



ST. DUNSTAN'S  
TENTH ANNIVERSARY

1915



1925

*H.M. Queen Alexandra  
Patroness of St. Dunstan's*

A Souvenir  
of  
The Anniversary Dinner

held on MAY 18th, 1925

*Under the Presidency of*

*Field-Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught,*

*K.G., K.T., K.P., P.C., G.M.B., G.G.S.I. G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O.*

Including a full report of  
the speeches made and also

A SHORT HISTORY OF ST. DUNSTAN'S  
TEN YEARS OF WORK



# ST. DUNSTAN'S

## A Short History of Ten Years of Work



IT was at a house in Bayswater Hill, loaned by a kindly supporter, that Sir Arthur Pearson first started his great work for the men blinded in the War. That was in the early days of February, 1915, and when on March 26th possession was taken of St. Dunstan's, the great mansion in Regent's Park, so generously lent by Mr. Otto Kahn, there were but sixteen men to care for. Already, however, there were indications that this number would be largely added to, and when the first Report of progress was issued in the Spring of 1916, St. Dunstan's was training one hundred and sixty officers and men, while another fifty had, during that period, been made fit again to take their places in the world. One short year later, those numbers had



The Late  
SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, BT., G.B.E.  
*Founder of St. Dunstan's*

risen to three hundred and fifty-four, and two hundred and twenty-four respectively, and before the end of 1918 there were over fifteen hundred names on the books. Five large establishments, with the original house of St. Dunstan's as their centre in London, in addition to several provincial Annexes, barely provided the required accommodation. When it seemed that the Armistice of 1918 would bring an end to the toll of the war-blinded, and thus a diminishing need for the continuance of St. Dunstan's work, a new and almost unforeseen burden had to be shouldered. This was the training and care of the tragically large number of men who were doomed to lose their sight in the years following the War, as the result of the wounds and the

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hardships they had undergone on service. No fewer than seven hundred and forty men have been admitted to St. Dunstan's since the Armistice, and to-day there are under training at the Headquarters in Regent's Park, or awaiting vacancies at the Convalescent Annexe at Brighton, one hundred and three men.

It is to be feared that this toll is far from ended; for in the new term, which opened at the beginning of this year, it was found necessary to provide accommodation for nearly fifty per cent. more men than were with us in 1924. To help in this direction, a fine new Ward, to accommodate twenty-five men, was formally opened by the Attorney-General, the Right Hon. Sir Douglas Hogg, on 19th January last.

The great bulk of these men, who had entered St. Dunstan's since the end of the War, had little or no fear of ever needing our assistance when they were discharged from war-service. Many—indeed, the great majority—were able to take up again their pre-war avocations—to live again their home and social lives in normal fashion. But as the months, the years, slid on, they found the almost disregarded injury to vision steadily

gaining ground. A slow but ever-mounting difficulty presented itself in executing the day's work, and even in the home dependence upon the family and friends for the actions of every-day life became more necessary. Eventually, work had to be given up altogether, and then followed the period of deadly inactivity which saps the whole of hope and energy. A chance word from a friend; a mention in the newspaper of some achievement of a St. Dunstan's man; perhaps the despairing search for some life-buoy in the sea of darkness, led to . . .



LADY (ARTHUR) PEARSON, D.B.E.  
*President of St. Dunstan's*

ST. DUNSTAN'S. Thus is reached the total of over two thousand men (more than two full battalions) who have been given by St. Dunstan's the power to achieve a measure of victory over the great handicap of blindness which has restored to them confidence, content and a capacity for productive work which had been previously thought beyond the realms of possibility for a sightless man. They have been established as qualified masseurs, business organisers, telephone operators, shorthand-typists, carpenters and joiners, mat makers, basket makers, boot repairers, and poultry farmers, and their work in any capacity is fully the equal of the sighted,



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and claim support on merit alone—pity no St. Dunstan's man wants. The prize breeds of St. Dunstan's poultry farmers take honours everywhere: St. Dunstan-made mats, baskets and joinery secure many Exhibition awards, and are found in thousands of British homes: St. Dunstan's masseurs are sought for by the medical profession: and it is rarely that any of St. Dunstan's shorthand-typists and telephonists are without positions. Its sons have entered the Home and Empire Parliaments and served on many public bodies—true citizens in every sense of the word.

