

lished to-day. Notably at the Merchants' Exchange was there an imposing assemblage of well-known business men. The reading room could barely accommodate the crowd. Cheers for the Queen, for "Baden-Powell and the brave defenders of Mafeking," for "General Bobs, who promised to be there on the 18th," for "the Naval Brigade," and for "Kitchener, Buller, and our boys" were given with immense enthusiasm, and toasts in honor of most of the pro British population of the world were honored.

A congratulatory cable was sent by the chairman on behalf of the members of the Exchange at the close of the festivities. Similar scenes occurred at several of the great city establishments. Employer and employee joined in the celebration of the event, which is bursting the Empire's "heart of pride" with thankfulness to-day. From the upper windows of houses where numerous employees are occupied, bands of girls frantically whirled flags and flung patriotic kisses to the applauding populace below.

ROYAL SALUTE AND WHITE ENSIGN.

At 12 o'clock a royal salute of 21 guns was fired from the flagship Royal Arthur, and from the battery at Dawes Point, and from South Head. The warships all displayed the white ensign, although the Admiral had received no direct intimation of the relief of Mafeking. The firing of the salute was eagerly hailed as a splendid opportunity for a recrudescence of cheering, and thenceforward at intervals of a few minutes the air was smitten with patriotic noise until lunch hour lessened the crowds. Between noon and 1 o'clock the Governor drove through the principal streets, and his Excellency was everywhere greeted with the greatest enthusiasm.

There was no appreciable slackening in the demonstrativeness of the city's delight in the early afternoon. The military authorities, who at the Victoria Barracks during the morning, expressed their joy, with the aid of guns and martial music, in the afternoon sent the bands to play in the streets and parks. This idea was greatly applauded by the public, who followed the bandsmen round, and cheered and cheered again as some of the