

DEATH OF THE KING

THE NATION IN MOURNING

During the past week disquieting cable messages regarding the King's health were received, and, although the public felt that his Majesty's condition was probably more serious than was admitted, still the people were wholly unprepared for the sad news that came to hand about one o'clock on Saturday to the effect that his Majesty had passed away at a quarter to twelve on Friday night.

The King refused to stay in bed on Friday morning, when he rose and transacted business. He faced his illness with courage and determination, and except during attacks of coughing and choking he conversed as usual. He suffered a bad paroxysm of coughing in the forenoon, and the paroxysm recurred in the afternoon, till in the evening it took the form rather of failure of breath, and King Edward became comatose. Despite this fact the King remained up. The Royal Family was summoned, and nearly all had arrived by 7.30 p.m. As the King's condition was not improving it was arranged that all should stay the night, and rooms were prepared for them. King Edward recognised those about him during a flicker of consciousness about 10 p.m., but he then relapsed into a state of coma, and peacefully expired.

Among the callers at Buckingham Palace on Friday morning was his Grace Archbishop Bourne.

Messages of Condolence.

There was an indescribable outburst of grief when the news was made public, and unanimous tributes of affection were paid to the late King. The Lord Mayor of London (Sir John Knill), in acknowledging the Prince of Wales' intimation of the death of King Edward, tendered the citizens' true sympathy and condolence. He also telegraphed to Queen Alexandra:—'The city expresses profound emotion at the fact that God has called to Himself your august husband and our most gracious and beloved King. It expresses loyal devotion and deep sympathy, and may God bless and comfort you and those dear to you in your hour of need and sorrow.'

The Irish Nationalist newspapers are shocked at the abrupt termination of the King's active life. They state that during the nine years of his reign there never was an occasion for more critical attention than the present, when the world was looking with anxiety for the King's decision in the constitutional crisis.

On Friday his Holiness the Pope remarked that he had offered heartfelt prayers for the King's speedy recovery.

President Taft cabled to Queen Alexandra in the following terms:—'I offer your Majesty and your son the profoundest sympathy of the people and Government of the United States, whose hearts go out to their British kinsmen in their national bereavement. To this I add my personal appreciation of those high qualities which made the life of the late King so potent an influence towards peace and justice among the nations.'

On Saturday afternoon Sir Joseph Ward in the course of a message to all officers in charge of telegraph stations, said:—'The loss to the world at large is one that cannot be estimated, as King Edward throughout his reign has been recognised as one of the greatest factors in helping to preserve the peace of nations. Our great monarch stood out as one of the greatest in the world's history, and it is something to remember that his reign was characterised by the unique and gratifying distinction that, throughout that period, Great Britain has been at peace with all other nations.'

His Lordship Bishop Grimes forwarded the following message on Saturday to the Prime Minister for transmission to his Excellency the Governor:—'Kindly accept and convey assurance of grief of priests, people, and Bishop of our diocese in the world-wide loss of our great and good King.'

King George signed a proclamation confirming in their offices all holding appointments. Then, in a short and earnest speech he recalled with deep emotion his father's words on ascending the throne: 'As long as I breathe it will be my duty to strive to promote the best interests of the people.' That promise had been fulfilled to the best of King Edward's ability, and it would be his constant endeavor to follow that example. He had sustained something more than the loss of a father. He had lost a King, father, and friend.

Sketch of the Life of the Late King.

King Edward VII. was born on November 9, 1841, at Buckingham Palace. An heir to the Throne had been anxiously awaited, and Queen Victoria and Prince Albert received thousands of congratulatory messages, not only through official sources at home and abroad, but from many of her Majesty's humblest subjects all over the world. The heir to the Throne was christened Albert, after his father, and Edward, after his grandfather, the Duke of Kent. The education of the future King was entrusted to private tutors until his eighteenth year. On November 9, 1859, the prince attained his eighteenth year, and became legally heir to the Crown, when Queen Victoria wrote him a letter announcing his emancipation from parental control. Exactly