It must be emphasised, however, that even when the last of the war-blinded men has been trained and settled, St. Dunstan's is still pledged to a life-long responsibility for them all.

That is the maintenance of the widespread After-Care Organisation, the work of which commences with the completion of the training of the blinded man, and ends only with his death. This After-Care Organisation, which is essentially a costly one to maintain, has but one aim and object in view—to smooth the way, as far as is humanly possible, for every war-blinded man

from the moment he leaves St. Dunstan's. However fine the spirit, and however brave the outlook, the war-blinded man learns in the environment of St. Dunstan's, it is inevitable that, left to fend for himself in the thousand and one difficulties and problems which must beset him, a great deal of the splendid work accomplished would be gravely prejudiced. A helping hand here, a little service there, and always

the opportunity to submit to the After-Care Department any difficulties that crop up, means the whole difference between continued success and contented citizenship, and the growing dependency of failure. Technical and social visitors are in constant touch with every man in his own home; raw materials are supplied him from Head-quarters, carriage paid and at

specially advantageous prices; renewals of tools and equipment are arranged for; expert assistance is given in carrying out special orders; medical care is undertaken of himself and his family; and help is available in marketing and selling the goods he makes—these are but a few of the widespread activities embraced under After-Care.



THE BIRTHPLACE OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

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From its first inception this Empire-wide Organisation has been maintained on a purely voluntary basis. It has never received any State aid or Government grant whatever, and our supporters in all walks of life can rightly

claim that they, and they alone, have made it possible for St. Dunstan's to prove to the men who were blinded because of their patriotism, that our country does not, and will not, forget them.



MEN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S AT WORK AND PLAY



# Tenth Anniversary Dinner

## A Distinguished Gathering



THE Tenth Anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's by Sir Arthur Pearson was celebrated by a dinner held on Monday, May 18th, at the Connaught Rooms, London. Renewed proof of the gracious interest in St. Dunstan's which has always been shown by the Royal Family was given by the presence at the dinner, as Chairman, of Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, K.G., K.T., K.P., P.C., G.M.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O.

The Chairman was supported at the top table by our President, Lady (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., our Chairman, Captain Ian Fraser, C.B.E., M.P., Admiral of the Fleet Lord Jellicoe, G.C.B., O.M., &c., and Lady Jellicoe, Lord Desborough, K.C.V.O., Sir Neville Pearson, Bart., the Hon. J. S. Smit (High Commissioner for South Africa), Captain Victor Gordon (High Commissioner for Newfoundland), Lieut.-Col. Sir Malcolm Murray, K.C.V.O.,

&c., Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Charles I. Kerr, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Col. Eric Ball, and Mr. E. E. Mavrogordato.

Limitations of space prevent our giving a list of the great number of other distinguished guests present, but they included peers and commoners, representatives of art, music and literature, science and commerce, members of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's, our Medical Advisory Committee, and our Ophthalmic Advisory Board, and some principal officials of the Executive staff.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was received on arrival by Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Captain Fraser, and other members of the Council, and afterwards a large number of presentations were made. At the conclusion of dinner, and after the loyal toast had been honoured, His Royal Highness proposed the toast of "St. Dunstan's."

