

Some doubts having been expressed as to whether funds were required for the sufferers by the Mount Kembla disaster the "Ottago Daily Times," which had opened a fund, cabled to Sir John See, who replied:—"Any money subscribed would be gratefully received. We have an Act in force which provides for weekly payments of 8/ to widows until again married, and 2/6 to each child up to the age of 14, but this is barely sufficient to maintain them."

The King has cabled his deep regret and condolences in connection with the recent colliery disaster at Mount Kembla.

The relief fund is largely augmenting. Lists have been opened in many centres, and numerous subscriptions have been received, including £100 from the Salvation Army, and 50gms. from the Rugby Union. Other States are generously assisting.

A Royal Commission will be appointed to enquire into the Mount Kembla disaster.

At a meeting at Wollongong £350 was subscribed to the relief fund.

### THE NEW HEBRIDES.

French newspapers published in the New Hebrides and in Noumea (New Caledonia) continue to show resentment at the despatch of Australian settlers to the New Hebrides. They appeal to the French Government to step in and prevent Great Britain from annexing the group.

One paper says that while the sublime patriots in South Africa held the veldt England concealed her intention, but now that the Rand is free she throws aside the mask, confident of her strength, and knowing the incapacity of the French Government. The time for caution having passed she resolutely asserts her supposed rights over the Islands. Unless there is an extraordinary concurrence of circumstances or a sudden awakening of national energy the New Hebrides will be lost to France. Then New Caledonia will follow.

### THE BRITISH CABINET.

The Cabinet rearrangements are as follows:—

Lord Londonderry assumes the presidency of the Board of Education, the Duke of Devonshire having relinquished that part of his duties. Sir John Gorst retires from the vice-presidency of the Board of Education, which position has become extinct. Mr Ritchie's selection as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Akers Douglas as Secretary of State for the Home Department, in succession to Mr Ritchie, are confirmed. Baron Windsor, the Paymaster-General, succeeds Mr Akers Douglas as First Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings. Baron Windsor and Sir W. H. Waldron, the new Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, are without seats in the Cabinet. Mr W. H. Fisher, Junior Lord of the Treasury, and one of the Ministerial Whips, has been appointed Financial Secretary, and Sir A. F. Acland Hood, Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury. Each Percy, member for South Kensington, is to be Under-Secretary for India; the Hon. T. Cochrane, private secretary to Mr Chamberlain, and member for Ayrshire, becomes Under-Secretary to the Home Office; and Earl Hardwicke, the present Under-Secretary for India, is appointed Under-Secretary to the War Office. Sir W. R. Anson, member for Oxford University, becomes Parliamentary Secretary for Education. Earl Dudley has succeeded Earl Cadogan as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Mr Wyndham, Chief Secretary for Ireland, being given a seat in the Cabinet instead of the Lord-Lieutenant. Mr A. B. Lowe, member for Blackfriars division of Glasgow, succeeds Earl Dudley as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. Mr Law, who is a Unionist, and well-known ironmaster, in his recent speeches in defence of the corn and sugar duties, favourably impressed Ministerialists.

## The King's Coronation.

The dawn of Coronation Day was inaugurated by the booming of cannon at Hyde Park and the Tower.

The route of the Royal procession was occupied by six o'clock by 12,000 police and 30,000 soldiers, including the colonials and Indians, who lined Whitehall. Some Indian cavalry were included in the escort.

The route to and from the Abbey was as originally arranged.

Millions of spectators lined the route, and flags, festoons and Venetian masts, though not so numerous as in June, still made a brave show, especially in St. James-street, where the colonial stands were situated, Parliament-street, Parliament Square, and facing Westminster Hall. These were the great features and centres of the crowds of spectators.

The King's nurses and medical men were among the early arrivals at the Abbey, and ambulance corps of male and female nurses were in the retiring rooms and other precincts.

Noblemen in the usual State coaches contributed to the splendour of the scene, the line of equipages stretching from the Abbey to Victoria station four deep.

The officials, Royalties and distinguished foreign representatives used the Whitehall route, and the crowds loudly acclaimed many leading personages in the pageant, such as Lords Kitchener, Wolesey, Roberts and the Prince Iasmokomem, representing the Abyssinian ruler.

