

further pleased to learn that the coal trade of the district is now in a prosperous condition, that the wages of the workmen are proportionately high, and that the new dock which Your Majesty The King has been so graciously pleased to open will not only add greatly to the shipping facilities for the largest vessels afloat, but also afford employment for a considerable additional number of workmen.

For above fifty years the coal required for Your Majesty's Navy has been supplied from the collieries of the South Wales Coal Field, and the steam coal has been recognised as of the most superior quality for all the trials of speed of Your Majesty's warships, and is called into requisition to fulfil the principal requirements of the Admiralty. To this extent the colliery proprietors are proud to feel that the South Wales steam coal plays an important part in maintaining the supremacy of Your Majesty's Navy for the defence of Your Kingdom.

The colliery owners most fervently hope that Your Majesties will accept these humble expressions of loyalty, and their assurance that Your Majesties' presence in the South Wales Coal Field will bind more closely the hearts of the mining population towards Your Majesties and the other Members of Your Royal Family.

They earnestly pray that it may please Almighty God to spare Your Majesties for many years to come in order to continue the beneficent rule over Your vast Empire which has been productive of so many and such great blessings to Your subjects.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

I thank you in behalf of The Queen and Myself for your loyal and dutiful address of welcome.

I am glad to receive from the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coalowners' Association, which represents so large a body of colliery proprietors, an assurance of their desire to carry out the regulations framed by Parliament for the safety of the miner. My Government must always rely largely on the loyal co-operation of the owners of the mines of the country in their efforts to promote the safety of those who, under conditions involving much danger, carry on this great industry, which is so closely connected with the defence and well-being of the kingdom, and so vital to its manufactures and shipping.

I trust that the inquiry now being carried on by the Commission which I have appointed will have important results in the direction of further securing the safety of the miner.

I gladly note the reference in your address to the services on that Commission of the President of your Conciliation Board; and I trust that the Report which has recently been submitted to Me by the Commission in regard to the use of rescue apparatus will lead to the adoption in this and the other colliery districts of measures for facilitating the work of rescue in the event of those disasters, which still unhappily occur from time to time.

I have often read with a feeling of admiration and pride how, on such occasions, when numbers of miners are cut off, by fallen *débris* or other obstruction, from the outer world, their fellow-workers, undeterred by their perfect knowledge of the danger of the attempt, eagerly volunteer to assist in the work of rescue. The whole country applauds and is grateful for the courage and

devotion of such heroes. But I have for some time felt that insufficient means exist of giving a worthy and lasting public recognition of these brave deeds. I propose very shortly to establish a decoration bearing my own name to be awarded to the courageous men who in the mines and quarries of this country voluntarily endanger their lives in order to save the lives of others.

I learn with pleasure of the successful working of your Conciliation Board, and the friendly relations which now exist between employers and employed in this district. The settlement of differences as to the remuneration of the worker and of other industrial disputes as they arise, by friendly discussion and co-operation between the coalowner and the miner, must tend to the prosperity of both, and to the general welfare of the district.

I am glad to hear of the present thriving condition of the industry, and I hope your expectations of the benefits to be derived from the new dock will be fulfilled, so that not only extended and regular employment will be provided for the working classes, but the prosperity of the trade will be further advanced and secured.

To Their Most Gracious Majesties The King and Queen.

*May it please Your Majesties,*

We, Your Majesties' faithful and loyal subjects, the members of the Cardiff Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, representing the commercial community of the Port of Cardiff, the seat of the largest trade in the world for the export of coal, beg most humbly to offer to Your Majesties our most sincere and heartfelt welcome on the occasion of Your first visit as King and Queen to our City.

It has long been our cherished desire to be honoured by a visit from Your Majesties, and to have the opportunity of showing our loyalty and devotion.

We acknowledge with a keen sense of gratitude the interest which His Majesty The King has always shown in the extension of the trade and commerce of the Empire, and are deeply sensible of the great benefits we derive from His Majesty's constant labours in the cause of peace between all nations, upon which our success and well being so largely depend.

It is also a source of the greatest joy and satisfaction to us that we have this opportunity of humbly offering our expressions of loyalty and welcome to Her Majesty The Queen, who has endeared herself to all members of the community, and whose active participation in the cause of charity is known and appreciated by all who have the welfare of the poor and suffering at heart.

Your Majesties' gracious visit on the occasion of the opening of the New Dock, which we anticipate will be of the greatest advantage to the trade of this Port, is another instance of the solicitude which Your Majesties have always shown for the welfare and prosperity of Your Majesties' subjects.

We also most heartily welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Victoria on this Her second visit to Cardiff.

We earnestly pray that Divine Providence may vouchsafe to Your Majesties the blessings of health and length of days to rule over the destinies of this great Empire.

The Corporate Seal of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce was hereunto affixed on this