

RECORD OF A REIGN

CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 10.

great demand in the stores on Fleet Street, but not a member of the party missed the train. They were graciously received by His Majesty, driven about the grounds, and tendered a luncheon. After the reception, the party sang the national anthem and "The Maple Leaf," and every member departed feeling that Canada had been highly honoured. The King's act gave the keynote to the subsequent entertainments which the Canadians received.

This is a minor incident and no doubt one more familiar with the course of court affairs could describe more important episodes. Yet it indicates the thoughtfulness of a busy monarch and his anxiety to show favour to a body of his subjects from the Dominions Over-Seas. His cablegram to Lord Grey asking after the health of Professor Goldwin Smith on the occasion of his recent accident is another example of his Kingly tact which Canadians will remember.

Some Incidents.

ON the day after Queen Victoria's death, King Edward appeared before the Privy Council to take the oath of office. He then declared his intention of following in the footsteps of his respected mother and stated: "In undertaking the heavy load which now devolves upon me, I am fully determined to be a constitutional sovereign in the strictest sense of the word, and so long as there is breath in my body, to work for the good and amelioration of my people." On the following day, at St. James' Palace, he was proclaimed King with all the usual ceremonies.

The coronation was set for June 26th, 1902, almost a year and a half after his reign began. Most people will remember vividly the consternation and sorrow which were caused by the announcement two days before that date that the King was dangerously ill. He was forced to undergo a serious operation which happily was successful. The coronation finally took place on August 9th.

In 1903, he visited the Kings of Portugal and Italy and the President of France. This was an unusual proceeding, but he apparently felt that the peace of Europe was more important than precedent. In the following year he visited Denmark and in 1905 made a celebrated cruise in the Mediterranean. It was on this occasion that the entente with France was fully completed, rather to the chagrin of the Kaiser. In 1907, he visited the latter and also Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary. These meetings are thought to have had tremendous effects upon European diplomacy.

If France had great reason to regard him as a friend, so had the United States. When the "War with Spain" occurred, King Edward stood boldly for non-intervention on the part of any other European power. This, and his kindly treatment of Americans at Court, have done much to allay the old anti-British feeling in the United States which dated from the Civil War.

Like Queen Victoria, the King occasionally tried his hand at match-making. The marriage of the King of Spain to an English royal princess was undoubtedly due to his influence. It is thought he was also anxious to perform a similar service for Portugal and the young King of Portugal was recently received in England with great eclat.

Only last year, the Czar of Russia visited King Edward and the chain of international visits was thus nearly completed. The Peacemaker per-

formed a great work, and millions of Europeans are entitled to call him "blessed." It is to be hoped that his good works may abide and that the passing of his great personality may not be followed by a general disruption.

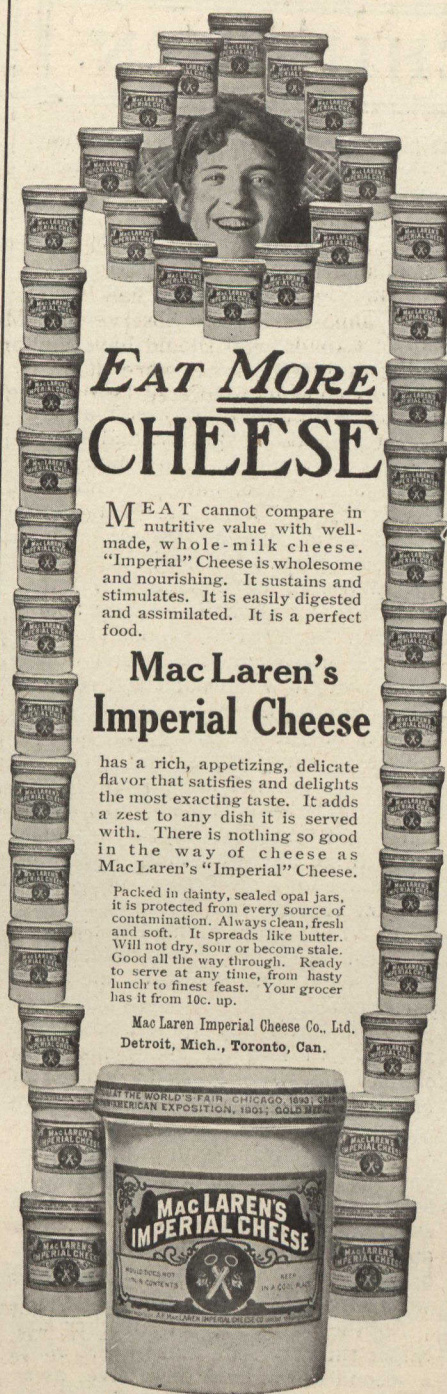
As abroad, so at home, King Edward was a man of peace. He never interfered in domestic politics, but his influence was always in favour of moderation. Any man who attempted to be extreme in his actions or views, felt that his conduct would not commend itself to a King who believed that harmony and moderation were the companions of progress. The recent political discussion about the constitution and the House of Lords caused him much anxiety and may have had some effect upon his rapidly weakening physical powers. Both sides had such high respect for him that they tried to keep the controversy away from the throne. The King's sudden and much lamented demise will probably be a guarantee that the political contest over the House of Lords will be shelved for some time. No doubt, the best men on both sides will welcome a truce, in addition to their well defined aversion to involve the monarchy in a dispute which might destroy the only bond at present holding the Empire together. An Empire without an Emperor would be an anomaly if not an impossibility.

King George the Sailor

IT will be remembered that King George V when Prince of Wales—two years ago on his voyage home from the Tercentenary in the *Indomitable*, went below in the stoke-hole and shoveled coal under a boiler till he sweat like a navvy. King George will not be likely to shovel coal on a man-of-war. There will be a number of princely diversions which public opinion will lead him to eliminate. But he can never lose interest in the navy; and he will probably know even better than did his father the minutiae of the latest developments in man-of-warism.

For it is some years since King Edward was on the sea. He crossed the ocean in a dawdling old tub that must have taken three weeks to make the trip. And when King Edward was last on the open sea the biggest man-of-war was a thing that not even an outpost colony would buy now as the nucleus of a fleet. King George has been at sea in some of the best. When he stoked the *Indomitable* she made 25 knots an hour going home. Part of that record speed of course was due to the fact that the Atlantic was rotating towards the bow. But the *Indomitable* and the Prince were the talk of the country then—even though since that time the *Indomitable* has been outclassed by such ships as the *Colossus*, the first of the eight Dreadnoughts laid down in last year's estimates.

Never to be forgotten either is the manner in which the *Indomitable* and the future King George glided out of Quebec before the break of day; completely befiling the thousands who got up early to see her steam out; far down the St. Lawrence out of sight of Cape Diamond when the Tercentenary folk had breakfast. If the King remains as artful a tactician on the throne he will yet keep principalities, powers and diplomats guessing. He is said to be something of an anti-militarist. In fact he was not over-pleased at the redundancy of soldiers on the streets of Quebec during the Tercentenary.



EAT MORE CHEESE

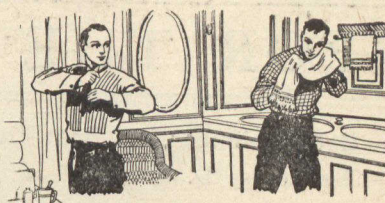
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