

IRISH AERIAL TRAGEDY. TRAGIC SEQUEL TO FLYING DISPLAY. ASTLEY KILLED.

SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE SPECTATORS. WIDESPREAD GRIEF.

To aviation meeting at Belfast, on Saturday, which opened with the highest portents, was abruptly brought to a tragic termination with the fatal crash of the programme...

LADIES HELP. Several ladies who had been admitted to the front section, witness the disastrous accident, and in true womanly sympathy, prominent among those who rendered assistance to the flying aviator, while the ambulance was being awaited, was a lady named Mrs. Kington...

DIED DURING OPERATION. Professor Sinclair, who, as stated, had accompanied the aviator to the hospital, immediately proceeded, in conjunction with Dr. Millar, head surgeon, to the ambulance, where the injuries were so horrible and extensive that the hope of saving life was abandoned...

MEETING ABANDONED—GRIEF-STRIKEN SPECTATORS. Excepting in the case of those in the front row of the stands, the accident did not appear, at the time it occurred, to be of a very serious nature. In the grandstand and on the more remote parts of the ground, the opinion was that one of the wings of the monoplane had caught the palms and been smashed. There had been a slight explosion of the engine, but usually associated with aviation fatalities it was the terrific impact of the machine against the ground and the palings that brought the tragedy to its ghastly close...

MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY. Numerous messages of sympathy were telegraphed to Mr. DeLacoste by Mr. Astley at the Station Hotel, Belfast, on Saturday night and during Sunday by friends and admirers of the deceased aviator. One of the most pathetic of these came from a lady, Miss D. McLaughlin, who, as a passenger with Mr. Astley, had seen a thrilling escape from death when the monoplane was wrecked on the ground at the palings immediately in front of the hangar...

HIS LAST INTERVIEW. ASTLEY DESCRIBES HIS FALL AT LILLE. The following interview has a melancholy interest in view of Mr. Astley's subsequent death at Balmoral on Saturday afternoon, shortly after his monoplane had been put in readiness for flight...

VALentine and his mechanic view the wreckage. They were hastily taken to obtain medical assistance. He was carried in an unconscious state by a number of medical attendants to the hospital, where he was attended by Professor Sinclair, Dr. Thomas Davidson, Dr. O'Malley, Dr. T. D. McLaughlin, and Dr. Millar. The blood was pouring in streams from the head and face, and the eyes were closed. It was believed on a superficial examination that his skull was fractured, and although it was impossible for the medical men to form any definite opinion until a thorough examination had been made, there seemed to be little hope of his recovery.

THE SCENE IN HOSPITAL. On making an external examination of the body I found compound fractures of the right arm and left shoulder, and a fracture of the right leg. The right arm was broken at the elbow, and the left shoulder was broken at the point of junction with the neck of the humerus. There were also extensive general contusions of the chest, back, and abdomen, and of both knees, besides numerous contused wounds of the body and limbs. It was clear that the face must have collided with some hard object, and that the head must have been thrown through and driven in among the bones of the frontal part of the base of the skull. There were also extensive contusions of the face and neck, and the nose was broken. The eyes were closed, and the pupils were dilated. The face was pale, and the lips were blue. The breathing was shallow, and the pulse was feeble. The temperature was normal. The patient was unconscious, and did not respond to any stimuli. The medical men were unable to do much for him, and he died shortly after midnight.

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THE WRECKAGE. The wreckage of the monoplane was found in a field near the hangar. The machine was completely smashed, and the wings were broken. The fuselage was twisted and mangled. The engine was also damaged. The wreckage was scattered over a large area, and it was difficult to find any parts that were still recognizable. The ground was covered with splintered wood and twisted metal. The scene was a grim sight, and it was clear that the crash had been a disaster of the first magnitude.

dived heavily down from a height of about 150 feet, the wing, which was completely smashed up, being buried over two feet in the ground.

"The miraculous part of it," said Mr. Astley, "was that I was not killed. I was only badly shaken, however," suggested the interviewer.

INQUEST ON ASTLEY. HOW THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

MR. DELACOSTE'S EVIDENCE.

