

Abandon

Wed - Abdication of Edward VIII 24th

C115190

Summary of Press Reports Approving Stand of the King
or the British Cabinet

KING

CABINET

News Chronicle, Dec. 2nd(?) - said such "a true love match--and a democratic one--would be popular". "If the King, who is of age and knows his own mind, is sufficiently in love to persist in his intention, the public would, we think, wish that he should marry the woman of his choice, but that he should do so in his capacity as the Duke of Cornwall. His wife's position would then be that of King's Consort, not that of Queen of England. For such an arrangement there is the precedent of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort (Albert), and if necessary Parliament should pass requisite legislation to make this arrangement possible. It is for the King to say, like every other man, who shall be his partner for life. It is for Parliament to say who will be Queen of this country, and to regulate the succession to the Throne."

London Star, Dec. 3rd - asked "why should he (the King) be denied the common happiness of mankind The Cabinet may tender him advice in one direction, but there is more than one way in which the interests of the state and the King can be reconciled..... Even if by honouring Mrs. Simpson with his hand, the King also made her his consort, the country and the Empire would still stand in health and in strength."

Dec. 3rd, Mr. Winston Churchill asked: "Can the Prime Minister give an assurance that no irrevocable step will be taken before a statement has been made in the House?" Mr. Baldwin replied: "I have

Dec. 1st, Bishop of Bradford, addressing diocesan conference: "His personal views and opinions are his own ... But in his private capacity at his Coronation he stands for the English people's idea of Kingship.... The King needs the grace of God for his office. ... We hope he is aware of his need. Some of us wish he gave more positive signs of such awareness".

Dec. 2nd, Manchester Guardian, advised the King to "listen to whatever advice his Prime Minister has to offer in all matters affecting the welfare of Great Britain."

Dec. 2nd, Yorkshire Post - declared that the Bishop of Bradford must have had good reason for so pointed a remark" "An increasing number of responsible persons are led to fear lest the King may not yet have perceived how complete in our day must be the self-dedication of which Dr. Mount spoke, if the Coronation, instead of bringing a blessing to all peoples of the Empire, is not on the contrary to prove a stumbling block.... "When King Edward succeeded King George "The Well-beloved", the nation acclaimed him with that conviction. He would indeed, as he himself promised, follow his father's footsteps. Deep disappointment must necessarily result if, instead of this continuity of example, there should develop a dispute between the King and his Ministers, such as must almost inevitably raise a constitutional issue of the gravest character".

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, Volume 161, pages C114723-C115560)

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