



SMOKE SIGNALS



JW.

Retirement of Commodore

Captain John Oakley, Commodore of the Union-Castle Fleet, came ashore from his last voyage on 23rd November when the *Windsor Castle* docked at Southampton. For health reasons, he will be retiring at the end of the year. He will be succeeded by Captain Arthur Patey.

Captain Oakley, who is 61 years old, joined the Union-Castle Line as a Cadet in 1917. Serving at sea during the first World War he survived the torpedoing of the *Alnwick Castle* and his ill-health may well stem from the exposure experienced in a life-boat at the time of the incident.

Captain Oakley has served in all passenger and cargo vessels of the

Company and was appointed to his first command, *Roxburgh Castle*, in 1942. He was appointed to his first command of a mail vessel in 1950, when he was made Captain of *Carnarvon Castle*, and has since been in command of *Edinburgh Castle*, *Stirling Castle*, *Capetown Castle* and *Windsor Castle*.

News of New Commodore

Captain Arthur George Patey, who has been appointed Union-Castle Commodore in succession to Captain Oakley, began his career in dramatic fashion. He first went to sea in 1918 and his vessel was torpedoed within three days of leaving port.

Captain Patey joined the Union-Castle Company as a junior officer in January, 1929, and received his first

command, the *Rochester Castle*, in 1943. For a short period in 1947 he was seconded to the Head Office in London to assist the Marine Superintendent and later the same year was given command of *Durban Castle*, his first passenger ship, which was then temporarily engaged on the mail run.

Four new vessels left Belfast under his command—*Richmond Castle*, *Riebeeck Castle*, *Rustenburg Castle* and *Kenya Castle*—and he remained on the *Kenya Castle* from February, 1952, to July, 1955. For the next two years he acted as relief Captain in the Mail service, taking over from Masters on leave or absent from their ship owing to illness.

Captain Patey was appointed to the

On Friday, 16th November, members of the ship's company of the Windsor Castle joined Commodore J. F. Oakley in a farewell drink to wish him a very happy retirement. On their behalf the Chief Officer, Mr. H. Charnley, presented Commodore Oakley with a gold wristwatch and a Persian rug. Pictured in the foreground (right) is Commodore Chief Engineer Mr. D. B. Abercromby, C.B.E., and (left) the Chief Purser, Mr. R. E. A. Thomson. Presentations were also made on behalf of the passengers

