

C120586 by
Notes prepared by
R.L.F. - Jan 12/37.

Abdication of King Edward VIII

Succession of King George VI

Introductory:

No need to review events pertaining to His former Majesty

which led to his decision to renounce the Throne -

News carried in press very full;

P.M. Baldwin's recital of events prior to Abdication

very frank and complete

See exhibit 1

Unprecedented situation which arose:

First time in history a King of Britain voluntarily

renounced the Throne -

Feelings throughout Commonwealth stirred more deeply

because of affection for Royal Family;

Unprecedented constitutional situation:

Changed relationship between Throne and Dominions

and between Government of U.K. and Dominions

as result of Statute of Westminster;

No such problem as that presented by change in

Succession, contemplated at time of enactment

of Statute of Westminster;

Situation made more difficult by swiftness of events:

Mr. Baldwin's first discussion of matter with King Edward

took place October 20th;

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 169, pages C120194-C120809)

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