

changed their minds and the Purser walked into the lounge and asked those those who were interested to attend the meeting, then, in the smoke room. There was an American family Mr and Mrs Eagle and their son of about eighteen travelling with us. and when the purser made the announcement the parents decided not to attend the meeting. However the son decided he would go and as he walked out his father said - 'Son remember a closed mouth catches no flies'. Well the son did not heed the warning and in the end found himself elected-as-the elected as the Hon. Secretary. It is always difficult to get people to take on these jobs, Well Mr. McIntosh a good mixer and popular got things going and the necessary arrangements made for the sports to commence after leaving Madeira.

The day at Madeira was, as usual, great fun though most of the people went ashore. It was fun watching the boys from their little boats diving for coins. I should like to have bought some of the beautiful things but we are not too flush and must remember that there are tips to be doled out when we leave the ship.

The passengers after their outing ashore returned hot and exhausted. The children too were interested in the diving especially the boy who climbed up onto the top deck and shouted 'Me high dive'. A few coins were thrown into the water and from that height he dived and collected them.

Well it was good to be off again and have our cabins unlocked as they had been against the thieves who come aboard to enter unopened cabins in search of goods etc.

When we crossed the line on Thursday the usual crossing the line ceremony was carried out. The children all marched round the deck following the popular lift plying his bagpipes. Then when they had welcomed Neptune and his wife, members of the crew, who were supposed to have come aboard from the depths of the ocean certain of his retinue started the usual lathering and shaving with a cardboard knife and then into the swimming bath. All great fun into which the children entered. Mark and Annaliese however were exempt as they had already received their certificates on the voyage to England.

Mark and Annaliese have lost that really chubby look and acquired at the nursery school and now just look well and healthy.

Geoff. I will take over for a while. There was great excitement throughout the ship as a message had been received from the Edinburgh, the homeward-bound ship that she had a darky stowaway aboard and he was to be transferred to the Pretoria Castle to be returned to Cape Town. The meeting of the two ships was to be at 3 P.M. and would in normal cases have passed each other as usually the Mail Vessels do,

Well we sighted the Edinburgh Castle some time before hand and all those who were catnapping left it to the cat and came on deck and lined the rails to see the transfer. Yes the deck was thronged with interested interested spectators.

Captain Brown, our Captain, the Union Castle's finest seaman instructed Captain Patey, the Edinburgh Captain to stop his engines and remain where he was and the Pretoria Castle would carry out the necessary manoeuvres to get into the required position. Each ship then lowered a boat and the man was transferred from the Edinburgh boat to the Pretoria boat all done without a hitch in a rather choppy sea. The native, of Mombasa beamed as his boat was hoisted aboard the Pretoria. His green shirt made him look quite colourful and he seemed to enjoy the whole performance.

To digress for a while to tell you a true story of Captain Brown, a most religious man, which took place some years ago and received wide publicity. Some years ago, it was as a matter of fact in the late twenties when Capt Brown was a third officer on the Union Castle cargo ship Dromore Castle trading between America and South Africa and as then an official of the Company's South African Staff I remember the drama. The ship was, on a voyage from New York to Cape Town. During this voyage one of the firemen, the ship was then using coal, came up

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came up on deck
for some fresh
air and fell
overboard. He
was not missed
for some time
but when he was
the matter was
reported to the
Captain by
Captain Brown/