

Canadian Pictorial

VOL. 5, No. 7

One Dollar
a Year

JUNE, 1910

142 St. Peter Street
Montreal

PRICE 10 CENTS

The Proclamation of King George the Fifth

WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lord King Edward, of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert: We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this realm, being here assisted with these of His Late Majesty's Privy Council, with Numbers of other Principal Gentlemen of Quality; with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London, do now hereby with one Voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart, publish and proclaim, that the High and Mighty Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert is now, by the death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and Rightful Liege Lord George the Fifth, by the Grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, 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 the Fifth with long and happy years to reign over us.

London, May 9th, 1910

The Passing of Edward the Peacemaker



NINE years on the throne! A brief reign, but long enough for a great Sovereign to stamp his personality indelibly on the pages of history, and the personality of King Edward the Seventh was one that endeared him in a remarkable way, not only to his subjects, but to the peoples of the civilized world.

Three score years old when he came to the throne, the King knew that his reign could not be a long one, and he set about making it one that should leave the world the better for his having been one of the kings of the earth. Did he succeed? "Well, it is all over, but I think I have done my duty!" This was one of the sentences of the few short hours in which he lay upon his death-bed, and it has echoed around the world. Not a voice has been raised in dissent. Our King has done his duty, and just how hard the task was—how difficult it must have been at times to grapple with the problems of sovereignty, we can only begin to realize when we think of the suddenness of the end. The King had been a sick man for a long time, but with Spartan fortitude he had stood his ground in the battle with the grim Enemy, Death. One morning discharging the duties of his exalted office; the night of the next day, cold in death! Game to the last!

The death of the King has brought out again the striking traits of his character, and his marvellous gifts as a peace-maker outshine, perhaps, all others. He had an immense personal influence, not only in the Courts of the world, but in the hearts of his own courtiers. It is an open secret that many times as Prince of Wales, and as King, he intervened when a gulf was widening between husband and wife, and averted tragedy in many a home of wealth and apparent happiness. As a statesman he was without a living peer; under his sway a constitutional monarchy attained its highest perfection; he was no mere figure of clay; he was a virile force to be reckoned with, but never once did he incline to over-step the constitutional limitations under which he lived. When he came to the Throne he revived much of the pageantry that had been minimized during Queen Victoria's reign, because he found it distinctively national in character, and because it provided employment for

thousands. But with the revival of much that was picturesque there was no revival of the laxity of morals so characteristic of pre-Victorian days. The Court of Edward was just as pure and high and noble as the court of his mother, and it will be so under King George's sway. Our new ruler's natural leanings are against lavish display, but it is expected that the showy side of Court life will be treated from much the same point of view from which King Edward saw it.

Among the thousands of notable tributes to the worth of the man, as well as the Sovereign, that of Mr. Asquith stands out. As the King's first minister in what many called a "constitutional crisis," he had unbounded opportunity for observing his master "under fire," and his words are worth recording here:

"I should be disposed to assign the first place to what sounds a commonplace, but in its persistent and unfailing exercise, is one of the rarest virtues—a strong and abiding domination of the sense of public duty. King Edward, be it remembered, was a man of many and varied interests—a sportsman in the best sense, an ardent and discriminating patron of the arts, and as well equipped as any man of his time for the give and take or social intercourse, wholly free from the prejudices and narrowing rules of caste at home, and, in all companies, an enfranchised citizen of the world.

"Next to this, Sir—and I am still in the domain of practice and administration—I should put his singular, perhaps unrivaled, tact in the management of men and judgment of intuitive shrewdness as to the best outlet from perplexity, and even from a baffling situation. He had in its highest and best development the genius of common sense."

This was the strain in which the Premier of the United Kingdom continued to sum up the character of his dead monarch, and the affection of his people demonstrated itself in many ways during the sad fortnight that elapsed between death and burial. Millions stood in line until their turn came to gaze upon their King lying in state. And yet out of all this world-wide grief comes the feeling of thankfulness that Providence has provided another King, one who, it is expected, will prove himself a wise and strong ruler, and to whose attractive and benign personality it is not a difficult task to swear allegiance. Long live King George the Fifth!