THE PAGEANT AND CEREMONY OF THE CORONATION OF THEIR MAJESTIES KING EDWARD VII. AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY---WILL BE A MOST GORGEOUS SPECTACLE

THE FIRST ONE IN ENGLAND IN SIXTY-FOUR YEARS—MODERN REVIVAL OF ANCIENT CUSTOMS. QUEER CLAIMS OF THE NOBILITY—HOW THE PEERS AND PEERESSES MUST DRESS—THE LENGTH OF THE LATTER'S TRAINS REGULATED BY LAW—THE CROWNS AND REGALIAS—THE ANOINTING WITH HOLY OIL—ST. EDWARD'S CROWN—A LONG AND TIRING CEREMONY FOR THEIR MAJESTIES

"LE ROI est mort. Vive le Roi!" And so the king never dies. When the last faint pulsation of the dying Queen Victoria had ceased and that life, which through more than sixty-two years, had been the centre of a great nation had departed from the royal body and thereby rendered it the equal at last of that of the meanest of her subjects; at that exact moment his royal highness, Albert Edward, prince of Wales, became his majesty King Edward VII.

Many folks—folks, too, that should know better—have the idea that King Edward will not be king officially until he is crowned; that he is, in fact, at the present time a sort of "acting king." They forget that even in our own country we are never, for the briefest second, without a president; that, although he knew it not, Theodore Roosevelt became president of the United States while he was somewhere in the Adirondack woods. Our Constitution provides that "Before he enter into the execution of his office he shall take the following oath or affirmation," &c., which is the nearest this country can get to a coronation ceremony.

Not so in England, however. True, there nothing has been done in that line in sixty-four years, and they may be excused for being a little out of practice. But for what they have been compelled to deny themselves in the number of ceremonies they propose to make up in pomp and splendor, for the coronation ceremonies of their majesties King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra are to form the grandest and most gorgeous spectacle the modern world has ever seen.

Americans are not one whit behind their British cousins in their love of the spectacular, and the national sympathy that so persistently makes itself manifest—the Anglophobes to the contrary notwithstanding—will make the forthcoming ceremony a matter of deep interest to them. When in 1857 Captain Tattnall, then American flag officer of the Asiatic station, saw, the English getting the worst of it in an engagement with the Chinese at Peiho, he ordered his vessel into the fray, exclaiming, "Blood's thicker than water!" and although he violated all the laws of neutrality, he was upheld not only by public opinion but by the government itself.

It does not follow, however, that because he takes an interest in coronations and that sort of thing the average American sanctions royalty or a monarchial form of government. Nevertheless, he is too broad-minded as a rule to stay at home and sulk just because he himself wouldn't agree to be governed by a king. On the contrary, if there's a good time going on anywhere he wants to be in it, and usually is.

The widespread interest already aroused on this side of the water has led to the production by D. Appleton & Co. of a book on the coronation, entitled, "The Pageant and Ceremony of the Coronation of Their Majesties King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra," which is a complete compendium of all the facts and incidents relating to the ceremony that it is advisable to be posted on, for not only those who intend to visit London this summer, but those also who desire to keep fully informed upon the important events of the period. The book is well illustrated and contains eight pages of colored plates showing the crowns and various insignia of office. It is written by Charles Eyre Pascoe, author of "London of Today," in his usual entertaining style, and in fact one can just imagine him seated in a comfortable arm-chair and, perhaps, between cigar puffs, telling in an easy, conversational manner all he knows about the event, which, when he gets through, you are willing to admit is considerable.

OLD FAMILIES NOT SO OLD.

He begins by telling something about pedigrees, and his remarks in this regard are quite apt to tickle the palates of Americans. Says he: "'The souls of emperors and cobblers are all cast in the same mould,' so said the Lord of Montaigne, some time the pupil of George Buchanan, tutor of James I. of England, and a gentleman not unfamiliar in his time with princes and the humblest of their subjects, too. Montaigne's dictum may be true enough, but even the soul of a cobbler may be cast in a finer mould than the majority of his fellows. In respect of his craft, truly he may be able to trace his ancestry back to the very first cobbler who sat on the bench. It is conceivable that his progenitors of the remote past may have been persons of quality. Much more unlikely things have come to pass than that a cobbler should be descended from a peer. One of the flock in most families sooner or later strays from the fold. His wanderings may lead him to the top or the bottom, as his enterprise or energy, or lack of both, may determine."

