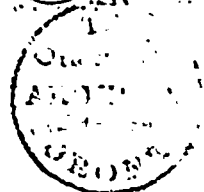


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## Crowning an English King

Detailed Description of the Splendid Rites in Westminster Abbey.

Some Quaint Ceremonials of Ancient Origin The King Receives. Among Other Things, a Pair of Pine Gloves; and the Royal Sword is Redeemed by the Premier for One Hundred Shillings—A Gold Ingot Weighing a Pound and a Purse of Gold are "Properties" in the Royal Drama Personnel of the Dignitaries Taking Part in the Ceremony—The Master of Ceremonies Must Go Back Sixty-Four Years for the Latest Precedent.

Special for the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL.

By RICHARD ASHE.

sovereign proceeds thus in state, he is accompanied by the princes and princesses of the blood royal and attended by the high officers of state, household and military, and crack military organizations, the line being headed by the High Constable of Westminster, and including all the chief representatives of foreign powers, both resident and extraordinary. Among the organizations having a place in the line are the Life Guards, the Royal Bargemaster and his forty-eight Royal Watermen clad in their quaint ancient dress, boldly embroidered with the royal cipher, a detachment from the Royal Huntsmen in their leaf green livery, the Marshalmen led by the Knight Marshal, the Yeomen of the Guard as escorts to the state coach conveying



"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players," there is certainly vouchsafed to us one scene, one stage-setting wherein stage-craft and splendor reach a

pinnacle of achievement—a coronation. And now the drama of the world is moving on to the time when it shall be right and proper for the stage-manager to call for the setting and the cast to play the coronation of Albert Edward as King of England, which will be probably the most magnificent ceremonial in modern history.

Precedents must go back sixty-four years to the June day when Victoria ascended to the throne of England, but when Edward VII. shall be crowned King there will be no chance of mishap or error, or deviation from the proper conduct of the function. For all the details of the scene are matters of ancient and absolute record. Each player has his own place, each his own part; some a few lines, some others only "business," as the stage knows it. It is a one-star play, with one actor who takes the centre of the stage by right and pride of birth, and all the others there in support.

The ceremony to be performed when King Edward is crowned, will differ from that by which Victoria was made Queen only in the substitution of the word "king" for that of "queen." Whether there is to be a coronation banquet is not yet known. There has been no such banquet since the reign of George IV. This is the only feature, and withal an important one, in which the last two coronations, that Great Britain has witnessed, those of William IV. and Victoria, have differed materially from those preceding them. So, aside from the question of the coronation banquet, what follows is an accurate description of the ceremony soon to be performed in Westminster Abbey.

In due course the scene shifts to Westminster Abbey. Before the arrival there of the

sovereign, the peers and peeresses, and those to whom tickets of admission have been issued, are conducted to the places assigned to them in the Abbey. In the Jerusalem Chamber, which adjoins the Deanery, the great officers of state assemble with the archbishop, the bishops and such peers as are appointed to be bearers of the glittering, jewelled regalia of the Crown. A minor ceremony takes place here, which is the delivery of the royal ensigns by the Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Household to the Lord High Constable. When the latter has received them with appropriate ceremonies, he places them in the custody of the Lord Great Chamberlain of England. This does not end the travelling of the royal ensigns, for the Lord Great Chamberlain in turn delivers them to the peers designated to bear them in the coming function.

By this time the sovereign has begun his joyously attended passage from the palace to the Abbey. And this is when London sees him in his hour of greatest glory. As the



KING EDWARD VII.