

SECOND COURT-MARTIAL.

Robert Brown, second-class stoker, of his Majesty's ship Victory, was then placed on trial. The Court was composed as follows:—REAR-ADM. A. L. WINSLOE, C.M.G. (president), COMMODORE F. T. HAMILTON, A.D.C. (his Majesty's ship Excellent), CAPTAIN M. H. SMYTH (his Majesty's ship Research), CAPTAIN R. G. FRASER (his Majesty's ship Majestic), CAPTAIN H. L. TOTTENHAM (his Majesty's ship Mars), CAPTAIN E. C. T. TROUBRIDGE, C.M.G. (his Majesty's ship Glory), CAPTAIN H. H. TORLESSE (his Majesty's ship Aboukir), CAPTAIN W. B. FAWCKNER (his Majesty's ship Cressy), CAPTAIN R. A. ALLENBY (his Majesty's ship Centurion), with PAYMASTER-IN-CHIEF (retired) C. E. GIFFORD, C.B., as Deputy Judge-Advocate. FLEET PAYMASTER W. LE GEYT PULLEN assisted the last-named. Engineer-Lieutenant Harry V. Gordon, of his Majesty's ship Dreadnought, appeared as prisoner's friend.

The charges were that (1) the prisoner did on November 4, 1906, at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, incite the stokers then quartered at the barracks to join in a mutinous assembly; (2) that on November 5, at the barracks he incited the stokers to join in a mutinous assembly; and (3) that he, on November 5, wilfully disobeyed the lawful command of Commander Sidney R. Drury-Lowe, who ordered him to turn in.

Stoker Petty Officer Smidden, on duty in the canteen at the Royal Naval Barracks on Sunday evening, November 4, stated that just after 9 30 someone shouted, "On the knee," which led to the smashing of glasses.

Lieutenant M. B. Birkett stated that he saw the prisoner on the Monday night apparently addressing the men. Many groups of men going towards their blocks stopped to listen to him, and it appeared that some did not go to their blocks because of what he said.

Lieutenant A. L. Snagge said he was on the parade-ground on Monday and saw a crowd of stokers surrounding Commodore Stopford. They were getting very close to him, and with two or three other lieutenants he pushed his way through the crowd so as to surround him. The men were booing and making a noise. The commodore put his hand on the prisoner's shoulder and told him to turn in, and called a petty officer to take his name. The man refused to turn in. He seemed to be one of the leaders, and was shouting and creating a disturbance. His manner was very disrespectful, and he was surrounded by others, who urged him not to obey the orders.

Master-at-Arms Robert Smith said he saw the prisoner about 10 45 on Monday night near the centre of the parade with a crowd of men around him. He was shouting and inciting others to riotous conduct. He shouted, "Are we downhearted?" and the crowd yelled "No." He was brought in as a prisoner about 2 a.m. on Tuesday.

Commander S. R. Drury-Lowe said that about 11 5 p.m. on Monday night, when several of the stokers had gone back to their blocks, there were still crowds outside the blocks, many of whom seemed to be youngsters who had been prevented from going back. He thought the prisoner was one of those who had prevented them. The witness ordered him to turn in; he just moved away, and the witness ordered him in again, but he said, "No, I wont." He was arrested, but the witness heard that he afterwards broke away. Later the witness saw the prisoner between two marines, and ordered him to be taken away and placed in a cell by himself. His manner was insolent.

By the COURT.—The manner in which he was insolent was in the way he said "No, I wont," and he did not say "Sir." When he moved the others moved with him; he was evidently the centre of a group.

Lieutenant Charles F. R. Cowan corroborated the last witness's evidence as to the prisoner's refusing twice to turn in when ordered.

The COURT adjourned at 4 o'clock in order that Lieutenant Bedford's depositions might be taken, that officer being ill.
