

plans submitted by Manager Heaton for its new building on St. James street; also by the Board of the Liverpool & London & Globe of plans for a new office building which were laid before it by Mr. G. F. C. Smith, Resident Secretary. The Guardian was burnt out on 28th January, so was compelled to find a temporary home, which it did east of the Post Office. Its new building has made remarkable progress, the *façade* is universally admired for its combination of ornate elegance and imposing dignity. The Liverpool & London & Globe building has also been pushed ahead rapidly and promises to be a noble structure. The exterior of the Board of Trade's new building is nearly completed. As the contract was only signed on the 21st January, the corner stone being laid on 14th May, the delay being caused by the site having to be cleared of ruins and debris, the progress made with this edifice is highly creditable.

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The City has had a variety of notable events in the past year. The reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York aroused loyal enthusiasm which was displayed by arches and mural decorations throughout the city. There was a void, however, in the arrangements, which drew out criticisms far from complimentary to some authorities, but, doubtless, they did their best and erred, as they did err from lack of experience and knowledge of what ought to be the features of a royal reception in a great city.

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The Horticultural Show was a great success; the exhibits excited the wonder as well as admiration of many visitors, who were amazed at the rich floral displays and evidences of this district's rich products. The Convention of the Metropolitan Company's delegates, who, on 2nd Sept., assembled to the number of 170, was a very impressive event, showing the progress of industrial insurance. The city also had the honour of entertaining the most distinguished statesmen of Australia, who were delighted with the city and Canada. Another prominent visitor was Mr. Alsop, of the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co., Liverpool.

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The civic record for 1902, if fully reported, would make copy for a work as big as a three volume novel, but it was very barren of practical results. The magnificent offer of Mr. Carnegie to provide funds for a City Library building, after being debated at wearisome length, was accepted in a half-hearted sort of way. The debate manifested there existing a strong undercurrent of objection to a Public Library, the inspiration of which it would be

very easy but unwise to specify. A site has not been chosen, nor is likely to be for a length of time, as the obstructionists, who seem to object to the diffusion of knowledge, or the provision of enlarged facilities for study to enrich the attractions of this city, will do their utmost to delay the founding and the adequate equipment of the Library. Throughout the whole year discussions went on in the Council respecting the Contagious Diseases' Hospital. At the close of the year, however, a decision was arrived at by which \$15,000 a year is to be given to each of two Hospitals, one to be in connection with the Notre Dame Hospital, the other with the "English hospitals"—whatever that phrase means, which is quite dubious. On 4th June tenders were to be opened for new civic loan of 2 millions, but only one was presented, the rate offered being £98 1s 1d. A grave scandal arose in the fall over the supply of police uniforms. The contractors had been allowed to pass off the old ones of the men and had supplied some of the police officers with private clothes of the same value. The scheme is quite an old one. The Council did not distinguish itself last year.

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As the year opened two currents of feeling and opinion regarding the war were running high. Indignation prevailed at the guerilla tactics adopted by the Boers, which, rightly, were deemed proofs of their being practically defeated, while the acceptance, at the end of January, of a 9th contingent of 1,000 men from New Zealand filled the pro-Boers with confidence in the struggle being prolonged until the old land became so weary as to abandon South Africa to the rule of its enemies. At the end of February, Majuba Day, Lord Kitchener captured 2,000 horses, 23,000 cattle, 60,000 sheep, 200 waggons and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. A few days after this, Feb. 5, President Roosevelt told the Boer delegates that the United States would remain strictly neutral. These two events doubtless brought despair to the Boers, though in the course of a week they captured Lord Methuen, who was released, as the enemy could not provide him surgical aid, nor could they spare food for the British whom they had captured. These were signs of the end drawing near. In the middle of March a contingent of 500 arrived in S. Africa from Australia. On the 23rd the so-called Boer Government and several British officers held a conference on peace proposals, but fighting still went on, and March closed with a brilliant feat of arms performed by the Canadian Mounted Rifles. This was the last serious stand made by the Boers, and, at at Paardeburg, they were sickened at the punishment they got from Canadians. A few brushes