

FROM LIEUT.-COL. SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.



I HAVE been asked, as first Governor of Southern Rhodesia, to send a message to the readers of the Rhodesian Annual Jubilee Number. I comply with that request with great pleasure.

Seventeen years have elapsed since I went to Southern Rhodesia to establish self-government when the administration of the country by the British South Africa Company came to an end. It was a thrilling and a fascinating task to take part in the setting up of the new constitution in collaboration with that wise statesman, Sir Charles Coghlan, the first Premier of Southern Rhodesia, and his colleagues in the Cabinet.

The success of the new constitution was never in doubt; and the experience of the seventeen years of self-government has been an unbroken record of peace and progress.

Like everybody who visits Rhodesia, my family and I fell under its spell, and we count the years which we spent there among the happiest of our lives.

After 11 years' absence I returned last year for a brief visit, and I had the great pleasure of

meeting many old friends, and marvelling at the progress that had been made in every sphere of life.

In the war of 1914-1918 it was Rhodesia's proud boast that she sent a larger proportion of her male European population to the war than any other State of the British Empire.

Although the strategic conditions and the increased demands of local defence prevent her from sending so large a proportion of her forces to the European theatre in this war, too, she is throwing the whole of her resources into the fight for freedom. How Cecil Rhodes would have rejoiced had he lived to see his dream come true, and the country he founded become an important State in the British Commonwealth of Nations. In these unhappy days more than ever must it be realised that he was right when he said that he believed that the English-speaking peoples were God's chosen instrument by which a state of society based upon justice, liberty and peace would be brought about in the world.

Rhodesia will, I know, play her part in the fulfilment of her founder's great aim.

*J. A. Chancellor*