KING AND QUEEN WILL BE CROWNED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY ON JUNE 22

Coronation Chair And Its History

A Strangely Interesting Story of the "The Stone of Destiny"---The Curiously Unique Treasure Which Gives a Sort of Canny Romance to the Chair in Which George V. Will Be Crowned

It is a strangely interesting story, the story of the chair in which King George V. will be crowned at Westminster Abbey in June next. Its authentic history carries us back to the time when Scotland had her own kings, and Scone was at once the Windsor and the coronation Westminster Abbey of the country. The palace remains one of the most interesting places in the neighborhood of Perth; but no permission is granted to visit the house or grounds, and one must be content with the views from the banks of the Tay above the North Inch and the higher grounds on the western side of the city.

Among other relics which it contains is a bed used by James VI., and another with hangings of flowered crimson velvet, said to have been worked by Mary Stuart during her imprisonment in Lochleven Castle. The gallery, 160 feet long, occupies the place of the old Coronation Hall, where Charles II. was crowned in 1661. With the ancient Abbey of Scone are bound up some of the most interesting events in Scottish history; but to-day we think of it specially as the shrine where was long preserved the famous so-called "Stone of Destiny," which forms a part of the British Coronation Chair. It is this curiously unique treasure, chiefly, which gives a sort of uncanny romance to the chair.

The really authentic history of the stone would not be admitted by serious and questioning antiquaries to go back further than the date, about 834 A.D., when it was first found at Scone. But a long persisting legend or tradition brings it down from early Bible times. According to this view, it was the veritable pillow upon which the patriarch Jacob rested his head at Luz when he had his beautiful vision of the ladder that reached to Heaven. In this mythical account the stone is next traced to the possession of Gathelus, the son of Cecrops, King of Athens, who entered into the service of one of the Pharaohs, and married his daughter Scota, from whom Scotland is said to derive its name. Gathelus brought it from Syria to Egypt; and, to escape an impending plague, he is said to have sailed from the Nile, by the advice of Moses, with his wife and the precious stone, and landed on the coast of Spain. Afterwards he sent the stone to Ireland under the care of his son, who invaded the island, and by whom it was set up on Tara Hill. There it was used as the Irish Coronation Stone for many ages.

This brings us to at least the fringes of recorded secular history, when facts begin to conflict less with legend. It seems tolerably clear that the stone was really used as a sort of royal chair in Ireland, where, we are told, it was known as "Lia Fail," or the Stone of Fate. From Ireland it is supposed to have been once more carried to Spain (by Cathel, King of the Scots, it is said); but the tradition is that it was brought back to Ireland by Simon Brech, leader of a band of Scots, somewhere about 700 B.C. It remained undisturbed until Fergus Mor, probably a descendant of Simon Brech, was driven out of Ireland in 503 B.C. Fergus led the Dalriadic Scots to the shores of Argyll, and having brought the stone with him it was used for his coronation at Dunstaffnage. Here, as we read, it remained till about 834 A.D., when Kenneth Macalpine brought it to "the royal city of Scone," having fixed on Scone as his capital, because in the neighborhood he had just fought and won the last decisive battle with the ancient Picts.

All this is open to more or less doubt. But the stone was at least found at Scone, and it gave a sort of royal grandeur to Scone, and led all the Scottish princes to repair thither to be crowned on it. This is actual, sober fact. However, we may explain the circumstance, it had acquired a sacred character as influencing the destinies of the Scottish nation. One rhyme ran:—

Unless the fates are faithless grown,
And prophet's voice be vain,
Wherever is found this ancient stone,
The Scottish race shall reign.

It was avowed by the ancient Scots that the stone gave forth musical sounds when the rightful ruler seated himself on it, but remained mute when a usurper was crowned. Much later, this prediction was regarded as being fulfilled when James VI. of Scotland ascended the throne as James I. of England. At the Abbey of Scone the stone is understood to have occupied a place in front of the high altar.

