CROWNING OF KING EDWARD

Impressive Scene in the Ancient Abbey as the Venerable Primate of England Placed Crown on Britain's Monarch.

London, Aug. 9.—A brilliant sunrise promised perfect weather for Coronation Day, but long before the ceremonies commenced threatening clouds gathered, and the early arrivals on the route of the procession came provided against contingencies. The earlier crowds were in no wise as large as it had been generally anticipated they would be.

Most of the best positions along the route of the procession were thickly crowded by eight o'clock, and the spectators were furnished with plenty of diversion by the marching and counter-marching of the troops, headed by their bands, and quickly passing stage coaches, private carriages and automobiles.

Buckingham Palace, naturally, was one of the principal centres of interest, as it was the starting point of the pageant. Crowds assembled there in immense numbers, and the first hearty cheer of the day went up when the news was circulated that King Edward was in the best of health and spirits, and well equipped to undergo the fatigues of the day.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT,

who rode down the Mall in an automobile for the purpose of seeing that the military arrangements along the route were complete, was heartily cheered. Almost as animated was the scene in the vicinity of Westminster Abbey, where the bands of music stationed about the building relieved the tedium of the early waiting and soon after the doors were opened. State coaches, carriages and automobiles rattled up in a ceaseless line, the rich apparel of their occupants eliciting hearty approval, which, however, was surpassed by the reception accorded to the men of the Naval brigade as they marched past at a swinging pace to take up a favored position guarding the route near the Abbey. The Colonial Premiers and the Privy Councillors were warmly welcomed, the Fijians in petticoats, the centre of much interest, and a Red Indian Chief, in his native costume, feathers and blanket, decorated with the customary mirrors, caused the most lively amusement.

As the hour appointed for the departure of the royal procession approached the excitement about Buckingham Palace was most marked. Punctual to time the advance guard of the royal cavalcade issued from the archway, the horses of the troopers curvetting nervously as they faced the wall of humanity that cheered their coming. Shortly afterwards came the Prince and Princess of Wales' procession, and finally within a few minutes their Majesties state coach appeared at the gateway and the King and Queen smiled and bowed in response to

THE MIGHTY ROAR OF CHEERS

that dwarfed all previous welcomes. The scene in the vicinity was remarkable. On the roof of the palace were perched a number of fashionably dressed ladies, members of the household, and their cheers, with the fluttering of their handkerchiefs as the King and Queen entered the royal coach, gave the signal for the deafening plaudits of the populace which greeted their Majesties as they emerged from the gates. The ovation was taken up by the crowds which thronged the Mall and was repeatedly acknowledged by the occupants of the state coach. The King looked pale and rather fine drawn and was by no means as brown and robust as previous reports had led one to expect, and while punctiliously bowing from side to side he did so with a gravity very unusual to him. He seemed to sit rather far back in the carriage and

MOVED HIS BODY VERY LITTLE.

His curious crimson robes and cap of maintenance, the latter simply a band of ermine with a crimson velvet top, doubtless gave him the unusual appearance.

The Queen, beside him, was radiant. She never looked better. The cheers which greeted the pair were loud and unmistakably genuine, and very different from the perfunctory applause which usually greets the appearance of members of the royal family.

The three processions to the Abbey were carried out according to programme, and the only striking features of the first two were the gorgeous state carriages and the beautiful trappings and horses.

The crowd paid but little attention to the occupants of the vehicles. The Prince of Wales sat quietly in his carriage, but the Princess of Wales smiled and bowed constantly. It was not till the King's procession came that there was any show of enthusiasm.

KING EDWARD IN CORONATION ROBES.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA IN CORONATION ROBES.

IN UNFAMILIAR SCARLET.

Lord Kitchener, Admiral Seymour and General Gaselee, as they rode together, came in for much attention, but they all seemed to look straight ahead, and paid little attention to people along the route. Lord Kitchener, in the resplendent full dress uniform of a general, also looked unfamiliar and many persons did not recognize him.

The Indian Princes were undoubtedly the most picturesque feature of the procession, while the state coach of the King, drawn by the fat Hanoverian horses which figured in all of the late Queen Victoria's processions, seemed much more fairyland-like than usual.

IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

The doors of the Abbey were scarcely opened and the gold sticks and ushers had barely found their stations before the seats began to fill. Peers and peeresses swept up the nave, their scarlet and ermine making vivid contrasts with the deep blue of the carpet. As they arrived before the thrones they separated, the peers going to the right and the peeresses to the left.

The various chairs to be used by the King and Queen in the service attracted special attention, but what inevitably caught the eye was the glittering array of gold plate, brought from various royal depositories, ranged along the chancel and behind the altar. Amidst these surroundings the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, resplendent in white knee breeches and heavily embroidered coat, hurried to and fro, directing the final touches.

By ten o'clock the interior of the Abbey presented a blaze of color. Along the nave, which was lined by Grenadiers, every chair was taken up by high officers of the army and navy and others in equally handsome equipment.

On the top of the arch separating the nave from the chancel sat the surpliced orchestra. In stalls within were the ambassadors and many officials.

CLERGY WITH REGALIA.

The service commenced with the reconsecration of the regalia. The procession of the clergy with the regalia then proceeded from the altar to the annex, all present standing up, and the choir singing, "Oh, God, Our Help in Ages Past."

Preceding the regalia came the boys of Westminster Abbey, followed by the children of the Chapel Royal, and the choir in Royal uniforms.

The Duke of Connaught took his position beside the Prince of Wales in the Abbey as the procession entered, bowing as he passed the Prince.

