

Echoes of the King's Coronation

How The Coronation Was Observed In Prince Edward Island

His Majesty's Coronation Broadcast The King's Remarkable Memory

Thousands Participated In Parades, Mass Meetings, Church Services And Demonstrations.

"Our message from this Island Province of the Dominion of Canada is one of abiding faith in and loyalty to the Crown."

These words of Chief Justice the Hon. J.A. Mathieson, Administrator of the Province during the absence of Lieutenant Governor DeBlois, summed up the significance of the enthusiastic mass meeting held May 12, 1937, in the Charlottetown Forum in celebration of the Coronation of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

The crowded auditorium, scene a few years previously of a similar patriotic demonstration on the occasion of the Jubilee of his late Majesty King George V, heard the broadcast of his present Majesty's address from the Empire capital, which was preceded by a brief address by the chairman, Mayor P.W. Turner, and followed by addresses by His Honour the Administrator, by Hon. J.P. McIntyre on behalf of the Premier, Rev. P.A. McMahon, D.D. on behalf of the Bishop of Charlottetown, Rev. Hugh Miller, president of the Ministerial Association, and the Hon. Dr. W.J.P. MacMillan.

A message from the Lieutenant Governor, telegraphed from London, England, on the eve of the Coronation, was read amid applause.

Group singing by the children of the city schools, accompanied by the Fears of the Cross band, included verses of "O Canada" and "O God Our Help In Ages Past." The National Anthem was sung in unison by the vast audience at the

close of the programme, and was followed by enthusiastic cheers for Their Majesties.

Seated on the flag-draped platform with the chairman and speakers were members of the Federal and Provincial Parliaments, the City Council, representatives of patriotic organizations and others. In front and at the sides and rear were massed in colourful contrast the various parading units and citizens.

A special feature of the programme was the presentation by the chairman of Coronation medals to the school children, each class being represented by one child who received the full quota of medals for his or her class.

Colorful Ceremonies

The day's ceremonies began with special church services followed in the afternoon by a parade of 1,500 persons through streets thronged by interested citizens and visitors.

Those who had special seats in the Forum and who formed the parade included: Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; 1st Medium Brigade, R.C.A.; 6th Divisional Signallers; Prince Edward Island Highlanders; 21st Field Ambulance, C.A.M.C.; Canadian Legion, B.E.S. L.; Boy Scouts; Girl Guides; Benevolent Irish Society; Sons of England; Loyal Orange Association; Caledonian Club; Knights of Pythias; Knights of Columbus; City Firemen. Special seats were

also occupied by nurses from the Prince Edward Island and Charlottetown Hospitals; Wolf Cubs, Brownies, and school children.

The Prince Edward Island Light Horse provided an escort for His Honour the Administrator.

Colonel U.G. Dawson was officer commanding the parade.

Following the ceremonies at the Forum, a "feu-de-joie" was fired by the R.C.N.V.R. at King's Square, accompanied by enthusiastic demonstrations, cheering and hat waving.

The salute at the march past was taken by the Administrator at the City Hall, the units forming the procession then proceeding to their respective headquarters.

At 12 noon a 21 gun salute roared out from guns at Victoria Park roadway, Capt. A.W. Matheson being in command of the saluting party drawn from the 8th Medium Battery, R.C.A.

In the evening, thousands saw the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve and members of Militia units stage a sham battle at Fort Edward, which was followed by a brilliant display of fireworks in charge of the Fire Department.

At Summerside and other centres similar demonstrations took place. Flags and bunting were everywhere in evidence. Nowhere in the Empire was the celebration more widely and enthusiastically observed, than in Canada's Island Province.

July is to be the London season's most brilliant month. The return of the King and Queen at the end of June from their visit to Canada, the United States and Newfoundland has decided the date of many brilliant functions. Three weeks after the Royal homecoming 500 debutantes will go to the Palace to courtesy at the fourth and fifth Courts of the year, on July 12 and 13. Some of the most notable brides of the year are choosing July as their wedding month.

The present occasion of Their Majesties' visit to Prince Edward Island brings to mind the most moving feature of the Coronation ceremonies two years ago, namely, the King's speech which was broadcast from Buckingham Palace on his return from Westminster Abbey, and which was heard with heartfelt appreciation by many thousands in this Province.

"To the ministry of the Kingship I have, with your sharing, dedicated myself with the Queen at my side in words of the deepest solemnity," said His Majesty. "We will, God helping us, faithfully discharge our trust."

"In the years to come some of you will travel from one part of the Commonwealth to another, and moving thus within the family circle will meet many whose thoughts are coloured by the same memories, whose hearts unite in devotion to our common heritage. You will learn, I hope, how much our free association means to us; how much our friendship with each other and all other nations on earth can help the cause of peace and progress.

"The Queen and I will always keep in our hearts the inspiration of this day. May we ever be worthy of the good will which I am proud to think surrounds us at the outset of my reign.

"I thank you from my heart, and may God bless you all."

It was, as noted at the time, a remarkable address, remarkable in its simplicity, its dignity, its sense of responsibility. "The ministry of Kingship".... "God helping us".... "May we ever be worthy"

"Our friendship with each other and all nations on earth." Here, at the outset of his reign, fresh from the solemn ceremony of his Coronation, His Majesty gave touching evidence of his desire to follow in his illustrious father's footsteps.

And this desire, so feelingly expressed, thrilled his hearers as no other words could have done. Coming from the heart, they went straight to the heart of the millions

Many incidents testify to the King's remarkable memory, even for the most trifling details.

A man who worked with him on one of his social welfare schemes tells how the King once visited him and remarked, "You have changed the colour of your room."

Actually, the room had been redecorated in a very slightly darker shade of the same colour. It was many months since the King had been there.

The King smiled when complimented on his memory, and added: "I notice another thing, too—you've had that suit of yours cleaned."

Amazed, the man admitted it. "You used to have a spot of grease on the sleeve" added the King.

The Wrong Man

George VI is doubtless the only King in history who has hewn coal in a mine. He has done so several times during his tours as Duke of York through industrial Britain.

On one occasion he visited a mining town in South Wales. The special train drew into the station, and a man in full morning dress and silk hat alighted from the Royal saloon. The Mayor and civic deputation hurried forward to welcome their visitor.

But they had made a mistake. The figure in faultless formal dress was Mr. Frank Hodges, M.P., and miners' leader, who had accompanied the Duke. The Duke himself wore rough tweeds.

The laugh was on Mr. Hodges when, an hour later, his comrades watched him go down the pit in the full regalia of high society.

of British subjects who expressed in overflowing measure their feeling of loyalty and devotion on that memorable occasion.



The occasion of the visit of
Our Gracious SOVEREIGN AND HIS Royal Consort
gives opportunity for expressions of loyalty and devotion to
THE BRITISH THRONE

May their reign continue to be one of progress in the cause of peace and amiable international relationships.

LONG MAY THEY REIGN



DEBLOIS BROS.

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS, LOBSTER DEALERS
INSURANCE AGENTS



SALUTE To ROYALTY

With heartfelt sincerity we join the citizens of Prince Edward Island and the nation in paying our loyal homage to Their Majesties on the occasion of their visit to Canada.

Prince Edward Island Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Association

LOYAL GREETINGS and "IMPERIAL" WELCOME to THEIR MAJESTIES



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