The late Lord Beaconsfield (Benjamin Disraeli) causes a character in his "Coningsby" to exclaim: "Ancient lineage! The real old families of this country are to be found among the peasantry. But a peer with an ancient lineage, is to me quite a novelty. No, no; the thirty years of the Wars of the Roses freed us from those gentlemen. After the battle of Tewkesbury a Norman baron was almost as rare a being as a wolf is now."

SOME QUEER CLAIMS.

With the revival of ancient pageantry and ceremony there is nothing that so perplexes and at the same time seems so ridiculous as the Court of Claims. Briefly, the "Court of Claims" finds its origin in the ancient prerogatives, of the lord high steward, who sat judicially in the hall of the king's palace at Westminster to receive the applications and decide upon the claims of all who held lands on the tenure of performing some personal service at the king's coronation. Here are some of the alleged heredity privileges that are being as jealously debated as if the fate of the empire rested upon them. The claims of the duke of Newcastle, as holder of the manor or workshop, to provide a glove and support the king's arm.

The bishop of Durham and the bishop of Bath and Wells, to support their majesties at the coronation.

The duke of Somerset, to carry the orb.

The earl of Erroll, to walk as lord high constable of Scotland and to have a silver baton tipped with gold.

Lord Grey de Ruthyn, to carry the golden spurs.

Colonel C. G. Brown, as baron and jurat of Fordwich, to bear the canopy over the king and queen—a privilege accorded to the barons of the Cinque Ports.

Lord Hastings and Lord Grey de Ruthyn, to carry the great spurs.

The earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, (1) to carry a white staff as lord high steward of Ireland, and (2) to provide a glove for the king's right hand and support his hand while holding the sceptre.

The duke of Buccleuch, as gold stick for Scotland, to ride by his majesty's carriage.

The marquis of Winchester, to carry the cap of maintenance.

HEREDITARY GRAND CARVER.

Truly, it does seem a trifle ridiculous that the lord high chancellor of England should be troubled with a point, as to whether some distinguished gentleman is to exercise the office of "Hereditary Grand Carver for Scotland"—with probably no baron of beef anywhere forthcoming worthy of his skill; or whether another gentleman is to carry a silver baton tipped with gold; or a third a white staff; or another is "to bear the canopy over the king and queen"—doubtless greatly to his own discomfiture, since most regal canopies would require at least six or eight gentlemen to support them. However, honor to whom honor is due, and let all things be done decently and in order. May every claim be held good, and allowed on the day of coronation.

WHAT THE COURT LADIES WILL WEAR.

It may interest those privileged to be present in the Abbey to know how they will discover one peer or peeress from another peer or peeress by the glory of his or her apparel worn at the coronation "of their Most Sacred Majesties King Edward the Seventh and Queen Alexandra."

The robe or mantle of the peers is of crimson velvet, edged with miniver, the cape furred with miniver pure, and powdered with bars or rows of ermine (i. e., narrow pieces of black fur), according to their degree. Thus: barons wear two rows; viscounts, two rows and a half; earls, three rows; marquises, three rows and a half; dukes, four rows. The mantles or robes are worn over full court dress, uniform, or regimentals. The coronets are of silver gilt; the caps of crimson velvet turned up with ermine, with a gold tassel on the top; and no jewels or precious stones are permitted to be used in the coronets, or "counterfeit pearls instead of silver balls." Such is the earl marshal's order.

All peeresses who attend wear the robes or mantles appertaining to their respective ranks over the usual full court dress required for ladies. The robes of the peeresses are, if anything, more effective, ladies may be satisfied to learn, than those of the peers. The entire dress is carried out in rich crimson velvet bordered with miniver. The long train hangs from the shoulders. It is lined with white silk and bordered with white miniver which varies in width according to the rank of the wearer. The length of the train also varies in the same manner. For whereas a duchess is entitled to the full glory of two yards upon the ground, the marchioness may only have one and three-quarters and a baroness one yard.

THE CROWNS AND DIADEMS.

Some persons would not wish to see even the "mock pearls" of history trampled under foot. It may be just as well, however, to remind admirers of such pearls that the present regalia of England is not that consecrated by the religious rites and observances of coronations prior to the reign of Charles II. The crown jewels now occasionally used possess no claim to be considered even copies of the ancient regalia which, as students of English history know, were taken out of the "Treasury Chest" of Westminster Abbey and later sold by order of the parliament of Cromwell.

