

Extract from
Daily Mail
London

Date..... 24 APR 1929

£10,000 GIFT BY LORD

ROTHERMERE

TO NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND.

TRIBUTES TO HIS GENEROSITY.

It was announced at the annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund at the May Fair Hotel last night that Lord Rothermere, the new president, had given £10,000 to the fund.

During the dinner the original manuscript of Sir James Barrie's "The Twelve Pound Look" was put up for auction and went to Mr. Gabriel Wells, the New York book collector, for £2,425.

A blank canvas presented by Mr. Philip de Laszlo, on which he offered to paint a portrait of the purchaser or his nominee, was sold to the Hon. Peter Larkin, High Commissioner for Canada, for £1,155.

The total of the auction sale was £4,074.

Mr. S. G. Smeed, secretary of the fund, announced that without considering donations from guests at the dinner, the appeal had realised £27,000, a record for the fund.

The gathering was greatly entertained by a speech by Sir James Barrie, which is reported in Page 10.

Major J. J. Astor, M.P., presided, and among the guests were the Prime Minister, the Earl of Derby, Lord Desborough, Sir James Barrie, and many of the Ambassadors and Ministers at the Court of St. James's.

Major Astor regretted the unavoidable absence of Lord Rothermere.

"We should like to have welcomed him here," he said, "as the new president of the Newspaper Press Fund, as he is one of its most enthusiastic supporters."

COUNCIL & LORD ROTHEMERE.

Mr. Gordon Robbins, chairman of the council of the fund, referred to the resignation of Lord Burnham from the presidency.

"To the great delight of the council and of the members of the fund," he said, "Lord Rothermere, one of the very best of our friends, consented to fill the vacant place, and he is now president of the fund."

"We admire Lord Rothermere not only for the qualities which have given him a commanding position in the journalism of our time, but also because he is setting a new and lofty standard in the appropriation of private wealth for public purposes."

"We cannot doubt that a new and splendid chapter in the history of the fund is opening under his presidency."

PREMIER AND JOURNALISM.

Mr. Baldwin, who proposed the toast of Journalism, said: "I have always admired and envied the loyalty of the Press to one another. I ask myself what is a journalist who is going to benefit from this fund, and I learn that under your charter is comprised the whole paid class of contributors to the newspaper Press."

"Conceive, gentlemen, with what pleasure I came here. If I am to apply some of my overdraft to help your fund I may be helping Mr. Lloyd George in his old age—(laughter)—and make it possible for him in years to come to have a little broccoli with his supper. (Renewed laughter.) I should feel I have not lived in vain."