



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette.

Of FRIDAY, the 30th of JULY, 1920.

Published by Authority.

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TUESDAY, 3 AUGUST, 1920.

Whitehall, 27 July, 1920.

The following Addresses were presented to The King on Wednesday, the 9th ultimo, on the occasion of the opening by His Majesty of the Imperial War Museum at the Crystal Palace:—

ADDRESS WHICH WAS READ BY THE
FIRST COMMISSIONER OF HIS
MAJESTY'S WORKS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

On behalf of the Government I humbly desire to thank Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen for consenting to open the Imperial War Museum to-day, thereby signifying Your approval of the efforts which have created it.

As Your Majesty is aware, the War Cabinet, on my recommendation, authorised me, on March 5th, 1917, to establish in permanent form a record as complete as possible of the great Imperial and National endeavour which was exerted throughout the War, and brought it to such a triumphant issue. A General Committee was appointed to elaborate and carry out the scheme; it was assisted by various Sub-Committees, each responsible for one Branch of the Services or of civilian activity. The Collection here assembled thus comprises upward of one hundred thousand exhibits, illustrating the Naval, Military, Aerial and Civil labours of men and women throughout the Empire during the period of the War. It

is hoped to make it so complete that every individual, man or woman, sailor, soldier, airman or civilian who contributed, however obscurely, to the final result, may be able to find in these Galleries an example or illustration of the sacrifice he made or the work he did, and in the archives some record of it. The Museum was not conceived as a monument of military glory, but rather as a record of toil and sacrifice; as a place of study to the technician in studying the course of development of armaments; to the historian as an assembly of material and archives to instruct his work; and to the people of the Empire, as a record of their toil and sacrifice through these fateful years.

The representatives of Your Majesty's Empire of India, the Dominions and Colonies, and Your Majesty's Ambassadors and Representatives in Allied countries have assisted materially in the collection of records. Allied Governments have also contributed generously to the collection. All Departments of Your Majesty's Government have deposited, and are continuing to deposit, material, which will be of present interest to the general public, and invaluable to the historian.

I desire to express my deep appreciation of the interest taken and the facilities offered in the various theatres of War by officers in supreme command. The three arms of Your Majesty's Forces have co-operated wholeheartedly in advising us on technical points,