

We rejoice that the anxious times through which we as a Nation have passed have cemented and strengthened the deep attachment to Your Majesties and the Royal Family felt by the People of this Country. The unflinching courage, the unswerving devotion to duty, and the practical sympathy Your Majesties have shown during the horrors and anxieties of War have still further endeared Your Majesties to the Nation, and we are confident that the British Throne was never more securely seated in the affections of the British People than at the present time.

We realise that the future has its anxieties and cares which must be faced. The vast upheavals and disorganisation caused by the War cannot be settled without the exercise of patience and care, and the display of the same spirit of courage and exalted motives that have carried us successfully through the War. In our own community we are endeavouring to solve the problem of securing to all classes of the people adequate housing accommodation, a question in which Your Majesties, following the illustrious example of the late King Edward, have taken a deep interest, and which calls for prompt and resolute effort. We are hoping to see the provision of satisfactory and remunerative employment for women, who in this City, as elsewhere, have done such excellent war work in so many vocations. We realise the urgency of our duty to discharged sailors and soldiers, so many of whom, alas! are permanently disabled. We desire to take the fullest advantage of the advance in our educational methods, shown by the passing of the Education Act of last year, and to ensure that our children shall have the best possible mental, moral, and physical equipment to enable them to face the duties of life when they become active citizens in Your Majesty's vast Empire. We trust that the comradeship and good fellowship which have existed among all classes of society during the War will continue, and that there may be a closer and more friendly co-operation between employers and employed, and we are grateful that the recent Industrial Conference and Report have raised hopes that such a co-operation may become a real and permanent achievement.

In these and other pressing problems which call for the best leadership and guidance we are confident in the assurance that Your Majesties will play a part no less worthy than was shown in the magnificent example Your Majesties have given during the War.

We know that Your Majesties' interest in the conditions of the working classes of this country was not limited to the period of the War, but that in the difficulties of the post-war days we shall find the same leadership and encouragement and the same solicitude for all classes of the community that the People have noted with such devotion and respect during the War.

We pray that the Divine blessing may rest upon Your Majesties and your Royal House, and that you may long live to enjoy the blessings of Peace and the loyalty and profound esteem of a contented and prosperous People.

Given under our Corporate Common Seal the 14th day of May, 1919.

WILLIAM IRONS,
Lord Mayor.
WILLIAM E. HART,
Town Clerk.

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

It is with the greatest possible pleasure that the Queen and I renew our acquaintance with the City of Sheffield, and We thank you for the loyal and dutiful address with which you have welcomed Us.

We come to you at the auspicious and joyful moment when the country is emerging from the long night of War, and is looking forward to the dawn of the day of Peace. While we think with deep grief of the lives so full of promise that have been lost and of those who mourn for the dead, we have the consolation of knowing that these sacrifices have not been made in vain, but have wrought the deliverance of this country and the world.

That deliverance the country owes first to the gallant readiness of its sons to lay down their lives in its service, and next to the equal readiness of all at home—men and women, old and young—to afford support and succour to the armies of the Empire. In that labour you citizens of Sheffield have played a noble part. I shall never forget the scenes which I witnessed in 1915 in your laboratories, factories and foundries. That visit showed me the great part which was played by the Sheffield output of guns, armour-plates, shells, parts of aeroplanes and ammunition in the equipment of the armies for Victory. The armies were the spearpoint with which the enemy was overthrown, but the people at home were the good haft, without which its blow could not have been successfully delivered.

Nor do I forget your share in the treatment of the wounded and sick. Many thousands of soldiers from other parts have left Sheffield with happy memories of the kindness received there. The devotion of hospital officers and attendants, from the medical superintendent to the porter at the gate, from the matron to the youngest probationer, will remain to many a precious memory. All have, indeed, earned our thanks and gratitude.

Now that hostilities have ceased, many stupendous problems arise, the final solution of which we cannot yet envisage. Our world-wide trade has to be rebuilt after the disturbances and losses of the War; our dislocated industry has to be reorganised for peace. Returning soldiers have to be absorbed. The great asset of woman's work, in industry and public life, never so fully realised as during the time of stress, has to be conserved and used to better effect than before. Houses must be built to make up the deficiency due to four years of war, and made to conform to the higher standard which advancing civilisation demands.

The settlement of these problems and the full attainment of these aims depend on the maintenance of that spirit of unity which inspired our national effort and never failed us in the hour of darkest trial. It was not merely unity between the army on the field and the workers at home; it was still wider and more pervasive. Wealth and labour fought side by side in the same trench. Bravery and devotion were exhibited by every rank. Every class and condition, every industry, has suffered its losses. I do not believe that the new friendship and mutual understanding which the close contact of war has developed will fail us in the difficulties of reconstruction. Rather I believe that the country will emerge from the War, with all its attendant suffering, self-sacrifice