

there still remain large tracts of undeveloped land, and these will in course of time doubtless change their aspect. Industrial colonies will grow up beside the railways and waterways, while elsewhere residential districts will provide scope for the spread of London's population. The choice of Wembley as the site of the British Empire Exhibition is significant of the metropolitan character of Middlesex.

The unavoidable transformation of the country surrounding London needs to be carefully guided and controlled. Haphazard growth has inflicted irreparable damage on many parts where, instead of preceding it, roads and communications have lagged far behind industrial development. Your Council, I am glad to say, have boldly grappled with this problem, and thus spared their successors the costly and wasteful experience of making new roads through congested areas.

The undertaking known as the New Great West Road forms only one item in a comprehensive programme of arterial roads upon which, with assistance from the Road Fund, you have embarked. Your programme includes similar schemes:—the North Circular Road already plays a valuable part as a means of access to the British Empire Exhibition: the Western Avenue will discharge London traffic at a point west of Uxbridge: and the New Chertsey Road will provide additional bridges over the Thames at points where traffic facilities are now becoming inadequate.

I look forward with keen pleasure to the completion of these far-reaching proposals—feeling sure that such measures alone can provide for the future needs of the Imperial Capital.

I believe and trust that the prosperity and growth of the County of Middlesex will be fostered by the enlightened policy pursued by your Council, to whose continued labours I wish every success.

Upon the important task which you have just accomplished, I heartily congratulate your Council and its staff, the Ministry of Transport and all those who, from its earliest inception, have co-operated in the work.

In declaring the New Great West Road open, I pray that the Blessing of God may rest upon all who take part in the public life of your County and whose efforts are directed to the welfare of their fellow citizens.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS OF BRENTFORD, CHISWICK, AND HESTON AND ISLEWORTH, AND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STAINES.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the Chairmen and Members of the Urban District Councils of Brentford, Chiswick, and Heston and Isleworth, and the Rural District Council of Staines.

May it Please Your Majesty:—

We, the Chairmen and Members of the Urban District Councils of Brentford, Chiswick, and Heston and Isleworth, and the Rural District Council of Staines, beg to tender our loyal greeting to your Majesty upon the occasion of the opening of the new Great West

Road. Growing districts such as those for which we are responsible have much to gain from improved road-communications, and the inevitable spread of the Metropolis renders it necessary to provide for the needs of a distant future. The gracious interest displayed by your Majesty in this undertaking will encourage all Local Authorities who are engaged in similar works tending to facilitate the transport of an ever-growing population. Thanks to these facilities, it will be possible for congested areas to be relieved and more spacious surroundings afforded for town-dwellers.

To all of us it is an especial source of gratification that Her Majesty the Queen should have taken part in this ceremony, thus testifying to her continued sympathy with all works affecting the public welfare.

In praying for your Majesty's health and prosperity we are voicing the heartfelt desire of all your loyal subjects.

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

In thanking you for the loyal and dutiful Address which you have presented, I desire to express the pleasure which it affords the Queen and myself to meet representatives of the Local Authorities on this memorable occasion.

The spread of London will confer greater and greater importance upon the already populous districts over which you preside, and I am glad to see that while so great a part still remains undeveloped, timely steps are being taken to provide the improved means of access which the general increase of building and of traffic in your own districts will demand.

Through your districts pass the great highways leading to the West country—the Bath and Basingstoke Roads; and the obstruction caused by the narrowness of the Brentford High Street has been a source of complaint since the distant days when coaches afforded the principal means of travel. Owing to the advent of motor traffic, this inconvenience has, during the present century, become acute, and all those whose business or pleasure lies on the road will welcome the opening of this new highway, which will enable west-bound traffic to avoid congested areas, and enjoy an open course through pleasant surroundings.

You will doubtless take care that everything possible is done to safe-guard your respective local amenities, remembering that those who enter the Metropolis form their first impressions of London from the design and appearance of the outskirts and suburbs. In your hands lies the moulding of the future. To you is committed the all-important task of determining the lines upon which development shall proceed, and I am well aware that you will not look in vain for assistance to the Middlesex County Council, whose enlightened policy in regard to the acquisition of open spaces is well known.

The influence of Local Authorities upon the health and happiness of the population is an ever-growing one, and the demands made upon the time of members and officials increase correspondingly. The work calls for gifts of a high order, and I am proud to meet those who devote themselves so unsparingly to the public cause.