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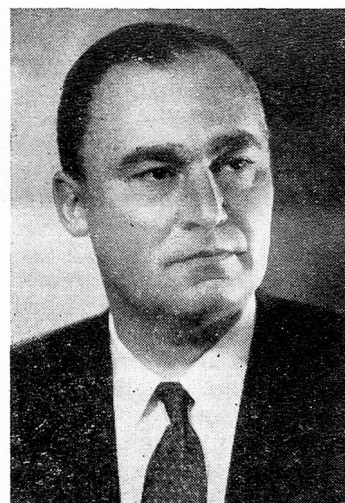
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4-6
HELPINGS
FROM ONE
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ACROW (ENGINEERS) LIMITED
21st ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE.
At Grosvenor House on Friday, 27th September, 1957.



W. A. de VIGIER.
CHAIRMAN, ACROW (ENGINEERS) LIMITED.

"ACROW'S" have become "of age". This is, no doubt, a red-letter day in the annals of a Company which has since its foundation — twenty-one years ago — made an almost meteoric career due principally to its dynamic Chairman, Mr. W. A. de Vigier, a compatriot of ours, a man of imagination and drive.

Starting from very modest beginnings, this enterprising Company has in a relatively short time become a concern of great importance spreading its wings over almost all the corners of the globe.

Although this event is only indirectly connected with the Swiss Colony as such, we are nevertheless delighted to give an account of this impressive birthday gathering at which about 1,500 members of the firm, agents, suppliers, customers and guests were present.

* * *

Previous to the dinner cocktails were served at various counters, during which Mr. de Vigier, accompanied by his charming wife and daughter, greeted the many guests.

Dinner started punctually at 7.45 p.m., when the company filed into the large banqueting hall, which was gaily decorated with flowers and banners representing all the countries with which Acrow entertains business relations.

During the dinner, the orchestra from the band of the Life Guards, by permission of Lt. Colonel A. Meredith, M.V.O., commanding the Life Guards, supplied the "Tafelmusik".

Before coffee was served, Mr. de Vigier proposed the Toast to H.M. the Queen, which was followed later on by the Toast "Guests and Staff", also by the Chairman, who received an enthusiastic reception on rising.

He said:

"We are celebrating today the 21st Anniversary of our Company and I believe it is an appropriate time for all of us at Acrow to thank our many friends

for having, in the course of the past twenty-one years, entrusted us with their custom. It is thanks to the support they have given us here at home that we have been able to build up a world-wide organisation with Acrow Companies operating in sixteen countries, and with representation by top-grade agencies in seventy others. With these wide ramifications, our Organisation is constantly in the closest touch with the latest advances in construction technique in most parts of the world.

"I believe few organisations in our own field can give such a wide coverage, enabling a user of Acrow equipment to standardise, add to, and match quickly from a local supply centre near to his scene of operation. This is an advantage which many leading firms at home and abroad have come to recognise.

"Thanks are due to our many suppliers who have always endeavoured to meet our Company's very exacting requirements.

"To all Acrovians I would like to say 'thank you' for the help you have given me throughout the past twenty-one years. The Acrow of today is a reflection of your own personal achievement as part of the Acrow Team.

"Finally, I would like to say 'thank you' to the Lady on my right who, throughout twenty-one years, has had to put up with a very difficult husband, most of the time married to Acrow than to her." (Applause.)

Mr. de Vigier's address was followed by presenta-

tions to various members of the firm for conspicuous services rendered, and the announcement that Mr. R. W. Gourdie and Mr. T. A. Nanson were promoted to the Board.

The response to this Toast was made by Mr. J. Hanson, a Director of Messrs. Taylor Woodrow Limited, who very ably and humorously referred to the great progress the Company has made in the last twenty-one years, paying a personal tribute to the outstanding business capabilities of Mr. W. A. de Vigier.

After dinner the company adjourned to the gallery whilst the hall was cleared for dancing to Victor Silvester and his ballroom orchestra. Soon after 11 o'clock an excellent cabaret, entitled "Cavalcade" and supported by the George Mitchell singers, was given which was much enjoyed.

This most brilliant evening came to a close at 1 a.m., and those who were privileged to take part in this unique festival left Grosvenor House with happy feelings of having witnessed another successful milestone in the history of Acrow (Engineers) Limited.

* * *

We tender to this large concern our heartiest congratulations, coupled with the wish that they will go from strength to strength in the future, especially do our good wishes go to the Chairman, Mr. W. A. de Vigier, who by his outstanding business acumen has not only brought fame to himself but also to our country.

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