

occasion of the opening by His Majesty of the King Edward Memorial Park, Shadwell:—

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The loyal and dutiful Address of the Council of the Administrative County of London.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

We, the Chairman, Aldermen and Councillors of the London County Council representing the people of the capital of Your Majesty's Empire humbly desire that Your Majesty will be pleased to dedicate the park in which we are now assembled to the use of the public and in ever grateful memory of His late Majesty King Edward VII, King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the seas and Emperor of India.

London looks back with the utmost pride and satisfaction to the work and achievements of Your Majesty's revered Father, whose influence was consistently and powerfully exerted to the preservation of peace through the world. Outstanding amongst services within His Majesty's own Empire was the strengthening of the ties of interest and affection between India and the Dominions and the Mother Country. Of the manifold services rendered to London we venture to recall those referring particularly to His Majesty's care for the poorer citizens, evinced in His Majesty's long and anxious work for the provision of better housing conditions and His Majesty's constant devotion to the welfare of the London Hospitals.

It is indeed fitting that the King Edward Memorial Committee should have decided, with Your Majesty's assent, that King Edward's work, and particularly His work for the poor, should be commemorated by the formation of a park for the enjoyment, recreation and rest of the people of the densely populated East End of London.

Your Majesty will remember that the Committee, whilst securing the provision of the equestrian statue in Waterloo Place, have devoted to the establishment of this park by far the greater proportion of the sum contributed for the memorial. The provision of the park has been beset with many difficulties, mainly occasioned or accentuated by the Great War, but the goodwill shown by the Memorial Committee, the City Corporation and the Port of London Authority has made it possible to invite Your Majesty to open the major portion of the park to-day.

May we express to Your Majesty the feelings of gratification with which we respectfully welcome the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

We are further sensible of our privilege in being permitted also to welcome Her Majesty Queen Alexandra to the inauguration of this memorial scheme, which, we learn from the Memorial Committee, has had from the outset Her Majesty's full support and sympathy. Ever since Her Majesty first visited these shores, Her Majesty, as bride, wife and widow, has been associated with countless works of public utility and beneficence. We trust that the Queen Mother may long be spared to receive the loyal respect and affection of the inhabitants of London.

May it please Your Majesty to unveil the bronze plaque and drinking fountain, which has been designed by Sir Bertram Mackennal, K.C.V.O., A.R.A., to dedicate the King Edward Memorial Park, in commemoration of Your beloved Father, and to declare it open for the use and enjoyment of the public for ever.

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

I have much pleasure in complying with the request of the London County Council to dedicate this Park to the memory of my beloved Father and to open it for the perpetual use and enjoyment of the people of London.

The Queen and I are deeply gratified by the warm and loyal welcome which you have given us. I especially appreciate the terms in which your Address refers to my dear Mother; her sympathy with all King Edward's efforts for the welfare of his people, and to the affection with which she has ever been regarded by the citizens of London.

Nearly a year has passed since I unveiled the statue of my Father in Waterloo Place. This Park where we meet to-day is the consummation of the scheme inaugurated in his memory by the City of London. I am well aware of the difficulties due to the war in carrying out their design. I congratulate the Memorial Committee and the Local Authorities on the energy and goodwill which have enabled these difficulties to be triumphantly overcome. The people of London have good cause to be grateful to the City Corporation, to the Port of London Authority for their generous contribution towards the provision of this Park, and to the London County Council for undertaking its completion and future maintenance.

His statue stands conspicuously in the central area of London—a testimony of the undying love of the citizens for King Edward. The very position of the King Edward Memorial Park, far from those districts frequented by visitors, will lead the people to regard it as a more intimate and personal possession, to be enjoyed by them as a part of their every-day life.

That the greater part of the Fund raised in honour of his memory should be devoted to secure an open space and recreation ground in a part of London where it is so urgently needed was indeed a happy decision, and one which would have especially commended itself to my Father. His interest in the conditions of the capital and his zeal for the welfare of its people were deep-rooted and of long standing. As Prince of Wales he gave public proof of this interest by his work on the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, and evinced his sense of the special requirements of the East End by opening the Whitechapel Recreation Ground in 1880 and laying the Foundation Stone of the People's Palace a few years later.

The site of the Park has been selected with admirable judgment. This densely crowded neighbourhood is in grievous need of more open spaces, for, unfortunately, large areas of London east of the Tower, though quite close to the river, are separated from it for all practical purposes of daily life. Mediæval London had its port and shipping at its very door, and used the Thames as the main highway. Modern London turns its back on the Thames, and its millions, though living within a few hundred