

Mary of Cambridge, and we rejoice that to-day Your Majesty is accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Mary.

The purchase, for the people, of the Freehold of the Crystal Palace was completed on August 8th, 1914. It was immediately offered to and accepted by Your Majesty's Government, who remained in occupation free of rent until the end of last year.

It is gratifying to know that this Building, dedicated to the purposes of Peace, was of material assistance in the Great National Emergency.

It will be the earnest endeavour of the Trustees to make the Crystal Palace a great National and Imperial Asset and to so discharge their trust that it may ever contribute to the health, happiness and education of the people.

DAVID BURNETT,
Chairman of the Crystal Palace Trustees.
EDWARD SMITH,
Vice-Chairman.

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

I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address.

It was with great satisfaction that I learned some seven years ago that the Crystal Palace and its grounds had been secured for the use of the nation; and I had much pleasure in giving my Assent to the Act of Parliament which constituted a body of Trustees, and empowered them to acquire and maintain the Crystal Palace and Park. It would have been an irreparable loss to the capital of my Empire if this great building and its beautiful site, intimately associated as they are with the history of the glorious reign of Queen Victoria, had ceased to be available for public use and enjoyment. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the public spirit and munificence of those who contributed so generously for their purchase.

The outbreak of the terrible war which devastated Europe for more than four years rendered it hitherto impossible to put the Palace to the uses for which it was acquired. I am glad, however, to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the patriotism which prompted the Trustees to place the building at the disposal of my Ministers, and of the great service thus rendered to the national cause. It is my agreeable duty to-day to inaugurate at one and the same time the return of the Crystal Palace to the uses of peace and its opening as a national possession. I trust that for centuries to come it may continue worthily to serve the purposes assigned to it by Parliament as "a place for education and recreation, and for the promotion of industry, commerce and art."

The following Address was presented to The King at Buckingham Palace on the 21st instant:—

BRITISH EMPIRE FORESTRY CONFERENCE.
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,
We, the delegates to the British Empire Forestry Conference from the United Kingdom, the British Dominions beyond the seas, and the Empire of India, have the honour to present to Your Majesty this humble address.
We value very highly Your Majesty's gracious permission to be present here to-day, both because it enables us to submit this expression of our Loyalty to Your Majesty's

person and Throne and also as a recognition of the important position occupied by forestry in the resources of the Empire.

We desire to express our devoted loyalty to Your Majesty, in whom we recognise not only our King and Emperor, but a brother forester who both in his care for silviculture, and in his willingness to sacrifice the best of his timber in the great emergency through which the Empire has passed has set the best example to all who own or have charge of land.

In forestry work, as in other matters, the war has brought the different parts of Your Empire more closely together, and has also shown the desirability of taking mutual counsel for the development of Imperial resources.

Thus, as a result of the heavy demands for timber for war purposes in France and Flanders, accompanied as they were by unexampled difficulties of transport, forestry corps were assembled from Canada and from many other parts of the Empire which did the work of the greatest value both in this country and in France in the rapid conversion of British and French forests to war uses. The same causes led to the formation in this country of a Forestry Commission, charged with the duty of developing forestry in the United Kingdom. This Commission has felt it a primary duty both to bring to its aid the riper experience of the forestry services of India and the Dominions and to assemble representatives of the forest services of the Empire for mutual consultation and assistance.

The Governments of the Empire have responded to the invitation from the Mother Country by appointing delegates and by causing to be prepared statements upon which we have based our deliberations describing their timber resources and the methods adopted for their conservation and utilisation, and giving estimates of production and consumption which are a guide to future policy.

Upon the assembling of the appointed delegates we were fortunate in being able to visit the Empire Timber Exhibition and so to strengthen our conviction of the great importance of timber and timber products in almost every part of our industrial and domestic life, and of the great possibilities of extending its use to the advantage of the Empire both in wealth and strength. We believe that this Exhibition has greatly assisted Your Majesty's subjects to realise the supreme importance of a steady increase in the production of timber from all parts of the Empire, sufficient in quantity and quality to meet the ever-growing needs of the world.

We have had the advantage during our deliberations of visiting different parts of the Kingdom, including the Crown Woods of the Forest of Dean and Tintern, and we look forward during the remaining days of the Conference to seeing the Windsor Woods and Windsor Castle, which Your Majesty has kindly allowed us to visit.

Our work is still continuing and we cannot yet foresee its full effects. We trust, however, that there may result from it the setting up of an Imperial Forestry Bureau, which may act as a centre of information with regard to all Imperial Forestry problems, to which forest officers and foresters from all parts of the Empire may look for any assistance which they may desire to obtain.

Of one thing we have had abundant proof—that in forestry matters the different parts of the Empire, in spite of differences of situation,