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FIFTIETH YEAR

His Majesty, the King, Passes to His Reward

Edward, the Peacemaker, Succumbs to Pneumonia Following Bronchitis, After Illness of but Ten Days—Empire Mourns the Loss of Its Sovereign—His Late Majesty's Illustrious Career

LONDON, May 7.—King Edward VII., who recently returned to England from a vacation a few days ago in the best of health, died at 11.45 o'clock last night, in the presence of his family, after an illness of less than a week, which was serious for hardly more than three days.

The Prince of Wales succeeded to the crown immediately, according to the laws of the kingdom, without official ceremony. His first official act was to despatch to the Lord Mayor the announcement of his father's death, in pursuance of custom. His telegram read:

"I am deeply grieved to inform you that my beloved father, the King, passed away peacefully at 11.45 tonight.

The physicians soon afterwards issued their official bulletin, which was as follows: "May 6th, 11.50 p. m.—His Majesty the King breathed his last at 11.45 tonight in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Fife, Princess Victoria, and Princess Louise, the Duchess of Argyle.

"(Signed) LAKIN, REID, POWELL, DAWSON."

His Majesty's Illness Serious Since Wednesday

No hope had been held out throughout the day for the recovery of his Majesty, whose death, it is believed, was due to pneumonia, following bronchitis contracted shortly after his return from Biarritz. Only a day or two ago the King was conducting the business of the state and giving audiences, but on Wednesday he was compelled to submit to the orders of his physicians. Since then until today his decline was rapid.

Throughout the empire the word was flashed, and today flags are flying at half-mast the world over. Besides the social gloom which the King's death has cast over England, several important and long-planned

official functions of ex-President Roosevelt's tour. The official receptions with the court in mourning, and the embassy entertainments, will be cancelled, and the present action of the freedom of the city and the luncheon at the Guildhall will probably be given up.

Suffered From Worry

Pneumonia following bronchitis is believed to have been the cause of death, but the doctors thus far have refused to make a statement. Some of the King's friends are convinced that worry over the critical political situation which confronted him, with sleepless nights, aggravated, if it did not cause, the fatal illness. Besides the nearest relatives in England, the Duke of Fife and the Archbishop of Canterbury were in the death chamber. The King's brother, the Duke of

Buckingham palace, and flashed throughout the kingdom. The spirits received it without excitement, but sadly, for the King with his own people was unquestionably one of the most popular rulers in the world. They regarded him as one of the strongest forces making for the stability of the peace of the Empire.

The fashionable restaurants were just emptying, and a few groups of late theatregoers were making their way homeward, through the rain, when a small crowd still hung about the palace, when the streets were filled suddenly with newboys crying "Death of the King."

The papers were quickly seized, and the people discussed the momentous event quietly and soon dispersed. The streets were deserted by 1 o'clock. Within a few minutes after the death of the King, the home office was telegraphing the intelligence to the heads of other governments and the British diplomats and colonial officials throughout the world.

All who knew the King expected that his death would be sudden, and it would not have occasioned great surprise if it had occurred without warning, the result of heart trouble. Almost to the end he refused to take to his bed, and was sitting up yesterday in a large chair, so the police, starting to corroborate the description of him as an "unruly patient" which Dr. Ott gave to a Vienna interviewer last evening.

His Last Utterance

One of the last utterances attributed to King Edward was: "Well, it's all over, but I think I have done my duty."

He seemed then to have reached a full realization that his end was fast approaching.

The queen and others of the royal family and four doctors had been constantly in the sick room throughout the day. Several hours before his death the King was in a comatose condition, but he rallied slightly between nine and ten o'clock, and then appeared to have recognized his family. Then he lapsed into unconsciousness, which ended in his passing.

When Dr. St. Clair Thompson, the throat specialist, was called this morning, it was expected that an operation would be necessary, but after a consultation, it was decided that the lungs were the seat of the most serious symptoms. Experts were held in readiness to administer an anesthetic, but there was fear that the weakness of the king's heart might result in a fatal issue, and an operation was set aside as a last resort.

The body lies in the king's chamber in the northwest wing of Buckingham Palace, which is brilliantly lighted, while the rest of the great building, with the exception of Lord Knollys' office, is entirely darkened. It was nearly half an hour after the king breathed his last when Lord Knollys walked into the office and said to the waiting reporters: "Gentlemen, His Majesty is dead." The people outside the palace only learned the news when bearers appeared with pallbearers in the meantime, the Prince and Princess of Wales had taken leave of the other members of the royal family at the main entrance, soon after midnight. They drove direct to Marlborough House, Princess Victoria, who is her mother's constant companion, remained with the queen. The others of the family followed the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The New King

A summons to the Privy Counsellors has been issued by Sir Almaric Fitzroy, clerk of the council, convening the council in the throne room of St. James Palace at two o'clock this afternoon, when the councillors will with one voice and the consent of tongue and heart publish and proclaim that "the high and mighty Prince George is now, by the death of our late sovereign of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege lord, George V., by the Grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and Emperor of India, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and constancy, with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens reign, to bless the royal Prince George V. and give him many happy and long years to reign over us. The King, after this proclamation, will address the council and promise to reign as constitutional sovereign. At the end of the meeting, King George will issue his first proclamation, requiring all officials to proceed with their duties. Formerly all

officials, including the councillors, were vacated on the death of the sovereign.

