

THE NEW OFFICES

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

On 10th. May, 1927, the Princely Government of Monaco made the extremely generous offer to erect a building specially for the Bureau, making but one stipulation, viz: — that the seat of the Bureau should be maintained at Monaco for a minimum period of twenty-five years.

This offer was immediately submitted to the States Members and, at the end of June 1928, the Princely Government was informed that its offer had been accepted, with gratitude, by the Members.

The Government caused tentative plans to be drawn up and communicated these to the Directing Committee of the Bureau with a request for criticisms and suggestions. The Committee proposed certain modifications and these were introduced so far as was possible.

Just before the meeting of the First Supplementary Conference, H. S. H. Prince LOUIS II signified his intention to lay the Foundation Stone of the building during the Conference. This ceremony took place on 20th. April 1929 in the presence of T. S. H^s. the Hereditary Princess and Prince PIERRE OF MONACO, the Delegates of the States Members who were attending the Supplementary Conference and the Marquis PAULUCCI DI CALBOLI BARONE, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

The erection of the new offices entailed the removal, by blasting, of some 7,500 cubic metres of rock (about 18,000 tons) from the steep slope immediately below the Avenue de Monte-Carlo and above the Quai de Plaisance, on which the building was to stand. This work was commenced soon after the laying of the Foundation Stone and was continued throughout the summer of 1929. By the middle of September the foundations had been completed and during the middle of November the walls began to rise above ground level. At the end of the year the walls of the ground-floor were completed and the laying of the reinforced concrete first floor had been begun. In March 1930 the second floor was being laid and in August the roof. The work was pushed on with extraordinary rapidity, thanks to the energy of the architect, M. CHAUVET, Port Engineer, and the good will of the contractors, Mess^{rs} BONI Frères.

On the 18th. December 1930, the work was all but completed and the Bureau was able to commence the transfer to the new building. This transfer, thanks to the good will of the whole Staff, was carried out very rapidly and with practically no interruption in the work of the Bureau.

H. S. H. the Prince of Monaco expressed his intention to inaugurate the new offices in person and this ceremony took place on 14th. January 1931, the Directing Committee having invited the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to send a Representative to take part therein.

At 14.30 on that date, H. S. H. the Sovereign Prince, accompanied by H. S. H. the Hereditary Princess, arrived at the main entrance to the building where He was received by H. E. the Minister of State, M. P. DE VANSAY DE BLAVOUS, President and the Members of the Directing Committee, the Secretary-General, the Assistants and M. CHAUVET, Port Engineer; the Marquis PAULUCCI DI CALBOLI BARONE, representing the League of Nations, was also present. Their Serene Highnesses were conducted all over the building ending their visit in the Library. Here were gathered the principal officers of the Government, the Consular Corps and many notabilities amongst whom was Admiral J. M. PHAFF, lately President of the Directing Committee, and Rear-Admiral E. CABALLERO Y LASTRES, Vice-President of the Consejo Oceanografico Ibero-Americano, who was the Representative of Peru at the last two International Hydrographic Conferences.

The following speeches were then made:

SPEECH DELIVERED BY H. E. THE MINISTER OF STATE

Your Highnesses,

Being punctual to the time appointed when the Foundation Stone was laid, for the opening of the new offices of the International Hydrographic Bureau, the Princely Government considers that honour is due and owes thanks for this punctuality to the designer of the building, M. CHAUVET, to the contractors, Messrs BONI, and to their collaborators.

Thus, Your Highness, You have followed up and completed the work of Your august Father, a second edifice devoted to the Sea has arisen in the Principality of Monaco, on the very edge of the waves as if to draw therefrom a closer and deeper inspiration.

Addressing myself to you, the President and Members of the Directing Committee, the Secretary-General and the Assistants of the Bureau I say, briefly, simply and in hearty friendship: You are at home.