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THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT said: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now give you the toast of "St. Dunstan's." We are assembled here to-night to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the foundation of St. Dunstan's by Sir Arthur Pearson. We appreciate to the full what it has done. (Cheers.) May I say that I so greatly respect the splendid work that has been done for our blinded officers and men of the Imperial Forces that I have come here as your Chairman—(cheers)—and I can assure you that I feel very flattered at having been asked to attend on this occasion. You are aware that the difficulties in dealing with our blind people were very great. It was almost a new thing to start men in the vigour of life who had sacrificed everything for their country, and I feel convinced that there has been no organisation in the world that has done more completely what it intended to do. I feel sure we all appreciate how much has been done. You are aware of the 2,146 men, representing 95 per cent. of all the men of the Imperial Forces blinded in the service of the Empire, who have come under its care. Blindness is, in many peoples' minds, the worst calamity that can befall a human being. This makes one admire all the more the splendid spirit with which the blinded officers and men have overcome their difficulties. (Cheers.) The spirit of St. Dunstan's has engendered in them an attitude of mind which makes self-pity impossible. The two thousand odd men are now settled in their own homes, pursuing the various professions they have been taught, and finding happiness which occupation and responsibility alone can bring. (Cheers.) But the task of St. Dunstan's is not finished. It has pledged itself to look after the men under its care for the rest of their lives, and it does this through what is termed the After-care Organisation, the object of which is to help men and their families in sickness or distress, supply them with materials for their handicrafts, and settle them in suitable homes. The successful discharge of this liability, which will not be fulfilled until the last blinded soldier

has passed away, demands annual support from the nation. (Cheers.) The object of this dinner is not so much to raise immediate funds as to emphasise the permanent character of St. Dunstan's work, and to add to the list of its annual subscribers, and perhaps obtain the sympathy of those who may be disposed to leave it sums in their wills. Though the generosity of the public has never failed, St. Dunstan's has no time limit. It accepts and trains a man for life if necessary. And this leaves an unknown liability to be faced. Even now there are sixty men who have come in recent months to receive training. The accounts and balance sheets are available to all who care to see them. I venture to express the hope that the next ten years may be as fruitful of good as the last ten years have been, and I wish that St. Dunstan's may flourish in the future as it has flourished in the past. I couple with this toast the name of my neighbour, Captain Ian Fraser, who became Chairman of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's on the death of Sir Arthur Pearson. I ask you one and all to join with me in drinking to prosperity to St. Dunstan's and to express our gratitude for the splendid work it has done. (Cheers.)

CAPTAIN IAN FRASER, C.B.E., M.P., responding to the toast, said: Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your Royal Highness has been kind enough to couple my name with this toast, and in a sense I reply to the toast as Chairman of the Council of St. Dunstan's. But if you will permit me, I want to dissociate myself



CAPTAIN IAN FRASER



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to-night from my office, and to reply rather as one of the blinded soldiers. (Cheers.) If St. Dunstan's has made it possible for nearly two battalions of officers and men of the Imperial Forces to find in life more happiness than they would otherwise have found, if it has made it possible for them to lead useful lives and to contribute something to the well-being of the community rather than, so to speak, to have retired upon their pensions, then St. Dunstan's has contributed something to the national welfare of which the nation may well be proud. (Cheers.) As one of the blinded soldiers who, in 1916, found succour and aid at St. Dunstan's, and who learned how invaluable was the example and genius which Sir Arthur Pearson had brought to bear upon that great organisation, I want to-night to take the opportunity of rendering thanks to those who have made this great work possible. (Cheers.) Sir Arthur Pearson was he who inspired it, and it was he, if one may use the phrase, who invented it. But it was rendered possible by the assistance afforded by your family, Sir; by the Houses of Parliament in which all parties have been represented since St. Dunstan's came to be founded; by the great medical profession, of which so many representatives are present to-night (cheers); by the Newspaper Press, to which a special word will be said later by my friend Colonel Ball; and ultimately by the great British public in this country and throughout the Dominions, for a very large share of the support which keeps St. Dunstan's going comes from the Dominions. For all of them there is due a word of thanks from one who is certainly honoured by being a blinded soldier and who, in a sense, can claim to represent his fellows. There are many in our country who look upon philanthropy with some sense of distrust and who, perhaps, in some measure decry its efforts. May I say on behalf of our officers and men that we are not amongst them? We recognise that love of humanity stirs people to help those who are in difficulties, and we are grateful to the British public for the

