



KING EDWARD VII.

KING GEORGE V.

"The King is Dead; Long Live the King." "Le Roi est mort; vive le Roi."

THE RECORD OF A REIGN

By THE EDITOR

KINGS are much like other rulers with designations of lesser rank. They differ but slightly from presidents of republics or premiers of colonial nations. They win their way to fame by much the same processes. They must, nowadays, have much the same characteristics, and



She that was—The Queen.

must conduct themselves upon similar lines of policy. King Edward won fame and reputation much as Ex-president Roosevelt and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. When he came to the throne, to the actual unfettered use of tremendous power, there were many who feared the result. So with Mr. Roosevelt; so with Sir Wilfrid Laurier. So with many a man placed in more subordinate positions. Yet, King Edward had reigned but a brief period before the people began to say, "He is making good."

It is a commonplace remark, yet the highest compliment that men have yet invented. If it were said of us, as has been said of the great King for whom an Empire mourns to-day, "He has made good," then were our lives not spent in vain.

King Edward served a long apprenticeship. He came of age in 1861; he did not become King until 1901. Forty years in a subordinate position, forty years in training for the highest office in the gift of a great nation, must have been tedious and at times discouraging. Yet no one ever accused him of being disgruntled or disturbed. He never got out of place. He never by word or deed usurped authority which was not his. He lived his life under trying circumstances with such grace as became the "First Gentleman of Europe."

When he became King, he bore himself with the manner of a man who had been King for half a

century. He was sufficiently dignified, but he demanded no homage which a democratic people were not willing to give. He did not try to enlarge his powers nor to use them for selfish purposes. Such influence as he had he used conscientiously for the benefit of his subjects and for the general good of mankind. In those nine short years he accomplished as much as any other individual for the advancement of civilisation and the progress of the world. He found the British Empire great but he left it greater. He found the international affairs of the world in a perilous condition and he devoted the greater part of his efforts to the cause of international peace. He encouraged those devoting themselves to literature, science, art, philanthropy and other forms of high endeavour. Wherever his influence was necessary or advisable, there it was found. He was the greatest man, as well as the greatest monarch, of his day and generation.

The King and Empire.

KING EDWARD VII was the only British ruler who governed an Empire. That Empire, as we know it to-day, was not in existence during the first half of Victoria's reign. The colonies of that day were not parts of the Empire in the sense that they are to-day. Empire had a different meaning before Disraeli bought the Suez Canal shares and created the Queen "Empress of India." Gladstone represented the old regime. He opposed the extension of Empire. He did not desire to see Britain extend its influence in Egypt or in India and was opposed to any attempt to enlarge the sphere of British influence in South Africa. He made a strong fight against Disraeli's policy in 1875 and 1876. However, Disraeli won and the new era was inaugurated. Henceforth the British Empire as we know it began to evolve.

Those who are interested in this idea should again read the history of the period from 1870 to 1876, and study especially the movement towards republicanism under Mr. Henry Fawcett, Professor Clifford and Sir Charles Dilke. Whatever view Mr. Gladstone may have taken of Disraeli's "jingoistic" policy, he always had respect for the monarchy itself. On January 7th, 1885, he wrote a touching letter to Prince Albert Victor, then heir-apparent after his father, on the attainment of his majority. In that letter was the following paragraph:

"And, sir, if sovereignty has been, by our modern institutions, relieved of some of its burdens, it still, I believe, remains true that there has been no period of the world's history at which

successors to the monarchy could more efficaciously contribute to the stability of a great historic system, dependent even more upon love than upon strength, by devotion to their duties, and by a bright example to the country. This result we have happily been permitted to see and other generations will, I trust, witness it anew."

The Prince passed away seven years later, but let us hope that he passed on to his younger brother, now George V, that splendid epistle from one of the greatest of nineteenth century Englishmen.

There is no doubt, however, that when Edward VII came to the throne no one would, as Sir Henry Taylor did in 1864, speak of the colonies as *damnum hereditas*. Mr. John Morley, now Lord Morley, was almost the only survivor of the group of men who would have dismembered the British Empire in order to inaugurate an era of dishonourable peace for "Little England." Rosebery, Forster, Bryce and other Liberals had sided with the imperialists as early as 1884. The newer Conservatives such as Mr. Howard Vincent and Mr. Chamberlain were keener on the Empire than even Disraeli.

When we get the inner history of Edward VII's relation to the Jubilee of 1897, to the coronation arrangements, to colonial conferences, and to general imperial movements of recent years, we shall probably find that he was staunch for a united and extending Empire. When he came to the throne, the Australian Commonwealth was a few days old and South Africa was plunged in war; to-day the Commonwealth's future is assured and South Africa is re-united. His peace policy did not prevent his cultivating the "Dominions over-seas" which were first officially recognised in his imperial title. He encouraged the great men who went out from Britain, as did Cecil Rhodes, to found new nations under the Union Jack, nor did he ever fail to honour a Britisher, born over-seas of any lineage, when he added even in a slight degree to the prestige of the British flag or of British institutions.

As a Tactician.

AN event which came under my own observation will serve to show the King's extraordinary tact. When the Canadian Manufacturers' party visited Britain they were paid a compliment by His Majesty which was most pleasing to them. The steamer bearing them had hardly reached the dock in Liverpool when a telegram was handed to the President of the Association commanding the presence of the party at Windsor on the following day. It was after midnight when the special trains reached London, but the members of the organisation were early astir, as the trains for Windsor were scheduled for ten o'clock. There was much scurrying for proper raiment and silk hats were in

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