

# The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FOPTY-THIRD YEAR

THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST, FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1901.

VOLUME XLIII.

## VICTORIA THE GOOD HAS PASSED AWAY

### The Longest and Greatest Reign in the History Of the British Empire Ended By Death.

A mighty Empress to Her rest has gone. A hundred nations who have loved Her sway Preserve in countless hearts for Her a throne, Which, while time lives, can never pass away.

—B. J. P.

London, Jan. 22.—(7:03)—A telegram from the Prince of Wales to the Lord Mayor is as follows:

"Osborne, 6:45 p.m.—My beloved mother has just passed away, surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

"ALBERT EDWARD."

The Lord Mayor sent the following reply: "Your Royal Highness's telegram announcing the nation's great loss I have received with profound distress and grief, and have communicated this sad information to my fellow-citizens. Her Majesty's memory will forever live in the hearts of her people. May I respectfully convey to Your Royal Highness and to all members of the Royal Family the earnest sympathy and condolence of the city of London in your great sorrow."

London, Jan. 23.—Shortly before midnight an official announcement was issued calling parliament to assemble at 4 o'clock this (Wednesday) afternoon, to enable members of the House of Lords and House of Commons to take the oath of allegiance to King Edward VII. The Privy Council will meet in London today, and the proclamation of the King will occur thereafter at all places required by custom. The King will come to London to preside over the council.

From Whitechapel to Mayfair, streets usually gay with nightly festivities are dark, deserted and desolate, and this depression of the public mind is likely to continue for many days to come.

Only a few hours ago the pleasure-seeking population was hurrying to the theatres and music halls, only to find every case the doors closed and big black-bordered bills announcing that the performances had been suspended. The people thus rushed into the streets gave for a short time an unsteady throng as they hurried to the West End.

In the direction of Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House, where absolute silence reigned, a small bill signed "Balfour" was posted outside, announcing the death of the monarch. Everywhere, in vehicles and on the streets, the topic of conversation was "what would happen under the new reign rather than the life and death of Victoria. Much interest was evinced in the way in which the enormous fortune of

a practical standstill. The music at all the hotels and public places has ceased. Mats, thorough houses, so long the home of the monarch, Buckingham Palace, where Queen Victoria made her last stay in London, and St. James' Palace, the residence of so many former monarchs, are to-night all black and deserted.

On the night of the 22nd, no member of the Royal Family left Osborne House to-day. A changing group of correspondents jostled about the gates. Occasional drizzles obscured the general hills beyond the castle. Greater simplicity and an entire lack of any of that pomp traditionally attached to royalty could not have been found in any country house in the Kingdom than here, where a beloved monarch was dying, and the ruler of another great nation was waiting by her bedside as grandson rather than as emperor.

Two stalwart policemen guarding the gates against intruders were the sole reminders of officialdom. They were compelled this morning to refuse three dusky visitors from India, who drove up arrayed in such gorgeous robes that the bystanders instinctively lifted their hats, mistaking them for potentates. The trio announced themselves as lecturers in behalf of the foreign missions, and insisted upon an audience with the Prince of Wales to tender the sympathies of the India.

Many of the country gentry and a few titled persons appeared at the lodge and registered their names in the visitors' book. Down in the Solent frequent signals were exchanged between the warships and yachts on the flagging of the news from the palace.

Quietly, almost gently, upon the anniversary of the death of Queen Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent, the Queen passed away. Around her were gathered almost every descendant of her line. Well within view of the prince's eyes there hung a portrait of the Prince Consort. It was he who designed the room and every part of the castle. In solemnly audible words the white-haired Bishop of Winchester prayed beside her as he had often prayed with his sovereign, for he was her chaplain at Windsor. With bowed heads the imperious ruler of the German empire and the man who is now king of England, the woman who has succeeded to the title of Queen, the princess and princesses and those of less



VICTORIA.

