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**TUESDAY, 17 APRIL, 1956**

*Whitehall, April 17, 1956.*

The following Address was presented to The QUEEN today on the occasion of the opening by Her Majesty of the new Council House of the Bristol Corporation:—

May it please Your Majesty,

We, Your dutiful subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the City and County of Bristol, humbly offer to Your Majesty and to His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, a most loyal, affectionate and hearty welcome on this Your visit to Your City of Bristol.

We thank Your Majesty most sincerely for the great honour which You confer upon us by Your Gracious Presence amongst us to open the new Council House.

We rejoice that Your Majesty should have come to the very heart of our City in travelling in Your Royal Barge upon the Avon, the historic entrance to Bristol.

Since the twelfth century when Henry II granted to this City its first Royal Charter, the Crown has graciously conferred upon us many privileges and rights. Our first Mayor was appointed in 1216. In 1373, because of the help given to him in "ships, men and money" Edward III bestowed on the City the dignity of a County. In 1899 Queen Victoria granted us a Lord Mayoralty. Thus we have prospered in Royal favour in upwards of eight centuries in recognition, we believe, of Bristol's importance in Your Kingdom and of the City's desire for progressive self-government.

We have now left the site where, for over 400 years, local government has been conducted and we have prayed Your Majesty to open this new building. It contains some of the finest modern craftsmanship in the land and we are proud that so much of it has come from the West Country. We are glad to think that in it the representatives of Your people will continue to uphold the democratic principles of local government in Your land.

We beg to assure Your Majesty of our unflinching and earnest devotion to Your Person and Throne and of our loyal support at all times in Your governance and guidance of Your Commonwealth. We earnestly pray that You may enjoy long and happy years of health, supported in all Your undertakings by the devotion and affection of Your Family and Your Peoples throughout the world.

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

My Lord Mayor,

I thank you for the loyal address of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the City and County of Bristol. I have been very moved by the warmth of the welcome which you and the citizens of Bristol have given to me and my husband, and I am delighted to be with you to-day and so to continue that association between the Throne and Bristol which has existed for so long.

My husband and I have been happy to come to the very heart of Bristol by water. It is, I think,

the most appropriate way for me to come amongst you, because the Avon has been linked with Bristol throughout your history; for centuries men of Bristol have sailed down their river on voyages of discovery and the pursuit of trade on which your fortunes have been founded. Bristol has flourished by the enterprise of your merchants and by the skill and craftsmanship with which the materials they have brought back have been used and fashioned.

To-day, I am opening a new Council House to replace the old House which served your needs for a hundred and twenty-five years. The growth of your responsibilities for the health and happiness of your citizens has made the old House inadequate. Here in this new Council House you will, I am sure, be able to continue to discharge, with ever-increasing efficiency and success, the heavy responsibilities which, my Lord Mayor, you and your Aldermen and Councillors carry for the well-being of the Burgesses of this historic town. I am glad to see that in this fine building the tradition of good craftsmanship, for which you in the West Country are famed, has been so worthily applied. I congratulate you on the building and all those who have taken part in its planning and construction. I now declare it open and I pray that success will crown the work which is undertaken here.

The following Address was presented to The QUEEN to-day on the occasion of the opening by Her Majesty of the Chew Valley Reservoir of the Corporation of Bristol:—

May it please Your Majesty:—

We are deeply conscious of the honour conferred upon the water industry and upon the Bristol Waterworks Company in particular by the presence here to-day of Your Majesty accompanied by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, and it is my privilege to offer to Your Majesty the warmest and most loyal welcome on behalf of the Company and of everyone here assembled.

History records the support given by James I to proposals made in 1613 for the piping of the waters of the New River to London, and it is a source of intense gratification to us in the industry to observe the interest maintained by the Sovereign in more recent times in water schemes which, although perhaps taken for granted by many people, do after all provide one of the first essentials to life.

The present Bristol Waterworks Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1846 when the modest works built by the public-spirited Society of Merchant Venturers to provide a public supply of water in Bristol were acquired. From such small beginnings the Company has grown until to-day it supplies over 25 million gallons of water a day.

A little over 3 years ago Your Majesty opened Claerwen reservoir, an example of a lake with a concrete and masonry dam. At the Usk reservoir which Your Majesty inaugurated last year and here in the Chew Valley, we have an earth dam with a core of clay—a type used where the ground, because of its geological nature, would not support the greater weight of a concrete dam.