A SKILLFUL EXHIBITION. At the Royal Victoria Hospital at Belfast, on Saturday afternoon, the inquest on the body of the deceased aviator, Henry Delacoste, was held by the coroner, Dr. Graham. The inquest was held in the hospital, and was attended by a large number of witnesses, including the aviator's friends and the members of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society.

EVIDENCE OF MANAGER.

The first witness called was Mr. Henry Delacoste, of Carrdorf, West Kensington, London, a member of the Royal Aero Club, Piccadilly. Mr. Delacoste, who was acting as manager of the exhibition, was called in evidence by the coroner. He gave evidence that he had seen Mr. Astley at the exhibition, and that he had seen the monoplane being prepared for flight.

THE WRECKED MONOPLANE. INSET SHOWS THE LATE MR. ASTLEY (RIGHT), WITH MR. VALENTINE AND MESSRS. SALMET (CENTRE).

"Mr. Astley," added Mr. Delacoste, "was a man who took life seriously, but often spoke in a light way. His expression, 'fool around,' simply meant nothing. It was a form of speech. Witness asked deceased what he thought of doing so, that he might inform the coroner by means of a special report, but he refused to do so. He was a very capable aviator, and he was very capable of taking up not only Mr. Astley, but also a passenger.

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE PLANE, SHOWING THE BROKEN WIRES OVER THE PILOT'S SEAT.

the machine, and the almost stationary position that was a case of side-slip. It was a matter of half a ton being in the air. As he came suddenly back to wind the speed of the machine was being diminished by the wind coming in to him—facing him. He was bound to fall, and must have realized that he was in a dangerous position. He was not accustomed to watching flying. He was not used to the kind of flying that was being done at the exhibition. He was not used to the kind of flying that was being done at the exhibition. He was not used to the kind of flying that was being done at the exhibition.

THE CITIZENS' REGRET.

Councillor Crawford McCullagh, ex-Sheriff, at the stage, said that on behalf of the Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff (Councillor J. Johnston, J.P.), the latter of whom was at present absent, he wished to take the opportunity of expressing, on behalf of the citizens of Belfast, their deep sorrow at the untimely death of the aviator. He said that the nature of the tragedy, owing to the death of the aviator, was a great loss to the city. He said that the citizens of Belfast were deeply grieved by the death of the aviator, and that they were all united in their sympathy for the bereaved family.

OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY.

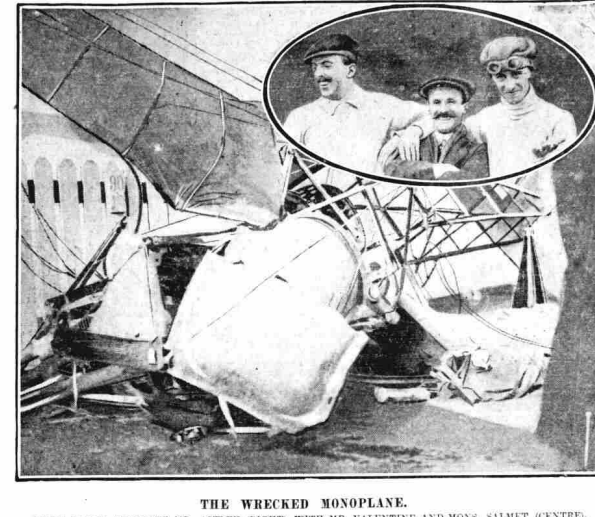
Mr. Fred Claver, on behalf of the Council of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, said he wished to convey the sincere sympathy of the society to Mr. Astley, and to the relatives and friends, and especially to Mr. Valentine. He said that the society was deeply grieved by the death of the aviator, and that they were all united in their sympathy for the bereaved family. He said that the society was proud to have had Mr. Astley as a member, and that they were all united in their sympathy for the bereaved family.

APRECIATION OF SYMPATHY.

