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EUROPE'S PEACEMAKER

King Edward Followed Out His Mother's Ideal.

Britain's Well-Beloved Sovereign Was a Gentleman, a Patron of the Arts, a Statesman, a Sportsman, a Philanthropist and a Diplomat of Surpassing Ability—His Efforts Often Saved the Peace of Europe.

King Edward the Seventh, or as he will be known in history "The Peacemaker of Europe," who has just died after a reign of nine years and three months, was sixty-nine years of age, having been born Nov. 9, 1841 at Buckingham Palace. For half a century he has been perhaps the most prominent royal figure in Europe—a scholar, diplomat, sovereign, sportsman and gentleman of taste. As eldest son of the ruling sovereign he became at the moment of his birth Duke of Cornwall, thereby becoming entitled to the revenue of that duchy, which amounts to over \$300,000 per year. At four weeks of age, he became Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester by royal patent. The other titles which he received were: Duke of Rothesay, and Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Prince of Saxony, Earl of Carrick, Earl of Dublin, Baron Renfrew, and Lord of the Isles.

He took his first name, Albert, from his father, the Prince Consort, and his second one, Edward, from his grandfather, the Duke of Kent. It was his mother's wish that he should be crowned Albert I., but England had a



THE LATE EDWARD VII.

predilection for the old names, and he became Edward VII.

His birth was a great day for England, for it meant that the new stock in the throne would be firmly planted. And to-day no kingdom in the world is better off for heirs.

The ceremony of christening the Queen's eldest son, the future King of England, was an event of great impressiveness. The ceremony took place on Jan. 25, 1842, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The royal sponsors were the King of Prussia, the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, represented by the Duchess of Kent; the Duke of Cambridge, the young Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, Princess Sophia and Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg.

The prince's first training was under the direction of Lady Lytton, a sister of Mrs. Gladstone, who was governess to the royal children until the prince was six years old. At the age of seven his education began under the tutelage of Rev. Henry Mildred Birch, who retired from his position in 1851.

The next tutor under whose direction the young prince came was Frederick W. Gibbs, who remained with him for seven years. He then went to Edinburgh to pursue his studies under a number of professors.

His earliest appearance in a leading part on any public occasion was in 1859, at the laying of the foundation stone of the Lambeth School of Art, Vauxhall. After the death of his father in December, 1861, he naturally became the most desirable beneficiary at all ceremonies in which beneficent or charitable undertakings were to be recognized by royal approval. This work up to the time he became King occupied a large share of his time and was always performed with dignity, tact and patience. Indeed no prince of any country has ever personally exerted himself more faithfully to render services of this sort to the community. The multiplicity and variety of his engagements on behalf of local and special enterprises made a surprising list and necessarily involved a sacrifice of ease and leisure which few men of high rank would care to make.

Among the members of the royal family the late King was called Bertie from his childhood. His father called him by that name; his mother entered it in her diary long after he had grown to manhood and become the father of a large family; his wife called him Bertie to the day of his death. But no outsider, however intimate, ever dared address him by that name. The prince's youthful days were much like those experienced by youngsters of less distinguished birth. In 1853 he suffered from an attack of the measles, and the entire family,

including the Queen and Prince Consort, contracted the ailment. A second and more serious illness happened in 1871, when he was stricken with typhoid fever. This fever proved very critical, and the whole kingdom was sympathetic and anxious. Prayers were offered in all the churches, and the latest news from the sick chamber was waited for morning and night. The prince's recovery from this long illness was celebrated with a national thanksgiving on Feb. 27, 1872, at St. Paul's, 13,000 persons attending the services and many more witnessing the royal procession from Buckingham Palace to the cathedral.

Visits to Foreign Lands. In the summer of 1855 the prince with his parents and elder sister, visited France. This was the first time that an English sovereign, actual or prospective, had entered Paris since the days of Henry VI. In 1857 the prince went to Germany and spent four months in study at Konigswinter, on the Rhine. In the fall he continued his travels on the continent, visiting places in Germany and Italy. At Rome he was received by Pope Pius Nono. Spain and Portugal were next visited, and in July he returned to England. Before traveling farther the prince finished his fifth term at Oxford. His education was completed at Trinity College, Cambridge.

In the summer of 1860 the prince paid a visit to Canada and the United States. Everywhere he was received with boundless enthusiasm. He danced at a ball given in his honor at Washington, where he was cordially welcomed by President Buchanan.

The United States indeed was prepared to receive him with open arms. At Hamilton, the last place in Canada where he made a halt, he had spoken some kindly words, which awoke genuine approval in the United States.

"My duties," he said, "as represent-

In the celebration and upon her death in 1901 took up the duties of sovereign, with a capacity that will rank him among the ablest kings of England. Just on the eve of his coronation there was a kind-of-bolt message to the effect that he was dying, and the ceremonies had to be postponed. All the world watched anxiously while his operation was proceeded with and finally amid great rejoicing he was again restored to health.

