



MAYOR'S PARLOUR
THE COUNCIL HOUSE
DUDLEY

DUDLEY 4493

It always gives me great pleasure to welcome visitors to Dudley and today I am particularly happy since I can welcome 32 Scouts who have come all the way from America.

I do not flatter myself, however, that you have come so far merely to see Dudley, but I do believe that you will find much to interest you here and I hope you will take back with you happy memories of the town of which we are, I think, justifiably proud.

One of the best known features of Dudley is the Zoo, which you are going to visit later. I have no doubt that there are bigger and better stocked Zoos in America, but I feel sure that you have not got one situate in the grounds of a Castle.

This Castle has watched over Dudley and the surrounding areas for many centuries and during this time the town has been constantly expanding.

In the beginning there was not much more than a market place, which was visited by neighbouring farmers. The market is still the centre of the town, as it has been for some 700 years. But, with the discovery of the use of coal, industry began. One of the first industries, apart from mining, was that of making nails and the nails were made, not as today in large and airy factories, but in the small living rooms of a great number of families.

Today, however, the industries of Dudley are large and varied. Among the many products there are huge chains and anchors for ocean going liners, boilers for industrial plants or, as a complete contrast, small electronic devices or a leather handbag for a Queen.

So, as a result of the immense coal deposits in the area, Dudley has grown in size and importance and today it is often described as the "Capital of the Black Country".

Incidentally, if, when you are touring the Zoo, you have an opportunity to climb up to the Castle Keep you will have an excellent view of the Black Country, although, in fact, it is far from being all black. From the Castle Keep it is possible to see no fewer than nine counties.

However, I had better not detain you any longer for, whilst I know your motto is "Be prepared", I doubt if you came here "prepared" for a history lesson. I would just like to say in conclusion that I wish the Scout movement good scouting, a successful Jamboree, and you every happiness in the future.

J. H. Bellamy
Mayor.

Saturday,
10th August, 1957.