

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

In the hope that it may assist in our consideration of this important item upon the agenda, the following brief observations are submitted:-

The Corporation of the City of London intimated just before Christmas that their timetable precluded acceptance of our proposal to supply "singing men" (see Company's History) as part of the City Celebration.

Immediately after this ruling, I had the advantage of meeting the Clerk and certain members of the Court including two Past Masters of the Company when we discussed informally but in some detail the possibility of offering a prize for a choral composition. Discussion turned round an ode recited at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth I which had been sent me by P.M. Loeb and it was decided to refer the matter to Dr. Howells.

He has very kindly given the matter careful thought and, while reporting on technical grounds against the suitability of the ode in question, is in favour of the general idea of a prize choral work.

Having regard to the limited time at our disposal when we meet in January, I propose to ask the Court to consider and vote upon the following propositions:-

1. That some special gesture, additional to the July Dinner (which as heretofore shall be open to all members of the Livery and their ladies) is appropriate to Coronation Year. If carried:-
2. That this shall take the form of a prize to be offered for a choral composition to be known as the Company's Coronation Prize Composition or other designation to be settled and approved.
3. Alternatively, to consider in general terms any other project which may be submitted by a member or members of the Court.
4. To fix the sum of money which may be expended by way of Prize Money and adjudicators fees, and to authorise same as a charge upon the General Fund of the Company.
5. To appoint a Committee either with full powers to act, reporting progress at regular Courts or, alternatively, with instructions to prepare a scheme in full detail to be considered by an Emergency Court.

*W. Graham Wallace*

January 1953.

MASTER