

Alhourie,
Bearsden, .

22nd January, 1936.

The Editor,
The Glasgow Herald,
Buchanan Street,
GLASGOW. C.1.

Dear Sir,

In the Glasgow Herald of 15th January 1936, I read
a very interesting article on the Life of James Watt.

I should be very glad if you could give me information
with regard to one point. In the list of Watt's inventions
reference is made to metallic packing of pistons. I have
always understood that this invention was first made in the
year 1824 by my great grandfather, the last Mr Neil Snodgrass, C.E.

A very complete description of this is given in the
Glasgow Weekly Citizen published at the time of his death.

I am enclosing a copy of an extract referring to this subject.

As a ~~matter~~ matter of interest I have also made a very
thorough search of the papers of Watt contained in the following

* SEE PAGES 6 TO 10 .

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books, "Origin and Progress of Mechanical Inventions of James Watt" by James Patrick Muirhead, M.A., and "Memorial of James Watt" by George Williamson, Esq. and "Smiles Life of Boulton and Watt". I can only find reference to his use of cotton or hemp and animal fats for this purpose. Watt deplores that "he cannot obtain the piston steam tight", but I can find no reference to his invention of metallic packing.

If reference to the invention by Watt of metallic packing has been made in error I should be much obliged if you would have the necessary correction published.

Yours faithfully,

FTG/PB

Encl. Newspaper Report.