

OBITUARY

FRANCIS MAURICE GUSTAVUS DU-PLAT-TAYLOR who died on the 22nd May, 1954, was born on the 7th December, 1878. He was educated at Winchester College, and at London University.

In 1904 he was appointed Assistant Engineer and Acting Resident Engineer to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board on new works costing £1,000,000.

Between 1904 and 1909 he was Resident Engineer for the East and West India Docks of the London and India Docks Co. In 1909 he became Resident Engineer at Tilbury Docks for the Port of London Authority. From 1924 he was in private practice and carried out sea-defence works in Kent and Sussex, river training and drainage schemes, and land reclamation projects. He also carried out numerous arbitrations involving large sums, and acted as expert witness and as Court Expert.

During the 1914-18 war he served in the Royal Artillery and became Instructor in Gunnery and Commandant of the siege artillery reinforcement training school in France.

Mr Du-Plat-Taylor was elected a Member in 1919 and presented three Papers ^{1, 2, 3} to the Institution. He was awarded a Telford Premium for his Paper on "The Prevention of Coast Erosion," ¹ and a Manby Premium for his Paper on "Extensions at Tilbury Docks, 1912-1917." ² He was also a Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, a Fellow of the Institute of Arbitrators, a Past President of the British Section of the Société des Ingenieurs Civils de France, a Member of the Association of Consulting Engineers, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

In addition to two handbooks for Artillery regiments, Mr Du-Plat-Taylor wrote two books, "The Design, Construction and Maintenance of Docks, Wharves and Piers" and "Reclamation of Land from the Sea." He presented Papers to the Société des Ingenieurs Civils de France and to the Institution of Structural Engineers.

From 1937 up to the time of his death, Mr Du-Plat-Taylor was a member of the Scientific Development Committee of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and from 1945 to 1949 was Chairman of that Committee. The development of apparatus for the Blind was in no small measure due to his engineering knowledge and initiative.

¹ J. Instn Civ. Engrs, vol. 15 (Nov. 1940), p. 53.

² Min. Proc. Instn Civ. Engrs, vol. 215, p. 165 (1922-23).

³ "The River Rother Improvement Works," Sel. Engng. Paper No. 197, Instn Civ. Engrs, 1930.

In 1938 he took the Oaths as Magistrate in the county of Surrey and served in that capacity until December 1953, when his name was transferred to the Supplemental List. He was Chairman of the Mortlake Bench from 1950 to 1953.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

JOHN LEONARD EVE, who died at Wimbledon on the 25th June, 1954, was born at Aveley in Essex, on the 3rd February, 1887. He was educated at University School, Hastings, and at the Technical Institute, Folkestone.

From 1904 to 1906 he served an apprenticeship at the Folkestone Electricity Supply Co. Ltd, at the end of which he was appointed Engineer in Charge of Shift at the generating station. He later became Superintendent at High Wycombe power station. From 1910 he was Assistant Engineer with Robert W. Blackwell & Co., on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway electrification. In 1914 he became Chief Constructional Engineer and in charge of lay-out design for British Insulated Cables Ltd, on Melbourne Railway electrification. In 1924 he was appointed Departmental Chief Engineer to The Foundation Co., London, and was in charge of design and construction of all the Scottish river crossings for the C.E.B. grid scheme. In 1930 he formed his own company.

Mr Eve was elected a member in 1939. For his Paper, in collaboration with Mr R. C. Brown, on "The Erection of Tall Towers",¹ he was awarded a Telford Premium. He was also a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

In 1915 he married Anne Gill, daughter of John Blackmore Gill, by whom he had a son and a daughter. His first wife died in 1937 and in 1940 he married Doris Matthews, daughter of Charles W. Matthews who survives him with a son.

Sir ARTHUR WATSON, C.B.E., who died in Exeter, Devon, on the 13th April, 1954, was born at Manchester on the 18th September, 1873. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School, and at Victoria University, Manchester.

In 1893 he was appointed Assistant Resident Engineer with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, and as Resident Engineer from 1900-1905 was in charge of extensive railway construction works. In 1910 he was promoted to be Superintendent of the line, and General Manager in 1919; 4 years later he became the first General Manager of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway.

During the first World War he served with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Corps of Royal Engineers and acted as liaison officer between the railways and the Quarter-Master General.

¹ J. L. Eve and R. C. Brown, "The Erection of Tall Towers," Struct. and Bldg Paper No. 11, Instn Civ. Engrs, 1944-45.