The Archbishop of Canterbury took his seat in front of the coronation chair, and the Earl of Halsbury, the Lord High Chancellor, seated himself by his side. Several minutes elapsed, however, before the King and Queen came in sight of those gathered about the throne. Suddenly

"VIVAT ALEXANDRA"

was shouted by the boys of Westminster, and the Queen, walking slowly to the left of the throne, gained her chair and knelt at a silken prie dieu, her magnificent train of cloth-of-gold being lifted out of her way by six scarlet-coated pages.

Two or three minutes later came the cry from the Westminster boys of "Vivat Rex Edwardus," with blasts from trumpets. Yet there was another wait. "What has become of the King?" was asked by people who were shut off from sight of the nave. The Queen waited patiently, the organ ceased and then resumed; there was another fanfare of trumpets, another chorus of "Vivats," and King Edward appeared and walked to his chair in front of the throne, bowing to the Queen as he passed, and then knelt down in prayer. After removing his cap his Majesty stood up, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, in a trembling voice, read the recognition, beginning:—"Sirs,—I here present unto you King Edward, the undoubted King of this realm," etc.

Then there was a hoarse shout, and the blending of the choir and the people, women and men, in the cry, "God Save King Edward." Several times this was repeated, and the Abbey rang with loud fanfares.

Again the King and Queen knelt, and the Archbishop of Canterbury walked to the altar and commenced the communion. While the gospel was being read

THE KING STOOD ERECT,

supported on each side by the bishops in their heavily embroidered capes. During the singing of the Creed all the members of the royal family turned eastward. Both King Edward and Queen Alexandra followed the service carefully, frequently looking at the copies of the service, which they held in their hands.

The administration of the oath followed. Standing before the King's chair, the Archbishop asked:

"Sir, is your Majesty willing to take the oath?"

The King answered in firm, strong tones, "I am willing," etc., his replies being easily heard high up in the triforium near the roof. Then the ink stand was brought and the King signed the oath. He did not advance to the altar, but sat in the chair he had occupied since the service began. While the choir sang, "Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire," the King remained seated and the Queen stood up.

THE LORD'S ANOINTED.

After the Archbishop's anointing prayer, a gold canopy was brought over the King's chair, and His Majesty divested himself of his outer robe and then walked to the ancient chair, while the choir sang Zadok's anthem.

After the prayer the King donned the colobium sindonis, then resumed his seat, and from a scarlet silken roll on which the prayers were printed in large type, and which was held by the Dean of Westminster, the Archbishop of Canterbury read the prayers, and delivered the sword to the King, who did not go to the altar, the sword being taken to him by the Dean of Westminster, while his Majesty remained standing.

THE ARMILLA AND THE ORB.

were then delivered to the King, according to the programme. When the King held out his hand for the ring the Archbishop of Canterbury had difficulty in finding it, but, finally with trembling hands, he placed it on the tip of his Majesty's finger reading the prayer simultaneously. The King himself completed the process of putting on the ring as he withdrew his hand.

Later, the Archbishop had similar difficulty, owing to short-sightedness in placing the crown on the King's head. In fact the choir had started "God Save the King" while the Archbishop of Canterbury was still striving to place the crown on the ruler's head, and a great shout went up and the electric lights were turned on.

THE KING CROWNED.

As the acclamation died away the clanging of the joy bells, the noise of guns and the shouting of the people outside penetrated into the Abbey, where the King still sat motionless, his dazzling crown on his head and his sceptre held firmly in his hand.

After singing "Be Strong and Play the Man," and the presentation of the Bible, the King advanced and knelt while he received the benediction. He then walked to the great throne, where he stood on the dais for the first time, surrounded by nobles. The Archbishop of Canterbury followed, the King being obliged to stand while awaiting the arrival of the Archbishop. Having placed the King into his new throne the Archbishop knelt and paid homage, the aged prelate scarcely being able to rise until the King assisted him and himself raised the Archbishop's hand from the steps of the throne. The Archbishop, who seemed to be in a faint, had practically to be carried to the altar. The incident created considerable excitement, and several prelates rushed forward to help the Primate.

KING KISSED HIS SON.

The next person to pay homage to his Majesty was the Prince of Wales, who knelt until King Edward held out his hand, which he kissed, after touching the crown as a sign of fealty. The Prince of Wales then started to return to his seat, when the King drew him back and put his arms around him and kissed him. After this the King once more gave the Prince his hand, this time to shake, and the hearty vigor of King Edward's grasp showed that his hand at any rate had not lost its strength.

The Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal, accompanied by his representatives of each grade of the nobility, read the oath beginning:—"I,——, Duke or Earl, etc., ——, do become your liege man of life and limb," etc. The respective representatives next touched the crown and kissed the King's cheek, the Duke of Norfolk being the only peer to read the oath. This portion of the service was considerably shortened.

THE QUEEN THEN ROSE,

and, accompanied by her entourage, proceeded to the altar steps, where under a pall of cloth of gold she was quickly crowned by the Archbishop of York, supported by the bishops. She was then led to the throne beside that in which the King sat, and her enthronization was accomplished. The Queen bowed to King Edward and both walked to the altar and received the communion, after delivering their crowns to the Lord Great Chamberlain and another officer appointed to hold them. The pages, while their Majesties knelt, still held the Queen's magnificent train, with the rest of the nobles present kneeling.

BRILLIANT SPECTACLE.

The whole spectacle was most impressive, and was made more brilliant owing to the electric light. Neither of their Majesties returned to their thrones after the communion, but remained at the altar. The service, which was completed with the singing of the Te Deum, was brought to a close without a hitch. The King exhibited no outward traces of fatigue.

THE CORONATION COACH.