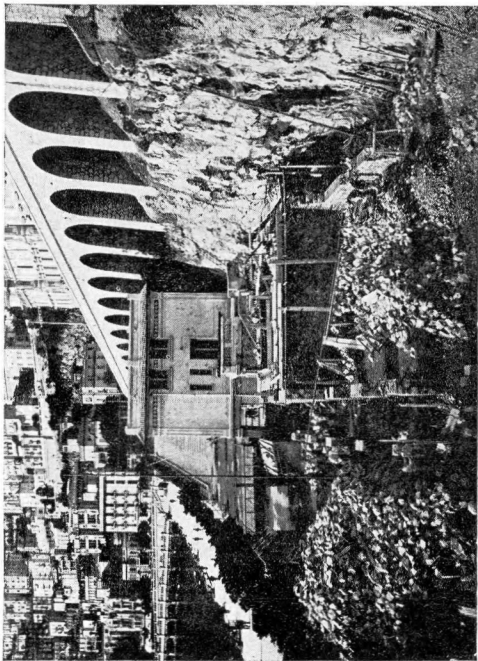
May you find it agreeable here, may your work herein be fruitful and thereby may the League of Nations, whose Representative I greet with deference and pride, spread, like a veil of hope, over the oceans and seas wings of guardianship and peace.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY M. DE VANSAY DE BLAVOUS

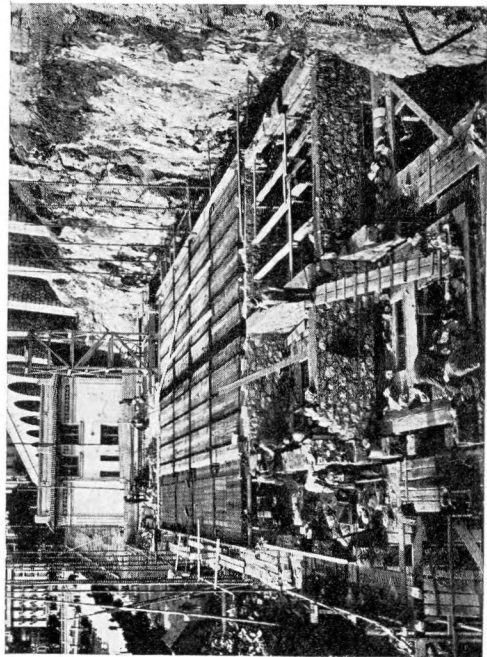
Your Highnesses,

At the moment when my office as President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau gives me the signal honour of greeting Your Serene Highnesses in the new building which You have caused to be erected in order to provide the International Hydrographic Bureau with a fixed home perfectly adapted to its needs, I feel that I must, first of all, express, in the name of the twenty-two States Members, our deep gratitude for this proof of the generous interest which Your Highness evinces in our work and for the desire thus so clearly shown to cause it to be continued on the shores of Your beautiful Principality, in those quiet and peaceful surroundings which are so propitious for it.

The valuable contribution which Your Highness is making today towards the work of augmenting safety and ease of communication by sea between the nations, is but the continuation of the traditions of a House whose great deeds, throughout the centuries, show warlike glory (to which Your Highness has contributed in Your own person), not only at the head of Armies but also of Fleets, and I desire now to recall



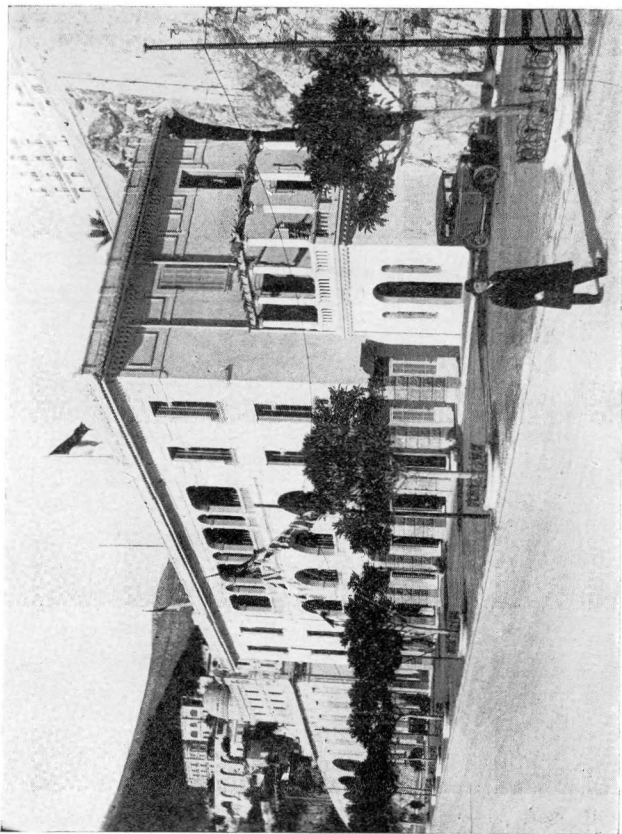
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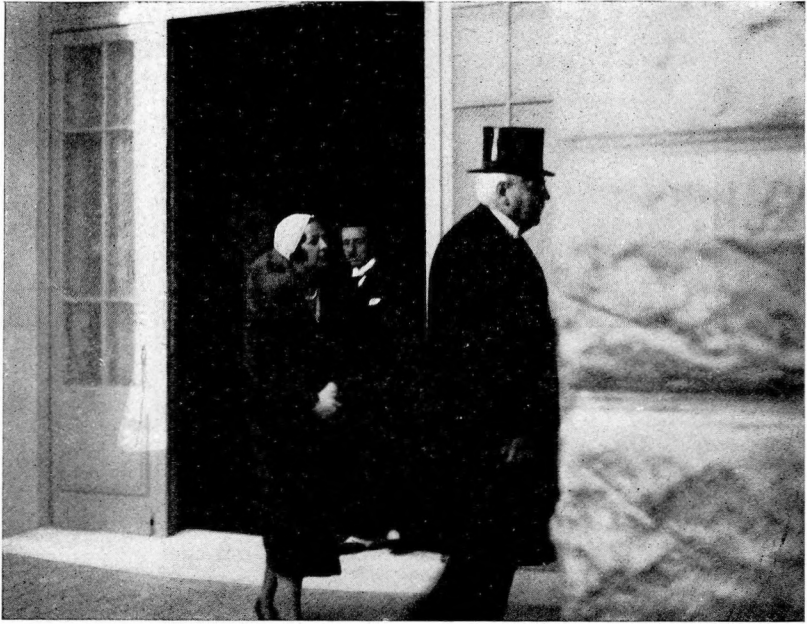
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THE NEW OFFICES
OF THE I. H. B.