In a small apartment of the tower is his majesty's jewel-house, where the crown regalia is kept, a very splendid display of rich gold and jewels, crowns, sceptres, orbs, swords, dishes, flagons, salt-cellars, sacramental plate, maces, state trumpets used at the coronation of the kings and queens of England.

What is known as the imperial crown was made for the coronation of Queen Victoria. It is composed of a cap of purple velvet inclosed by hoops of silver richly set with gems, the front cross containing the "inestimable sapphire" of the purest and deepest azure, more than two inches long and an inch broad; and in the circle beneath it is a rock ruby of great size and exquisite color, which traditibn says was worn by the Black Prince at the battle of Cressy and by Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt.

The old imperial crown (St. Edward's) is the one whose form is familiar from its frequent representations on the coin of the realm, the royal arms, &c. It was made for the coronation of Charles II., to replace the one broken up and sold during the civil wars, which was said to have been worn by Edward the Confessor. With St. Edward's crown the act of coronation is performed. It is of gold, and consists of two arches crossing at the top, and rising from a rim or circlet of gold, over a cap of crimson velvet, lined with white taffeta, and turned up with ermine.

The Prince of Wale's crown, so named, is of pure gold, unadorned by jewels. On occasions of state it is placed before the seat occupied by the heir apparent to the throne in the house of lords.

The queen consort's crown is the one used at coronations when the sovereignty exists in the male branch, as on the present occasion. It is of gold, set with diamonds and costly jewels of great value.

A plain gold ring with a large table ruby which is engraved a plain or St. George's cross is always prepared for the coronation, but, of course, it must be newly made, or at least set, for each sovereign.

THE CORONATION CHAIR.

The ancient chair known as "the coronation or King Edward's chair," is considerably over 600 years old. It originally came from Scone, in Scotland, whose kings had also been crowned in it. Edward I. of England carried it away with him in 1297 from its ancient repository in Scotland, and rendered it (along with other of the old Scottish regalia, the golden sceptre and crown among the number) as a solemn offering at the shrine of Edward the Confessor. Ever since then it has stood in the "Chapel of the Kings" (the Confessor's chapel) and been known as St. Edward's chair, being so designated in the coronation offices. Four lions support each corner, and a space between the chair and the bottom board incloses the famous stone of Scone.

THE DAY PROCLAIMED.

The day of the coronation was announced in accordance with old-time regulation by royal proclamation in London and elsewhere; in the present instance six months in advance of the actual date fixed.

In the second week of December, 1901, the following was published in a supplement of the official London Gazette:

"By the King.

"A PROCLAMATION.

"For appointing a Day for the Celebration of the Solemnity of the Coronation of Their Majesties. Edward, R. I.

"Whereas, By Our Royal Proclamation, bearing date the twenty-sixth day of June last, We did (amongst other things) publish and declare Our Royal intention to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Royal Coronation and of the Coronation of Our dearly beloved Consort the Queen, upon a day of June next to be thereafter determined, at our palace at Westminster; and whereas we have resolved by the favor and blessing of Almighty God to celebrate the said Solemnity upon Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of June next; We do, by this Our Royal Proclamation, give notice thereof, and We do hereby strictly charge and command all Our loving subjects whom it may concern, that all persons, of what rank or quality soever they be, who either upon Our Letters to them directed, or by reason of their offices and tenures, or otherwise, are to do any service at the time of Our Coronation, do duly give their attendance at the said Solemnity on Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of June next, in all respects furnished and appointed as to so great a Solemnity appertaineth and answerable to the dignities and places which every one of them respectively holdeth and enjoyeth, and of this they or any of them are not to fail, as they will answer the contrary at their peril, unless upon special reasons by Ourself under Our hand to be allowed We shall dispense with any of their services or attendance:

"Provided always, and we do further by this our royal proclamation signify and declare, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to change or alter our royal determination as more fully declared in our royal proclamation bearing date the twenty-sixth day of June last, whereby we did signify it to be our royal will and pleasure, upon the occasion of this our coronation, to dispense with that part of the ceremonial which heretofore took place in Westminster hall, and that part thereof which consisted of the procession.

"Given at our Court at Saint James's, this tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one, and in the first year of Our Reign.

"God save the King."

THE PROCESSION.