The aldermen of the city of London will attend the gathering and swear to the waiting reporters: "Gentlemen, His Majesty is dead." The people outside the palace only learned the news when bearers appeared with pallbearers in the meantime, the Prince and Princess of Wales had taken leave of the other members of the royal family at the main entrance, soon after midnight. They drove direct to Marlborough House, Princess Victoria, who is her mother's constant companion, remained with the queen. The others of the family followed the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Political Affairs

Public opinion will doubtless demand that the Liberal's programme for reforming the House of Lords, with a possible appeal to the Crown to make the most important decision a sovereign has been called upon to make in many years, shall be laid aside for a long time. They would be opposed to thrusting upon King Edward's successor at the very beginning of his reign a question so vital to the future of the Empire. Throughout King Edward's reign, tariff reform versus free trade, which was inaugurated by the famous Chamberlain speech in May, 1903, has been continually under discussion. The close of 1902 saw the end of Lord Salisbury's administration, and the accession of Mr. Balfour to the Premiership.

The Newspapers

The King's death, occurring at midnight, when the newspapers were going to press, precluded anything beyond the bare announcement. All the morning papers appear with heavy mourning borders and full biographies of the dead sovereign. They published the bare announcement. All the morning papers appear with heavy mourning borders and full biographies of the dead sovereign. They published the bare announcement. All the morning papers appear with heavy mourning borders and full biographies of the dead sovereign. They published the bare announcement.

lived almost a life of retirement, interesting himself mainly in home affairs, the King's influence throughout his reign has been devoted more to international affairs, making every possible effort to bring the Empire into the friendliest relations with other countries, and his efforts were so successful that he has been universally known as "Edward the Peacemaker."

Politically, King Edward's reign has been chiefly notable for the inauguration of a new era of successful legislation for the benefit of the people, which followed the coming of the Liberals to power after a long Conservative regime. The general election in 1905, brought on the free trade question, and under the Campbell-Bannerman and Asquith ministries, many measures dealing with education, old age pensions, the relations of workers to employers and cognate matters were put into successful operation, while the great Irish Home Rule question, which so agitated the political parties in the Victorian era, has been to a great extent thrust into the background.

The reign, though close to a period of great political unrest, with a large section of the community strenuously opposed to the new Liberal policy of encroachment on the privileges of the landed classes, and with the heated questions of constitution for the House of Lords, tariff reform and Home Rule questions unsettled.

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from abroad testify to the interest and even alarm which his illness excited throughout the world.

Little has yet been heard on the subject of the new King, but the universal burden of the editorials is the greatness of the loss suffered.

"In the zenith of his fame, and what seemed to his loyal subjects but the middle of his reign, he has been suddenly stricken down," says the Morning Post. "Seldom has a British King, and never has a British King, enjoyed throughout his life the same kindly personal affection as always attend King Edward. Only now, too late, will men find how much they owed to him, and how great a part he unostentatiously played."

The Telegraph says: "Even in France and the United States King Edward commanded well nigh as warm regard as can ever be extended to their own rulers, and if this was the case abroad, what shall we say of the feelings with which our beloved sovereign was regarded at home. No three kings in the whole range of our history enjoyed at times such universal affection as was given Edward VII. throughout his life."

The Standard says: "The first of Englishmen has passed away, the monarch whose name is written among the highest in the role of England's long line of sovereigns, as a patriot, statesman and governor, well fitted by the vigor of his intellect and the engaging charm of his temperament to be the actual, as well as the ceremonial chief of the people he loved so well, and of the Empire he ruled with such memorable success."

The thoughts of England turn largely towards the new king, what policies he is likely to follow, what are the prospects of a successful reign. George V.

never has been as well known, or as close to the people as his father was, when he was Prince of Wales, hence, he never was so popular. His nature is shy and retiring, and he is not considered as much of a man of the world as was his father. Nothing about King Edward appealed to the British masses more strongly than his devotion to sports. Prince George appeared to care less for them than the average English gentleman. He reached maturity as merely the grandson of the sovereign, which gave him little opportunity to participate in public affairs, but he has become more active during the past five years in that direction. He has been a constant attendant at parliament and followed the debates on the House of Lords question closely. He has made many public speeches before non-political organizations in the past two or three years, and has thereby gained a strong hold on the people.

President Taft's Message

WASHINGTON, May 6.—President Taft, upon learning of the death of King Edward, wrote the following message of condolence to Queen Alexandra, which was called to Buckingham Palace tonight.

"Upon the sad occasion of the death of King Edward, I offer to your Majesty, and to your son, his illustrious successor, the most profound sympathy of the people and the government of the United States, whose hearts go out to their British kinsmen on this, their national bereavement. To this add the expression to your Majesty and to the new King of my personal sympathy, and of my appreciation of those high qualities which made the late King so potent an influence towards peace and justice between the nations."

The President also sent his military aide to the British Embassy to express (Continued on Page Two)



His Late Majesty Edward VII., King of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions Beyond the Seas

His Majesty, King George V



official events must be abandoned. The Prince and Princess of Wales were to go to South Africa with the squadron, and the Prince was to open the first parliament of the new confederation, but his succession to the throne will now prevent this.

The death of his majesty will also mean the abandonment of the princely tour. The King's daughter, Queen Maud of Norway, will start for England tomorrow. The intelligence that the end of King Edward's reign had come was not a surprise at the last. The people had been expecting it all hour since the evening bulletin was posted

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