

" Financial Times "

26th November 1900

DEATH OF MR. LAWSON JOHNSTON.

INVENTOR OF BOVRIL AND CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMPANY.

We regret to announce the sudden death from syncope on Saturday morning of Mr. John Lawson Johnston on board his yacht "The White Lady," lying in the harbour at Cannes. The deceased gentleman, who was born at Roslin, Midlothian, 61 years ago, was educated at Edinburgh, and, according to Bassett's "Men of Note," "was commissioned by the French Government to visit Canada in 1874 as an expert on dietetics, and has since been consulted by foreign Governments upon hygienic military rations." His chief claim to fame, however, was his invention of the meat extract known as "Bovril," which has had many imitators. Mr. Johnston was Chairman of the Bovril Company, and was also a Director of Apollinaris and Johannis, Limited, and of the Gordon Hotels.

In a sketch of Mr. Johnston's career, a correspondent says:—On his return to London after some years in Canada, he started the manufacture of Bovril. The concern, although a small one at the outset, gradually assumed large dimensions, and Mr. Johnston floated a company. The company purchased extensive properties in the Argentine Republic and Queensland, where large herds of cattle are raised. Mr. Johnston for a long time was resident at Sydenham, and on his estate there kept Highland and Indian cattle and deer. Recently he leased from the present Duke Inverary Castle, the home of the Campbells of Argyll; and it is long since he bought Mrs. Langtry's yacht "The White Lady." He married a Miss Lawson, of Edinburgh. His family numbers thirteen; all with his wife survive him.

6½, and A.B.C.'s remained steady at 13½. Bovril issues were depressed by news of the death of Mr. Lawson Johnston, the Chairman of the Company. Both the Ordinary and



John Lawson Johnston d1900

He invented 'Bovril' and was chairman of the Bovril Company. Bovril bought Castle Farm in 1965 to house its prize herd, though sold up in the 1970s.