

West Country Royal Tour-

May 11th. '56.

N/P

The eagerly-awaited two-day Royal Tour of the West Country began at Barnstaple, where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were received by the Lord Lieutenant of Devonshire, Lord Fortescue. And there was a civic welcome, too, from the Mayor and local dignitaries.

On arrival, the Queen inspected a Guard of Honour drawn from the 4th Battalion- the Devonshire Regiment.

Barnstaple was in festive mood for the triumphant drive through the streets of the Borough, which were gaily festooned with flags and bunting.

Inside the Queen's Hall, Her Majesty received a floral tribute from Miss Joan Sanders- a young citizen of the town.

It was certainly children's day ~~in~~ in the Pannier Market- ~~forxxxxxxxxxx~~ youngsters where more than 5000 ~~were~~ assembled to give loyal greetings to their Sovereign and her husband.

The Queen was quick to notice the traditional Barnstaple Glove- symbolising the Borough's hand of friendship.

On their way to Exeter, the Royal visitors ~~xxxxxxxx~~ stopped at Eggesford Forest, where the Queen unveiled a stone, recording the planting, in 37 years, of a million acres of forest in Britain by the Forestry Commission. ~~As a memento of her visit.~~ ^{TO MARK THE OCCASION, HER MAJESTY} Queen Elizabeth planted an oak sapling, and received a pair of secateurs ~~to mark the occasion.~~ AS A MEMENTO OF HER VISIT.

Down

At the Exeter City Boundary, the Queen and the Duke were received by the Mayor- Councillor G.J. Greenslade, who surrendered the City's Royal Sword.

There was a rousing welcome for the Royal visitors as they drove from the Guildhall to the University, where Her Majesty was later to unveil the foundation stone of the new building of the Faculty of Arts. ^{THE PROPOSED BUILDING WAS THE SUBJECT OF ROYAL INSPECTION.} model of ~~xxxx~~ came in for Royal inspection.

A

At the University, the Queen was welcomed by the Chancellor- the Duchess of Devonshire, who is the Queen's Mistress of the Robes.