

HER MAJESTY'S PERSONAL GIFTS

Queen Mary in Fond of Music, is a Great Reader, and Following Events Attentively

Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke contributes to The North American Review a sympathetic character sketch of her Majesty Queen Mary. Intended mainly for American readers, it will be read with pleasure by Canadians generally. Her Majesty, says Sir Clement, has a very retentive memory. Once she has mastered a subject, it seldom goes out of her mind, and months afterwards she will astonish her friends by reference to a conversation they themselves had forgotten. Driving through the streets of Hobart, she recognized a man in the crowd, and remarked her lady-in-waiting that he had been a curate at East Sheen when she was a girl and his name began with C, and that she had heard of him some three or four times. On inquiry it turned out that he was the same man, and that his name was C—n. It would be clever to have remembered him had the Queen met him after an interval of ten years, but in a passing crowd in far-away Tasmania it was extraordinary. As a result of such good memory the Queen has something to say to everyone, and the personal touch this gift imparts to her conversation gratifies and charms all with whom she is brought in contact.

Fond of Music. Music had a great share in the home life at White Lodge, the musical hour in the drawing room being at one time a regular institution, and often the Duchess would sit down at the piano in the evenings and sing ballads from the popular operetta of the day. The Queen has a sweet voice, a soft soprano, which greatly matured under the skillful guidance of Signor (now Sir Lauro) Tosti. Of late years, however, Her Majesty has given up her singing; and, although retaining her fondness for music, she rarely finds much time to devote to the piano.

Dramatic art of every kind appeals to her, and there are few plays of importance, or that have attracted public attention during the last two decades, she has not seen. Like her mother she quickly seizes upon the humorous side of a question. Thus she has a keen appreciation for a sparkling comedy or a farce, and on returning from the theatre, or afterwards in conversation, often makes allusion to some particularly amusing part of the performance. The Queen is greatly attached to the historical part of her country, and has collected together quite a number of interesting things connected with the Royal Family. As a girl she always enjoyed going over museums and inspecting articles of antiquity, a trait in her character which has widened with years. She has an intimate knowledge of old silver and china, and possesses a valuable collection of objets d'art.

A Great Reader. The Queen has always been a great reader, and her boudoir at White Lodge contained a little case of favorite books, prominent amongst them being Tennyson's Poems. Books of travel and biographies are seldom missed, for the Queen does not read for mere passing pleasure, but for instruction and information. Novels of themselves do not appeal to her Majesty, but she has read and re-read classic works of fiction; and any novel by a well-known writer, or that is specially recommended to her, at once receives her attention.

Her Majesty follows events attentively. She reads the newspapers daily, and as Princess of Wales attended the more important Parliamentary debates, occupying a seat in the Peereses' Gallery in the House of Lords and in the Speaker's Gallery in the House of Commons. A chance meeting in a country house led to my being invited to White Lodge, and being honored with the friendship of the Duke and Duchess of Teck. At the time I was helping with the House of Lords' inquiry into the sweating system, and well do I remember the great interest taken by the Queen in the evidence. She never tired of hearing about the workers, and would ply me with questions about the chain-makers, the seamstresses, and the milliners for long hours and long weeks, until I thoroughly believe she knew as much about the conditions and requirements of these people as I did myself.

ROBES AT AUCTION Those of George IV. Were Once Sold at Phillips' Rooms. It is a fact, generally forgotten, that the Coronation robes of George IV., which it has been suggested, His Majesty King George V. may wear at the coming ceremony, were once sold at auction. With other official costumes of George IV. they were "put up" at Phillips' auction rooms in Bond Street in 1831. The magnificent Coronation mantle of purple velvet was sold as "Lot 95" for a paltry \$275, though it was probably worth \$1,500 at least. Another splendid crimson velvet Coronation mantle, which, according to the auctioneer, cost \$2,500, brought on the same occasion \$255. And these sumptuous vestments—or most of them—passed into the hands of Madame Tussaud, though it is extremely doubtful if they were ever allowed to grace a wax figure.

A "Coronation" Engine. To mark the completion of the \$4,000th engine constructed at the London and North-Western Crewe works, a levitation locomotive is being built, to be christened "Coronation." It is to cost over \$20,000 to build, and its horse power will be about 1,300. It is expected that the engine will be ready in June, and will be used for the train by which the King and Queen are to travel by the West Coast route on their visit to Wales.

Pictorial Representation. In view of the acceptance of two new historical paintings for the Royal Exchange, the suggestion is again forthcoming that a few of the vacant panels might be devoted to pictorial representations of episodes in the reigns of King Edward and King George V. King Edward paid several visits to the city which could be commemorated in this way, while the royal progress of King George at his Coronation would obviously provide a fitting subject.

Assessors of Smith's Falls have completed their work. The total assessment has been increased from \$1,850,000 to \$2,119,428 during the past year. The population is placed at 6,146.