constant support and help which they have given to our organisation. St. Dunstan's has, perhaps, set an example in two directions. One is the extent of the voluntary assistance which has been afforded it. It comes from all parts of the Empire, and we appreciate it more deeply than we can say. The other is the way in which St. Dunstan's men—and here you must allow me to revert to my position and dissociate myself from myself, so to speak, difficult as it may be—have adopted the philosophy which Sir Arthur Pearson taught them, and regard their difficulties not as difficulties to hamper them and make them downcast but rather as obstacles to be surmounted and to regard the handicap which Fate had imposed upon them not so much in the light as His Royal Highness was kind enough to mention it, but as an opportunity for conquering new fields and for doing things which blinded men had not done before. (Cheers.) Because our men were able to do that; because they are doing it in their two thousand homes throughout this land and in our Dominions, they have commanded the respect of the British public, and they have secured its support. I believe they will continue to secure that support, and I offer your Royal Highness and those who are present to-night my very sincere thanks for the toast which you have proposed, and which you have all so courteously accepted. I trust that at the end of another ten years we may again have your Royal Highness presiding at our birthday gathering. (Cheers.)

#### "The Memory of the Founder"

LORD DESBOROUGH, K.C.V.O., said: Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have been asked at this dinner, the tenth anniversary of the foundation of St. Dunstan's, to propose the "Memory of the Founder." When I have concluded the few remarks I propose to make on this occasion I will ask you to drink it upstanding and in silence. I suppose I have been asked to propose this toast because I knew Sir Arthur Pearson more than thirty years ago, when he was a

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leading spirit at that time, both in genius and in hard work, in the world of publicity during the last generation. And there is



LORD DESBOROUGH

no doubt that his greatest work, great though the preceding work had been, was when he left journalism and devoted himself to the establishment of St. Dunstan's in the early months of 1915. No one in the world could have been so especially adapted to answer to the call as Sir Arthur Pearson. He suffered from the same calamity as those to whom he was ministering. But, though he was blind, his interest in all that was going on in the world remained as keen as ever, and he was able to inspire all with whom he came into contact with his own charming spirit and optimism. He practised the gospel which he preached, and which might be summed up in a sentence of his own: "We cannot see the world in which we live, but one thing we will not see, and that is the dark side of our lives." (Cheers.) He thought, he was firmly convinced, that the cry of the blind was for work and not for alms, and that for them there was no greater calamity than to live a life of idleness in total darkness. And there was no one, as I am sure you will all realise from the sentiments just expressed by His Royal Highness, who worked so nobly and so successfully to defeat this calamity. I give you the toast of "Our Founder." (The toast was then honoured in silence.)

#### "St. Dunstan's Throughout the Empire."

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD JELlicoe, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., LL.D., rising to

propose this toast, said: Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my privilege as one who has seen overseas something of the result of the work of St. Dunstan's both during and after the war to propose the toast of "St. Dunstan's throughout The Empire." The total number of officers and men belonging to contingents from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and Newfoundland who received training at St. Dunstan's was 191. Of this number 27 have been sent there by the Governments of their own countries or by philanthropic societies in those countries in order to receive St. Dunstan's training after they had been evacuated direct from the field of battle to their native land. That fact is a wonderful testimonial in itself to the opinion formed overseas of the result of St. Dunstan's training. (Cheers.) The great majority of the overseas men trained at St. Dunstan's have returned to their own countries and are working at their handicrafts or at their professions. As mentioned by His Royal Highness, St. Dunstan's keeps in touch with each individual man trained at St. Dunstan's, both by post and by means of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW. But it would be a very great mistake to imagine that the splendid work initiated by Sir Arthur Pearson and carried out at St. Dunstan's ends with the benefit conferred on those blinded as the result of the war. The assistance rendered to the blind of the Empire is infinitely more far-reaching and immeasurably more enduring. I will give you two examples. The first of these is from Canada. A party of blinded Canadian



