

THROUGH A MONOCLE

THE POWER OF THE KING

DURING Coronation Week, the mind turns naturally toward kingly things—the position of royalty, the symbol of the Crown, the Empire over which the new King is to reign. We in this country are not brought much into contact with any of these things. We have never seen a King. The nearest we have got to it is a Prince of Wales; and we are about to have the uncle of the King at Rideau Hall. Yet the King is a member of our Parliament. You didn't know that? The you have failed to look at the British North America Act. That much discussed and seldom-read document provides that the Canadian Parliament shall consist of the King, the Senate and the House of Commons. The Governor-General—in practice—takes the place of the King; but, legally, the King himself is as much King of Canada as of England. It is just as well for us to get this fact in our minds; and to realize that it is the Canadian King who has just been crowned in Westminster Abbey.

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THE King will now go to India to be crowned as Emperor. Have you ever thought why he will go to India for this purpose, and will not come to Canada to be crowned at Ottawa? Canada is of far more importance to the British Empire than ten Indias. If it would do as much good for the King to come to Canada as it will for him to go to India, he would come here first. But there is a feeling on all sides that Canada is a democratic community, and does not appreciate Kings at their full worth; while a King is essential to the government of India. It may sound strangely in our democratic ears; but no one who knows India imagines for a moment that the British Empire could hold that princely possession for a twelvemonth if it were not reigned over by a King or a Queen. The people of India are accustomed to be governed by personal monarchs not by committees or Parliaments. No Republic could possibly keep that splendid realm in awe.

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YOU might mention this fact to the next republican new arrival you meet who imagines that a King is a costly ornament. The Americans have a very different people to handle in the Filipinos; but they are making a lot of trouble for themselves in even that unorganized and unroyal corner of the world by their effort to govern it in their "shirt sleeves." Asiatics do not understand that sort of thing. The Englishman dining alone in the Indian jungle in full evening dress with his servant standing behind him to hand him at the right moment the "canned goods" they have carried in on their shoulders, may seem an absurd figure to the unconventional traveller from this free and easy continent; but it is precisely that absurdity—that insistence upon the supreme importance of all the customs of the "sahib"—which enables the Englishman to rule the millions of India with a handful of white "Tommys."

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THE power of the King in England is very great.

I have a friend who loves to discuss the possibility of England becoming a Republic some day—that is, he loves to put up that idea and then batter it all to pieces. One of the things he never fails to say is that he would bet all he had—in case this happened—that nothing could prevent the King from being the first President of the "Republic of Britain," and that he would remain President just as long as he pleased. No one who knows the people of the British Islands doubts this for a moment. The monarch is always the most popular personage in the United Kingdom. Now this is not a perfunctory or artificial popularity; but a real one. It would stand any test you chose to apply to it. This is an advantage possessed by a good monarchy which a Republic loses. You could never be certain that a President might not be the most unpopular person in his own land. He is often the best abused. This no English King has ever been of late—not when pugilistic Englishmen were about.

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THERE is certainly much to be said for having a head of the State who is not at the same time the head of a party. The head of a party is bound to appear more or less in the wrong to well-nigh half the people. Even the hypnotic "Teddy" was fiercely criticized while he was at the zenith of his popularity; while it was shameful the things that

they used to say about Grover Cleveland when he was President. The New York *Sun* habitually called him "Consecration," and used to chronicle his most ponderous public actions with the remark—"Consecration seldom takes a day off." This undoubtedly gives one a feeling of "cocky" equality with the ruler. Just the other day I was told of a man who rejoiced in the privilege of frequently calling the present President of the United States "Bill" in public. But there is enough of the old Adam in most of us to like a leader to follow. We like to have the spirit of the nation personified—as it were—in one man. Germans hold their Kaiser in check; but the way they speak of him in private was never attained by any party captain in the universe.

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KING GEORGE V. is making a good King. Queen Mary is making an excellent Queen. King George has shown an active and sympathetic interest in various movements of social reform in the United Kingdom; and Queen Mary has intervened in the domestic and purely feminine interests of her half of the Kingdom in a striking manner. The popularity of both sovereigns is far greater to-day than when they came to the throne, which is the highest praise that could be accorded any year-old monarchs. A year ago, the British people honored the office; to-day they are spontaneously cheering the man and the woman who occupy the offices. The constitutionality of the King could not be better shown than by the way he has turned to social reform while advised by a social reform Government. Should European politics become more complicated and menacing—should, for example, this Morocco question threaten the peace of the world—we may find that King George has inherited the genius of his father for diplomacy. He certainly has inherited the genius of his grandmother for working British institutions. As for Queen Mary, if she succeeded in keeping English society women from absurdities of dress, and in making the domestic virtues fashionable once more, she will have done her share toward making their joint reigns memorable.

THE MONOCLE MAN.