The meeting of Lords Kitchener and Roberts in front of Buckingham Palace led to immense cheering, also the arrival of Mr. Chamberlain and the colonial Premiers, particularly Sir W. Laurier and Mr. Seddon. The last-named, with his wife, was among the earliest arrivals.

### AT THE ABBEY.

Westminster Abbey presented an appearance of great magnificence. The galleries were so arranged as to avoid hiding the leading architectural features and contour of the building.

The nave, choir and galleries behind them were lined with provincial mayors, representative working men, Nonconformist delegates, past and present Imperial Ministers, and their wives, officers and their wives, all the Agents-General and their wives.

All wore uniforms or court or levee dresses, and the brilliant colours, in which the magnificent gala dresses of the Indian rajahs were conspicuous, made a splendid picture.

A new carpet, laid from the west door of the Abbey to the dais or platform, which was raised three steps at the intersection of the choir transept and chancel, made a magnificent groundwork for the rich parterre of colours, which ran like a ribbon on each side.

The dais was covered with a magnificent Indian carpet, and accommodated two large throne chairs.

### A BRILLIANT SECT.

The north and south transepts were occupied with slightly sloping galleries. In the south were the peers in their scarlet robes or mantles and fur tippet capes, carrying their coronets in front.

The chairs facing the dais were occupied by the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of Connaught and Cambridge.

In the north transept were the peeresses in court dresses, with scarlet trains and wearing coronets. Such a wealth of diamonds was never before seen.

Above the peers and peeresses extended galleries accommodating Commoners and their wives, a few being in mourning, but most in court or levee costumes, and some in brilliant uniforms. Many ladies wore ostrich feathers.

The spectacle of the two transepts was the most brilliant piece of colour in the whole pageant. The flash of diamonds in the peeresses' gallery, especially on the trains and skirts of the ladies-in-waiting, when they arrived at the foot of the platform, was like ripples of sunshine on rough water, or the scintillation of dew-drops in the morning sunlight.

### THE PROCESSIONS.

The clergy went in procession from the choir, carrying the spurs, staff, orb, chalice, paten and King Edward's crown, and handed them to the officers of State selected to carry them.

The Queen and her supporters and officers of state were the first to come up the nave.

The Queen wore a magnificent robe, the train being carried by eight pages in scarlet, the Mistress of the Robes supporting the terminal of the trains, hers in turn being supported by pages in blue.

The Queen passed across the chancel to the faldstool facing the line of bishops grouped under the northern wall of the chancel, and immediately under a box containing the Princess of Wales and her children.

Her immediate supporters were the Bishops of Oxford and Norwich, and on the extreme right at the south end of the altar stood the Abbey clergy, seven or eight wearing magnificent terracotta copes.

### THE KING.

The King's procession followed, the officers of state carrying the insignia as arranged.

The King, with the Bishops of Bath and Wells and Durban as immediate supporters, knelt at the faldstool adjoining that of the Queen.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a loud voice, proceeded with the Recognition, which took place at the faldstool instead of the dais, the King being presented to the west only.

The people shouted, "God Save King Edward." The Litany was omitted and the Communion service commenced with the introit, "Oh, harken Thou unto the voice of my calling, my King, and my God; for unto Thee will I make my prayer."

In the third prayer, which commences: "Oh, God, Who providest," the Archbishop of Canterbury introduced the words: "For whose recovery we give Thee hearty thanks."

The Bishop of Ely read the epistle and the Bishop of Winchester the gospel. The choir sang the Nicene creed to Wesley's setting. The sermon was omitted.

### THE OATH.

The Archbishop of Canterbury administered the oath, to which the King replied in a voice that could be heard half-way down the Abbey. His four responses, showed a firmness of tone that might have been that of some strong and healthy man.

His Majesty then kissed the great Bible presented by the Archbishop.

### THE ANOINTING.

The anointing of the King proceeded under a canopy as prescribed in the service.

The King, having moved to the Coronation chair, the Archbishop presented the golden spurs, and the sword was laid by the side of the King and not guided on.

