

## FILM NEWS

Robert Montgomery's  
New Technique

## "THE JOLSON STORY"

(BY E.C.)

connection with his own production, "Lady in the Lake," shown in Limerick last week, Robert Montgomery made the following statement a short while ago:—

"I know that I'm telling others how to perform in front of cameras, I've been turning the years in my own mind recalling some of the things that have happened during my acting career. It is difficult to be for in many ways it seems though it were just yesterday—I've been in Hollywood more than sixteen years and have made 55 pictures.

"I've seen a lot of changes take place in Hollywood in that time. I've seen the movies come of age. To me, however, the screen has not reached its full potential. The years ahead look inviting and I hope to be around to participate in the fun."

"You would be surprised at the number of people who liked his and the sincere congratulations of all intelligent picture-lovers will be extended to Mr. Montgomery on his introduction of this revolutionary technique. To use the words of the trailer:—'In 1926 a camera talked; in 1947 the camera acts.'"

"Robert is one of the most sincere go-ahead of all the stars in film capital and we may look forward to more of his unique productions. It is to be hoped that do not come across some more imitations, but this eventuality seems inevitable."

## "THE NEW CINECOLOUR"

"In response to an inquiry, I wish to explain that the new Cinecolour process is quite good. It may not be the best in Technicolour, but nevertheless, an impressive contribution to this field of cinematography. It will be seen for the first time in Limerick this week."

## "IRISH FILMS HONOURED"

"The Guild's 'Great Expectations' just had its American Premiere at the world's largest cinema in New York's famous Radio City Music Hall. Also running on Broadway at the moment are DeLoach Kerr's 'I See a Dark Stranger in America' 'The Adventures of David Niven's 'A Matter of Life and Death' (in America 'Arway to Heaven'), and 'Odd Man Out.' Receiving the biggest notices from the critics are James Cagney's, termed as 'masterly'; Helen Ryan's 'beautiful study of matchless strength'; F. J. Murnighan and Cyril Cusack, both of whom 'uphold the high tradition of Irish acting.'"

"Exclusive Note—'Great Expectations' and 'A Matter of Life and Death' will both be shown in Limerick towards the end of July."

## "NOTES ABOUT 'THE JOLSON STORY'"

"This week I am able to reveal exclusively that, in response to the overwhelming public demand, 'The Jolson Story' is to be brought back to its original 'home' in the heart of London's West End.

"The film, which is estimated to rank among the ten biggest money-makers of all time, has been booked for an indefinite run this week at the Tivoli, Strand, the theatre where it had its London premiere last November.

"The booking is, in the circumstances, without precedent in West End entertainment history.

"Films are often brought back to West End as re-issues or re-releases. But this is the first time a non-British (who control the film) have ever re-engaged a film key, premier West End cinema where it was first shown, while the film itself is still on current theatrical release and still being shown at suburban and local cinema and around the greater London area.

"The prominent British admit that in bringing back 'The Jolson Story' to the Tivoli they are doing an unprecedented thing. But public demand for the film has become so overwhelming and insistent among all classes of picture-goers that they have wholeheartedly agreed to make this special donation."

## TRAGEDY IN BOILER-ROOM

## Fatal Limerick Explosion

## EVIDENCE AT INQUEST

## Expressions Of Sympathy

In Barrington's Hospital, Limerick, on Friday evening, Mr. J. S. McNeice, solr., Deputy Coroner for Limerick, and a jury held an inquest into the death of James Downey, of 47 Sexton Street North, Limerick, who died on Tuesday morning last after being fatally scalded when the boiler in the saw-mills of Messrs. Spaight's burst.

The Gardaí were represented by Supt. P. Collieran; Mr. P. G. Collins, solr., appeared for the next-of-kin of deceased; Mr. A. J. Blood-Smyth, solr., appeared for Messrs. Spaight and Sons; Mr. N. S. Gaffney, solr., represented the United Stationary Engine drivers, Crane Men, Firemen, Motor Men and Machine Men's Union (Limerick Branch), and Mr. T. E. O'Donnell, solr., appeared for the Irish Woodcutters and Machinists Association.

The first witness called was Dr. Francis Crowe, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, who said that the deceased, James Downey, was admitted to the Hospital at 8.30 on the morning of Tuesday last. He died about two hours later, suffering from extensive scalding and a small abrasion at the back of the head, which could be caused by his falling against a wall. Death was due to shock following scalding of the body.

