

has already afforded employment to some 10,000 skilled and unskilled workmen, and the carrying out of the Company's plans will continue to afford a large measure of relief to unemployment for some years to come.

In addition, the provision of cheap electric power from the Barking Power House will afford an invaluable stimulus to London industries and will enable manufacturers to secure increased production at a reduced cost. It is now universally recognised that cheap and abundant electric power is vital to the progress of an industrial Nation. We are witnessing the transition from the age of steam to the age of electricity. Among the numerous benefits of this fundamental change, not the least will be the improvement of conditions in factories and workshops, and the gradual elimination of the smoke nuisance.

The wider distribution of electric power over the undeveloped areas of Greater London will enable new factories to be placed in the outlying districts where the workpeople can be housed in the healthiest surroundings. By effecting this form of industrial redistribution, cheap electric power will result in relieving the inside congested areas which have grown up in the age of steam.

In these manifold directions the enterprise which your Majesties have honoured by your presence to-day will, we earnestly trust, promote the industrial and social advancement of the Metropolis, and ensure that in the provision of an essential public service London shall not lag behind other industrial centres in the Kingdom.

In conclusion, we desire to express our fervent hope that your Majesties may long be spared to reign over this realm and to enjoy the deep and abiding loyalty which is inspired and strengthened by your constant care for the welfare of your subjects.

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 cordial expression of your good wishes for the Queen and myself.

It gives me much pleasure to open this new Power House at Barking Creek, a remarkable development in the supply of electricity to London and the surrounding counties.

The electrical industry is one of our foremost National activities. It intimately concerns our every day life, affects almost every industrial undertaking and provides the means to improve the conditions of factories and workshops by better equipment and lighting.

Hardly less important is the part which electricity is destined to play in transport, in rural life and in the home. In many of the Dominions, particularly where vast water power is available, electricity has been adapted alike to industry, to agriculture and to domestic purposes. In the British Isles the source of power lies in our great coal fields: and there seems to be no insuperable obstacle to the use of electricity on an equally wide scale. It is manifest that preparations must be made for the attainment of this object: I am gratified to learn that the difficult problem of co-ordinating the numerous systems of supply within London and the

Home Counties is approaching solution, and I trust that this development will spread throughout the country.

No longer a luxury for the few electricity has become a necessity for the many: Its continued growth and wider use will diminish the cost of production and so make it more generally obtainable. I rejoice especially that by thus reducing the smoke of our large towns, by relieving congested areas and by the application of electricity in many other ways the health of the population will materially benefit.

I am gratified to learn that the construction of this Power Station has already assisted the problem of unemployment and that the contemplated work on the extensions of the system will further contribute to that end.

I declare the Electric Power Station at Barking open. I earnestly hope that to-day's inauguration may be a stimulus to an ever increasing supply of electricity throughout the land: and that this useful branch of applied science may demonstrate the skill and industry of my people, increase the trade of the country and promote the general welfare of the community.

BARKING TOWN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To

THEIR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIES KING
GEORGE V, AND QUEEN MARY.

May it please Your Majesties:—

We, the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Barking Town in the County of Essex humbly beg to offer Your Majesties, on behalf of the inhabitants of their District, our whole-hearted and sincere welcome on the auspicious occasion of Your Majesties' presence here to-day.

We rejoice that Your Majesty the King has, as the result of Your recent sojourn in more Southern climes, been completely restored to health.

The Council is aware of the deep and abiding interest that Your Majesties display in matters concerning the industrial life of Your subjects, an instance of which gives the inhabitants of Barking the opportunity and felicity of welcoming You this day.

The occasion of Your visit marks an epoch in the electricity supply of the capital City of Your Empire, which, it is anticipated, will have an important bearing upon other allied industries of London and the Home Counties.

We take this opportunity of assuring Your Majesties that Your visit to-day is most highly appreciated by the loyal and dutiful inhabitants of the ancient town of Barking.

We pray for Your Majesties a long and glorious reign, and beg to assure You of our unbounded loyalty and affection.

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

I have much pleasure in receiving your loyal and dutiful Address.

I thank you very sincerely for your congratulations on my restoration to health and for your expressions of good-will and affection.

The Queen and I recall with pleasure our