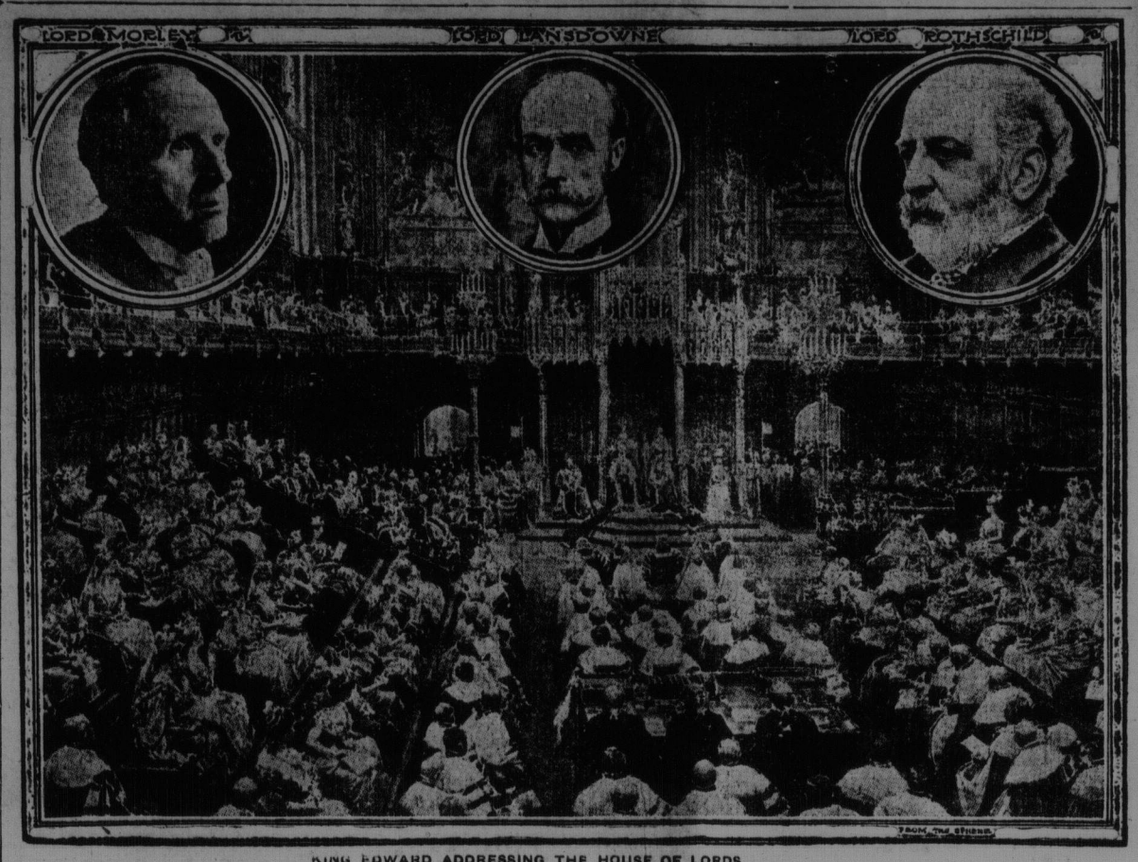
Criticism of Late King Lends Color to Story That End Was Hastened by Political Worries

Leading Points of Article Withdrawn From Contemporary Review Few Days Ago.

Reflections on Reigning Sovereign Appear Very Much Like Treasonable Utterances.

Alleged That Victoria Would Have Averted Conflict Between Lords and Commons.

An Opportunity Which the Late King Missed---Absenteeism as a Menace to Throne.



KING EDWARD ADDRESSING THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

A special cable from London gives the thinking points made in the article in the May Contemporary Review, reflecting on the late King Edward VII., which fortunately was withdrawn a few days before the King's death. After reading the article it will not be hard to believe that the King's end was hastened by worry over the existing political situation in England. The article is entitled "The Opportunity Of The King," and read in part as follows:—

"We respect our kings because we have found them useful, and the moment we cannot exploit them as useful for our purposes we can get rid of them. The institution, altogether apart from the individual temporarily representing it, is regarded as a national asset of the first value. The English monarchy has only once been imperilled in our day, that was when the late Queen Victoria from 1865 to 1870, familiarized the nation with a vacant throne. Absenteeism is as fatal to a sovereign as to landlords, and subjects soon forget to respect those who are hidden from their sight.

"The prolonged period of retirement, in which the public duties of the Crown were sacrificed to the performance of the pious rites of widowhood, was succeeded by thirty years during which Queen Victoria re-established and rehabilitated the monarchy which she bequeathed to her son. It was a glorious heritage, but by its very splendor it entailed onerous responsibilities, and the nation, accustomed for a whole generation to enjoy the convenience of a crowned head used as a balance wheel of state, is not likely to brook a roi faineant on Victoria's throne. It is this which at once affords Edward VII. his opportunity and threatens him with serious damage.

