



**David Thomas Jones.**

**(1866—1931).**

**T**he sudden death, on 4th February, 1931, after a short illness, of DAVID THOMAS JONES, Chairman of the Fishery Board for Scotland, has closed a remarkable career, and has removed a capable administrator, whose intimate knowledge and wide experience of the Fishing Industry in all its complex and varied problems were unrivalled.

To appreciate the romance of JONES' life it is necessary to explain the constitution and functions of the Scottish Fishery Board. The Board was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1882, although a previous board had existed for the protection and encouragement of the herring fishing, the oldest Act of Parliament for regulating the industry still in force having been passed in 1705.

The function of the Board is to supervise and conserve the interests of the Scottish fishing industry. Statistics are regularly compiled; branding, which was originally instituted by the British Government in 1809, is still carried on by the Fishery Board as a means of guaranteeing the quality of the cured herrings; a fleet of patrol steamers is maintained for the protection of the fisheries; Inshore fisheries are regulated by means of Bye-laws which the Board are empowered to make; conflicting interests between fishermen, and curers, and other persons concerned in the industry are adjusted. The Board also supervise the important Salmon Fisheries and control and regulate by licence the Whaling industry. They carry on Marine research work on an extensive scale and supervise the large public expenditure which has been, and is being, incurred in the repair, re-construction and extension of Fishery Harbours. It will readily be seen that to become master of such a varied organisation was no easy task.

JONES was born in 1866 at Gilfach Goch, in Glamorganshire South Wales, where he was educated. In May 1886 he became a Junior Clerk in the Civil Service through his success in open competition. In 1887 he was appointed to the Fishery Board for Scotland; and the young Welshman came to Edinburgh, an entire stranger, to enter upon what was destined to be the scene of his life's labour. At the outset JONES was somewhat handicapped. He was in a new environment and wholly unacquainted with the peculiarities of the Scottish character. From the first JONES was characterised by assiduity, versatility, and adaptability and by a readiness to seize every opportunity of self-improvement with the result that in 1892 he became Chief Clerk, and in 1909 he was appointed by Royal Warrant Secretary of the Fishery Board.

It is not too much to say that the high state of efficiency to

which the Board in its various Departments attained, and still maintains, was largely due to JONES' perspicacity, foresight, resource and untiring zeal and energy during the years he was Secretary.

It was therefore a matter of no surprise when, on a vacancy occurring in 1920, a radically new departure was made, and JONES was appointed Chairman of the Board. This appointment was an achievement of which JONES was justly proud, not only on personal grounds, but owing to its being then one of the rare, if not the only, instance in Scotland of a Civil Servant rising, from a junior clerkship, to the Chairmanship of his Department.

As Chairman, JONES evinced the same capacity and ability as he had done formerly. After the War his knowledge of fishery interests and personnel was of the highest use in connection with demobilisation, and the many other difficult matters which thereafter arose.

As one of the British delegates to the International Council for the Study of the Sea JONES took an active and deep interest in all its deliberations. He was a member of several of its Committees and latterly Chairman of the combined Committees which conducted the Marine investigations of the Northern and Southern parts of the North Sea. The appreciation of his usefulness and the esteem he was held in by his International colleagues was strikingly shewn by the numerous communications of sympathy expressed on his death, the key to which was aptly expressed by one who wrote of him as 'this kindly man, always cheerful and helpful'.

JONES' activities were not merely confined to his official duties. In 1920 he attended the International Labour Conference at Genoa as an adviser on fishery matters, and in 1924 he visited British Columbia for the purpose of investigating the possibilities there for the settlement of crofter fishermen from the Western Islands of Scotland. He also served on numerous Government Committees dealing with post War problems.

In his younger days JONES had been an active Volunteer and held a commission in the Q.E.R.V.B. (Royal Scots). In 1914 he was commissioned as Paymaster Lieutenant Commander, R.N.R., and gazetted C.B.E. (Military) and C. B. E. (Civil) in 1919 for special services during the War.

JONES was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and of the Royal Statistical Society.

In private life JONES had many interests. True to his nationality he was a musician of no mean order, and in his youth was much interested in athletics and a keen golfer to the last.

Every one who knew him esteemed his friendship, his sterling worth and charming personality. And a blank has been created by his death which time alone can efface.

W. L. M.

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