The famous Stone of Destiny remained at Scone until the time of Edward I. John Baliol was the last Scottish King crowned on it, and it is significant that it appears in his great seal, embedded in what was then known as the "King's Stool." As everybody knows, Baliol was defeated by Edward I. at Dunbar in 1296, and it was then that Edward carried the stone, along with the Scottish regalia, to England. Since that time it has remained at Westminster Abbey, and every English monarch has been crowned on it. The chair of which it forms a part is made of hardwood, gaily painted. Under the seat is a board supported by four lions, and on this board the Stone of Destiny rests. The Stone had been carved, gilded, and painted, but these decorations have entirely disappeared. In modern Coronations it is always covered with a cloth of gold. t has been asserted that the stone is of meteoric origin, but this is incorrect. It is simply a block of red sandstone containing an unusual proportion of iron. Its dimensions are:—2 ft. 2 in. long, 1 ft. 4 in. broad, and 10½ in. thick. Some matter of fact persons are inclined to believe that the stone was quarried in the neighborhood of Scone.

Notwithstanding its removal, the prestige of Scone continued to be regarded in later years. Robert the Bruce and his son David, Robert II., James I., and, lastly, Charles II., all chose Scone for their Coronations. The Scottish people were very distressed about the loss of the stone. They looked upon its conveyance to England as a national humiliation, and in the treaty concluded between England and Scotland in 1328 its return was made an essential condition. Edward III. offered that it should be sent back, but for some unknown reason his order was not obeyed.

AN EARLY RISER

King George is Hard Worker—Busy for Coronation.

King George is an early riser ,and a hard worker, especially during the days preceding his Coronation. After a brief walk in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, he sets to work upon the business of the day, so that by the time his private secretaries arrive he has many matters ready for their attention. The King has chosen as his work-room a large and airy apartment on the garden fronting the Palace, where he can gain charming views of the extensive grounds. His Majesty has now engagements of one description or another for every day until well on into July, and it will be a matter of the greatest difficulty to crowd any further appointments in.

THE CORONATIO CARPET

Scotland Has the Honor of Making the Floor Covering.

Scotland has the honor of making the carpets which will cover the floor of Westminster Abbey for the Coronation, and the looms of a great carpet factory at Glasgow have been busily engaged upon the important task. The floor covering has from earliest times been a specific feature in the preparations for the stately ceremony, and in the Liber Realis prepared for Richard II., a copy of which is in the safe keeping of the Deans of Westminster, there is a definite order as to the "Ray cloth of Burrel" to be placed under the "King's feet as he goeth." At all the later coronations the carpet has been of a rich and beautiful character, with as lustrious a surface as possible, and from the quantities needed in the more recent times it is one of the first requirements to be set in hand. The new carpet will follow very closely upon lines of that ordered for King Edward's cvrowning. Then as now the color was a singularly soft, rich blue. The design was symbolical and embodied the badge and motto of the Order of the Garter and the Tudor rose, with the thistle, shamrock, and lotus connected with festoons of bay leaves and ribbons. These were effectively shown in a rather lighter shade of color and the whole formed an admirable background to the magnificence of the State robes, the ecclesiastical vestments, the crimson of the peeresses' dresses, and the military and diplomatic uniforms.

MOVING PICTURES

Of Coronation and Phonograph Records of King's Address.

Moving pictures in colors of the forthcoming Coronation processions and festivities are to be taken. This was impossible when King Edward was crowned, for cinematography in colors had not then been invented.

It is possible that the actual ceremony of the Coronation inside Westminster Abbey will be reproduced in the same manner if the difficulties in the way of light can be overcome.

Another modern invention that will probably be called into use in connection with the ceremony is the gramophone. Experiments are now being conducted in private by the King with different types of talking machines, and if these are satisfactory a "record" of his Majesty's Coronation address will be taken, and reproductions of it sent to all Colonial Parliaments and municipal bodies throughout the Empire.

