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EDITORIAL.

THE DEATH OF KING EDWARD VII.

It is only saying what all know to be true that the late King was not only a very wise man but a very great King. His aspirations for his people were very lofty; and it may be at once assumed that he valued his regal office far more for the opportunities it brought him of doing good than from any glory to himself personally. His mighty Empire mourns his loss, but in the words of Emerson when one we love dies he ceases to be our companion and becomes our guide. May the memory of King Edward VII. long remain as a guide to those placed in positions of high trust!

His physicians, Sir Francis Laking, Sir James Reid, and Sir Douglas Powell, have issued the following statement:—

“His Majesty had for some years suffered from emphysema, with attendant bronchial catarrh, signs of which were permanently present at the bases of the lungs. On several occasions digestive disturbances had caused his medical attendants to realize that his Majesty no longer had the reserve constitutional power which had stood him in such splendid stead after his serious operation in 1902, and that any intercurrent catarrhal or bronchitic attack of a serious kind would at once call upon both heart and lungs for their fullest effort.

“It must be here said that those around him knew how earnestly concerned he was at the present strained position of political affairs, and this fact should not be lost sight of in an all-round consideration of the King’s health.

“The first night in Paris his Majesty had a severe attack of acute indigestion with subsequent dyspnoea (shortness of breath). On his arrival at Biarritz this developed into a bronchitic attack, causing his physicians great anxiety. This passed off and his Majesty returned better in every way, but he contracted a chill at Sandringham while inspecting the gardens.

“On his return to London from May 3 the attacks of dyspnoea increased, although the King insisted upon attending to business of State as late as Thursday, May 5.