

a University degree?

Witness -- Yes, for this important work.

Who was it at the Admiralty that put in that stipulation? -- The Director of Naval Education, but it was referred to me.

Do you approve of this yourself? -- I am afraid I am no judge of that kind of thing. I had to go by what the education authorities said.

When you require a technical expert what is the reason for asking for somebody trained in classics and mathematics? Is it because he would have to associate with other officers who are University men? -- Yes, to a great extent.

And you wanted him on an equality with the others in the mess? -- On an equality with the people with whom he would work. Witness added that to the best of his recollection the captain of the "Vernon" intimated to the Admiralty that he would prefer a man with a University degree. The non-possession of a degree did not constitute an absolute embargo against applicants. The Assistant Director of Naval Education brought witness all the papers, and there were certainly some candidates who were not University men, but whose applications were taken into consideration the same as the others.

After the luncheon adjournment witness said he desired to make some correction in his previous answer to Mr. Booth. It was impossible that a candidate should be selected for service on the "Vernon" on the ground that a University education would place him on an equality socially with the other officers. As a matter of fact, there was nobody on that vessel, except probably Mr. Madge, the wireless expert, who had had a University education; consequently the social standpoint had nothing to do with the matter, and it was not considered. He thought the gentleman who was actually appointed had not had a University degree. The sole object of this being mentioned in the advertisement was to secure a person with a knowledge of mathematics and engineering.

The Chairman -- It was an engineering degree?

Witness -- Engineering and mathematics; certainly not a classical degree."