

1.21 PM.

GUILD OF AIR PILOTS AND NAVIGATORS.

THERE WERE JOKES ABOUT GEORGE, THE AUTOMATIC PILOT, WHEN THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, AS GRAND MASTER, RECEIVED LETTERS PATENT CONCERNING THE GRANT OF LIVERY TO THE GUILD OF AIR PILOTS AND AIR NAVIGATORS OF LONDON AT A COURT OF ALDERMEN HELD AT THE MANSION HOUSE TODAY.

"THE CITY CHAMBERLAIN MAY BE FACED WITH A PROBLEM WHEN THERE APPEARS AT GUILDHALL FOR ADMISSION TO THE FREEDOM AN AUTOMATIC PILOT," SAID THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMAN SIR CUTHBERT ACKROYD.

"WE UNDERTAKE NOT TO INTRODUCE GEORGE OR ANY OF HIS MECHANICAL NAVIGATOR ASSISTANTS UNTIL THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON IS A ROBED ROBOT," REPLIED THE DUKE.

TWENTY-ONE ALDERMEN ATTENDED THE CEREMONY. FOLLOWING ANCIENT CUSTOM SWEET SMELLING HERBS AND DRIED FLOWERS WERE STREWN ON THE FLOOR OF THE ROOM WHERE THE CEREMONY WAS HELD.

THE DUKE, REPLYING AS GRAND MASTER OF THE GUILD, SAID: "IT IS VERY TRUE THAT THE PROFESSION OF PILOT IS YOUNG, BUT YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE GUILD INCLUDES NAVIGATORS AND THAT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST PROFESSION KNOWN TO MAN, THOUGH NOT IN THE AIR.

"PILOTS AND NAVIGATORS BETWEEN THEM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFE AND REGULAR PASSAGE OF GREAT NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT, MILLIONS OF PASSENGERS AND IMMENSE QUANTITIES OF FREIGHT ALL OVER THE WORLD AT ALL TIMES OF THE YEAR.

"IT IS TRUE ALSO THAT THE PROFESSION OF FLYING IS YOUNG, BUT IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, IT HAS MADE A VERY CONSIDERABLE IMPACT, OF WHICH THE CITY SHOULD NOT BE UNAWARE.

"YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT, ALTHOUGH AN IMPACT ON THE CITY WAS DELIVERED BY AIR, THERE WERE ALSO BRAVE MEN WHO FLEW TO THE DEFENCE OF THIS CITY. IN THE VERY SHORT TIME THAT THE PROFESSION HAS BEEN WITH US, IN THE SERVICES IT IS ALREADY ASSUMING A DOMINANT PARTNERSHIP AND IN THE CIVIL LIFE OF THE WORLD IT HAS LITERALLY MADE ALL MEN NEIGHBOURS.

"IN GRANTING THIS LIVERY TO THE GUILD, THIS CITY WITH ALL ITS ANCIENT INSTITUTIONS, HAS SHOWN ONCE AGAIN THAT IT IS WELL AWARE OF MODERN DEVELOPMENT, AND I THINK IT ALSO RECOGNISES THAT THE AIR IS A MEDIUM OF TRANSPORT, AND A NEW MEANS OF COMMERCE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THIS GREAT CENTRE OF COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE."

*MR. Wright*

1.29 PM

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