LORD JELlicoe



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soldiers, after training at St. Dunstan's and on their return to Canada, were so greatly impressed by the benefits received by the training at St. Dunstan's that they initiated the Foundation of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. This Institute not only does invaluable work for all blind people in Canada, but it has focussed public attention on the possibilities of helping blind people to become useful and happy members of society. (Cheers.) The second case is one with which I am personally acquainted, as it occurred in New Zealand. A blinded trooper, Mr. C. Mackenzie, the son of the late High Commissioner of New Zealand in this country, being impressed with the incalculable value of St. Dunstan's training, and desiring to extend its benefits to the blind generally, was instrumental in initiating and starting and carrying through a national appeal for the sum of about £45,000 in New Zealand as a memorial to the late Sir Arthur Pearson and his magnificent work for the blind. (Cheers.) This sum had been practically collected before I left the Dominion of New Zealand at the end of last year, and it is to be devoted to extending the existing institutions for the blind in New Zealand. Mr. Mackenzie himself is now director of the Jubilee Institute for the Blind in Auckland. By his splendid example, assisted by the practical example of the St. Dunstan's trained blinded soldiers of New Zealand, all of whom I have met, he is spreading the gospel of St. Dunstan's throughout the Dominion. (Cheers.) The gospel is the one that emphasises the fact that a blind person is not incapacitated. (Cheers.) A living proof of this is Mr. Mackenzie himself, who during a recent summer holiday took a riding tour on horseback, extending over 500 miles. (Cheers.) It is right to add that his indomitable spirit is greatly strengthened by his wife, herself a worker at St. Dunstan's during the war. I suggest, therefore, that this toast should be drunk with a view not merely of expressing our sentiments to and our admiration of our blinded soldiers of the Empire, but having regard also to the splendid influence given

by the spirit of St. Dunstan's, promoted and fostered as it has been by St. Dunstan's men throughout the Empire. Even as good came out of Sir Arthur Pearson's personal calamity in the happiness which he brought to the blinded soldiers, so have the blinded soldiers themselves gone out to the ends of the earth, and by their example and by spreading the gospel of St. Dunstan's they have given incalculable help to the civilian blind population. (Cheers.) I give you the toast of "St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire."

SIR NEVILLE PEARSON, Bart., responding to the toast, said: Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. Before

formally replying to this toast, I should like, if I may, to take this opportunity of thanking Lord Desborough most sincerely for the remarks which he has made about the founder. There was no one specially set down on the programme to respond to that toast, but there are two very good reasons why I should like, if I may, to take this opportunity of thanking Lord Desborough for what he has said. Firstly, I should like to thank him officially, that is, as a member of the St. Dunstan's Committee, for what he has said about one who was not only our founder, but who was, I think I am right in saying, our inspiration. (Cheers.) Secondly, I should like, if I may, and if you will excuse me, to thank him personally for all the things which he has said about one who was not only a father and friend to me, but one from whom I learned very many valuable lessons, not



SIR NEVILLE PEARSON, BART.

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the least important of which is the one that says that the fruit which grows on the tree which you have planted yourself is the sweetest of all. I think that is a lesson which St. Dunstan's has carried throughout the Empire. To-day each one of these two thousand men is sampling the fruit of a tree which he has planted himself, and I think they are not disappointed by the taste of it. (Cheers.) I should like, also, to thank Lord Jellicoe for the very able way in which he has conveyed to you some idea of the ramifications of St. Dunstan's overseas, and for the very kind remarks which he has made about that institution. It is, I think, a point which has not been realised very largely that, as Lord Jellicoe mentioned, there were a number of men who lost their sight subsequent to the war owing to the effects of service, and who came back to St. Dunstan's from the farthest corners of the Empire. Their friends realised that this was the place where they could be most satisfactorily set up again in normal life. I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming the High Commissioner for South Africa and the High Commissioner for Newfoundland, who are at our board to-night. (Cheers.) I am only sorry that the High Commissioners of other Dominions and Colonies are not with us owing to engagements from which they could not be excused. But in a sense, many of those other Dominions are represented in a very notable fashion to-night in the persons of His Royal Highness, who, you will all remember, was Governor-General of Canada during a period covering those trying years at the beginning of the war—(cheers)—and also Lord Jellicoe, who it seems only yesterday returned from a very successful term of administration in New Zealand—(cheers)—during which, I may say, he was particularly kind and helpful to the institution of St. Dunstan's. If we look at the old map of the world, with which we have been familiar since school-days, there is hardly a corner of it in which there is not someone who has borne the flag of St. Dunstan's. Lord Jellicoe has already told you what is going on down in