In Foreign Affairs.

"In foreign affairs His Majesty the King has more than fulfilled the highest expectations of his loyal subjects. As an unwearied commissioner for peace he has extorted enthusiastic encomiums from so stern a reputation as Andrew Carnegie and an unwilling tribute of envying eulogy from the subjects of other monarchs. The paean of praise which rewarded his efforts in the cause of peace would have been quite universal had it not been for the unworthy suspicion in certain quarters that there was an anti-German edge to his missionary zeal; and that he desired not so much the peace of Europe as to ring around Germany with a league of iron, binding the Germans over to keep the peace even against their will.

"In domestic affairs the King has so far played no conspicuous part. That is not to be imputed to him as a fault. He may indeed be congratulated upon it as a mark of special favor.

"Until the fatal day when the majority of the House of Lords conceived the idea of invading the domain in which the House of Commons had reigned supreme for centuries, there were no difficulties in our domestic affairs calling for his intervention. Despite the fierce disputes that have raged between the parties, the constitution had gone smoothly as on greased castors. So admirable was the equilibrium of the State that when power passed from one prime minister to another, the King could, with difficulty be persuaded that the occasion necessitated his presence in London.

"But the peers changed all that. They precipitated a constitutional conflict, the opening stages of which already show that before it is closed the resources of the constitution will have to be drawn upon to the uttermost if the collision between the two contending forces is not to be culminate in violence and bloodshed.

Disappointed Nation.

"No dispassionate observer will deny that in failing to avert this collision the King, whether through misfortune or fault, disappointed the expectations of the nation. The institution of the kingship is maintained in order to avert precisely the condition of crisis in which the nation finds itself today. Rightly or wrongly, the public believes that the Crown and the influence of the Crown should be sufficient to ward off the perils threatened by the violent conflicts of contending parties.

"The King's first duty is to see that the King's Government can be carried on. It clearly cannot be carried on if the two Houses of Parliament are at loggerheads, if the peers refuse to vote the supplies granted by the Commons, and if, as a consequence, the whole constitutional machine is brought to a standstill.

"Confidence in the Crown as an honest broker between the parties received a rude shock when it was made evident that the King was unable to prevent the rejection of the budget. It was openly said that if the late Queen Vicoria had still been on the throne the catastrophe would not have overtaken us. There is perhaps some justice in this reflection, although even Queen Victoria might have found her counsel less potent than of old when it had to be addressed to protectionists hungry for prey.

How King Failed.

"This brings us down to the consideration of the question as to how it was that the King failed, where the people believed his mother would have succeeded in averting a collision the inevitable consequence of which are only now beginning to be perceived. It is possible that the King like his advisers, lacked the high quality of imagination necessary to enable him to grasp all that was implied in the beginning of the reactionary revolution.

"Most of his contemporaies suffered from the same defect. Things had gone smoothly with us for so long that few perceived, least of all some of the leading actors, to what dread and tragic consequence the action of the Peers must inevitably lead. That the King did perceive the danger in a dim sort of way is admitted, and he used what influence he had in his own fashion to induce the leaders of the Opposition to desist, ere it was too late, from challenging so serious a combat.

"But at this point we lay our finger upon the most serious element of weakness in the whole case. The King has many good qualities. No one is more tactful; no one is more kind-hearted; he is a capital sportsman and in foreign affairs he possesses a fine instinct which seldom leads him wrong. Yet his very geniality and good fellowship deprive him of much of the awe with which the late Queen was regarded.

"The 'divinity that doth hedge a king' wears somewhat thin in the atmosphere of the dinner party and the race course. His Majesty is a man of the world, going freely into society, but not even the most servile courtier could say that either as prince or king he surrounded himself with men who were influential in either House of Parliament. Those who shared his valuable councils may be the wisest of men, as they were often among the pleasantest, but to the great political world they have been unknown.

Showed Poor Taste.

"With the doubtful exception of Lord Esher, who has one of the sanest heads in Europe, none of those who constitute the entourage of the King count for anything in politics. Of the chiefs of our old nobility it is comparatively rare to find any among those whom His Majesty delights to honor, nor is it libellous to assert that his ministers, whether Liberal or Tory, never found in him that garnered store of rich experience, reaped by a lifetime of unremitting industry, which made the late Queen the adviser of all her councillors, the vigilant critic of her ministers, most influential of all servants of the realm.