LES NOUVEAUX BUREAUX
DU B. H. I.

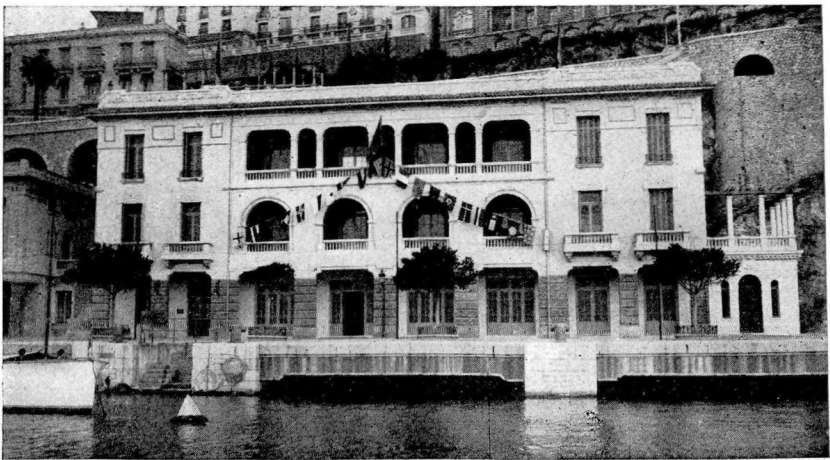


14 Jan. 1931



T. S. H^s the Prince of Monaco
and the Hereditary Princess
at the inauguration

LL. AA. SS. le Prince de Monaco
et la Princesse Héritaire
à l'inauguration



that the GRIMALDI, at first Lords and then Sovereign Princes of Monaco, have distinguished themselves on many occasions in naval expeditions which they commanded, and to show briefly what they have done on the sea and for the sea, thus proving that this inauguration is closely connected with the glorious history of Monaco.

How could it be otherwise than that the sea should attract the care and deeds of these Princes seeing that, from the top of the rock whereon their home lay, they saw themselves surrounded by it and could contemplate it, as from the poop of a great ship, in all its wonder and changeful aspects :

*Cerulean, rose violet or blue,
Or white with sheep that the waves pursue.*

Set as it is on the coast between Italy and France on the way to Spain, the port of Monaco was a much sought haven in early times, and this gave to the Principality an envied maritime importance.

At the beginning of the 14th. century, RAINIER I GRIMALDI, Admiral of France, collected a large fleet at Monaco and, at the head of this, he conquered the Flemings and, later, the Pisans. His son, CHARLES THE GREAT, made the port of Monaco a naval dockyard and showed his victorious flag from the Mediterranean to the Channel. RAINIER II heroically followed his example.

