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The House Organ of
THE NORTH BRITISH RUBBER CO. LTD.

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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

61 Gold Watches for Long Service

The ballroom and dining-room of Edinburgh's North British Hotel was the setting for the reception on Monday evening, 10th February, to honour sixty-one recipients of gold watches in recognition of 40 years' service and over as at 31st December last. Among the group were six from Heathhall, five from London and one from Glasgow. Among the Castle Mills people honoured were five ladies. In all this represented 2770 years of service with North British Rubber.

Around 7.30 p.m. the ballroom used as an assembly area was thronged. Invitations were double and with a number of executives present the party numbered close on 150. Reg. Cryer, Industrial Relations Manager, was on hand to make the introductions to our Managing Director, E. A. Martin, and Mrs Martin, who received each couple on entering the spacious dining-room where refreshments and buffet were served to a musical background.

Shortly after 8.30, Tom Miller, as organiser of the evening, opened the proceedings with a welcome to all and especially the 40 years' service and over group, borrowing part of a television programme title and describing the occasion as "This is your night".

A Small Token

In a brief speech Mr Martin said this was quite an occasion in the history of North

British Rubber. Sixty-one with service of 40 years and over had qualified for the award of a gold watch. In three instances—Frank Stephen, Jimmy Ainslie and John Cooper—they held gold watches given to their fathers for 50 years' service. In the case of Frank Stephen his mother had been at Castle Mills for 17 years and both grandfathers 25 years each—family service of 165 years.

"We are indeed fortunate to have people who have given such service," said Mr Martin.

"These awards are a small token of this type of service. No company can give in pounds sterling the value this service is worth. It is only a token, but it is given as our appreciation of what you have done and what others will do in the future."

Jack Garland says "Thanks"

Names, departments, years of service were announced by Mr Miller. Pride of place was given to the ladies, followed by the 50 years group and so on down the list. Each had previously made their choice of watch style. All were warmly congratulated by Mr Martin as they approached the platform.

The presentations complete, well known and popular Union representative, Jack Garland, stepped forward. "Mrs Martin, Mr Martin,

Annie Bell of the Coat Room at Castle Mills had the honour to receive the first award from our Managing Director, Mr Martin — her service, 46 years.



ladies and gentlemen. It has fallen on me to express on behalf of the recipients, our sincere thanks and appreciation. This gathering, I would like to remind you is not only representative of Castle Mills, but brings among us some of our colleagues from further afield, five from London, six from Heathhall and one from Glasgow."

"In the midst of our pleasure I would like everyone to give a thought to our other colleague who should have been here tonight, but was denied the privilege through the intervention of fate. I refer to the late Russell Boa.

I am sure I express the feelings of this group when wishing the Company continued progress and prosperity, particularly as continuing prosperity is essential to security of employment and security of employment is the desire of everyone. In closing I would like to thank Management, for what has been to me a wonderful evening."

The happy gathering was broken up temporarily so that all of the "40 years plus" group could adjourn to the ballroom for a group photograph of an historic occasion and face the cameras of a number of Scottish newspapers.

Shortly before 10 o'clock this friendly and informal evening was brought to a close by John L. Cornfoot, former director and company secretary, who expressed the appreciation of all to Mr and Mrs Martin for their presence and to Tom Miller for the smooth organisation that had contributed so much to the evening's success.

History was Made

Success it was without any doubt. With ladies present there seemed a greater atmosphere of informality. Everyone mingled freely. Foster M. Stewart, director, and Mrs Stewart were there, though unfortunately another former Managing Director and still a director, Alexander Johnston, was unable to attend. Divisional heads had the chance to get better acquainted with personnel in other divisions. There were reminiscences galore. On all sides complimentary comments on an excellent evening.

Perhaps it was best summed up in one remark "the best thing the company has ever done".

History was made by the inauguration of this improved scheme of long service awards—an occasion that was unique. The whole family of North British Rubber can feel proud.



A general view during the presentations. Mrs Martin accompanied her husband on the platform.

Selection of other photographs of this memorable occasion on back page

A tribute on behalf of the London Group is given on page 3