"The King, in short, has neither the strong character, firm resolute determination, nor the keen interest in political measures which would have added to the influence always appertaining to the throne, the immense, undefinable weight of a commanding personality.

"The essential feature of the constitutional monarchy as it was evolved during the late reign was that everything it lost in authority it regained in influence. It underwent an evolution which somewhat later awaits the House of Lords. Its right to the vote has gone forever, but its opportunities of influence, especially influence in the beginnig of things, have far more than made up for the sacrifice of the trappings of authority. But it follows from that evolution that the authority of the Crown in the future will depend more upon the personal character of the man or woman who wears it.

"A wise king, judicious, far-seeing, absolute and energetic, might easily, without violating any constitutional limitations, be the most powerful man in the realm; but a king, indolent, indifferent, and given to self-indulgence, would soon be a mere cypher in the state over which he continued to reign, but which he no longer tried to rule.

No Influence on Peers.

"The trouble from which we are now suffering is that, whether from the defect of his qualities or from some other cause, His Majesty was not able to bring sufficient personal influence to bear upon the leaders of the Peers to induce them to recoil from the adventurous course to which they were impelled from the sick-bed of Birmingham and its sounding board in the press. Hence the present trouble.

"It is evident that the same cause which contributed to bring about the crisis will continue to hamper us in all attempts to bring about a solution. King Edward will not find it easier to compose the quarrel than he did to prevent it. The only hope is that the very extremity of the danger may arouse him to unwonted energy of action—for it is not merely the House of Lords that is at stake, but monarchy itself is on trial—and the issue will show whether the King will be able to maintain, or rather to restore the confidence of his lieges in the beneficient influence of a crowned peacemaker."

The reviewer then outlined the situation which the King had to face, and said it was one which would put his capacity to a harder test than any to which it had been exposed.

"In fact," he went on, "in dealing with the contending factions the King will need sure instinct, shrewd judgment and the prayers of all his subjects. It would be a useful exercise for the moment if each of us was to try to think himself into the King's place and envisage the situation from his point of view.

"To begin with, the King has an enormous advantage in the position which he occupies on the throne. For one-half of his reign his ear has been given to Unionists, for the second half to the Liberals. Not even the most unscrupulous of partizans has suggested a doubt as to the absolute impartiality with which he has held the balance between the parties.

Representative of Public.

"To the country at large he is still enjoying the glamor that surrounded the Queen, his mother. He is the M.P. for the whole United Kingdom, to whom all men turn as their representative in the highest affairs of state. He is pre-eminently the representative of the great non-political classes, who look to him to see that the machinery of government is kept running and that no excess of party passion shall be allowed to endanger the Empire or to arrest the smooth working of every-day life.

"To the masses he is a good sportsman, who can be relied on to see fair play. As king he is the permanent crowned referee in the great football matches that are constantly being played at Westminster, an umpire whose word is law, the supreme embodiment of the practical genius of our constitution.

"The King has no authority to compel, but he has ample opportunity to persuade, and he has behind him a power which every politician respects and fears. The nation expects him to arrange some settlement, and it will go ill with the party which stands convicted before the public of thwarting his well meant efforts. The King, therefore, starts with immense advantages, and it is hardly saying too much that his place in history will depend upon the use he makes of them at this crisis.

"That the King as a true sportsman must sympathize with the wrath of the Liberals who, by the rules made are doomed never to have an innings owing to the lack of majority in the House of Lords, goes without saying. His political instinct also must convince him that nothing could be more dangerous for the stability of the throne than for one-half the people of the three kingdoms—and that the most active, most energetic, and most turbulent half—be forever excluded from all chance of sharing in the responsibilities of government."

The reviewer concludes that unless some compromise be arranged which the leaders of the two parties could be induced to accept, there seems to be no way of escape from a period of turbulent unrest, in which more constitutional crockery would of necessity be broken than could ever be replaced.

Looks To King.

"To avert such a catastrophe," he went on, "the nation looks to the King, and everything will depend upon the wisdom, courage and resolution which he displays in this first great crisis of his reign. The opportunity is great, and fortunately the constitution provides us in the King a personage sufficiently exalted to appeal with the authority of a great person to the rival factions.

"The occasion is one which calls imperiously for a compromise which will avert an early dissolution, which every politician dislikes and which the nation as a whole absolutely detests. Of course, if Mr. Balfour or Lord Lansdowne are either unwilling or unable owing to the unreason of their extremists, to accept any change which would secure to the Liberals the same privilege that the Conservatives possess in the shape of a majority in the Upper Chamber when they secure a majority of the House of Commons, there is nothing for it but to fight the matter out to its inevitable revolutionary end."

The reviewer suggested that the King should insist that there should be no dissolution but that both parties must agree upon some arrangements which would give the Liberals a majority in the Upper Hause when they controlled the Commons.