During the 15th. century, the GRIMALDI, anxious to maintain the safety of sea-communications and to ensure to their subjects peaceful enjoyment of the coasting trade, organised standing armaments to cope with the Saracen pirates. This great work of policing and protection, persistently followed up, was the legitimate origin of the right, which was exercised up to the middle of the 18th. century and which is so frequently mentioned in the history of this country, of collecting toll from all vessels passing within sight of Monaco. Again, in 1750, Prince HONORÉ III fitted out an armament against the Turks.

Yet other GRIMALDI, LAMBERT and, later, his son JOHN II, were granted the title of Captain-General of the River Ponente: JOHN II had assisted CHARLES VIII with galleys during the conquest of Naples.

In the 17th. century, Prince HONORÉ II directed his attention to obtaining better shelter in the port of Monaco, where he commanded a squadron of galleys for King LOUIS XIV. The extreme audacity of the barbary pirates made naval armaments to hunt them down more and more necessary.

Prince LOUIS I lent his sword in the service of the Low Countries and performed prodigies of valour at the battle of the Texel.

Thus it was but in following in the footsteps of his ancestors that the education of Prince ALBERT I was directed mainly towards the sea, on which he served with distinction in the Spanish and French Navies.

But he deserves a special place, and he must be mentioned particularly, for the learned researches with which he filled the leisure hours of peaceful times. Oceanographic cruises, Arctic expeditions and Scientific Foundations followed each other without cease and his researches in oceanography and marine zoology put him in the highest class of oceanographers and naturalists. The right of toll having disappeared, as being entirely out of date, he still served the cause of safe navigation by peaceful and modern scientific methods and all peoples owe him a debt of gratitude for his magnificent scientific work.

This work did not cause him to neglect the special interest of his Principality; he decided to make the port entirely safe and initiated works for its improvement, jetties and quays. This was a big undertaking, for on one of the jetty heads is a red light which stands at a point where there are 40 metres (22 fathoms) of water; this is a record in the Mediterranean for such construction.

These works have been completed at the instigation of Your Highness and they make of Monaco an up-to-date harbour much appreciated by pleasure-craft.

And now Your Highness has purposed that the home of our international Institution, which was drawn to Monaco by the scientific renown of Your Father, should be mirrored in the water which is the object of our studies and which reminds us of distant travel and patient surveys.

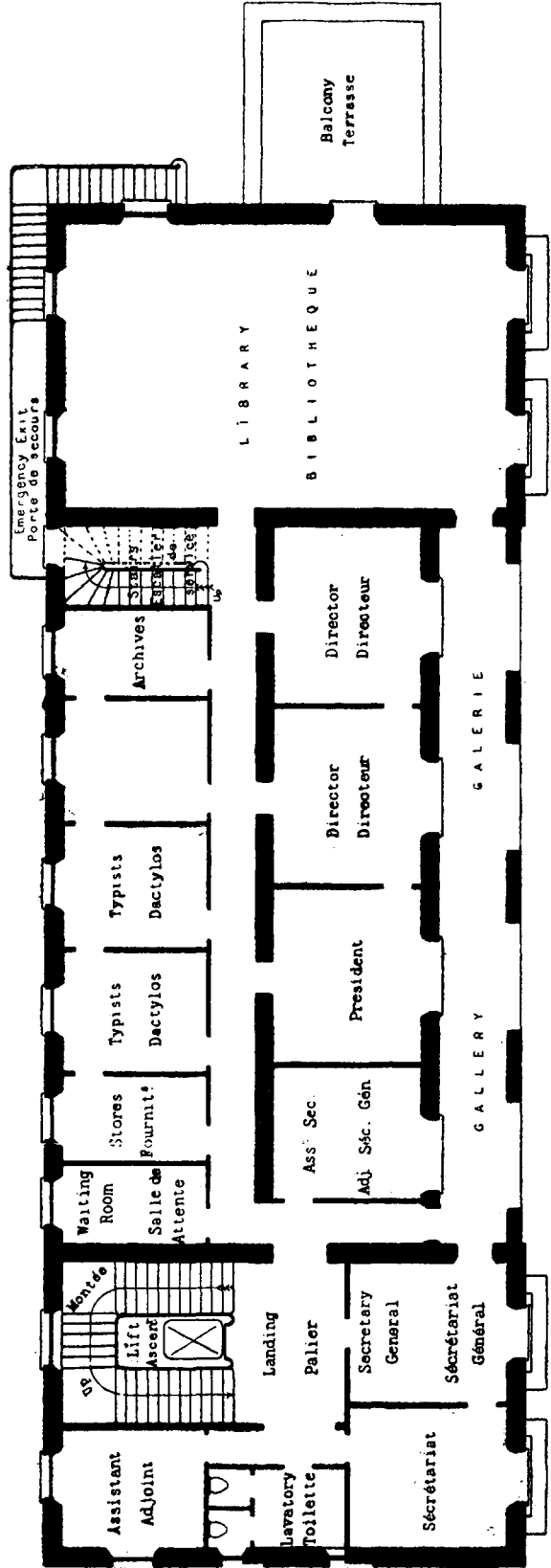
Your Highness graciously laid its Foundation Stone on 20 th. April 1929 and now, thanks to work pushed forward with great activity, for which we must heartily thank the eminent Architect, M. CHAUVET, and the contractor, M. BONI, the building is complete. Thus escaping from a temporary and chance shelter we establish therein