the right-hand corner of that map—in New Zealand, where, amongst a batch of some twenty-five or thirty old St. Dunstaners, perhaps Trooper Mackenzie stands out prominently for the work which he has done there. Lord Jellicoe has also said what is going on in Canada, on the other side of the map, largely owing to the enterprise of Captain Baker, who was always, if I may say so, one of our special stalwarts. Also in Canada is a man whose name Lord Jellicoe did not mention, but whom you will all be interested to hear about, because Mr. MacDougall was the first blind man in the world to win a Rhodes Scholarship. (Cheers.) Then you go down to South Africa, where there are some sixty St. Dunstaners, all busily engaged in various trades and professions, farming, boot repairing, and a host of other occupations. And perhaps not the least extraordinary man there is a certain Mr. Bowen, who started life with few of life's advantages, but who yet won for himself a degree at Cambridge, then going to the Inns of Court, and afterwards mastering the intricacies of Dutch law, to such good purpose that he has now a large and successful practice in South Africa. (Cheers.) Finally, for a moment let us come home, where examples of what I may call the St. Dunstan's spirit are not lacking. Perhaps the most typical of all is to be found in our midst, and at this very table, in the Chairman of our organisation. (Cheers.) After, in what is rather a hackneyed phrase, I may call a distinguished career at St. Dunstan's, Captain Ian Fraser launched out into the London County Council, and now we have seen him blossoming out as a member of the greatest Parliament the world has ever seen. (Cheers.) Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, when we think of the weights which the Great Handicapper has seen fit to lay on these men we are appalled, but when we look again and see the way in which they are bearing them, then we realise that, after all, He knew best, and I don't think He could have chosen more able shoulders upon which to place this burden. (Cheers.)



"The Newspaper Press."

LIEUT.-COL. ERIC BALL, who then submitted this toast, said: Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. To-night we pause for a moment



LIEUT.-COL. BALL

at the tenth milestone in this great work to which we have been called. Even when we consider the great acceleration of life which set in in 1914, it seems hardly credible that a period of ten years has passed over our heads. But it is not my function to strike a note of sadness. In the first place it is not necessary, because the very gladness of heart of those for whom we have laboured often puts those of us who have so much more to be glad about to shame. And, secondly, sadness is not British. Rather can we rejoice together in looking back over ten years of triumph, ten years in which the fortitude of our race has been proved to the superlative degree, ten years of victory over life's greatest physical handicap. Others have spoken, far more eloquently than I am capable of doing, in honour of the great founder of this movement, but my long association with this work makes it impossible for me to leave out a tribute to his memory. Was it not a marvellous Providence which put this great inspiration into the mind of our founder, who, through his own physical darkness, was "touched with a feeling of their infirmities"? and, I cannot more aptly quote, "Not only saw the road to brighter worlds but led the way." As men with our faces towards the morning, we believe that Sir Arthur Pearson has passed into "The Great and Lasting Light." Surely the

meaning of all life's tribulation is that, when we have been translated from this preparatory school to the far higher university of life's journey, we enjoy a full compensation, and understand the true meaning of this thorny terrestrial road. And now I will turn to my main subject. We are glad to have with us to-night many representatives of the Press and of the British Broadcasting Company. And the happy lot falls to me to propose the health of these representatives, and to couple with the toast the name of Major Astor, an old colleague of mine on the London County Council. We desire to express our heartfelt appreciation for the long record of generous help and co-operation which we have received from them. I have had many associations with the Press, and I know that the constant terror behind its mind is that somebody might get publicity or advertisement in its news columns. (Laughter.) Well, they have devised a wonderful fool-proof system which, generally speaking, acts as a very good insurance against their fears, but the helpful support and the sparing use of the sub-editor's blue pencil in connection with this movement has been a glorious exception to the rule. (Cheers.) I cannot help feeling that blindness calls forth a very real sympathy from the human breast, and in this case it has been proved to us that the Press itself possesses a very human side. Although it might seem to be ill-timed and out of place at this point to jest in any way, I cannot comment upon the Press without a slight touch of levity, for the very seriousness with which the Press takes itself is little short of humorous. (Laughter.) The way in which each and every particular organ shrieks to us daily as to how its particular policy is the only one to save us from going to the dogs, and to govern us, as a whole, aright! The diversity of the political comedy is also a bright daily feature in our present-day life. One paper tells of a certain policy as the salvation of commerce, while another tells that the same policy will see the shutters up on the British Empire within a few months. (Laughter.) But no one takes them

