

The Grain Grower's Guide

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The Empire's Sorrow

EDWARD Seventh has passed and George Fifth sits on Britain's throne. The death of a king, as a king, means little in the annals of a nation, but the death of Edward VII. at a time when an empire is passing through a crucial test means much.

Edward Seventh was more than a titular ruler. He exercised an influence more powerful than is generally realized. He stood for the whole empire and was a positive factor in shaping public measures, at all times disdaining partisanship.

His loss will be keenly felt by an empire struggling with grave internal and overseas problems. The British people will indeed be fortunate if the sagacious course of the dead monarch is duplicated under the kingship of His Majesty, George V., whom God preserve.

Edward VII. was born in Buckingham palace, November 9, 1841. He was baptised as Albert Edward and was the eldest son and second child of the late Queen Victoria and the prince consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg. On the 14th of December of the year of his birth he was, as the heir apparent, created Prince of Wales. After receiving a careful education under private tutors he studied at the universities of Oxford, Edinburgh and Cambridge. In the summer of 1860 he visited Canada, where he was enthusiastically received, and by special invitation extended by President James Buchanan he spent several weeks in the United States travelling as Lord Renfrew. His reception in American cities was no less cordial than that given him in the Dominion.

The young prince was appointed a brevet-colonel in the British army in 1858 and three years later was attached to the Curragh camp in Ireland. In October, 1861, he was made a bencher of the middle rank. The following year he was promoted to the rank of general and set out on a visit to Egypt, Palestine and Syria in company with the Rev. Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, afterwards dean of Westminster. After the prince's return from the east he was introduced at the privy council, in 1863 he took his seat in the house of lords, and about the same time formally relinquished his rights to the duchy of Saxe-Coburg.

On March 10, 1863, at St. George's chapel, Windsor castle, he was married to the Princess Alexandra, eldest daughter of the late King Christian of Denmark. Arriving in England the bride of the prince was received with every manifestation of public devotion. Lord Tennyson made this the theme of his poem:

"Saxon and Norman and Dane are we—
But all of us Danes in our welcome of thee."

which interpreted the English sentiment towards the future queen. From the time of his marriage onward the prince discharged many public ceremonial functions in various parts of the United Kingdom. Near the end of 1871 he was attacked by typhoid fever and for a time it seemed as if his death were imminent. But he recovered his health completely. On February 27 of the following year his recovery was made the occasion of a special thanksgiving service in St. Paul's. In October, 1875, he sailed from Dover on his journey to India. He arrived in Bombay in November and between that date and his departure for England in March, 1876, he visited the chief provinces, states and cities of the

Nation plunged in Grief by the Death of Edward VII. George V. proclaimed King with ancient ceremonies.

Pertinent facts of the Careers of the Old and New Kings. Dead Ruler held warm place in hearts of his subjects. His loss is keenly felt at this time of a political crisis.

Indian Empire, being everywhere received with the utmost cordiality. With the princess he made an extended tour through Ireland in 1885 and in 1886 his silver wedding was celebrated. The establishment of the Imperial institute as a memorial of the jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 was due mainly to his suggestion and exertion.

In 1893 he sat on the poor law commission and in 1896 was appointed chancellor of the newly created University of Wales.

In the Diamond jubilee year (1897) he established the Prince of Wales hospital fund for the better support of the London hospitals. At the great naval review that year he represented his mother the queen.

Ascent to Throne

On the death of good Queen Victoria, January 22, 1901, His Majesty ascended the throne as King Edward VII., took the oath on the 23rd, and was proclaimed with the usual ceremonies on the 24th.

The coronation service was fixed for June 15, but His Majesty was taken ill at Aldershot on June 15, and had to cancel all public engagements prior to the coronation festivities. On Monday, June 23, the king and queen proceeded to London, and on the following day it was announced that the king was suffering from perityphilitis, commonly known as appendicitis, and an operation was immediately performed by Sir Frederick Treves. For days his life again hung in the balance, but a robust constitution coupled with the best medical skill available, enabled him to ward off the destroyer. Even when battling for his life, the solicitude of his majesty for his subjects was demonstrated. It was well known that in many cases the arrangements were completed for celebrating the coronation. The king expressed the hope that the provincial celebrations would be held as arranged, and many of them were so held on June 26, or shortly after that date; but they were greatly modified, and in many places abandoned, and in every place the thanksgiving services were turned into services of intercession. The list of coronation honors was published by especial command of the king, who also instituted an Order of Merit and a decoration for members of the civil service, called the Imperial Service Order.

On Tuesday, July 15, his majesty was able to leave London and embark on the Victoria and Albert at Portsmouth, proceeding thence to Cowes. His convalescence progressed rapidly, the 9th the coronation service took place in Westminster abbey.

On Sunday, August 10, their Majesties, with the royal family, attended a thanksgiving service at the Chapel Royal, and services of thanksgiving were held in St. Paul's cathedral and throughout the empire. The coronation review of the fleet took place at Spithead on August 16, and a royal progress through London on October 25, followed by a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's on the 28th.

The king's birthday of that year was celebrated at Sandringham on November 9, amongst the guests present being the German emperor. The late king of Portugal was a guest of the king at Windsor afterwards, arriving on November 17.

In 1903 the king was proclaimed the emperor of India at a great durbar, held by Lord Curzon at Delhi. This was described by contemporary writers as one of the most gorgeous spectacles ever witnessed in a land of splendid sights.

The Royal Family

To the late King and Queen Alexandra have been born: Albert Victor Christian Edward, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, born January 8, 1864. He died January 14, 1892. George Frederick Ernest Albert, Duke of Cornwall and York, now king; born June 8, 1865; he married Princess Victoria May of Teck, July 6, 1893. Other children of the dead sovereign are Princess Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar, born February 20, 1857; married to the Duke of Fife on July 27, 1886; Princess Victoria Alexandra Olga Mary, born July 6, 1868; and Princess Maude Charlotte Mary Victoria, born November 26, 1869, and married on July 22, 1896, to Prince Charles, second son of the Crown Prince of Denmark.

Edward's military titles were probably more numerous than those of any other sovereign. He was colonel in chief of the

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The King is dead. Long live the King!