The King having assumed the Armilla, the Lord Great Chamberlain clasped its girdle.

Afterwards the rings, the two sceptres, and the glove were presented by the Lord of the Manor of Workop.

Having been touched with the Rod of Equity, the King was invested with the Imperial Mantle and Pallium.

### THE CROWNING.

One of the Bishops instead of Dean Bradley handed the crown to the Archbishop, who placed it on the King's head, the latter holding a sceptre in each hand.

At this instant the electric light was turned on and the congregation in the Abbey cheered, the bells clanged, and the guns from the Tower were heard booming in the distance.

This section of the service ended with the choir singing the words, "Be strong and play the man. Keep the Commandments of the Lord Thy God, and walk in His ways."

The presentation of the Bible followed. There came two prayers, the Benediction, and the Archbishop's address to the people, after which the ceremony of enthronisation was commenced, the Te Deum being postponed and sung during the recess.

The King, on leaving the Coronation chair, ascended the dais with firm steps and without assistance, though wearing the crown and pallium and carrying the two sceptres. The officiating clergy surrounded him.

### THE BLIND ARCHBISHOP.

The Archbishop of Canterbury with great difficulty ascended the dais, requiring assistance and nearly falling owing to physical infirmity, though his voice was powerful. He was so blind that in all his movements he was led by the bishops. An attendant placed before him at every long prayer a scroll 4ft long and 2ft wide, on which the prayer was printed in large type. This was held by a bishop.

The Archbishop of Canterbury made many mistakes in reading, though he read exceedingly slowly.

The enthronisation, or lifting of the King into the throne, consisted of the Archbishop of Canterbury slightly raising the King's hands in his while the King was in the act of sitting down.

### HOMAGE TO THE KING.

After the ceremony of exaltation the Archbishop of Canterbury did homage to the King. He knelt with the utmost difficulty and the King and two bishops helped him to rise. He then kissed the King on both cheeks.

The Archbishop nearly collapsed in descending the dais. Two bishops and an attendant were required to assist him. He was supported towards his chair at the north end of the altar, where he stopped.

The Prince of Wales then doffed his coronet and did homage to the King, warmly kissing him and shaking his hands.

Afterwards selected peers paid homage, touching the crown and kissing the King's cheek, the choir meanwhile singing the anthem, "Kings Shall See and Arise."

When the paying of homage had ended, the people shouted amidst the beating of drums and the blaring of trumpets, "God Save King Edward!" "Long Live King Edward!" "May the King live for ever!"

### THE CROWNING OF THE QUEEN.

Up till now the Queen had remained at her faldstool. She now advanced and knelt on a cushion on the steps of the altar, where the Archbishop of York conducted her coronation as prescribed.

The Queen was anointed under a canopy held by four duchesses. The Archbishop of York presented her with sceptres and ring and a new crown, replacing the circlet which she had worn till now.

### THE COMMUNION SERVICE.

The celebration of the Holy Communion followed, the power of the Archbishop of Canterbury's voice at this portion of the service showing that he had recovered from his emotion and physical strain.

The King and Queen having made their prescribed oblations at the altar, the Archbishop of Canterbury administered the Sacrament to himself and Dean Bradley before the King and Queen, as prescribed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was so blind that walking along the front of the altar without a bishop's guidance he groped his way, feeling along the edge of the table, and holding the paten so much askew that the holy elements nearly slipped on to the floor.

Dean Bradley, who is also exceedingly infirm, when carrying the communion cup from the Queen to the table, his knees gave way, and two bishops ran to his assistance.

Apart from this physical contretemps, the entire service went most smoothly, there being no confusion in the processions or anything else. Stainer's "Gloria" was magnificently rendered.

### AFTER THE CEREMONY.

The whole of the Coronation office having been performed the King and Queen retired into St. Edward's Chapel, where they partook of slight refreshments.

During the recess the "Te Deum" was sung. The King changed his pallium for an ermine and purple velvet pallium mantle of State, and the Royal crown for a new crown of greater brilliancy.

### THE RETURN PROCESSIONS.

The Queen's procession was the first to leave the Abbey, Her Majesty wearing a new crown containing the famous Kohinoor diamond and carry-