In this way millions of his subjects will be able to listen to King George's actual words with their own ears, while gazing with their own eyes upon the historical and impressive ceremony, reproduced in all its gorgeousness of coloring and wealth of detail, and instinct, too, with life and movement.

Yet another marvel of modern science, wireless telegraphy, will be used to convey the news of the great event of the year to such ships as are fitted with the necessary apparatus. This again, was out of the question at King Edward's Coronation, for although Marconi had even then shown us something of its immense possibilities ,wireless telegraphy was still in its infancy ,and not a single ocean-going steamer had an installation on board.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE

WHEN THE LAST GEORGE WAS CROWNED

Strange Happenings at the Last Georgian Coronation, Namely in 1820

When King George IV. was crowned in 1820 there were some curious occurrences indeed. To begin with, the King homself was put into an extraordinary fix right on the hour appointed for the ceremony, since his special suit made for the Coronation did not fit at all when he tried to get into it on the fateful morning.

Try as he would, his Majesty could not get the clothes on as they were, and, meantime, the crowds were waiting impatiently for the procession. At length the attendants of the King had to cut the garments in several places, and to fasten them together os best they could, since there was no time to do otherwise. And only by that means was George IV. enabled to get to his Coronation at all, and then it was afternoon, instead of twelve o'clock, the time originally fixed!

It is well known that, owing to a quarrel between George and his Consort, Queen Caroline, her Majesty was not allowed to be present at the ceremony lest she should make a scene. The guards of the Abbey had strict orders on no account to allow her to enter the building, so that, when the Queen appeared in person, and demanded admittance, there was quite a terrible commotion. The men on duty resisted as gently and carefully as possible under the circumstances.

Caroline herself finally burst into a torrent of tears, and her evident distress and passion made the scene all the more shocking and pathetic.

So great had been the rush of peeresses and others for seats and places that many of the fair aristocracy came the night before ,and camped out all night like first-nighters at a new play. Several duchesses and their friends slept on the ground in Dean's Yard on pillows, rugs and beds provided beforehand; and one private letter from a nobleman, who had a house in the yard, mentions "the tremendous noise and disturbance caused by Lady G——, owing to her deep and persistent snoring throughout the greater part of the night whilst sleeping outside the Abbey!"

The Coronation of King George IV. was the last one at which the official "King's Champion" appeared at the State banquet in full armor, riding into Westminster Hall on horseback, and throwing down his glove to challenge anybody on behalf of the monarch's right to the throne. Strangely enough, on this occasion the champion dismounted, and stumbled as he came to kiss the Sovereign's hand; whilst so heavy and cumbersome was his armor that he could not rise without assistance!

The wits around the King naturally showed great mirth at the incident, and remarked aloud that he was surely an extraordinary champion who could not even stand on his feet, let alone rise when once fallen, in order to continue the fight on behalf of his lord!

George IV.'s "progress" from Westminster Hall to the Abbey was the last of such processions at Coronations, and from it, for the first time during seven centuries ,the Dukes of Normandy and Aquitane, or their representatives, were omitted as a sign that from henceforth English Kings gave up all claim to those French provinces.

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 $235.

Other items on the catalogue were "the Coronation ruff of superb Mechlin" and the Coronation coat, waistcoat, and trunk hose.

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 DESCRIPTION OF CORONETS

Many of Those Used at the Edward Coronation in 1902 will be Worn in June

"Numbers of persons," declared a London jeweler and silversmith, "imagine coronets to be composed of 24-carat gold, and studded with priceless gems.

"Well, the fact is, we often supply peers or peeresses with beautifully finished, light-weight coronets in silver gilt for less than twenty pounds. A peer's coronet must fit him like a hat; but those for peeresses are half the size. Peeresses, thus having plenty of room on their heads—happily for us—wear tiaras as well as coronets. In this way:

"The tiara, high in front, sloping down each side, is placed well forward on the noble brow. With hair bunched on top of the head, puffed out at the sides, the coronet rests on top of the hair, behind the tiara. Plenty of work there will be at the last moment, of course, altering tiaras for the Coronation, so that they may be worn in this way, for many of them are of the 'all round' pattern.