As regards the interior arrangements of the Abbey for the coronation service, from the great west door, at which the procession enters, to the screen which divides choir from nave, two rows of galleries which heretofore been erected; on each side, that is to say, of the centre aisle—the one gallery level with the vaultings, the other with the summit of the western door. These galleries, the backs of which would rest against the wall of the Abbey, have their fronts fluted with crimson cloth, richly draped at the top, and decorated with broad golden fringe at the bottom. The seats in these galleries were supposed to provide accommodation for some fifteen hundred persons. It is somewhat doubtful, however, if galleries so lofty will be raised now.

On the floor of the centre aisle a slightly raised platform, or carpeted way, is laid down, along which the king's and queen's procession passes to the choir. This is matted over and covered with crimson cloth. On the pavement of the aisle itself bordering this carpeted way stand the military told off to keep the line of the procession clear.

The "theatre," where the principal parts of the opening ceremony are enacted, lies immediately under the central tower of the Abbey, and is, in fact, a square formed by the intersection of the choir and transepts, extending nearly the whole breadth of the choir. On this square a platform is erected, ascended by five steps. The summit of this platform and also the highest step leading to it are covered with richest cloth of gold. From that step down to the flooring of the "theatre" all is covered with carpet of rich red or purple color bordered with gold. In the centre of this "theatre" the sumptuously draped chair is placed for the sovereign in which he receives the homage of the peers, and a little aside from it another for the queen consort. At the northeast end of this "theatre" a pulpit is erected from which the coronation sermon is preached.

In the sacrarium, which forms part of the altar-space, the coronation chairs stand—the ancient chair known as King Edward's and that of later date known as Queen Mary's. It is here the king and queen are crowned.

To the right of the altar, looking toward it, accommodation is provided for members of the royal family, and on the left a bench is provided for the bishops, while above them in a kind of low gallery or "box" are ranged the foreign ambassadors and special envoys. The back of the altar itself is draped with purple and gold silks, and the floor of the sacrarium is covered with a rich purple and gold carpet. Above the altar in times past were the galleries reserved to the members of the house of commons, but this arrangement is hardly likely to be made now.

In the choir itself all the ordinary stalls, reading-desks and pews are removed. In their places are erected on each side of the choir five rows of benches, covered with scarlet drapery and gold, reserved as seats for the great officers of state and household. To the peers and peeresses are usually allotted galleries in the transepts, north and south. There they sit in all the glittering pomp of velvet and ermine.

THE CEREMONY BEGINS.

The entrance of the king and queen into the church at the west door is the signal for the beginning of the services in the form of an anthem sung by the choir. The king and queen pass up through the body of the church and up the stairs to the raised stage or platform erected between the choir and the sanctuary known as the "theatre." Passing by the throne, they make their humble adoration, and, kneeling, offer private prayer, and then seat themselves in chairs placed before and below their respective thrones.

The archbishop turns toward the east part of the "theatre," and with the lord chancellor, lord great chamberlain, lord high constable and earl marshal (garter king of arms preceding them), proceeds to the south, west and north sides respectively, the king in the mean time rising and standing by his chair. The archbishop announces as he reaches each side:

"Sirs, I here present unto you King Edward, the undoubted king of this realm. Wherefore all you who are come this day to do your homage, are you willing to do the same?"

The people signify their willingness and joy by loud and repeated acclamations and cry "God save King Edward!" Then the trumpets sound and the service proceeds.

The sermon being ended, and his majesty having on Thursday, February 14, 1901, in the presence of the two houses of parliament, made and signed the declaration, the archbishop goes to the king, and, standing before him, says: "Sir, is your majesty willing to take the oath?" The king answers, "I am willing." Then the archbishop asks and the king answers the questions as follows:

Archbishop — Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging, according to the statutes in parliament agreed on, and the respective laws and customs of the same?

King—I solemnly promise so to do.

Archbishop—Will you to your power cause law and justice in mercy to be executed in all your judgments?

King—I will.

Archbishop—Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel and the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law? And will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England and of Ireland and the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, as by law established within England and Ireland and the territories thereunto belonging? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England and Ireland and to the churches there committed to their charge all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?

King—All this I promise to do.

Then the king arises out of his chair, attended by his supporters and assisted by the lord great chamberlain, the sword of state being carried before him, and goes to the altar and there makes his solemn oath in the sight of all the people, to observe the promises. Laying his right hand upon the Bible, which was before carried in the procession and is now brought from the altar by the archbishops, and tendered to him as he kneels upon the steps, he says:

"The things which I have here before promised I will perform and keep. So help me God." Then the king kisses the Book and signs the oath.

THE ANOINTING.

