

ciate your assurance that the people of Liverpool are aware of my deep and personal interest in all that conduces to their happiness and prosperity.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD.

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Members of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, humbly desire to tender our deep sense of the great honour conferred upon us by your visiting Liverpool accompanied by Her Majesty The Queen, to open the Gladstone Dock System and we assure Your Majesties of our deep loyalty and affection.

This visit to our Estate is the third which we have been privileged to receive since your Accession and we also recall with pleasure visits during the last few years of H.R.H. Prince of Wales, and T.R.H. Duke and Duchess of York and we would offer to Your Majesties our sincere congratulations on the safe return of T.R.H. Duke and Duchess from their recent visit to some of your Dominions Overseas.

Your Majesty will no doubt recollect that at the time of your visit in July 1913 when Your Majesty opened the Gladstone Graving Dock, it was then indicated to Your Majesty that the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board contemplated the construction of Docks which would be able to accommodate vessels 1,100 feet in length. The Gladstone Graving Dock is included in this system of Docks, the completion of which has been inevitably delayed by the Great War, and these Docks we now ask Your Majesty graciously to declare open.

We are glad to have this opportunity of again expressing our thanks to Your Majesty for the great interest which Your Majesty has always made manifest by coming personally in touch with great projects designed for the improvement of trade between Great Britain and Your Majesty's Dominions beyond the Seas and Foreign Countries. This personal touch is again displayed by the gracious act Your Majesty is now performing by opening the Gladstone Docks to-day.

We earnestly pray that every blessing may rest upon Your Majesties and upon the Royal House.

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

I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address and for the enthusiastic welcome given to the Queen and myself.

I well remember our visit of fourteen years ago to open the Gladstone Graving Dock, the first instalment of this new group of docks. To-day I heartily congratulate the Board upon the completion of a great enterprise. It is only right that on this occasion a tribute should be paid to the foresight of those who planned this admirable system of Docks; and to their tenacity and perseverance in carrying out their scheme in spite of the exceptional difficulties consequent upon the Great War.

I understand that the Gladstone Docks are designed to accommodate the largest liners now afloat and that the Graving Dock has already been used by vessels of this class and,

during the War, by the largest Battleships. They constitute therefore the most striking development of the work of the Board and a notable addition to the splendid series of docks which present so impressive a spectacle to the visitor approaching the City of Liverpool. But, though the latest, they are not likely to be the last development of that work. I confidently hope that the trade of Merseyside, as the chief port of the industrial areas in the North and Midlands, will continue to flourish and expand; and that in the future, as in the past, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board will ensure the provision of necessary facilities for the growth of the commerce which they serve. We all deeply regret that the late Chairman of the Board, whose energy has contributed so much to the success of its work, has unfortunately been compelled by reasons of health to resign his office before to-day's inaugural ceremony.

Your Address reminds us that the increase of commerce is of far more than merely local interest. The expansion of your trade implies an advancement of world commerce and a strengthening of those links of mutual advantage which unite the Peoples of the British Empire, and further its good relations with friendly countries in every quarter of the globe. I shall always be happy to be associated with any enterprise directed to this beneficent end; and I appreciate your assurances that you recognise my personal solicitude in such undertakings.

I declare the Gladstone Dock System open for traffic; and I pray that, by God's blessing, it may serve to foster and increase the commerce of Liverpool and its sister ports on Merseyside.

*Scottish Office,
Whitehall.*

29th July, 1927.

The following Addresses were presented to The KING on the occasion of the visit of Their Majesties The King and Queen to Scotland and His Majesty was graciously pleased to reply to the Deputations presenting the Address in the terms set forth below in each case:—

CORPORATION OF EDINBURGH.

To The KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council of the City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh, respectfully approach Your Majesty and gratefully acknowledge the honour which you are doing the City by your presence with us to-day.

The Corporation, in common with other Local Authorities throughout the country, were at the close of the War confronted with the very serious problem of providing adequate housing accommodation for the citizens. This problem has engaged their unremitting attention since the passing of the Act of 1919, with the result that up till this date they have provided, or are in course of providing, a total of 5,724 new houses.

While the Corporation have been pre-occupied with the provision of new houses,