"Most of the coronets donned in June next will be those used for the last Coronation. I estimate that two thousand new coronets were then turned out, at an average of $90 apiece—$180,000 in all.

"One peer told me of the rescue of his coronet for the 1902 ceremony.

"His lordship's plate-chest was crammed. To make room, odds and ends were cleared out. Sorting these, he encountered his coronet. The butler, fairly staggered, said he had been pushing it into one odd corner and another for years past, till he could come across the other part of 'the old cruet.'"

"The most gorgeous Coronation item, though that comes the way of workers in precious metals, is the pallium, or Royal mantle of the King. It is of English cloth of gold—remember the 'Field' of it in history?—woven from finest gold thread, gold as pure as will stand the strain of being so used, almost without alloy.

"There are very few skilled weavers capable of making cloth of gold. It is exceedingly slow work, and as each inch of the material is formed, it is carefully wrapped up, so that it shall retain its glorious flood of color. Such new, absolutely unsoiled cloth of gold looks more like a blaze of brilliant sunshine than anything you ever saw.

"Many of the State robes will have Indian embroidery—gold and silver thread on silk.

"An ounce of the pure metal is drawn out into a thread half a mile long for the embroiderers to use. The pattern is always original, the embroiderers, trained from childhood, 'making it up' as they go along. Thus no two existing patterns are alike, and one robe can always be distinguished from another, which saves marking. The work is usually done in India, but for the Coronation some of the most expert craftsmen of Delhi, where the best come from, are being brought over here.

"The famous crimson velvet, with which Westminster Abbey will be ablaze, I find on inquiry costs about a pound a yard, bought by the piece. A piece measures some forty yards, and though the velvet is quite plain, without any pattern, such a length takes four months to make.

"British-spun pure silk linings are used, the proper lining for the crimson—really almost purple—velvet being white corded silk, costing about eight shillings a yard.

"So, although coronets themselves are not exactly pure gold jewels, one way and another the little bill tops up."

A Lucky Debutante.

Lucky indeed is the debutante of this Coronation year of 1911, for she will come in for much entertaining on a truly magnificent scale, and be permitted to see many interesting, and maybe unique, sights.

Among the many girls who were to make their first bow to King George and his Consort this year, is the Hon. Monica Grenfell, Lord and Lady Desborough's eldest daughter.

GORGEOUS ROBES OF THE PEERESSES

Will be Worn by Peers and Peeresses —Instructions Issued. The Peers.

Not a few of the robes which will be worn by peers and peeresses at the Coronation ceremony are of historic interest. In some cases they have been in the family for two hundred years or more, and, although somewhat faded when compared with the new mantles, are worn with the greatest pride by those to whom they belong.

The Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal, has already issued instructions regarding the robes to be worn by peers and peeresses. They are to be of crimson velvet, and the capes are to be powdered with bars similar to the "powdering" on the capes of peers. By the depth of the edging of fur on the mantle the degree of the wearer is indicated. A baroness, for instance, wears edging 2in. of fur, a viscountess also has 2in., a countess 3in., a marchioness 4in., and a duchess 5in.

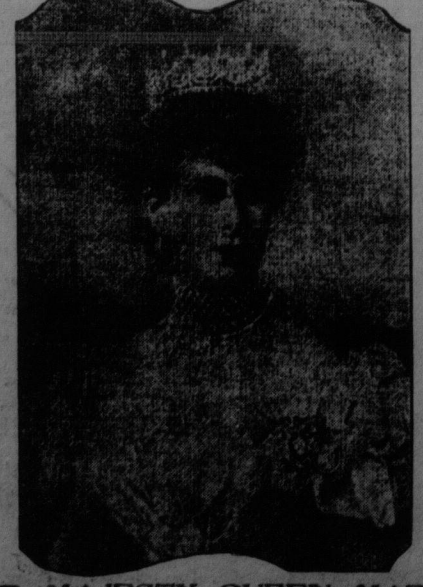
The length of a peeress's train upon the ground—yet another sign of degree—is prescribed by the Earl Marshal as follows: Baroness, 1yd; viscountess, 1¼ yd.; countess, 1½yd.; marchioness, 1¾yd.; and a duchess, 2 yds.