## EMPLOYED AS A SAWYER.

Michael O'Keefe, Ballinacurra, Sawmill Manager in Messrs. Spaight's, said that deceased was employed as a sawyer at Spaight's on the 27th May last. Witness wasn't present when the accident occurred in the boiler-room.

Questioned by Mr. O'Donnell, witness said the deceased was not employed in the boiler-room, but the men had a custom of hanging their clothes in the boiler-room to dry over week-ends. It was only since the accident he had learned that this custom existed.

Replying to Mr. Gaffney witness said the boiler didn't look too fresh, but he was only employed in the establishment for over two years. During his time in the employment of Messrs. Spaight the boiler had been repaired approximately twice. A man named Owen Hayes was the man who supervised the boiler but he was off duty, through illness, during the past six months. To his knowledge the boiler was never inspected by a Departmental Inspector. When purchased several years ago, the boiler was a second-hand machine.

Replying to Mr. Collins, witness said there was no notice published or private rule in existence prohibiting anybody from entering the boiler-room. The boiler was last repaired in August of last year. The repairs then consisted of the renewing of eleven stays.

Further questioned by Mr. Gaffney, witness said there was a bigger boiler in the yard which was not used, for sake of economy in fuel. The two boilers worked on the same type of fuel. The boiler which burst had worked at very high pressure prior to the accident. The bigger boiler was out of action for several years. Only one man was needed to operate the smaller boiler, while it would take two to work the bigger machine.

## HEARD AN EXPLOSION.

Augustine O'Neill, 6 Clontarf Place, boilerman and engineer in Spaight's timber yard, said he arrived at 6 o'clock on the morning of May 27th. He started the fire in the boiler and brought the pressure up to 130 lbs. per square inch at 8.5 a.m. At this pressure the safety valve began to blow off steam. At that time James Downey, Paddy Frawley, Edward Brennan and two other men were in the boiler-room. Two of the men were carrying the waste materials. Deceased came in to get his coat, which had been hanging up in the boiler-room over the week-end. Deceased was standing in front of the boiler, the door of which was open, airing his coat. Witness went to crank the fly-wheel into position in order to get the engine going and he heard an explosion. Looking around, he saw the whole boiler covered up with steam and water. He stooped down with

two other men and they were held immovable by steam. He couldn't see anybody with the mass of steam. After about six or seven minutes he got out of the steam, came back, and heard Downey moaning. Witness called on a man named Michael Power and Frawley to take out Downey. The two men moved Downey, who was badly scalded, and later had him sent to Barrington's Hospital. Another man, Edward Brennan, was also injured. After the accident, witness saw the stays parted from the plates of the boiler. Two plates were out of place. At the time the explosion occurred the pressure was normal and he never anticipated such a burst.

Witness added that he was six years in charge of this boiler. The boiler was last inspected and repaired in August by the insurance company's inspector.

Replying to Mr. Blood-Smyth, witness said he had seen no apparent indication of a defect on the boiler.

To Mr. Gaffney, witness said that the big, unused boiler had a horsepower about three times higher than the one which was in action and which burst.

Replying to Mr. Collins, witness said that, unless there was something defective in the boiler, there would have been no explosion, since the safety valve was there to let off excess pressure.

## FOUND IT IN ORDER IN MAY.

Joseph Fenwick, Glenavon Cross, Douglas Road, Cork, an Inspector for the Alliance Assurance Co., said he examined the boiler concerned in August last and, as a result, eleven stays were to be replaced. On November 4th, 1946, he made an external examination of the boiler under pressure, and found that the stays had been replaced. On May 12th last he again inspected the boiler and found it in order. Its stipulated pressure was 140 lbs. to the square inch. Since the accident he examined the boiler and found 25 stays out of the 121 on one side of the fire box which were not broken. The firm was investigating the cause of the break. It was possible that since his previous examination a couple of stays could have broken, when the others would become over-loaded and would possibly rip. The law prescribed that boilers should be inspected internally and externally once in every fourteen months.

Replying to Mr. Collins, witness said that the boiler was passed to carry a pressure up to 140 lbs. and there was no necessity for Messrs. Spaight to cut down the pressure to 130 lbs. According to his Company's records the boiler was made either in 1919 or 1920.

