

NATIONAL SAVINGS' 40TH BIRTHDAY.

The Queen comes to Guildhall for the fortieth birthday celebrations of the National Savings movement. It was in this ancient hall that the movement was launched during world war one; today, it numbers nearly ten million members. The Queen tells her audience:

No birthday is complete without a birthday cake - and this one, with its 40 electric candles, weighs three hundredweight. It is crowned with an exact replica of the facade of Guildhall, repeated on each of the four sides. Lord Mackintosh of Halifax, the movement's President, escorts the Queen to the cake, and Her Majesty cuts the first slice.

A piece of cake will go to each of the 400 voluntary workers who have served the movement since its foundation, and to other leading members.

Next, the procession of the forty candle-swords. Each borne by a serviceman accompanied by representatives of the regions, the savings banks and the armed forces. They are placed in holders in front of the Queen. Each has a hilt, fashioned like a Roman sword, to symbolise the movement's endeavour during two perilous wars, while the candle itself stands for its peaceful day-to-day work.

The last of the sword-candles is set in its place, and the Queen switches them on. An effective climax to the fortieth birthday celebrations of a great movement.