What is this gloom that fills the air?—this shadow o'er the earth? Hers was the Koh-i-noor of crowns; her heritage was great; Why seem the ocean waves asleep? Why hushed is Nature's state; But more she prized the virtues born in high or low estate. The bells are tolling,—tolling, and the solemn whisp'ers spread Her womanhood was queenly, and tho' chosen of her race, Less deemed she of ancestral crowns than Virtue's crown of grace.

Oh! the sceptre now hath fallen from our Sovereign mother's hand. The Sovereign of a century was numbered with the dead. And the eyes of Majesty hath lost the lustre of command; But true, the leveler of all, spared yet that sacred head, So might the passing era class the era newly born: For worthiest She to bless the night, and hail the rising morn.

She is dead, the Queen of Sovereigns; for each subject was a king; Ah yet, the loss tho' grievous, there is solace in our tears! The royal blood of liberty flowed from the purple spring; She bequeaths a proud tradition to the ungodden years; And every vein was richer by the earth's most noble blood:— Off will bless the Queen of Mothers,—royal mother of the home.

Victoria, B. C.

FREDERIC IRVING TAYLOR.

when the announcement came, but in this palace at Osborne everything pursued the usual course. Down in the kitchen they were cooking a huge dinner for an assemblage the like of which has seldom been known in England, and the dinner preparations proceeded just as if nothing had happened.

The body of Queen Victoria is being embalmed to-night, and will probably be taken to Windsor on Saturday.

An incident characteristic of the Queen's solicitude for others occurred two days ago, when one of the intrepid and conscientious, she summoned strength to suggest to her dresser, who had been acting as nurse, to take the opportunity of getting some fresh air.

Monday afternoon she asked that her little Pomeranian be brought to her bedside. Her Majesty was so closely related to the European courts, big and small, that the gathering of royalties at the obsequies will be unprecedented.

News of the Queen's death reached the younger children in the Kingdom a few minutes after it had been received by the Lord Mayor of London, and the people knew that England had lost her Queen. The Bishop pronounced the benediction.

The Queen passed quite peacefully, she suffered no pain. Those who were now mourners went to their rooms. A few minutes later the inevitable element of materialism stopped into that pathetic chapter of international history, for the court ladies went busily to work ordering their mourning from London.

The latest bulletins previous to the announcement of the Queen's death had dispelled the last gleam of hope, and the crowds silently dispersing from in front of the Mansion House. Only a few groups awaited the appearance of the final inevitable announcement, which came in the form of a scrap of paper four square, posted on the wall of the Mansion House at 6:58 o'clock. This was the first notice to London's home-ward hurrying thousands of the death of the Empress-Queen, and the advent of a King.

There were few visible signs in London of anything unusual having happened. A drizzling rain kept most people within doors. Those who were out were seen to be hurrying to some special object. The shops closed as soon as the bells began to toll, and the windows of the Mansion House were drawn down as soon as the message from the Prince of Wales was received by the Lord Mayor.

The bell for her loss as for one of their own household. Nor will the mourners be found among her own subjects alone. The proudest position ever filled by a woman, and never wanting in a certain queenly dignity, her tastes, habits, delicacy and even her dress were marked by the rarest simplicity. She has been indeed, the mother of her people, and as a mother, she will be mourned. In all the affairs of state she manifested the same wisdom that inspired her private life, nor did her own country alone enjoy the fruits of her experience and sagacity. Through her kindred and de-

## PRINCE OF WALES BECOMES EDWARD VII

### Intimation of Queen's Death Creates Universal Sorrow and the British Empire Mourns.

There is no change in the date of the meeting of parliament. All society functions will be abandoned during the period of mourning. The session will be a quiet one—no state dinner, no drawing-room or state ball. Yesterday Lord Minto sent Sir Henri Joly's message to England. To-day the following reply was received: "The Prince of Wales desires me to express his gratitude for the kind message from you and the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. The sympathy of the people of Canada is warmly appreciated."

