

tain diseases; public protection, including the Building Acts, Fire Brigade, theatres and music halls and cinematograph halls, weights and measures, diseases of animals; transport, including tramways, arterial roads, street improvements, bridges and tunnels; public amenities, including parks and open spaces and museums, to say nothing of the enormous and far-reaching service of education, elementary, secondary, technical and university.

The concentration of most of the Council's central administrative staff engaged on such work in one building instead of many will conduce to that smooth working of the administrative machinery which is essential not only to the Council but to the public whom the Council represents. That the Council's efforts to secure this end are crowned by the recognition of our Sovereign is a source of pride and satisfaction to us, and we trust that the new building may become a centre whence enduring achievement will follow sustained efforts for the common weal of London.

We desire to tender to Her Majesty the Queen our humble and grateful thanks for Her gracious presence here to-day and for the encouragement always afforded to us by Her Majesty's sympathetic interest in the welfare of the people of London.

We pray that Your Majesty may long be spared to reign over the realm and to receive the manifestations of devoted loyalty and goodwill of its people.

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

On behalf of the Queen and myself I thank you very sincerely for your loyal and dutiful Address. It gives me much pleasure to comply with the request of the London County Council to open the new County Hall, for I feel a particular interest and satisfaction in seeing the completion of this splendid building, the foundation-stone of which I laid more than ten years ago.

The local government of every great city is a municipal problem, most difficult of solution. Opinions differ as to the machinery of local administration and the best methods of obtaining the best results, but it is universally recognised that the root of all good government is a live and active civic spirit.

The men of old times were wise in erecting fine buildings in their towns. It is necessary to appeal to the imagination—a public authority meanly housed may be meanly esteemed. This noble Hall, the seat of the government of the County of London, will be typical of the importance of their duties and responsibilities, and should stimulate the development of that sense of citizenship so difficult and yet so imperative to cultivate.

This building is, I believe, the first important public work completed in London since the War. We are struggling to regain the normal conditions of trade and industry, and I grieve to think how much unemployment still exists. But surely the completion of this County Hall is one more proof that the energies, diverted to carrying on the War of four long years' duration, are returning to their old channels, and that the same determination and perseverance displayed by the citizens of London in the attainment of victory will equally be exerted in the no less difficult task of rebuilding our prosperity in peace.

I am glad to know that the County Hall will contain a permanent memorial to those members and servants of the Council who gave their lives in the Great War. Their names are a testimony to the splendid contribution rendered to the fighting strength of the country by the municipal organisations—all the more splendid when we remember the heavy responsibilities imposed upon Local Authorities for essential services, the efficient performance of which was vital to victory.

It is fitting in many ways that this Hall should have been erected on the banks of the Thames, the great highway of London, the means of her prosperity and the opportunity of her greatness: and it is significant also that the site chosen should be on the southern side of the river. A few years ago all the vast expanse of this bank, now covered with dwellings, factories and workshops of a teeming population, was mainly field and marshland, and it is only natural that development here should have been slower than on the north. But reconstruction is sure to come and, whatever its form, will be accelerated by the erection of this new civic building.

On the opposite side of the river is a small area of land, historic in the pageantry of national life, and throughout long years of steady progress the focus of ever-expanding activities. Here, also, let us hope, that the opening of this new centre of county life in London will be the beginning of a chapter no less beneficial to the citizens of the metropolis.

It would be difficult to emphasise too strongly the importance of efficient Local Government to the general well-being of this country. Signal advances have been made: the improvements in sanitation and in the amenities of communal life have been enormous. In the reduced death rates and, most significant and far-reaching of all, in the reduced infantile mortality, in which respect our Capital City holds so proud a record, the value of this work has been shown. Much still remains to be done, not only in measures of reconstruction but also in renewed progress towards even better conditions. Great as have been the achievements of the past, results equally remarkable can be confidently looked for in the future; and nothing will more conduce to this end than the mutual confidence of all classes in the government of the London County Council, and their co-operation in supporting the Council's efforts to secure all that is best for the contentment and prosperity of the community.

---

By an Exchange of Notes, dated the 3rd instant, between His Majesty's Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Assistant Official Agent of the Russian Trade Delegation in this country, it has been agreed that the provisions of the Trade Agreement between Great Britain and the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Government, signed at London on the 16th March, 1921, shall apply as from the 3rd July, 1922, to the Dominion of Canada, and to merchandise the produce and manufacture of Canada, and shall govern the relations between Canada and Russia

Foreign Office,  
31st July, 1922.