In the nine years of his reign King Edward earned for himself the name of peacemaker of Europe. His wide family relations, his unflinching courtesy and his keen diplomatic ability have several times saved delicate situations in Europe. His entente cordiale with France, secured after a meeting with President Fallieres, his numerous meetings with Emperor William of Germany, his nephew, visits to the Czar of Russia and a host of audiences and interviews with foreign ambassadors and potentates have done more than anything else to preserve the peace of the world.

Of late years the brief holidays of the late King were almost always spent on the continent. He generally traveled when absent as the Earl of Chester and sometimes as the Baron Renfrew. A private saloon carriage, which cost \$95,000, was kept at Boulogne for his use. His trips were exceedingly expensive, both he and the princess being lavish in their tastes.

In his love for sports the late monarch when he was Prince of Wales devoted much attention to yachting. He traveled toward each year to the regatta at Cowes, where he first won the Queen's cup in 1877 with his schooner Hildegarde. He was also fond of horse-racing and won some of the most historic of the English turf events.

Albert Edward was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in Sweden in 1883 and was elected grand master of the Land in 1875.

The Late King's Tact.

The tact of the late King in social matters has been apparent all the time that he has ruled English society with a rod of steel shrouded in velvet. No prejudices, theories or preconceived ideas were allowed to stand in the way of his decrees. For example, it is due to him alone that all the ill-feeling toward the Jewish race has his disappeared in England and that the brews are now found occurring seats in the House of Lords, when in the early days of the Victorian era a Jew was not even allowed the full rights and privileges of ordinary citizenship. Hebrews are also to be found in the front rank of the most exclusive and aristocratic social circles of England.

It is another evidence of the tact of the late King toward his most intimate friends and associates were kept in ignorance concerning his political opinions. He always manifested just as much regard and consideration for Gladstone as for Lord Salisbury. He was never inclined any more toward the Liberals, and the Tories than to the Liberals, and neither could claim him as a partisan.

There were few better known figures around London in the season. In the theatre, on the race course or at the opera he was a frequent visitor. From the horse show at Islington, the royal military tournament or the Smithfield show he was never absent. As an agriculturist he did much to stimulate the breeding of all kinds of stock, and he was himself an exhibitor to be reckoned with at all the principal shows.

Short of stature and heavy of build, the King's lack of inches was always a regret to him. When photographed with his wife, he almost invariably stood on a stool to make him look taller than the princess, and the grouping was always arranged to permit of this being done without attracting notice.

His Ideal Men. An excellent linguist, proficient in French, German and Italian and well able to hold his own in Russian, the late King long and deeply studied foreign politics. His heroes in British political life were the expansionists Cecil Rhodes and Lord Kitchener. Many of his closest friends were colonists, and colonial Ministers have always had a warm welcome from him.

King Edward was probably better liked personally in France than any other European sovereign. Certainly he showed more sympathy with the French temperament than any other monarch did. Yet the analysis to which he was subjected by even friendly writers in Paris was at least as cynical as it was appreciative. One of them, writing of him as the King, said:

"He is made up of antitheses and contradictions. Physically he knows him—a body which ought to have the strength of a giant, and which has not lost the grace and address of youth; a hand which seems ready to crush and yet does not shake the earth; a small ear, but one acutely open to the thousand sounds from the four corners of the globe; a blue eye, very gentle and smiling, which behind winking brows seems always scanning the distance beyond the visible horizon, but stops at once on the nearest objects; a good indulgent smile on lips rather bitterly set.

"Morally it is as physically. This improvident man is the most orderly in the United Kingdom. Were he not born to the throne he would have made an incomparable business man. His punctuality is proverbial throughout England. He never arrives late, and he never forgets a social engagement. The smallest details of ceremony interest him. He never leaves a letter forty-eight hours without acknowledging its receipt. All correspondence addressed to him passes under his eyes."

Hamilton Hears News. Hamilton, May 7.—The news of the death of King Edward was received here last evening with deep sorrow. Special editions of the newspapers rapidly spread the news, and bells in the City Hall and central fire station towers were tolled, as well as every church bell. Many public and private meetings were cancelled and the weekly parade of the 13th Regiment was called off.

Madoc Mercury Assigns. Belleville, May 7.—The Madoc Mercury is in the hands of the bailiff. Wm. McKercher was the proprietor.

THE KING PASSES AWAY

"It Is All Over, But I Think I Have Done My Duty."

These Are Among the Last Words of the First Gentleman of Europe, Who Has Succumbed to a Sharp Attack of Bronchitis Followed by Pneumonia—Sorrowing Relatives Surround the Royal Bed.

London, May 7.—King Edward VII., who returned to England from a vacation ten days ago in the best of health, died at 11.45 o'clock last night (Friday), in the presence of his family, after an illness of less than a week, which was serious hardly more than three days.

The Prince of Wales succeeded to the crown immediately, according to the laws of the kingdom, without official ceremony. His first official act was to despatch to the Lord Mayor the announcement of his father's death, in pursuance of custom. His telegram read:

"I am deeply grieved to inform you that my beloved father, the King, passed away peacefully at 11.45 o'clock last night."

