

*Death of King George V*

manency of monarchy. In the wise and conciliatory manner in which King George dealt with the serious problems which confronted him at the time of his accession, he won the immediate confidence of his ministers. This, during his reign, he never lost. While ministers and governments changed, all alike found in him a wise counsellor and friend. By the steadfast way in which, throughout his reign, King George upheld constitutional government, he won the confidence of parliaments and the people. All knew and felt that he would seek to see that government was carried on without fear or favour to any interest or class. Thus it was that under King George, monarchy and democracy were not only reconciled, but became allied in an effort to preserve what was best in both.

The events of King George's reign—the political and social unrest, a long war, and a difficult peace—were such that with a less wise and less popular sovereign, the throne itself might constantly have been in jeopardy. As it was, notwithstanding far-reaching constitutional and parliamentary changes, and swift and unprecedented change in the organization of human society, the British monarchy grew in public confidence and in international prestige.

There was another equally great contribution made to his day and generation by King George, through his personality and personal endeavours. It was the contribution of more in the way of a spirit of good will and mutual helpfulness between persons of all ranks and classes; a wider recognition of the common human lot.

Having regard to the troubled and unsettled nature of the times in which he lived, and in which we continue to live—to the changing social order—I believe it is impossible to overestimate the value of this contribution. King George, himself, saw in it not only the surest method of maintaining the blessing of peace, but the only means of effectively solving the economic ills which beset us. He hoped that the spirit of mutual helpfulness would grow and spread. By word and by example, he did all in his power to foster and develop it.

There is one more contribution which King George's personality and personal endeavours made to the world of his day of which I should like to speak. It constituted, I believe, the supreme aim of his life. It was the promotion of friendship among all men and all nations. In the quarter of a century during which he reigned, it was given King George to witness more of war, of strife, and of unrest than the world had known

in any corresponding period of time, or, indeed, at any time. Perhaps this, more than any other reason, caused him to stress so strongly the importance of human friendships, and to believe that friendly relations with all nations should constitute the cornerstone of British foreign policy.

Whatever the cause, it was friendship between the peoples of different countries, and friendly relations between nations, that His Majesty sought most to keep before his own peoples and foreign states. This aim was expressed in deeply impressive words in the message of thanksgiving cabled to all parts of the empire in the spring of 1929, when King George referred to the sympathy shown him by unknown friends, in many countries, at the time of his illness.

"I long to believe," His Majesty said, "it is possible that experiences such as mine may soon appear no longer exceptional: when the national anxieties of all peoples of the world shall be felt as a common source of human sympathy and a common claim on human friendship."

Even more impressive, as being a part of the king's last message, from which I have already quoted, were the words we heard expressed with so much feeling as we listened to his voice on Christmas day. Let me recall those words:—

In Europe, and in many parts of the world, anxieties surround us. It is good to think that our own family of peoples is at peace with itself and united in one desire to be at peace with other nations—a friend of all, an enemy of none.

"A friend of all, an enemy of none." In these words we find the life purpose of our late king. It was the image he sought to impress on the nations of the British commonwealth, as clearly and distinctly as his own royal effigy is stamped upon their coinage. How largely he succeeded in fulfilling the great purpose of his life is apparent in the tributes which have been paid his memory by peoples of all races and climes, and by every nation under the sun.

"A friend of all, an enemy of none." It is, as such, that, throughout all time, King George will be remembered. What comparable epitaph has found its place upon a royal tomb!

Here we may well take our leave of him whom we knew and loved so well, and with thankful as well as loyal hearts hasten to declare our allegiance to our new king.

There are many reasons why we may with confidence welcome the accession of Edward VIII to the throne of his ancestors. The new king comes of a royal family which has inherited and been true to great traditions of