The king returns again to his chair on the south side of the altar and kneeling at his faldstool, the archbishop begins a hymn, the choir completing it. And then, after some further prayer and hymn-singing, comes the most peculiar part of the whole service—namely, the anointing with oil. The oil used must not be the simple oil of the church, but "chrism," a mixture of balsam and olive oil, "very holy" as unction with it contains sacramental grace.

The king rises from his devotions and goes before the altar, attended by his supporters and assisted by the lord great chamberlain, the sword of state being carried before him, where his majesty is disrobed of his crimson robes. He then sits down in King Edward's chair, with a faldstool before it. Four Knights of the Garter hold over him a rich pall of silk or cloth of gold; the dean of Westminster taking the ampulla and spoon from off the altar, holds them ready, pouring some of the holy oil into the spoon, and with it the archbishop annoints the king in the form of a cross on the crown of the head and on the palms of both the hands, saying:

"Be thou annointed with holy oil as kings, priests and prophets were anointed."

Then the dean of Westminster lays the ampulla and spoon upon the altar and the king kneels down at the faldstool, and the archbishop standing on the north side of the altar offers a prayer or blessing over him.

THE KING CROWNED.

There is much more of this sort of thing, such as the presentation of the spurs and sword, the investment with the royal robe and the delivery of the orb, and then comes the actual putting on of the crown, the one used for this occasion being St. Edward's crown. The archbishop, standing before the altar, takes the crown in his hands and, laying it before him on the altar, blesses it. Then, the king, still sitting in King Edward's chair, the archbishop, assisted by the same archbishops and bishops as before, comes from the altar; the dean of Westminster brings the crown and the archbishop, taking it from him, places it upon the king's head. The people cry out, God save the king!" the trumpets sound and, by a signal given, the great guns at the tower boom forth the news that the climax of the whole ceremony has been reached and that the king has at last been crowned.

With the placing of the crown on the king's head all the peers put on their coronets, the kings of arms their crowns and the archbishops and bishops their caps. Then come the delivery of the ring by the archbishop, the acclamation by the people and the homage of the lords spiritual and temporal—a most wearisome period in the service with a swollen peerage such as that with which England is now furnished.

Regarding the crowning of the queen consort, the order of James II. and Mary says: "The queen was then anointed, crowned, invested and enthroned with the same ceremonies"—that is, as the king. Up to that section the service will doubtless be so arranged as to include both their Majesties King Edward and Queen Alexandra. The queen consort's rite will probably follow the order of George III. and Queen Charlotte, which followed that of King James II. and Queen Mary.

The banquet takes place in Westminster hall, and the ancient customs in regard to it are full of quaint incidents and ceremonials.

Taken altogether it will be a hard day for London, from the king down to the smallest newsboy, and a great sight for those fortunate enough to witness it.

SQUIBS OF KNOWLEDGE.

With a piece of steel embedded in his tongue William Carmichael, employed in the Bath Iron Works, Maine, went about his work for several days. While cutting off rivets he was struck in the tongue by a piece of steel. The wound was very painful and an examination was made, but the doctor could see no trace of the material; still Mr. Carmichael said he could feel the matter in his tongue and could bite it. The doctor probed for it, and finally pulled out the steel, which measured five-eights of an inch long and about one-fourth of an inch wide. Carmichael was chewing tobacco at the time of the accident and the chip flew in while his mouth was open.

Mrs. Eliza Tucker, of Millbury, Mass., has a hen which has produced thirty eggs in the last thirty days, each with a double yolk. Each egg has measured eight inches in circumfereence.

The playing of billiards by students has been prohibited by the State Argicultural college of Oregon. The action was by resolution of the faculty, and makes suspension the penalty of violation of the rule. In making the announcement President Gatch said an examination of the college records showed that 80 per cent of the failures in class work were by students who frequented billiard halls.

In the last forty years there has been an increase in the expenditures of this government of nearly 1,000 per cent., while the increase in population has been only 150 per cent. The population of the United States in 1860 was 31,443,321, while in 1900 it was 76,303,387. The tax upon the people in 1860 was only $2.61 per capita, while now it is $9.57 for each inhabitant.

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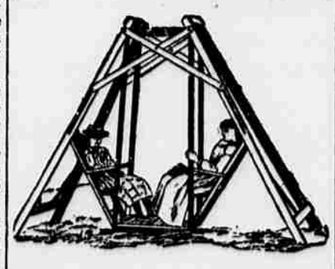

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