This plan, the reviewer declared would "commend itself to the common sense and love of fair play that characterize the nation over which he reigns. If it were rejected, those responsible for such a rejection of the King's counsel would meet with short shift at the hands of the electors, and the road would be cleared for any exercise of the prerogative of the Crown that might be needed to liberate one-half of the people of the United Kingdom from the domination of political helots.

CEREMONY AT PROCLAMATION

Brilliant Gathering Outside Marlborough Palace as George V. is Publicly Proclaimed King.

London, May 9.—With the time-honored ceremony of a most brilliant and impressive character, George V., this morning was publicly proclaimed King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

Sharply at the stroke of nine, four heralds arrayed in medieval uniforms of scarlet, heavily braided with gold, mounted the balcony of Friars Court at St. James Palace, where Queen Victoria presented herself to the people upon the opening of her memorable reign and blew a fanfare through their long silver trumpets.

Palace Crowded

The precincts of the palace were crowded with masses offpeople,many o whom could secure but the briefest glimpse of the proceedings. The balconies and roofs of the ancient palace which had been draped with red cloth, were reserved for the notables, all of whom were in the deepest mourning. Members of the royal household, ministers and their wives and high offiers of state, all in brilliant uniforms,were gathered around the court. General Sir John French, with the headquarters staff in full dress uniform stood surrounded by a troop of horse guards in their red tunics and breast plates of polished steel.

From the windows of Marlborough House opposite, the Duke of Cornwall, the young heir to the throne, the younger princes and princesses witnessed the ceremony. The heralds, having concluded their duties, the officers of arms, chief of whom is the Duke of Norfolk, the hereditary Earl Marshall, and Chief Butler of England, took their places on the balcony, forming the great heraldic company. None wore mourning, this having been removed for the occasion. Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty, Garter principal King of Arms, with the Duke of Norfolk and two officers bearing the staffs of office, stepped to the front of the balcony and in a voice that could be heard across the court and in the streets adjoining, read the proclamation while great throngs stood uncovered in a drizzling rain. The Duke and Sir Alfred then called for three cheers for the King, and the people responded with deafening hurrahs, which were silenced only by the re-appearance of the heralds who sounded another fanfare.

The last note hardly had died away when the band of the Coldstream Guards, which had taken up a position in the square, struck up "God Save the King." The young princes, from their point of vantage in the windows of Marlborough House, stood with their hands at salute and the officers and troops stood at attention.

As the National Anthem was concluded the first gun of the battery in St. James' Park belched forth a royal salute and the people in the square and streets at the same moment took up the refrain, "God Save the King." This was probably the most impressive part of the ceremony, the fervent singing of the crowds, which first reached those in the balcony as a hum, growing in volume as more and more singers joined in, while at minute intervals the gun half drowned the chorus. Meanwhile the Royal Standard had been hoised over Marlborough House, indicating that the King was in the royal residence, and flags upon the public offices throughout the city were raised to the mast heads.

The Royal Standard on Buckingham Palace alone remained at half-mast. The flags will remain at mast heads until sunset this evening and again will be lowered to half-mast tomorrow.

The Duke of Norfolk and Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty, the officers of state, and others of the distinguished company in Friars' Court continued in their positions until the people having concluded the singing of the National Anthem, turned towards Marlborough House and renewed their cheers for the King, a glimpse of whom was caught as he stood at the window with Queen Mary at his side. A moment later His Majesty lowered the blind.

Besides the heraldic officers, the members of the cabinet, who had hurriedly returned from their holidays abroad, diplomats and other notables watched the progress from the balcony.

The Lord Mayor then alighted from his carriage and read the proclamation and declared that "Our high and mighty Prince George has now become our only lawful and righteous lord George V," following these words with the cry, "God sale the King."

The words were caught up by the crown and swelled to a mighty chorus that filled the Strand and Fleet street. The ceremony was repeated at Chancery Lane.

Thence the Lord Mayor with His Majesty's heralds, moved through streets lined with double files of troops. When the heralds had taken their station on the steps of the Royal Exchange and silence had finally been secured, the proclamation was read to the multitude, from whence rose thundrous cheers and cries of "God save the King." The bands played the National Anthem once more.

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1029-tf-D&W.

So, said Tommy's father, you took dinner at Willie Stout's house today. I hope when it came to extra helpings you had manners enough to say, No.

Yes sir, replied Tommy. I said No, several times.

Ah, you did?

Yes, sir. Mrs. Stout kept askin' me if I had enough.

Sapleigh—Ah, speaking of electricity, that makes me think—"

Miss Keen—Really, Mr. Sapleigh? Isn't it remarkable what electricity can do!

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