

King Edward VII. is Dead



THE LATE KING, EDWARD VII.

Edward VII., King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India, died at 11.45 o'clock Friday night last. His illness became serious only three days before the end. The King returned to England from a vacation on the continent ten days previous.

The King breathed his last in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and the Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Fife, Princess Victoria, Princess Louise and the Duchess of Argyll.

This message flashed over the cables and wires Friday evening plunged the entire British Empire into a state of genuine mourning over the death of "Edward, the Peace-maker."

The shock of the King's death found the nation and Empire wholly unprepared.

Cables that poured into London from all places where flies the Union Jack indicated the poignant way in which the sudden loss of Britain's most popular King struck home to the hearts of his world-wide subjects.

Prince George Becomes King

Prince George of Wales, immediately upon his father's death became King. The initial act of the new ruler was to telegraph to the Lord Mayor of London the announcement of the king's death. The telegram follows:

"Buckingham Palace, May 6:

"To the Lord Mayor, Mansion House:
"I am deeply grieved to inform you that my beloved father, the king, passed peacefully away at 11.45 tonight.—
(Signed) GEORGE."

In an instant the news that all England dreaded, and which they had looked for all day, was flashed throughout the country. Although the eminent physicians who attended his majesty in his last moments have made no official announcement as to the cause of his death, it is believed that bronchial pneumonia was the cause. There is no doubt that the



The Queen Dowager, Alexandra

larming, until at 8.15 it was announced that His Majesty was experiencing choking spells which affected the heart and that the symptoms were of the gravest character. From that time on the great crowds that surrounded the palace awaited what they knew to be the certain end. The announcement of the end which came through the newspapers shortly after midnight was quietly received and as quietly discussed by the few late theatre goers and waiting group in front of the palace, which soon dispersed and went home.

Announcement of the End

The departure of the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the royal family soon after midnight was the first indication to the crowd outside the palace that the King had passed away. Shortly before Lord Knollys, His Majesty's secretary, announced to

the waiting newspapermen that the King had died. The Queen and Princess Victoria remained in the palace.

Her Majesty with the other members of the royal family and four physicians had been at the King's side throughout the day. Between 9 and 10 o'clock His Majesty rallied slightly and seemed to recognize his family. Then he lapsed into unconsciousness which ended in his death. Several times during the day the physicians had discussed the advisability of an operation, but it was finally deemed unwise, in view of his weakened condition.

All who knew the King expected his death would be sudden, and it would not have occasioned great surprise if it had occurred without warning at some social function as a result of heart trouble. Almost to the end he refused to take to his bed, and was sitting up Thursday in a large chair, so the palace stories go. One of the last utterances attributed to King Edward was: "Well, it is all over, but I think I have done my duty." He seemed to have then reached a full realization that his death was approaching.

Besides the nearest relatives in England, the Duke of Fife and the Archbishop of Canterbury were in the death chamber.

George V. took the oath and was formally proclaimed King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The ceremony, which was most impressive, took place in the throne room of St. James Palace, in the presence of the Privy Council, under the presidency of the Earl of Crewe.

Western Canada received the news of the death of the late King shortly after 6.00 o'clock Friday evening. The morning cables from London were not of an alarming nature and not until the afternoon did Canadians realize that the Monarch's life was in danger. Then in the afternoon papers was announced his precarious condition and a few hours later came the news of his passing.



KING GEORGE V.



The New Queen, Mary