It was 7:30 to-night when His Excellency received the official message announcing the Queen's death. Lord Minto immediately indited the following telegram to the Colonial Secretary: "The announcement of Her Majesty's death, which has just reached Canada, has created universal sorrow. My ministers desire that you will convey to His Majesty the King and members of the Royal Family the assurance that the people of Canada share the great grief that has visited them. No greater sovereign has ever ruled the British Empire, and by her subjects and honored people of her more beloved and honored Queen Victoria, and by none has this love and respect been more deeply felt than by the people of His Majesty's domain of Canada."

Montreal in Mourning. Montreal, Jan. 22.—The bells on all the churches were tolled, flags hoisted and public buildings draped in black, when the news of the Queen's death was received. The courts were all adjourned and will remain so for some days, in all probability, as the judges and officers will be required to take the oath of allegiance to the new sovereign before they can sit again.

The Mayor will appoint a day of general mourning, probably that in which the funeral will take place, and different public bodies, including the city council, will meet and pass resolutions.

As soon as the news of the Queen's death was received in the city, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Montreal placed at half-mast on the archiepiscopal palace. He also gave instructions that the big bell of Notre Dame church, the biggest in Canada, as well as the bells of the various Catholic churches in the city, should be tolled from 4 o'clock this afternoon. His Grace will also address at once a circular on the subject to the clergy and the faithful under his jurisdiction.

On behalf of the Japanese of Canada, Japanese Consul Shimizu has sent a message of sorrow to the royal family through the colonial office; and on behalf of the Chinese Reform Association, the foreign secretary, W. A. Cumyrow, has

expressed deep sympathy to the royal family. The World says: "Victoria crossed the threshold on such a tide of moving years to sleep. She has not a day's pilot face to face, after a life of eighty-two years. As a man measures things, there is no place too good for her in the after life. As a ruler, she wrought her people lasting good. As a woman, she was an example to all women. Millions never saw her, but all loved her."

Salutes Ordered by Militia Department Throughout the Dominion. Ottawa, Jan. 22.—The militia department ordered a salute of 101 minute guns to be fired at Victoria, Winnipeg, Quebec, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, London, St. John and Charlottetown, as soon as official notice of the Queen's death was received. On the day of the state funeral the salutes will be repeated.

The cabinet to-day decided to have the parliament buildings draped in mourning; and the ministers discussed the procedure which will have to be followed during the next few days. A draught of proclamations announcing the demise of Her Majesty and the accession of the new King are ready, but cannot be issued until official notification is received from the Colonial Secretary of the death of Queen Victoria.

This notification had not come to-night, hence the proclamations do not appear until to-morrow. A day of general mourning will be proclaimed for the whole Dominion, probably at the day of the state funeral.

The passing of Queen Victoria and the accession of Albert Edward will necessitate many changes. The Governor-General and members of the cabinet will of course have to take the oath of allegiance to the King, and the same obligation will devolve upon every public official in Canada who by virtue of his office is required to pledge his fidelity to the crown.

Mr. Mills' mature judgment is that a new Privy Council will have to be created. The present councillors will be re-appointed in a few days. A new great seal will be required, also new postage and revenue stamps and col-

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Business Suspended and Signs of Mourning Are Everywhere. Nanaimo, Jan. 22.—(Special)—An hour after the news of the Queen's death was received, every place of business in town

(Continued on Page Two.)



KING EDWARD VII.

the dead Queen would be distributed, the general notion being that Osborne House would go to Princess Beatrice, and that she and Princess Christian would come into a considerable portion of Victoria's wealth.

The probability that King Edward will take up a practically permanent residence in Buckingham Palace was much canvassed. This is a question that comes very much home to Londoners. Queen Victoria's preference for Balmoral Castle and Osborne House has been a complaint of long-standing in the Metropolis, and it is hoped that the new reign will see a change in this respect. The presence of the court in London would give a brightness and gaiety which have long been absent.

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