on this move, W. B. Luckman, RVL's UK sales manager, said: "We are very pleased to be associated with a company of such high repute and look forward to a happy and successful relationship with Union-Castle". John Andreae, U-C passenger director, added: "We welcome this appointment because Royal Viking Line's cruises will be complementary to our own passenger shipping services and will enable us to offer the British market first-class cruising on a world-wide basis".

The line has three sister cruise ships of 22,000 tons, all built in the seventies. They are *Royal Viking Sea*, *Royal Viking Sky* and *Royal Viking Star*. The standard of accommodation is first class throughout, with all cabins having private facilities. The passen-

ger carrying capacity of each ship is 500.

The ships cruise world-wide, and next year the line is embarking on its third world cruise. This will be undertaken by *Royal Viking Sea*, which sets sail next January from New Orleans and Fort Lauderdale.

The ship will call at several European ports, but not in Britain. Two calls will be made at Southampton next year by *Royal Viking Sky* during her cruise programme, but there will not be any cruises beginning and ending in the UK.

GROUP RESULTS:

interim follows

predicted pattern

B&C's interim results, announced on November 18, reflect the forecast made by our chairman Sir Nicholas Cayzer in his statement at the company's annual general meeting in July, when he said: "We must expect a downturn in profits from the level of £16 million before tax achieved in 1974". (See CLANSMAN no. 32).

The estimated results for the six months to June 30, compared with last year, are as follows:

Turnover	1975 (6 months) £84,000,000	1974 (6 months) £68,000,000
Gross Profit	5,812,000	8,371,000
Profit after Tax and Minority Interests ..	2,494,000	4,015,000

Present indications are that the profits for the whole year, before taxation, minority interests, exceptional and extraordinary items and after charging realised losses on foreign currency loans, will amount to some £12 million, or a reduction of £4 million from the corresponding figure for 1974. After realised exchange losses, taxation and minority interests, but before exceptional and extraordinary items, the reduction is estimated to amount to £2 million. The cause of the decline in profitability relates to the performance of the six bulk carriers which contributed significantly to profits in 1974 but which have made losses in the current year.

An interim dividend of 6.89 per cent (3.445 pence per ordinary stock unit) is payable on January 9, 1976, to stockholders whose names appear in the Register of Members at December 12, 1975.

■ First of three white sister ships for the Norwegian-flag Royal Viking Line was Royal Viking Star, 22,000 tons. Now Union-Castle represents the cruise line. See story.

