

and in the selection of representative exhibits. In the choice of war material, the endeavour has been made to select among suitable examples those to which a definite honourable history can be attached, thus making them also serve as memorials of the heroic men who served them on the field of battle, and too often laid down their lives beside them.

We are deeply indebted to the generosity of private individuals for many important gifts, and especially to some of our most eminent artists who have freely given of their work to our important collection of pictures and other works of art. In this connection I desire to mention in particular the names of Mr. John Sargent, R.A., Major Sir William Orpen, K.B.E., A.R.A., Sir John Lavery, A.R.A., and Mr. Muirhead Bone. The large armament firms and shipbuilders have presented the most valuable and complete collection of models of modern Warships ever brought together.

I desire to take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation of the manner in which my labours, as the Minister responsible for the creation of this great institution, have been supported by the untiring efforts of the Honorary Director-General, Sir Martin Conway, the Secretary and Curator, Major Houllkes, the Chairman and Members of the various Committees and Sub-Committees, and the staff.

As Your Majesty is aware, a Bill has now been introduced by me in Parliament to establish a Board of Trustees to control and direct permanently the Museum, and it is particularly gratifying to those who have been associated with the inception of the Museum that Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to permit His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to become President of the Board.

It is with feelings of profound thankfulness that we welcome Your Majesty and Her Majesty The Queen on this memorable occasion, and humbly thank You for thus showing Your appreciation of this unique attempt to preserve for those who fought, those who worked at home, and for future generations yet unborn, this record and visible memorial of the immeasurable sacrifices and supreme national effort which not only saved the Country from a dire catastrophe, but, as we all hope, laid firm and deep the foundations of a new and better world.

It is therefore with full confidence in the present interest and future value of this Institution to the Empire and the Nation that I humbly beg Your Majesty to declare it open for all time.

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

On behalf of the Queen and myself, I thank you very sincerely for your loyal and dutiful address. It gives Us much pleasure to come here to-day to open this collection of material and records connected with the War—a collection which is of such deep and lasting interest. Those who conceived and carried out the Scheme of this Museum have earned the gratitude both of their own contemporaries and of future generations; and our sincere thanks are due to the Governments of the Allied Nations and of My Dominions beyond the Seas, and to all the other societies and individuals who have co-operated in the work and aided with generous contributions.

Especially I congratulate you and the members of the Committee on the forethought and breadth of view which have been shown in the organisation of the Museum. You have made it at once a storehouse of material for the historian and the scientific student, and an inspiration for future generations. Here the historian will find the contemporary information and documents which he requires as the foundation for his work; and the expert the technical exhibits which enable him to study the development of his special art or science. But while thus fulfilling the requirements of the scientist and historian, you have also succeeded in the still greater task of erecting a memorial which speaks to the heart and to the imagination. It is natural to crave for human interest, and to desire to leave behind us in visible shape a record of our deeds and endurance. That craving and that desire are gratified here to-day. It was indeed a happy inspiration in selecting your exhibits, not to seek mere specimens, however perfect, but to choose the very things which had played an actual part in the War and had an individual history which could be recorded and cherished.

There is yet another aspect of this Museum which is perhaps unique in history—it records faithfully and impartially the efforts of all ranks in the field and of all classes at home, the private as well as the Commander, the worker in the workshop as well as the statesman in the council chamber.

It also recognises in concrete form that in modern warfare success in the field is no longer the achievement of a few leaders or of a professional class, but is the result of the devoted and heroic work of millions of men and women co-operating as parts of one vast living machine. None of us can forget, and this Museum will ever preserve the memory in future ages, that we owe our success under God not to the armed forces alone, but to the labours and sacrifices of soldiers and civilians, of men and women alike. It was a democratic victory, the work of a nation in arms, organised as never before for a great national struggle.

We cannot say with what eyes posterity will regard this Museum, nor what ideas it will arouse in their minds. We hope and pray that as the result of what we have done and suffered they may be able to look back upon war, its instruments and its organisation as belonging to a dead past. But to us it stands not for a group of trophies won from a beaten enemy, not for a symbol of the pride of victory, but as an embodiment and a lasting memorial of common effort and common sacrifice, through which, under the guidance of Divine Providence, Liberty and Right were preserved for mankind.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

The Trustees of the Crystal Palace approach Your Majesty with the deepest feelings of loyalty and devotion.

They are grateful to Your Majesty for having been graciously pleased to be present at the re-opening of the Crystal Palace upon its acquisition for the Nation.

This Building, which has been visited by over one hundred millions of people, was opened sixty-six years ago to-morrow by Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria, who was accompanied by Her Late Royal Highness Princess