CORONATION TOYS

Many Speculators Get Their Money Back with Good Interest

If anybody wants to make some money, now is his time. There are warehouses packed from cellar to roof with toys in readiness for the Coronation, nearly all of them, be it noted in passing, of home manufacture. At the last Coronation, the Germans swamped the market with novelties, mementoes, toys, and trifles, but this time they have been forestalled. Now, if anybody can tell which of the toys is certain to "catch on" in June—well, need more be said? Fortunes have been sunk in Coronation toys; but many speculators will get their money back with liberal interest. Of a certain very popular article of this kind more than two millions have been sold, and the inventor a poor man—of another toy made \$140,000 out of it.

Even "latest novelties"—the penny articles vended by butter merchants—sometimes yield "big money." One of the most successful was invented by a manufacturer of such things. When he conceived the idea he was so sure it would "go" that he decided not to try it tentatively, but to turn out a large quantity before offering one for sale. So he kept making it till he had a stock of two millions! He then engaged a few score aliens and had them taught, parrot-fashion, several phrases of English. As soon as they were "letter-perfect" out they were sent with absolutely "the latest novelty," which proved, as the manufacturer had confidently anticipated, an enormous success. Incredible as it may seem, it is none the less a fact that in ten days considerably more than a million were sold.

MITES AND CEREMONIES

Many Chief Actors in Edward's Coronation Have Passed Away

As far as the rites and ceremonies of the Coronation are concerned, the precedent of 1902 will be strictly followed. In that particular respect the duties of the Earl Marshal and the Lord Chamberlain have proved much lighter than they were eight years ago. The greatest changes that will be noted in the pageant that attends the Coronation of King George and Queen Mary will be in the dramatic personae. Of the chief actors in the last great historic event of the crowning of a British King and then Primate and the then Archbishop of York are no more—Lord Salisbury and the Duke of Devonshire have been gathered to their fathers, and among others who figured largely in the brilliant spectacle of eight years ago, and who have gone over to the majority, are the late Lord Derby and the late Earl Spencer—two of the four Knights of the Garter who held the canopy for the King's anointing. Many others who played a prominent part in the public life of a decade ago will next June be found absent, and the exigencies of political life will have forced many others into the background.



KING GEORGE V.

CORONATION TRICKS

Abused Frauds that are Being Practiced on the People.

Already many persons have hit upon a variety of tricks and devices for turning the Coronation to their profit for their personal gain. One of the most impudent of these tricks is a device, adopted by some shopkeepers, of selling brooches, satins, lace, and embroideries as remnants of the materials from which the Coronation robes are being made. By making this absurd claim a clever trick for their goods, shopkeepers, especially in country districts, have been able to trick a number of unwary people into paying for ordinary stuffs and materials considerably above the normal prices. As a matter of fact, not an inch of the stuff from which the King's or Queen's Coronation robes are made will ever be put on the market, for only sufficient will be manufactured to make the robes.

One enterprising manufacturer has put a specially cheap silk on the market which he calls "Coronation silk," and in several towns in the North the material has achieved quite a boom and is selling in enormous quantities; of course, the silk has no real connection with the Coronation than last year's snow, nor indeed does the manufacturer or retailer of the silk actually say that it has, but the fact remains that numbers of people are buying it as a result of a clever trick.

Several downright swindles are being carried on by the more daringly dishonest "Coronation" exploiters. For example, a smartly dressed, handsome, well-mannered young lady has been collecting funds in North London on behalf of public institutions, stating that the money was to purchase a gift which the institutions in question intended to present to Her Majesty on the occasion of the Coronation. The young lady has disappeared recently, and the institutions she pretended to represent have now for the first time heard of her and the Coronation gift from the people who subscribed to it.

There are also bogus Coronation seat syndicates and their agents. Before the last Coronation, numbers of simple-minded people were induced to pay for seats by persons who called at their houses with tickets. The holders of these tickets, it is scarcely necessary to say, did not find any seats awaiting them. Sometimes the man who calls with tickets may be very smartly dressed and represent himself as an agent of a large syndicate which has bought up so many seats that they are in a position to offer them at very low prices. But, however, the tickets are worked, the results, so far as the purchaser of the faked tickets for seats is concerned, is the same—he is simply swindled out of his money.

The Coronation year is, of course, being actively exploited by vendors of cheap goods. All sorts of cheap chains and metal ornaments are being put on the market in huge quantities, bearing pictures of their Majesties and this year's date. These goods are sometimes being sold at quite a large price, and above the prices normally obtained for them, though the crude figures of the King and Queen which they bear do not increase the cost of their production one fraction of a penny.

It may be noted that a number of people buy these cheap Coronation souvenirs under the foolish impression that they will become much more valuable later. They are produced in such numbers that it is inconceivable that they will ever be valuable to collectors.

Roses for the Coronation. One firm in Hertfordshire planted 10,000 Coronation rose trees, all intended to bloom in June. They are being grown in all sorts of designs. One of these is a statue of the King, consisting of about 1,000 roses.

Not all women who look in a mirror are lost in admiration. David Alexander Wilson, a well-known and respected resident of Merckville, died on Wednesday, after an illness of several weeks.



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