

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

In gilded coach the new Lord Mayor begins his traditional drive on this his first day of office. And as his Lady Mayoress waves, Alderman Denys Lawson, youngest Lord Mayor of London, makes his bow to the City. The show this year is sombre. It points a lesson. There's not much for the kiddies to cheer, but much to make their fathers think. Civil Defence is its theme and the Winged Horse, Pegasus, heads a long line of vivid tableaux to remind Londoners where their duty lies, in the uncertain world of today.

From 1215, the year of Magna Carta, when the Lord Mayor first rode to Westminster for the King's approval, the annual procession was a pageant to amuse the people. Just a hundred years ago there were camels, elephants, horses and deer to amaze and thrill the crowd. Today's firemen in action provided the most spectacular tableau; it seems only yesterday we saw them at work in our streets; with the rescue squads busy at their side. In our need we helped ourselves, learning the way as we went. And many were saved by these gallant dogs. Now (when the danger, if it comes, will be greater than imagination can picture) the new Lord Mayor reminds us that a nation prepared has little to fear.

At the Law Courts the new Lord Mayor makes formal claim for the City's ancient rights and privileges; and Sir Frederick Rowland, the outgoing Lord Mayor, hands over to the new, Alderman Denys Lawson, elected and chosen by custom.