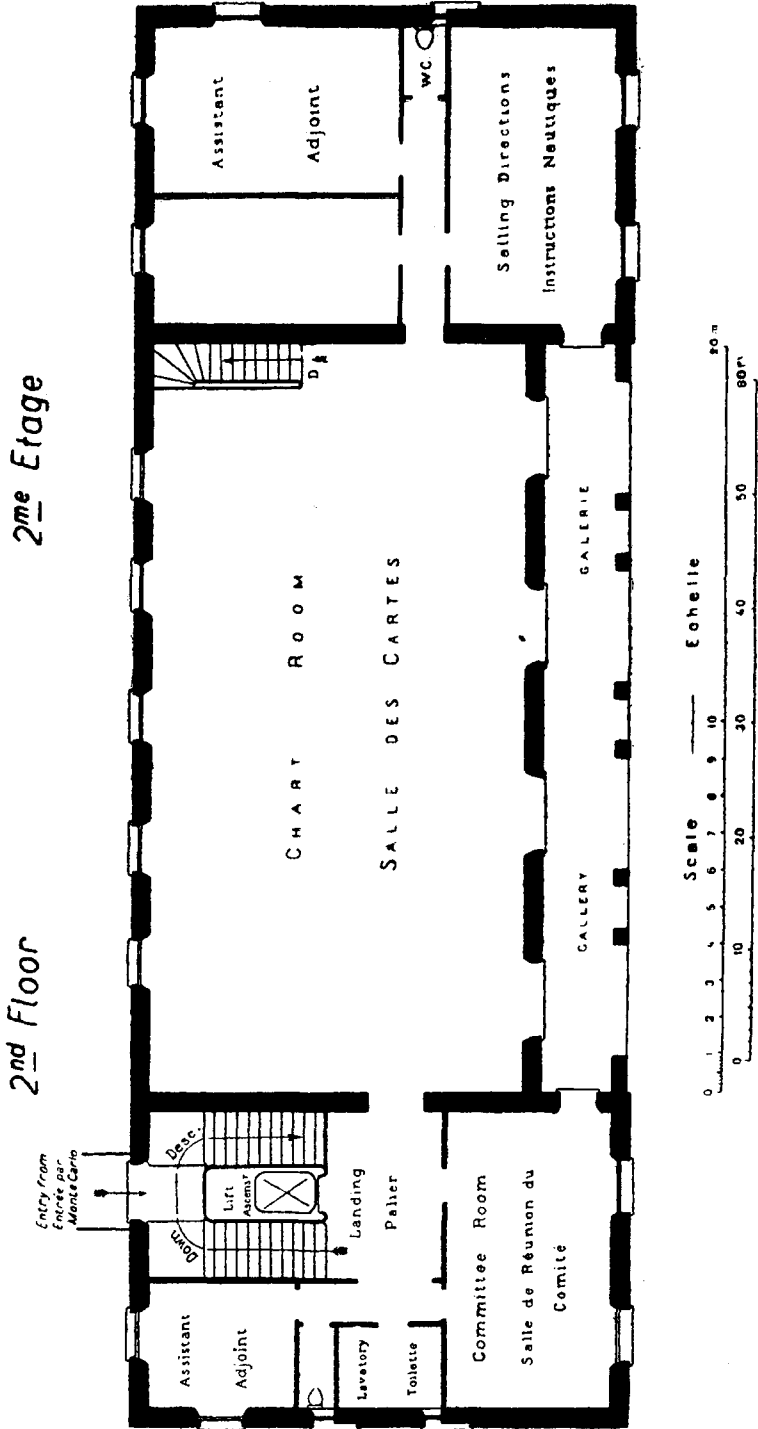
Plan of the new offices of the
 International Hydrographic
 Bureau

Plan des nouveaux locaux
 du Bureau Hydrographique
 International

1st Floor

1er Etage





our definitive offices and next year we will be able to receive worthily therein the Delegates of twenty-two Nations who will be coming here to hold another International Conference.

