

THE FIRST IMPERIAL CORONATION

By Norman Patterson

IT is extremely unfortunate that illness should have prevented the coronation of Edward VII on June 26th. The King is King, and the ceremony would only emphasize the fact. Nevertheless it would have been a most notable event, and would have taken place in the presence of representatives of every part of the Empire. If His Majesty's health continues to improve, the coronation may take place within a few weeks. It cannot, however, be the same grand spectacle that it would have been had there been no postponement, since the Colonial guests and visitors must necessarily be much less numerous.

This coronation when it does occur will be the first Imperial coronation. When Queen Victoria was crowned on June 28th, 1838, there were no Colonial premiers present in the Abbey, no Colonial troops in procession. The Queen was not proclaimed Empress of India until January 1st, 1877. She never assumed the title of "Sovereign of the British Dominions Beyond the Seas." She never visited the Colonies although she recognized their growing importance by sending her son, the present King, to visit India and Canada, and by arranging for the Colonial tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales which took place last year. When King Edward is crowned, he will be the first Imperial sovereign. This is significant. It marks a new era in British history, and is evidence that the days of "Little England" have passed forever. London was once the capital of England; then it became the capital of Great Britain; then the capital of Great Britain and Ireland. Today it is the capital of the British Empire. So has grown the title and greatness of the King. King Edward will be the crowned sovereign of a vast Empire.

Coronations differ in various countries, but they are the most interesting sur-

vivals of ancient monarchical customs. In some countries, as in Russia, the sovereign crowns himself; in some, as in Spain, the King merely takes the oath of fidelity to the constitution; in other countries, as in Germany, the coronation is presumed without any ceremony. In Great Britain the event has always been one of solemn grandeur and particular significance. The people do homage, the King takes the oath, is anointed by the Archbishop, is presented with the spurs by the Lord Great Chamberlain, with the sword by the Archbishops and Bishops, is invested with the armilla and Imperial mantle by the Dean of Westminster, and receives the orb; a ring, a glove, the sceptres are then delivered to him; after this comes the putting on of the crown by the Archbishop, the presentation of the Holy Bible. The ceremony is undoubtedly long and tedious, it may have lost much of its early significance, but it is one of the nota-



THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT WHO IS TO BE
THE NEXT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—
HE IS THE KING'S BROTHER