

Henry Adolph Salvesen, D.L. By The Rt. Hon.  
Lord Salvesen. P.C., K.C.

(Read July 7, 1924.)

MR SALVESEN, who was born on 5th June 1860 at Weedingshall, Polmont parish, and died on 13th May 1924 at his residence of Lathallan in the same parish, was the third son of Mr J. T. Salvesen, who some eighty-five years ago had founded the well-known firm of J. T. Salvesen & Co., shipowners and timber importers, Grangemouth. His parents were of Norwegian origin. Educated at Blairlodge School, Polmont, and later at the Collegiate School and University, Edinburgh, he was trained as a mechanical engineer, for which profession he displayed great aptitude, and at the early age of twenty-six was elected a member of the Institute of Naval Architects. A promising career in this direction was, however, cut short by the necessity of his joining the business at Grangemouth, owing to the illness and subsequent death of his eldest brother, the leading partner of the firm. His knowledge of engineering stood him in good stead in developing the shipowning branch of the business, the large fleet of steamers which from time to time the firm owned being practically all designed and built under his supervision. His connection with the firm extended over forty-two years and continued till his death.

Mr Salvesen's whole active life was spent in East Stirlingshire, to which county he rendered valuable public service. For twenty-one years he was a member of the County Council, and as such was the main mover in procuring the passing of the East Stirlingshire Water Act, 1900, by which an adequate supply of water was secured for a district that was very badly in need of it. When this scheme was completed, he successfully tackled the problem of providing Polmont with a drainage system. His engineering knowledge was of the greatest service in connection with these undertakings, and his services to the community were recognised by his being made a deputy-lieutenant of the county.

While the management of his extensive business occupied most of his time, his principal hobby was his private workshop at Lathallan, where he spent most of his spare time in hard manual work. He early recognised the importance of motor road-traffic, and before motor-cars were on the road he built with his own hands the engines for two steam motor-cars, which, although of crude design, pointed the way to the development which

has since taken place. He was proud of being the first possessor of a motor-car in Stirlingshire, and the third in Scotland. Apart from his workshop, his chief recreation was that of yachting, and he built the engines of at least two of the yachts which he successively owned and in which he cruised round the coasts of Scotland in summer-time.

He greatly valued the honour of being elected a Fellow of this Society in 1923, but, unfortunately, by that time he had contracted the illness to which he succumbed a year later.