Your Highnesses have kindly honoured this ceremony by Your presence; it is a proof of the vitality of the International Hydrographic Bureau which allows us to hope that it will have a long life on this charming shore. The Bureau will continue its work of peace and of agreement between nations with the highest humanitarian object, exerting itself to bring the experience of all seamen and the teachings of every science into the service of the improvement of maritime communications and of safety at sea.

Joining our efforts in this direction to those of the League of Nations, of which I am pleased to greet the Representative who brings us a pledge of the interest taken in our Institution by the great Assembly at Geneva, we will carry on our work with perseverance, knowing that its fruits will not ripen rapidly for they require the slow growth of an international spirit and the creation of an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual concession wherein the great advantages which accrue from understanding and harmony are valued above individual customs. It is the property of ideas to make slow progress until, at last, they compel acceptance.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MARQUIS PAULUCCI DI CALBOLI BARONE

Your Highnesses,

Having had the pleasure, not quite two years ago, of representing the League of Nations at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the building which is being opened today, it gives me the greatest pleasure to be present, once again, at this second official ceremony.

Such rapid substantiation of a conception is, surely, not common, and forms a clear demonstration of that firm and very noble desire which has always existed, in the minds of its authors, to further scientific study and to continue family traditions.

His Serene Highness, in giving to the International Hydrographic Bureau a fixed seat, could not better express His filial piety and honour the memory of His August Father, that great Seaman and protector of the science of Oceanography, the late Prince ALBERT.

Herein His Serene Highness has very worthily completed and crowned His Father's work, for the International Hydrographic Bureau brings together the benefits which this august aegis has bestowed in the sphere of maritime knowledge. Thus a Princely House maintains the historical privileges attached to its name, by developing, in this place of enchantment where it rules, the traditions of its race and of science for the glory of its name and for the good of humanity.

Owing to the construction of the Museum, Oceanography was provided with a world centre. The International Hydrographic Bureau, with its different aims connected with marine cartography, with the provision of information necessary for the safety of navigation and with the problem of physical oceanography related thereto, but particularly by closer and more permanent related association of the Hydrographic Offices of the States which compile navigational charts, completes the undertaking and renders a truly invaluable service to the whole world.

Already the benefits due to this organisation, the inception of which dates from the First International Hydrographic Conference of London in 1919 and which was established in 1921, are both numerous and evident — it may be said that they revealed themselves with the same rapidity as that with which the building that is being inaugurated today was constructed.

The important *Technical Resolutions* adopted by the various Conferences are evidence of this. It is to the spirit of cordial collaboration which now exists between the various associated Hydrographic Offices that safety at sea is due, and science and the human race can look with confidence to this institution.

This faith in its actions is reflected largely on You, Your Highness, and is to the glory of Your family, of which I have the honour of greeting here Her Serene Highness the Hereditary Princess.

The League of Nations, with is fully aware of the thoughts which have animatd You, is represented here in witness thereof and to express its respect to You. In the name of the Secretary General, Sir ERIC DRUMMOND, I am proud to be the interpreter of these sentiments and to repeat to Your Highness that the Institution at Geneva will watch the activities of the International Hydrographic Bureau with the greatest interest and the highest confidence.

At the conclusion of the speeches Their Serene Highnesses, accompanied by those who had received them, repaired to the Entrance Hall where H.S.H. the Hereditary Princess unveiled a tablet which bears the following inscription :

*Cet Edifice
construit par le
Gouvernement Princier
et affecté au
Bureau Hydrographique International
a été inauguré par
S. A. S. le Prince Louis II
Prince Souverain de Monaco
en présence de
S. A. S. la Princesse Héréditaire
le 14 Janvier 1931.*

Translation :

This Building, erected by the Princely Government and set apart for the International Hydrographic Bureau, was inaugurated by H.S.H. Prince Louis II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, in the presence of H.S.H. the Hereditary Princess, on 14th. January 1931.

G. S. S.