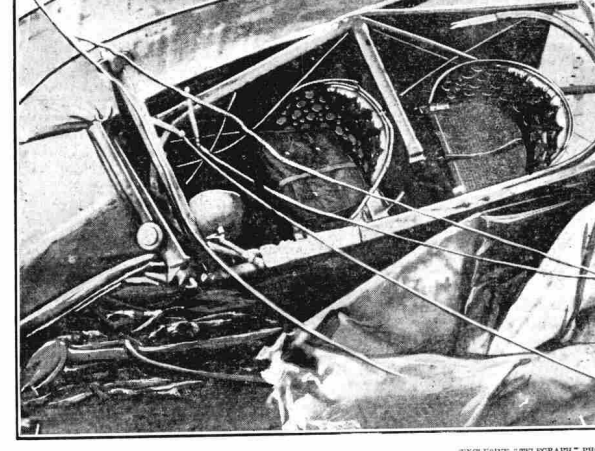
Major the Hon. Claud Heathcote-Drummond-Wilkie, M.P., on behalf of Mr. Astley and the other members of the family, thanked the coroner and Mr. Astley's friends for the expressions of sympathy and regret which they had received. He said that he was deeply grateful for the sympathy and regret which they had received, and that he was all the more so because of the sympathy and regret which they had received. He said that he was deeply grateful for the sympathy and regret which they had received, and that he was all the more so because of the sympathy and regret which they had received.

THE VERDICT.

Before giving the verdict the foreman expressed the sympathy of the jury with Mr. Astley and his family. He said that the jury was deeply grieved by the death of the aviator, and that they were all united in their sympathy for the bereaved family. He said that the jury was proud to have had Mr. Astley as a member, and that they were all united in their sympathy for the bereaved family.



INSET SHOWS THE LATE MR. ASTLEY (RIGHT), WITH MR. VALENTINE AND MESSRS. SALMET (CENTRE).



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE PLANE, SHOWING THE BROKEN WIRES OVER THE PILOT'S SEAT.

injuries, from which he died in the Royal Victoria Hospital on the same date. A rider was added to the effect that the aviator, realizing that many lives in the crowd would have been endangered, had sought to secure his own safety, but rather to sacrifice his own life than carry destruction into the midst of the large multitude. Before the proceedings closed, the coroner severely regretted at the melancholy fate of Mr. Astley.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHANGES.

John McCror, auctioneer, deposited some time prior to 16th August, a list of the office furniture at his business premises, valued at £150. The list included a desk, a chair, a table, and a number of other items. The list was deposited with the Registrar of Companies, and it was stated that the furniture was to be sold by Mr. McCror.

REVEREND ANDREW GIBSON, B.A., D.D., FORMERLY DUNGIVEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DERRY.

Mr. Gibson was installed minister of the Presbyterian Church, Lurgan, on Wednesday last, by the Presbytery of Derry. He was accompanied by his wife and family. The installation was a solemn and impressive occasion, and it was attended by a large number of people. Mr. Gibson is a well-known and respected minister, and his appointment to the Lurgan church is a great honor.

GROWING CHILDREN.

are much benefited by a little ATORA Fedulee. Ask your grocer for ATORA Fedulee substituting brands. W31

SHOCK FOR LADY PASSENGER. A lady passenger on the Belfast and Londonderry Railway was shocked by the death of her husband. She was travelling with her family, and her husband was killed in the crash. The lady was deeply grieved by the death of her husband, and she was all the more so because of the sympathy and regret which they had received.

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BELFAST STOCKBROKER'S CASE. SERIOUS CHARGES OF FRAUD. ACCUSED FURTHER REMANDED. In the Belfast Custody Court on Tuesday Samuel J. Dorman, who had until lately carried on business as an "order" stockbroker in Belfast, was charged on remand with the misappropriation of moneys and securities belonging to the late Mr. J. M. Moore, a Belfast stockbroker. The accused was represented by Mr. G. McCracken, and Mr. James Moore appeared in person for the assignees in bankruptcy.

Mr. Moore had the first witness called, in the course of his evidence, Mr. Dorman admitted that he had received instructions to sell 300 shares of Belfast Water Commissioners stock, redeemable at £100 per share. He said that he had received the stock from Mr. Moore, and that he had sold it to the Belfast Water Commissioners. He said that he had received the proceeds of the sale, and that he had used the money for his own purposes.

Mr. Dorman was committed to the custody of the High Sheriff, and he was to appear in court again on Wednesday. The case is expected to continue for some time. The assignees in bankruptcy are seeking to recover the moneys and securities which were misappropriated by Mr. Dorman. They are also seeking to recover the proceeds of the sale of the Belfast Water Commissioners stock.

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