

NT.
1912

EMBO FISHERMAN'S BRAVE ACT.

HEROISM REWARDED.

MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD'S APPRECIATION OF A GALLANT DEED.

THE village of Embo was gaily decorated yesterday, flags and bunting being displayed from almost every house, while practically the entire population turned out to welcome the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford, who visited the district. At 4.15 p.m., Lord and Lady Stafford arrived by motor car, and immediately they entered the village a great cheer was raised, the people being delighted to have the opportunity of showing their loyalty to the Marquis and his Bride. A very large assembly filled the Fishermen's Hall, where the ceremony of presenting William Cumming, fisherman, with a bronze medal and honorary certificate, from the Royal Humane Society, and a cheque for £10 from the Carnegie Hero Fund, in recognition of his great bravery in saving the life of a comrade at sea, took place.

Mr J. Hay Arthur, solicitor, Dornoch, presided, and on behalf of the good people of Embo, welcomed the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford to their village, especially as it was, he understood, to be Lady Stafford's first public function in the county of Sutherland. He knew he was voicing the wish of the Embo public when he hoped that the greatest blessings heaven could bestow, would rest on the Marquis and Marchioness. In wishing them long life and happiness, the Chairman also thanked Lady Stafford for having come to perform the happy function, the cause for which he would now explain. The occasion of their meeting was to present Mr Cumming fisherman, with a bronze medal and cheque awarded to him by the Royal Humane Society and Carnegie Hero Fund, for conspicuous bravery in rescuing from drowning, in the Dornoch Firth, on February 21, John Ross, who had fallen overboard from the fishing boat, Pearl. Mr Arthur gave a detailed account of Cumming's heroic action, which was listened to intently by Lord and Lady Stafford and the crowded audience. Thereafter the speaker asked Lady Stafford to make the presentation. (Loud Applause.)

Lady Stafford, who was received with loud and prolonged cheering, said—It gives

me great pleasure that the first public ceremony, apart from our home-coming, which I have been privileged to take part in, in Sutherland, should be here. I feel, and I think you all feel with me, that I cannot say half enough in praise of this brave man who did not hesitate to risk his own life for his friend's. What we have just heard really gives us very little idea of what he went through, but I think this man is one of the very few who can realise the awful horrors the unfortunate passengers on board the Titanic went through only a week ago. We all rejoice that Cumming's great effort should have been successful, and that both he and his friend should have escaped from their perilous position. (Cheers.) The Trustees of the Carnegie Hero Fund have recognised this great act of bravery, and there never was an act of heroism which better deserved recognition, and I am very proud indeed to have been selected to hand over to Cumming the reward he has so well earned. (Cheers.) Mr Cumming, it has given Lord Stafford and myself great pleasure to take part in this presentation. You are a brave man and we are proud of you, not only we are proud of you but Sutherland is proud of you. Embo, I am told, has a record of brave men and brave women, but I venture to think that your plunge into the raging sea and your rescue of your friend will for pluck and endurance and unselfishness rank amongst the bravest deeds in the history of our country. (Cheers.) I trust you may be long spared to look back with pleasure on this day and that every success may follow you and yours. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

Mr William Cumming, in accepting the gifts, said he could not express his deep gratitude to the Marchioness and Marquis for their great kindness in coming to Embo and presenting him with such a magnificent present. He could only thank them from the bottom of his heart, expressing the wish that the Most High would bless them both. He also thanked Mr Arthur for having been the means of drawing the attention of the Royal Humane Society and Carnegie Hero Fund to the incident.

The Marquis of Stafford in a few words, said he was exceedingly glad that Lady Stafford's first public function in the County had taken place in Embo. (Loud Applause.)

Mr Arthur then called for three hearty cheers for the Marchioness and Marquis, which were right loyally accorded, the huge crowd, before dispersing, cheering loudly as the motor car left the village