

# The Chronicle

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The Royal Insurance Company celebrated the opening of its magnificent office building, at Liverpool, by a dinner, on 17th ult., at the Exchange Station Hotel. Mr. Alcock, the manager, presided, and vice-chairs were filled respectively by Messrs. Chappell, sub-manager, Roper and H. Kinson, assistant secretaries, Mr. Watson, chairman of the Company, was present; also representatives of the Royal, from Canada, Australia, India, etc. The "Review" reports the proceedings as follows:—

After the customary loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Mr. Alcock proposed the toast of the Royal Insurance Company. He remarked that the officials of all grades employed in the various offices of the company at home and abroad now numbered about 1,700, of whom 1,000 were in the United Kingdom; and as the operations of the company were world-wide, so its staff was cosmopolitan. The company had been remarkably successful in assimilating the staffs of the different companies amalgamated with the Royal, and all had been welded into one family, whose members without distinction were treated with equal consideration, and served the company with equal loyalty and devotion. He recalled the annual meeting of 1889, when the venerable chairman of that day, after announcing that for the first time the fire revenue of the company had exceeded £1,000,000, confidently prophesied that in another forty years this figure would be more than doubled. Not forty but fourteen years had gone by, and the income from fire premiums was now not far short of £3,000,000. He said that there was nothing of which the directors were more jealous than the preservation of the good name of the company, and the high and important position it held among the financial institutions of the kingdom made it all the more incumbent upon every officer to exercise unceasing vigilance to secure the company from deserved reproach. The chairman of the company responded in a sympathetic speech, expressing the directors' appreciation of the loyal service of the

staff. He referred to the generous pension scheme which had been recently established, and announced that the Board had now taken a further step forward by unanimously adopting a benevolent scheme, framed by a committee of the staff, which would mean the setting aside by the company of a sum of £3,000 or £4,000 a year for the benefit of employees in the United Kingdom."

Other toasts followed, and cablegrams read from Royal officials all over the world.

## English Press Honours.

The King has addressed an open letter to the Press, expressing his gratification at the admirable manner in which the royal tour through Ireland was described by the reporters who followed the King and Queen and their retinue. This is the first time the Press has been formally recognized in connection with any royal function, and is another illustration of the remarkable wisdom of King Edward VII. The following honours have been conferred upon proprietors, editors and contributors to English newspapers, as given in the "Review:" Sir Edward Lawson, of the "Daily Telegraph," has been made a peer under the title of Lord Burnham. The "Morning Post" is associated with Lord Glenesk, whilst we may mention Sir George Armstrong, of the "Globe," Sir Edward Russell, of the "Liverpool Daily Post," Sir F. Burnand, of "Punch," Sir John Robinson, of the "Daily News," and quite a number of other celebrities in the journalistic world, including Sir Edwin Arnold, Sir Douglas Straight, Sir John Lang, etc., etc."

The Press of Great Britain affords the greatest display of intellectual power of any institution on earth. It is so powerful, because it is the open platform from which the choicest minds in the country, of all classes, have freedom to state their views and arguments with that independence which is absolutely essential to the bringing out all the force there is in a writer or speaker.