The order concerning peers is as follows: That the robe or mantle be of crimson velvet, edged with miniver, the cape furred with miniver pure, and powdered with bars or rows of ermine (i.e., narrow pieces of black fur), according to their degree, viz.: Barons, two rows; viscounts, two rows and a half; earls, three rows; marquesses, three rows and a half; dukes, four rows.

In addition, it is possible that Knights of the Garter, the Thistle, St. Patrick, the Bath, Star of India, St. Michael and St. George, and the Indian Empire will be allowed to wear the mantles which indicate their respective Orders. If this idea is followed out additional splendor will be added to the scene in the Abbey, for the mantles are of a very gorgeous description. The mantle of the Garter, for instance, is of dark-blue velvet, lined with taffetas. With this there is a surcoat of crimson velvet lined like the mantle and adorned like it, on the left breast, with an eight-pointed silver-embroidered star, within which is the red cross of St. George, the whole encircled by a minature blue garter.

The mantle of the Thistle is of green velvet, and that of St. Patrick is of sky-blue tabbinet, lined with white silk. The mantle of the Bath is red, and on very high State occasions the knights are entitled to wear crimson surcoats, vests and breeches of white satin, white stockings and shoes, golden spurs, and a high-crowned hat with a plume of white feathers. The mantle of the Star of India is of light-blue satin, lined with white, and adorned with blue and silver tassels with a representation of the Star. The mantle and chapeau of St. Michael and St. George are of blue satin, lined with scarlet silk, the hat surmounted with black feathers.

Quite a contrast is afforded by the mantle of the Indian Empire, which is of purple satin, lined with white silk, and fastened with pure silk and gold tassels, and on ites left a representation of the Star.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

MAIDS OF HONOR

Queen's Strong Practical Insight Shown in Choice of Four.

Queen Mary once more has displayed evidence of her strong practical insight in the choice of her four maids of honor, the Hon. Sybil Brodrick, Venetia Baring, Mabel Gye, and Katherine Villiers.

The Hon. Sybil Brodrick is the daughter of Viscount Middleton by his first marriage with Lady Hilda Charteris, daughter of the veteran Earl of Wemyss; her eldest sister is Lady Tweedmouth. She is a bright, sensible girl with ideas of her own about most things, and has traveled a good deal on the Continent.

The Hon. Venetia Baring is a dainty, Greuze-like lady with great taste in dress, who always wears something personal and characteristic. She avoids the prevailing fashions, but succeeds in appearing smart and individual without being eccentric.

Miss Gye is perhaps the most interesting of the maids of honor, in so far as she has had a cosmopolitan experience. Her late father was British Consul at Brest and she was educated in Paris. Consequently she speaks French as idiomatically as a real Parisienne, and Queen Mary thought, wisely, that she would be of immense service in assisting in the entertainment of the many foreign royalties who will be in London for King George's Coronation.

The last in the list of maids of honor is Miss Katherine Villiers, daughter of the late Col. the Hon. George Villiers, second brother of the Earl of Clarendon, who was at one time military attache at St. Petersburg, Berlin, and Paris. Among her aunts are Constance, Countess of Derby, and Emily, Lady Ampthill, both 'sdowager.' Her mother was, before her first marriage, Miss Maquay, the daughter of an American banker, and when Queen Mary spent a winter in Florence, a good many years ago, she was an intimate friend of Miss Maquay.

BRITAIN'S NAVAL ARRAY

Big Review of Dreadnoughts and of Battleship Cruisers.

