

NEW YEAR HONOURS AND THE CITY.

A POPULAR SELECTION.

WELL MERITED RECOGNITION.

The House having been closed yesterday, Throgmorton Street was unable to demonstrate its gratification at the New Year honours conferred on those more or less closely identified with Stock Exchange interests. It may be taken for granted, however, that the considerable number of baronetcies conferred upon leading representatives of City finance has given unqualified pleasure not only to the recipients, but to the Metropolis as a whole. The South African market in particular has cause for congratulation upon the recognition of Mr. Lionel Phillips, Mr. George Albu and Mr. Sigmund Neumann. So far as we are aware, there had been little inkling that either of these gentlemen would be selected for this honour just now, although rumours of such a development have gained currency on several occasions during recent years, and the fact that they have been included in the list has been greeted with enthusiasm.

Mr. Lionel Phillips is a man of many parts; in addition to being a D.L., J.P. and M.L.A., he was one of the four leaders of the Reform movement in South Africa, and at the time of the Jameson Raid was sentenced to death, in company with Colonel Frank Rhodes, Mr. J. Hayes Hammond and Sir George Farrar. Subsequently the sentence was commuted to a fine of £25,000. In 1896 he retired from the Johannesburg firm of H. Eckstein and Company, and for several years thereafter he played an important part in directing the South African interests of the Wernher-Beit-Eckstein group. In view of recent changes in South African mining control, Mr. Phillips' interests are now identified with the Central Mining and Investment Corporation and the Rand Mines, Ltd. Mr. Phillips is recognised as an able, fluent and attractive speaker; he divides his time fairly equally between South Africa and London, and the recognition which has now been given to his services will, we need hardly say, be popular both in this country and in the Transvaal. Mr. George Albu is identified with the General Mining and Finance Corporation. His reputation in the South African mining circles as an expert on the technical side of the industry is very high. He has for many years past been a source of strength to the South African mining community, and his sound judgment has been of considerable benefit to the industry. Mr. Sigmund Neumann is, of course, mainly identified with the Modderfontein group.

In the realms of finance, as distinct from the Stock Exchange, Mr. Thomas Skinner has held a position of growing influence for many years past. His advice has been sought in many crises, and there are many who have reason to remember the success with which he has guided the innumerable financial interests committed at one time or another to his charge. His association with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Bank of Montreal, the Hudson's Bay Company, the Canada North-West Land Company, various cable undertakings, and many other enterprises are too well known to call for recital here. What may be emphasised is the fact that a little while ago, when the Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Mills Company got into difficulties, and the leading shareholders were seeking a man of proved ability to resuscitate the business, their choice fell upon Mr. Skinner, and the results since achieved have justified the appointment. The Canadian community will be delighted with Mr. Skinner's elevation to a baronetcy, and few men have ever better deserved such an honour. We may add that in politics Mr. Skinner is a staunch Conservative, so that the honour now conferred upon him by the Liberal Government is all the more significant. The Rubber market will regard the elevation of Mr. C. P. Allen to the Privy Council as an honour to itself and also as one to which he is fully entitled, while Shipping has been recognised in the person of Mr. William Nelson, of the Nelson Line, who becomes a baronet. Wood-street and the Bank of England will unite in congratulating Mr. Stanley Hope Morley on the signal distinction of becoming a Baron of the realm, for Mr. Morley was Governor of the Bank of England from 1903 to 1905, while he is still a Director of I. and R. Morley, the well-known Wood-street dry goods firm. Finally, Mr. Courtsauld Thomson, Deputy-Chairman of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company and a Director of William Whiteley together with several other commercial undertakings, receives the knighthood which his friends will regard as justly deserved by many years of strenuous endeavour not only in commerce but also in the philanthropic service of his fellow men.