The Empire and the Coronation

IF the British Empire in its modern form was created under Queen Victoria, it was pacified, solidified and developed under Edward VII. When Queen Victoria died, the Empire was at war, and its future was not assured. The South African war had brought out the loyalty of the colonials, but it had also shown that the Empire, with boundaries as long as the circumference of the earth and as widely scattered as the continents, is difficult to manage and to defend. King Edward realized that and became the Peacemaker. After only nine years of brilliant administration, he bequeathed to his son, George V., an Empire happy, unified, and devoted to the arts of peace.

Under Edward VII. the Empire did not grow in extent. The formal annexation of the Boer republics took place under Victoria. Nevertheless it grew in other ways. The Commonwealth of Australia came into being. The union of South Africa created a new Dominion under the Crown. New Zealand changed from a Colony to a Dominion. Canada entered upon an era of great development and grew from seven provinces to nine. Edward VII. added to his titles that of King of the Dominions Beyond the Seas. Then he sent his Royal son on a visit of inspection to all these Dominions, and no more spectacular trip was made by any sovereign than that of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall in the S. S. Ophir.

Edward VII. received the Empire—a kingdom and a number of vassal states; to his son he left a number of sister nations owning one sovereign and one flag. Queen Victoria governed only a kingdom; King George will govern several kingdoms. This almost invisible and somewhat theoretical change is one of the most striking developments of modern times. Yesterday it was the British people; now it is the British peoples.

This coronation is not of Britain's monarch only, but of Canada's King, South Africa's King, Australia's King, New Zealand's King and Newfoundland's King. Mr. Asquith is Premier of Great Britain, but not of the British Empire. That Empire has only one official who obtains universal recognition,

and he is George V., King of Great Britain, Emperor of India and ruler of the Dominions Beyond the Seas. Mr. Asquith may bid Botha and Fisher and Ward and Laurier and Morris to do some things, but there are also certain commands of these men which Asquith must obey. King George's word is law throughout the Empire, and none may say him nay, whether Canadian, Newfoundlander, South African, Australian or New Zealander.

For the first time, at this coronation, the leading citizens of the Dominions Beyond the Seas are present by right and not by courtesy. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier had not been invited to be present, he might have demanded admittance to the ceremony. By what right? By the simple right of being the leading official citizen of His Majesty's kingdom of Canada.

This coronation therefore appeals to every Canadian, not as a spectacle in which we have only a sentimental or curious interest, but as a national event. Canada's sovereign is being crowned. If it should ever occur that Canada will leave the Empire and take up a role of independence, there will be no relation to sever except that which connects King George or his successor and the people of Canada. The crown is the only connecting link, the Union Jack the only common emblem.

King George's first duty as heir-apparent to the Throne was to make a tour of the Dominions. One of his first duties as a crowned sovereign will be to visit some of these Dominions—the first reigning monarch of Great Britain to make such a visit. This in itself is an acknowledgment that this coronation means more to the Empire than any that have preceded it. On the personal qualities of this sovereign largely depends the future of the Empire.

Japan Invites Us.

MR. C. YATA, Japanese Consul at Vancouver, writes to the *Monetary Times* on behalf of the new Anglo-Japanese treaty. He is anxious for Canada to come in and wonders why Messrs. Birrell, M.P., and Cowan, M.P., are opposed to such action. He says: "I am at a loss to find the reason why Japanese people should be so disliked by the Canadian people." Mr. Yata shouldn't have much difficulty in discovering that this moderate "dislike" is not personal or national, but racial. The races differ and that difference produces the condition of mind called "dislike."

British Columbia has another reason which the rest of Canada does not yet share. The Pacific Province is afraid. In California, the Japanese constitute more than one-seventh of the male adults of military age, as follows: Caucasian males, 262,694; Japanese males, 45,725. If these males, having few, if any, females dependent upon them, were to unite together to create a disturbance, they would be formidable. So in the State of Washington, there are 17,000 Japanese males, as against 164,000 Caucasian males of military age. Once a Jap, always a Jap. Once a servant of the Mikado, always a servant of the Mikado. Heaven is attained that way. Such is the explanation in both California and British Columbia. In the other parts of this continent there is no dislike of the Jap. He is regarded as a clever and business-like person. His goods are bought and to him sales are made. Farther than that the Caucasian race cannot go.

Canada's trade with Japan grows slowly. Our exports have grown from \$112,308 in 1900, to \$660,522 in 1910. If they grow as fast in the next ten years, they would amount to over three and a half million dollars in 1920.

On the other hand, Canada buys more from Japan than Japan buys from Canada. For several years now, Canada has bought about two million dollars worth of Japanese goods annually.

It would thus seem that in what trade there is between the two countries, Japan has the best of it. Great Britain is the only country to whom we sell more than we buy.

Japan may some day become an important market for Canadian flour and wheat, but the present customs duties collected by that country on these commodities seem rather high. A reduction would be very pleasing to Canada.

Dr. MacPhail Injured.

DR. ANDREW MACPHAIL, the well-known author and essayist, was seriously injured last Sunday night by the explosion of a bottle of aerated water at his residence on Peel Street, Montreal. Glass from the shattered bottle entered both eyes. The doctor was immediately operated upon at the Royal Victoria Hospital, where a specialist pronounced that one eye could be saved and that there were good hopes of saving the other.