John Downey, 2 St. Ita Street, Island Field, brother of the deceased, gave evidence of identification. He saw his brother after the accident and the deceased, who was in pain, recognised witness. He was about 36 years of age, was married and had one child.

## JURY'S VERDICT.

After a brief retirement the jury returned a verdict that deceased died from shock following scalding of the body, accidentally received when the boiler burst in the saw-mills of Messrs. Spaight during the course of deceased's employment.

The foreman expressed the jury's sympathy with the relatives of the deceased. The Coroner, Supt. Collieran and Messrs. Gaffney and O'Donnell joined in the expression of sympathy.

On behalf of Messrs. Spaight, Mr. Blood-Smyth also sympathised with the relatives of the deceased man, adding that he had been requested to state that the firm very much regretted the unaccountable accident, in which they had lost one of their oldest and most valued employees. There had been no indication of any kind that there was anything wrong with the boiler.

Mr. Collins, who, on his own behalf, also expressed sympathy with the relatives of the deceased man, on behalf of the relatives, returned thanks for the expression of sympathy.

## ARMY PENSIONS

Defence Minister's  
SchemeMEN WHO WILL BE  
EXCLUDED

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

Dear Mr. Editor—The Press reports state that the Minister for Defence proposes to lay before both Houses of the Oireachtas a scheme for increases in pensions for the Defence Forces, and this is as it should be, as the pensions now given are a mere pittance and a handicap to the holder.

But there is a fly in the ointment, well rubbed in. The Minister excludes from his proposals those existing pensioners with 21 years service and over who retired voluntarily to seek employment, or who were "retired" medically unfit for Army service before 2/9/46. His scheme covers only those who are retired subsequent to 2/9/46. Ye gods and little ones, what kind of legislation is this? This is the most glaring injustice meted out by any Christian Government to its ex-servicemen, who in 1922 (at the start of this infant State), and again in 1939, were prepared to give their all to defend her liberty against all her enemies, foreign, or domestic.

Are we asking too much of the Minister for Defence that he would look at the matter dispassionately and include those pensioners whom he has now excluded from the scope of his proposals? We say the numbers so affected are relatively small and would cause no great financial burden on the State.

Compare the pensions:—(1) A private soldier (married) retires on 20/8/46 received the princely sum of 14/- after, say, 22 years service. (2) A private soldier who retires after 2/9/46 (say, three days after No. 1), and who has just completed 21 years service, receives 35/9 (personal pension) and 7/- extra if married. Total, 22/9.

Will the Minister explain, or can he explain, the discrepancy in these pensions. If it is the intention of the Minister for Defence to alienate the goodwill of ex-servicemen, he is going the right way about it. We would say to him, and also remind all T.D.s, that the clouds of war, which have never really lifted, are daily growing more menacing, and that a contented ex-serviceman is a sure means of defence for this State. When, however, a man becomes a Minister of State, he leaves the human element at home in the bosom of his family and ceases to give weight to any human consideration. Buried in an office, he sees nothing but statistics, men cease to be men to him and (in case of the Defence Minister) become just units of demobilization and mobilization—officers, N.C.O.s and men, pensioners and non-pensioners, claimants and applicants. The human element never enters his calculations. He takes and makes large decisions, and, unlike the ordinary executive, does not have to explain himself.

The previous Defence Minister (Mr. Frank Aiken) when introducing the 1937 pension scheme, stated that it was the best he could obtain from the then Minister for Finance; and that if he could effect improvements in the amounts at a later date he would do so. Well, Mr. Aiken, now is the time—the purse strings are in your hands. What about including all pensioners of 21 years service and over in the new scheme, or alternatively amend the 1937 Pension Act to include such pensioners?

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your kindness in publishing this letter.—Miss Le Meas,

PATRICK HANNAN,  
4 Killeely Road, Limerick.  
1/6/1947.

## THE ARCHBISHOP

CONFIRMATION CEREMONY  
AT KILTEELY

His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Kinane, Archbishop of Cashel and Emu, made his triennial visitation to the parishes of Killeely and Dromkeen on Whit Sunday, for the purpose of administering Confirmation to sixty children from Killeely and Cloverfield Schools (writes our Pallas correspondent).

At the conclusion of the Mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Fr. O'Keefe, C.C., His Grace congratulated the children and their parents.