a month after his birthday the Prince started on a Continental tour with Mr. Tarver, travelling incognito as Lord Renfrew. He stayed some time in Rome, and was received by Pope Pius IX. He went to Oxford University in 1859, and to Cambridge in 1860, and in 1861 he joined the army at the Curragh. In 1860 he visited Canada and the United States. During a visit to Germany in 1861 the Prince met the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, his future consort. The formal betrothal took place in September, 1862, and the marriage on March 10, 1863. The year 1865 was memorable for the Prince's visit to Ireland and for the birth of the present King. Some years later the Prince was brought almost to death's door by an attack of typhoid fever, contracted whilst visiting at Scarborough. In 1875 the Prince visited India, where he was received with the utmost enthusiasm.

Queen Victoria died at Osborne, full of years and honor, on January 22, 1901, and he who had been so long known and beloved as Prince of Wales ascended the throne as Edward VII. The coronation was fixed for June 26, 1902, but owing to the serious illness of the King it had to be postponed until August 9.

The New King.

The new King was born on June 3, 1865, being the younger son of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, then known as the Prince and Princess of Wales. On the death of his brother Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, on January 14, 1892, he became heir to the throne, and took his seat in the House of Lords as Duke of York. He was then in his twenty-seventh year. On July 6, 1893, he was married to Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, who had been the intended bride of his brother. Since then as Duke of York he paid visits to various parts of the Empire, that which he in company with the Duchess of York, paid the Commonwealth and New Zealand in 1901 is still fresh in the memory of our readers. It was only on his return to England in 1902 that the Duke received the style and dignity of Prince of Wales.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

DUNEDIN.

At all the Masses at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday feeling reference was made to the death of his Majesty King Edward VII. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., speaking at the 9 and 11 o'clock Masses, said that in union with all the subjects of the British Empire they desired to express their sorrow and sincere regret at the death of the King. During his brief reign his Majesty had at all times and on all possible occasions shown the greatest respect and reverence for the Church and its ceremonies. For this his Catholic subjects owed him a deep debt of gratitude. During the whole of his life the late King never did anything in his relation to the Church to which the most exacting Catholic could take exception. There was one act to which exception could be taken, and that was when at his coronation he had to make use of expressions which cast a slur upon our holy religion and our belief in the Real Presence, but they had it on the best authority that the use of these words was most distasteful to his Majesty, and altogether opposed to his opinions and feelings. He had always manifested the greatest interest in Catholic institutions both at home and abroad, and on the last occasion he was in Ireland he paid a special visit to Maynooth College and showed his very deep interest in that great institution and all that concerned it. On various occasions when he visited Continental countries he showed his sympathy with, and appreciation of, the Catholic Church in various ways, and whenever he was present at any religious functions he followed the ceremonies with the greatest respect and reverence. It was not long ago since he visited Lourdes, where, with head uncovered, he watched a religious procession at that famous shrine. The Catholics of the British Empire owed a deep debt of gratitude to the late King and his Ministers for, notwithstanding the protests of bigoted persons, the welcome extended to the French religious, who were driven out of their own country—a professedly Catholic land—for no reason save that they were engaged in practising their religion by teaching the young, and nursing the sick, the infirm, and the old. They, therefore, as Catholics, desired to unite with other subjects in expressing their sorrow for the loss sustained by the British Empire. They desired also to extend their heartfelt sympathy to Queen Alexandra in her sad bereavement. As Irishmen and descendants of Irishmen, they had reason to mourn the death of the King, for there were grounds for believing that his Majesty was favorable to the granting of self-government to Ireland. His tact, liberality, kindness of heart, and diplomacy had won for him an imperishable place in the hearts of his subjects. In concluding, Father Coffey said they should pray earnestly that the new King would follow in his father's footsteps; that he would be animated with the same high ideals, display the same liberality towards the Catholic religion, act as a peacemaker among nations, and do all in his power to prevent unnecessary wars.

After the 11 o'clock Mass at the Cathedral the organist (Mr. Vallis) played the Dead March from 'Saul.'

South Dunedin.

At St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday, at the 9 and 11 o'clock Masses, Rev. D. O'Neill expressed

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