

The King's Social Leadership.

When Edward VII. succeeded to the throne, he carried his friends with him, but the jealousies between staid old Victorians and smart, pleasure-loving Edwardians quickly disappeared. With his radiant smile and unrivalled fascination, he himself assumed social leadership as the head of the nation. George V., without having a set of his own when he was near to the throne, has succeeded to this unique supremacy. The im-

portance of the royal leadership is not likely to decline during his reign, when he is a sincere imperialist at the head of an empire of commonwealths and dependencies.

There will be fewer journeys abroad than there were during the last reign, and longer sojourns in Scotland, especially during the shooting season. As a marksman the King has few rivals in the privileged class of sportsmen. Shooting is his favourite recreation and record "bags" have gone to his credit year after year in the society papers. He has been

to the older order of nobility. Smart society and wealthy foreigners will be less influential at court.

More potent than the flatteries of courtiers and politicians, or the incense of smart society, is this royal nest among the historic English oaks where the noblest tradition of the Victorian reign is cherished.

In the prime of middle life, the King is not a romantic figure, like the girlish Victoria of 1837, to fascinate men's imaginations. Neither has he the charm of Edward VII. in hypnotising nations by his own natural bonhomie. He lacks the German Emperor's eclectic faculty for absorbing information, and does not pose as a many-sided genius with a sacred mission in world politics.

Prosaic, industrious, and high-minded, he has reserves of restrained force, moral principle, and enlightened patriotism. Modern in training and open-minded from wide circuits of travel, he has opportunities for supremely useful work. His conservatism might be a source of danger, if he were impulsive and self-willed; but he has sobriety of judgment, and there is a safeguard in his flexibility—the prime virtue of constitutional rulers, by which they adapt themselves to political situations and to the exigencies of state.

The mother of dull, obstinate George III. used to din into his ears the shrill exhortation:

"George, be a king!" Queen Alexandra did not repeat that parrot cry during the opening months of the new reign. Her son may not be destined to become a commanding personality in European diplomacy; but he can never be less than a king—a truly progressive monarch, sobered by the responsibilities of power, and inspired by the obligation to render personal service to the British Empire.

How King George is Guarded.

There are few more interesting branches of the detective service than guarding Royalty, although the responsibilities of such work are tremendous.

Inspector Spencer, who follows King George, must be ready to appear in frock-coat or lounge-suit, shooting-jacket, or evening-dress, as occasion demands, and he is never far from his Royal master's side. He must know how to deal with a thousand and one emergencies, must be the essence of diplomacy, and must prevent the innumerable cranks from worrying Royalty when it travels by the train or other means. One harmless lunatic, with plenty of money, was in the habit of

travelling wherever King Edward went, and it was Mr. Spencer's duty to keep this gentleman from seeing His Majesty, except from a distance.

Royal personages, in the majority of cases, communicate their plans to their detectives beforehand, and they have a written programme to guide them in making the necessary arrangements for safety. King Alfonso, however, is a notable exception, and on one occasion he dropped through a window and went off on a shopping expedition, completely outwitting his protectors.



KING GEORGE AND LORD ROBERTS REVIEWING THE BOYS' BRIGADE AT THE HORSE GUARDS IN LONDON.

His presence at races may be more or less perfunctory, but his residences at Balmoral and Windsor, and his visits to country houses with shootings, will be joyous periods of relaxation. Almost as enjoyable will be his yachting cruises in the Solent and elsewhere, for he is as good a sailor as he is a sportsman, and he has retained a genuine and hearty interest in sea-life.

The King's Home Life.

There is in the capital of the British Empire an illustrious court with medieval traditions and imperial glamour, and at the centre of it there is a simple family life of genuine Victorian quality. Queen Mary is as English as the king

The trend toward pomp and circumstance of power is already apparent. It is evident that the sovereign has already recognised the importance of making London the most brilliant capital in Europe, so that it may be worthy of the greatness of the British Empire. It is equally plain that he has accepted the obligation to sustain the reputation of the sturdiest of European Courts; to impart colour and glitter to the ordinary functions, and to magnify the impressiveness of the coronation as the consecration of the sovereign to the service of the Empire.

Outside mentors Edward VII. did not need, so unrivalled were his own knowledge of affairs and his resources of influence; but there were confidential advisers whom he frequently consulted, and whom he sometimes employed in complex and delicate transactions. Among them was Lord Escher—not a dogmatic pedant like Stockman, who caused mischief during the earlier years of Queen Victoria's reign, but a sagacious man of the world. George V. is likely to make use of his versatile mind and conciliatory temper in a constitutional crisis. There are no royal favourites to be dragged into court, or into politics, as there were in the earlier Georgian reigns.

Probably, as time goes on, certain social fancies which have been prominent during recent years will disappear from court circles and smart society. There will be no premature dismissals; but when the period of mourning is over, and the King and Queen accept invitations to country-houses, some names which formerly appeared in the lists of guests will be dropped. Their own confidential friends will be invited when the royal preferences are known.

King George is more conservative and less democratic than his father was. His ideal of social life is more exclusive and less flexible. There will be fewer really-made millions in his circle of acquaintance. There will be a reversion



Established 1877.

Rebuilt 1907.



A HOME AWAY FROM A HOME.



Telephone No. 41, P.O. Box No. 54.

FOSTER'S HOTEL.

Nearly opposite Town Bridge. Taupo Quay, WANGANUI. The most profitable site in Wanganui. Fitted throughout with electric light. Within three minutes of Railway Station and River Tourist Steamers.

J. R. FOSTER, Proprietor.



The delicate "nutty" flavour of the

'DOG'S HEAD' BASS

is the result not only of scientific brewing but also of painstaking bottling

Of course only the best materials are used to make this famous ale, but without the "Read Brothers, Limited" methods of bottling, it would not enjoy the reputation it does.

This method includes storage of butts in dry, airy, well ventilated and clean cellars where it ripens under the most favorable conditions.

Bottling in its prime insures its refreshing pungency and preserves its nourishing food qualities which are unequalled.

Therefore, when ordering beer of your dealer, ask for "DOG'S HEAD" BASS, and see that the "DOG'S HEAD" Label is on every bottle.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.