A naval pageant of especially imposing character will be the big Coronation review. The Home and Atlantic fleets, with their attendant cruiser squadrons, will likely constitute the principal portion of the naval forces assembled, which will thus comprise a battle squadron of Dreadnoughts and battleships cruisers of the Invincible type, with the Neptune as the principal flagship. This vessel is now absent from British waters, carrying out an important series of gunnery trials, but will soon return to hoist the pennant and flag of the new Commander-in-Chief

With regard to the illumination of the fleet, it may be recalled that this was one of the most remarkable features of the aquatic display at the last coronation, when every ship was traced in brilliant lines of electric light, and the use of the fleet's searchlights proved most picturesque. The play of beams of light upon escaping steam made the scene one of fairylike delicacy, and the use of colored slides changing in rhythmic fashions as the successive signals came from the flagship, enhanced the beauty of the picture. Another picture that appealed to the imagination of that occasion was the firing of a salute by the fleet on the stroke of midnight when all the searchlights of the fleet concentrated their beams to a focus above the royal yacht and threw her into bold relief against the night, till she looked like a sparkling gem surrounded by a halo. The suggestion is now being considered that this very effective spectacle be repeated, and indeed, there is reason to believe that most of the essential features of the 1902 review will stand unchanged, though, of course, the class of ships mustered for the royal inspection will show a remarkable change in naval architecture and strength, the Dreadnoughts having come into vogue since

EXORBITANT PRICES FOR CORONATION SEATS

Huge Sums Are Being Paid for Flats and Rooms Along the Route of the Procession---A Fat Purse for Many an Owner

Extraordinary sums are being asked for the rents of West-end flats and houses for the forthcoming Coronation season, and as an indication of the high prices likely to be obtained for good views of the procession, the occupier of a house in St. James Street has let it to a wealthy American, who has contracted to pay $5,000 for the day.

Ten thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars are being asked for the season for houses round about Grosvenor Square. In Belgravia the prices range from $2,500 to $5,000, and $5,500 for the larger houses, while in the Hyde Park district, including Bayswater and Kensington, the rents are anything from $2,500 to $3,000, and similar rents are being asked for flats.

In the opinion of one well-known agent, these prices are altogether too excessive, and instead of good business being done there is the likelihood of a slump in house-letting, unless there is moderation in the rents asked. "Fancy rents," he said, "will keep prospective tenants to hotels, or keep them out of London altogether. And I might mention that the supply of houses to be let exceeds the demand."

Referring to Coronations of the past, it is interesting to note that whereas seats and rooms at the Coronation of Queen Victoria and King Edward brought anything from $100 to $2,500, in the very early days seats could be had for as low as a farthing. The earliest recorded price paid for Coronation seats was in the reign of Edward I., when a few extravagant sightseers are reported to have spent a "Q"—a coin equivalent to half a farthing or a quarter of a cent—for a good place from which to view the pageant.

At the Coronation of Edward II., a seat cost a halfpenny; Richard III., a penny; Henry V., twopence; and in Henry VI.'s reign the frequency of Coronations caused them to pall on the public taste, with the result that the price went down to a halfpenny. It rose again with Edward IV. to twopence, (which was the standard price until Henry VII., when it was a whole groat. At Queen Elizabeth's Coronation the charge was a tester, or sixpence; at James I.'s a shilling; and was advanced to half a crown at the Coronation of Charles II. and James II. At that of King William and Mary it was a crown, and at George II.'s a guinea, increasing slightly with each successive reign until that of George IV.

THE DUBAR AT DELHI.

King George, on Wednesday, March 22, officially gave his approval of the details for his Coronation. The King conferred with the Privy Council when the plans were gone over and ratified. t was decided that the Coronation Dubar at Delhi, India, should be held December 12 next, when King George and Queen Mary will be present. Both will sail for India about the middle of November.

New George V. Stamps.

The Secretary to the Treasury in a printed reply to a question, says that it is proposed to issue the new George V. stamps at the time of the Coronation. It has not been considered necessary to maintain the former large reserve of the existing stamps. A first delivery of sixty-eight reams has been made by the contractors, and the stamps fulfil the conditions of the new contract.