seriously, and they fulfil one very useful function, the brightening of our lives. In Dickens's day I gather that each organ had a really definite policy and kept to it. (Laughter.) He would, I think, be mystified to-day on the question of policies, for, unlike certain bookmakers who are here to-day and gone to-morrow, the policies of our newspapers might be said to be here to-day and gone yesterday. (Laughter.) But really, in our hearts, we are extremely grateful for the ten years' consistency in policy for this movement from all branches of the Press, and even in the matters upon which I have just indulged in a little leg-pulling. I think it would be quite true to say that "although we hate your sins, we love the sinners." (Laughter.) Still, while we pause at this tenth wayside milestone, I would ask that the Press regard this stone as an Altar of High Intent, and with us renew their faith and intent to go forward and help in the task which still lies ahead. This is not the time or the place to touch upon the many reasons which justified and necessitated that modern Armageddon of 1914. Going into battle requires bravery, but is helped by the glamour and comradeship. To endure a lifelong handicap as a result of that bravery requires a very high fortitude and courage, in helping the victims of which we must not flinch for one moment. In conclusion, I would like to leave one thought in your mind which is ever present in my own, the thought that the real story of our race, and, indeed, it would be true of all human progress, is that it is achieved "not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit." It is this all-powerful and yet so little understood spirit which is the force behind these two thousand very gallant gentlemen. (Cheers.)

MAJOR THE HON. J. J. ASTOR, M.P., who acknowledged the toast, said: Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. I feel it is a great honour to reply for the Press, which embraces, of course, the whole of our national Press. It is clearly my duty, as it is my wish, to try to express the feeling of every

newspaper, but that is not easy to do. Some papers are old and some are new; some are grave and some are gay, and some are pink and some are red all over. (Laughter.)

But my friend, Colonel Ball, in proposing this toast, pointed to certain common measures, to certain lines of agreement which distinguished all the publications which go to make up the British Press. I believe it is your intention to pay a tribute



MAJOR THE HON. J. J. ASTOR

to the newspapers as you have experience of them in relation to the great work at St. Dunstan's. In this you have known them at their best. For at times the Press has been all manner of things to all manner of men. Sometimes it takes off its hat, as it were, to our national leaders, and on other occasions it scolds—it even metaphorically slaps—some of our eldest statesmen. (Laughter.) It is, in fact, a chastisement, which sometimes makes them seem great, and sometimes less so, by the time the Press has finished with them. (Laughter.) But in the cause of mercy and in the cause of charity things are very different. The Press becomes united. If there is a single journal which does not lend a hand to such causes as these I do not know its name. And the reason is simple. Journalists, editors and proprietors—they may have their heresies, they may wallow in their heresies, but their general work plunges them deeply into humanity, and if any of us are not human beings with the widest of human sympathies, then we lack qualities which are essential to our task. In the war the Press played the game. It was not unworthy of the people whom it served. In saying that I am not thinking so much



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of all the advice and all the suggestions which it was said to give to our statesmen and admirals and generals on how to win the war (laughter); I am thinking rather of that spirit, that determination to make the best of things, even of such things as the war goddess, Dora. (Laughter.) It was the spirit which helped to maintain the stout-hearted patriotism of the country during the darkest hours. The Press has not forgotten the war and its effects. Nor has the public memory of it faded, or will it fade, I am convinced, so long as a single survivor of the Great War is alive. But in these crowded days of rush no man can think of everything. The Press renders a service to charity by making its needs known to the public. I hope it renders a service to the public by giving them information by which they can judge the merits of the countless institutions which claim their support. The claims of those on whose behalf St. Dunstan's exists are the strongest of all. After all, the war is long over, but the whole world not only sympathises with the misfortunes of these men, but it admires the courage with which they face their misfortunes in such a cheerful and smiling way. I speak without hesitation for every newspaper when I say that their claims will never want for advocacy. In conclusion, may I say that, in its weakness and in its strength, the Press does appreciate the kindly sentiments implied in the toast which you have so kindly honoured, and on its behalf I thank you. (Cheers.)