The physicians soon afterwards issued their official bulletin, which was as follows: "May 6, 11.50 p.m.—His Majesty the King breathed his last at 11.45 o'clock in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Victoria and the Duchess of Fife, Princess Victoria and Princess Louise, the Duchess of Argyll."

(Signed) "Laking, Reid Powell, Dawson."

Pneumonia, following bronchitis, is believed to have been the cause of death, but the doctors thus far have refused to make a statement. Some of the King's friends are convinced that worry over the critical political situation which confronted him with sleepless nights, aggravated, if it did not cause the fatal illness.

Besides the nearest relatives in England, the Duke of Fife and the Archbishop of Canterbury were in the death chamber. The King's brother, the Duke of Connaught, with his family, is at Suez, hastening home from Africa. The King's daughter, Queen Maud of Norway, will start for England to-morrow.

The intelligence that the end of King Edward's reign had come was not a surprise at the last, the people had been expecting to hear it any hour since the evening's bulletin was posted at Buckingham Palace and flashed throughout the kingdom.

The capital received it without excitement, but sadly, for the King with his own people was unquestionably one of the most popular rulers in the world. The fashionable restaurants were just emptying, and a few groups of late theatre-goers were making their way homeward through the rain, while a small crowd still hung about the palace, when the streets were filled suddenly with newsboys crying: "Death of the King!" The papers were quickly seized, and the people discussed the momentous event quietly and soon dispersed. The streets were deserted by one o'clock.

Within a few minutes after the death of the King, the Home Office

duty." He seemed then to have reached a full realization that his end was fast approaching.

The Queen and others of the royal family and four doctors had been constantly in the sick room throughout the day. Several hours before his death the King was in a comatose condition, but he rallied slightly between nine and ten o'clock, and appeared to recognize his family.

Then he lapsed into unconsciousness, which ended in his passing. The body lies in the King's chamber, in the northwest wing of the Buckingham Palace, which is brilliantly lighted, while the rest of the great gloomy building, with the exception of Lord Knollys' office, is entirely darkened.

It was nearly half an hour after the King breathed his last when Lord Knollys walked into the office and said to the waiting reporters: "Gentlemen, His Majesty is dead."

The people outside the palace only learned the news when boys appeared with papers. In the meantime the Prince and Princess of Wales had been taken leave of the other members of the royal family at the main entrance soon after midnight. They drove directly to Marlborough House, Princess Victoria, who is her mother's constant companion, remained with the Queen. The others of the family followed the Prince and Princess of Wales.

A summons to the Privy Councilors has been issued by Sir Almaric Fitzroy, clerk of the council, convening the council in the throne room of St. James' Palace at two o'clock this afternoon, when the councillors will, "with one voice and the consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim that the high and mighty Prince George is now, by the death of our late sovereign of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege lord, George V., by the Grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and Emperor of India, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience, with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom kings and queens do reign, to bless the royal Prince George V. with long and happy years to reign over us."

The new King, after this proclamation, will address the council and promise to reign as constitutional sovereign. At the end of the meeting King George will issue his first proclamation, requiring all officials to proceed with their duties. Formerly all offices, including the councilors, were vacated on the death of the sovereign.

The aldermen of the City of London will attend the council and swear allegiance. A proclamation has already been issued by the Home Office, requiring theatres to close to-day.

The court will go into mourning for six months, and the Lord Mayor has ordered that the great bell of St. Paul's shall be tolled throughout the day. The new Queen, daughter of the Duke of Teck, was christened Victoria Mary, but was always called the Princess May, and as such was exceedingly popular with the English people. Since her elevation as Princess of Wales her name has not been so familiar, but it is altogether likely that as Queen her first name will be revived, and another, and a great Queen Victoria, will sit on the joint throne of England.

Princess Victoria had the reputa-

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THE NEW KING.

was telegraphing the intelligence to the heads of other Governments, and the British diplomats and Colonial officials throughout the world.

All who knew the King expected that his death would be sudden, and it would not have occasioned great surprise if it had occurred without warning at some social function, as a result of heart trouble. Almost to the end he refused to take to his bed, and was sitting up yesterday in a large chair, so the palace stories go, corroborating the description of him as an unruly patient, which Dr. Ott gave to a Vienna interviewer last evening.

One of the last utterances attributed to King Edward was: "Well, it's all over, but I think I have done my

Empire who was not afraid to stand up to her sovereign, the late Queen Victoria. She is a woman of great ability, and if the suffragettes do not have her presence on the throne as a lever to advance their claims, it will not be for want of a good argument.

Dead Men Lashed to Rigging. St. John, N.B., May 7.—A two-masted schooner, believed to be the John A. Gray, of Timbuctoo, P.E.I., went ashore at Tabusine Bay, near the mouth of the Miramichi, in a snow-storm on Wednesday night. Two men who rowed out from shore Thursday could not get within fifty feet of the wreck owing to the high sea, but saw three dead men lashed to the rigging.