

## High Seas

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Frank C. Bowen writes on MINNETONKA of 1901 in Shipbuilding and Shipping Record for January 8. The Atlantic Transport Line has now been out of business 15 years, and still no good history of this famous company has come to our attention.

ANDREA DORIA, of revived Italian Line, reached New York on her maiden voyage January 23 after a rough trip. Attractive outside, the 30,000-tonner was somewhat hodgepodge within: neither all modern, all functional, nor all roccoco. There were signs of hasty construction: cracking paint, curling linoleum squares, and warped paneling.

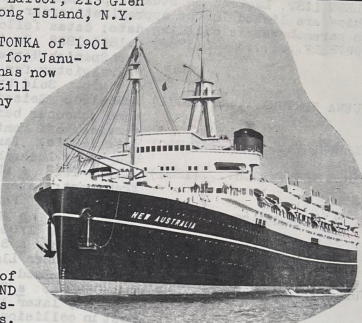
One of the latest in the stream of new French passenger liners is FERDINAND DE LESSEPS, 10,944 gross, one of 11 vessels ordered by Messageries Maritimes. LIBERTE a EUROPA carried 44,125 passengers on 38 crossings in 1952. Since her July debut, UNITED STATES has carried 36,044 on 23 crossings.

Disaster struck EMPRESS OF CANADA a DUCHESS OF RICHMOND (1928) January 26 at a Liverpool pier. The 20,325-ton liner burned, capsized, and was a total loss. As replacement, Canadian Pacific has acquired DE GRASSE from the French Line--to become EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA.

The fire highlighted others on QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH, also undergoing annual overhaul. Recalling a great marine disaster, a film will be released in May based on the TITANIC story.

The Dutch liners WILLEM RUYSS (1947) and ORANJE (1938) collided in the Red Sea in January. The former had to skip a trip, being replaced by JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT. The 10,544-ton KLIPFONTEIN hit a submerged object off West Africa in January and sank within 100 minutes.

Tragedy also struck passenger ships in the Mediterranean and Irish Seas. Christmas week, the French CHAMPOLLION stranded and broke up off Beirut, with a loss of 14 lives. January 31, the motor packet PRINCESS VICTORIA (successor to a steamer of the same name), en route



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In January the postwar immigrant fleet between England and Australia was cut down to one liner. Ten had served during the height of the movement. The lone survivor is NEW AUSTRALIA a MONARCH OF BERMUDA of 1931.

WASHINGTON, one-time United States Lines flagship, earned the melancholy distinction February 12 of being the largest ship to sail the Hudson above New York. Retired from passenger service, she was being towed to permanent layup in the Jones Point Reserve Fleet.

Through a mix-up in signals, we omitted from the December Bill (p. 92) the note which went with the photo of KEYSTONE MARINER, first of 35 9200-tonners building for the Maritime Administration. Her maiden run from Brooklyn to Bremerhaven last fall set a freighter record of "well over 20 knots" to Bishops Rock.

Union-Castle will observe its centenary in 1953; the French Line, in 1954.

The Peruvian freighter TUMBES sailed January 24 from New York on the first direct postwar voyage to Iquitos, on the upper Amazon. Iquitos is only 400 miles from the Pacific, but is reached from the Atlantic, 2,116 miles away.