#### "The Chairman."

LIEUT.-COL. CHAS. I. KERR, D.S.O., M.C., in rising to propose this toast, said: Your Royal Highness, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. It has fallen to me to have the honour and great privilege of proposing a vote of thanks to His Royal Highness, our Chairman, to-night. (Cheers.) And before I make a very few remarks on this subject, I am sure I am only saying what we all feel, and that is: We are greatly pleased to see His Royal Highness back with

us in England again, after his sojourn in the South of France, looking so well. (Cheers.) It would be superfluous of me to more than remind you of the great services

His Royal Highness has rendered during the whole of his life to the cause of charity and philanthropy, and particularly those connected with soldiers and sailors. (Cheers.) Now, like Col. Ball, I wish to leave a thought with

you which I hope will help St. Dunstan's, and which I hope will help all charitable associations for the benefit of soldiers and sailors. Since the war we have all assisted in the building of memorials, some of stone and some of brass, but I believe that there is a still greater memorial, which we are in a sense building to-night. I feel that those who passed from us during the war left us a great legacy of duty, and that duty is to do what we can for those who, though they have not made the great sacrifice, have passed into total darkness and those others who became maimed for the rest of their lives in England's service. If we can by our services bring a little brightness into that darkness and sooth some of the suffering of the maimed then we are surely building the finest, proudest and most living memorial to our dead. (Cheers.) I know you will all agree with me when I say that there is no one who has set us a finer example in the building of the Memorial of which I have spoken than His Royal Highness, our Chairman, to-night. (Cheers.) I ask you to stand up and most respectfully, and if I may say so, Sir, most affectionately, honour this toast. (Cheers.)



LIEUT. COL. KERR

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The DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, whose rising was greeted with most enthusiastic cheering, said: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. I desire to thank Colonel Kerr for the very kind manner in which he has proposed my health as your Chairman this evening. I am sure that we all agree with him in the way in which he referred to those gallant men who either laid down their lives or who have been blinded or maimed in limb. I feel that their memory will always remain with us. We respect them for what they did, and we admire them as Englishmen for the way they nobly did their duty in the face of dangers and horrors that only those who were present have the least idea what they were. I heartily concur with him when he says that no greater memorial can be built, no greater honour can be done to those men, than for us to try and do all we can for all who still survive. I hope the day will never come when we shall no longer remember what they did. (Cheers.) I am sure, I am certain, that all those who are here this evening feel as I do, and that they will look upon this splendid work of St. Dunstan's as one of the greatest memorials we could have had. We have heard Lord Desborough's remarks on that great founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, but may I be allowed to say, and I hope Lady Pearson will allow me to say, that we all know how very great has been the assistance she has given, and what a tremendous deal of good she has

done. (Cheers.) She most ably seconded the great work done by Sir Arthur Pearson. I am happy to think that the first public occasion on which I have presided was at your festival dinner. I can hardly expect, like Captain Fraser says, to be here at the next tenth birthday, but if I were, it would be a proud moment to propose continued success to the splendid work done by St. Dunstan's not only in England, but throughout the British Empire. I thank you one and all for the kind manner in which you have received me amongst you to-night. (Cheers.)

At the conclusion of the speeches, the first three of which had, as our readers know, been broadcast from Chelmsford High-Power Station, "God Save the King" was played by the British Imperial Orchestra, the whole company standing.

Thus ended a gathering which will ever stand in the memory of all privileged to be present as a notable mile-stone on the great broad road of achievement, which has marked St. Dunstan's history since its first foundation.

We cannot conclude without voicing the regret so universally shared by all present, and St. Dunstaners throughout the Empire, that the great Chief who had created this noble work had not been spared to see such tribute paid to his genius and insight.







ST. DUNSTAN'S MOTTO:  
*“Victory over Blindness”*

Printed at the office of  
GEE & CO. (Publishers), LTD.  
London, E.C.1.