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CORONATION

(Continued from page 3)

climax of the ceremony. "Amid the awed and expectant hush that falls upon the vast assembly, the Archbishop, assisted by the other bishops, will come from the altar and approach St. Edward's chair." The Dean of Westminster, who as yet will have taken no active part in the ceremony, now supported by the sub-dean, brings St. Edward's crown from the altar and delivers it to the Archbishop, who, "with a slow, impressive dignity," raises it in both hands and "reverently puts it on the King's head." As the glittering tiadem touches the royal brow the long hush of the spectators ends or is meant to end with cries of "Long live the King!"

Hail to the King.

As the newly crowned King is hailed with the national hymn, the peers and equal dignitaries in the transept are with one accord to lift in both hands the coronets which they have been carrying and place them upon their heads. "At the same moment clusters of electric lamps which have been fixed to the pillars at the corners of the transept will flash suddenly into light and add a new radiance to the already splendid coloring of the figures grouped about the King and Queen." Mingled with the shouts of "God save the King" will be the blare of trumpets and the roar of the guns in Hyde Park. When the acclamation has subsided the Archbishop recites the exhortation and the sovereign is to receive the benediction. His Majesty advances between his supporters to the fald-stool placed between the altar steps and St. Edward's chair. There he kneels in his dalmatic robe, holding the scepters in either hand. The Archbishop having spoken the ritual, the King will rise from the fald-stool, supported still by the bishops and attended by the great officers of state, and, with the swords carried before him, passes to the throne on the south side of the dais. Such is the program as now rehearsed in detail.

Ancient Ceremonies.

The ceremony which in all the impressive coronation service is pronounced by the London Times the most directly and picturesquely feudal in its origin and significance will be the so-called homage. First the Archbishop of Canterbury is to mount the steps of the dais to the throne. He is to "kneel before the King's knees," the rest of the bishops also kneeling in their places, and make his vow of fealty. Having kissed the royal cheek, the Archbishop steps down and the princes of the blood royal go through the act of homage. For the shortening of this part of the coronation ceremonial, the homage of the peers will be representatives of their different orders. The solemnity of the crowning of George V. will now be over. His Majesty, surrounded by the officers of state, supported by the bishops and with the swords of state borne before him, is to remain seated upon the throne wearing his crown and holding scepters in his hands. His Majesty will, however, be a spectator instead of a participant until his consort has been crowned. The Queen will, like the King, be crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, although not that prelate but the Archbishop of York crowned Alexandra nine years ago.

Her Majesty's Plans.

Vague reports in the Paris press indicate that her Majesty is still somewhat disposed to modify the arrangements for her coronation as now fixed. The historic ritual requires, according to the London News, that she remain in her chair of state during the coronation of his Majesty, at the completion of which she rises and, supported by two bishops, a Duchess and pages, goes to the fald-stool set for that purpose before she steps off the altar. In the meantime the Deputy-Garter King of Arms will summon from their seats in the transepts four peeresses who have been appointed to hold over her Majesty the pall—the same as that to be used in the anointing of the King. These ladies do not include one peeress of American birth, a fact which has occasioned great remark, especially as the Duchess of Marlborough held the pall when Alexandra nine years ago.

Crowning the Queen.

The crowning of Queen Mary will be a much prettier sight than that of the King. The Archbishop of Canterbury, having received from the officer of the jewel service the Queen's

ring—a table ruby, the hoop of which is encrusted with rubies—will put it upon the fourth finger of her Majesty's right hand. Then will come the crowning. The Archbishop, according to the official program, takes from the altar the Queen Consort's crown, traditionally known as Queen Edith's crown. It is of gold, according to the London Post, set with diamonds, pearls and other gems, and is similar to that worn by the King. As the crown is set on the Queen's head, the peeresses will take in both hands the coronets which have hitherto been lying in their laps and in slow, rhythmical unison raise them to their heads. Next will come the investiture with the ensigns of queenly dignity, the scepter and the ivory rod. The scepter, which is of gold adorned with precious stones, is surmounted by a cross and is similar to that to be borne by the King, but smaller and lighter. The ivory rod is also encrusted with gems. The Archbishop will deliver the scepter into the Queen's right hand and the ivory rod into her left, saying a prayer. Being thus anointed, crowned and vested with all her ornaments, the Queen leaves the fald-stool and, supported by the bishops, one of the Duchesses and pages bearing her train, she approaches the royal canopy. As her Majesty passes the King on his throne she will, unless precedent be disregarded, make a deep obeisance. Then she is conducted to her own throne where, without further ceremony, she is to take her place. The coronation proper, which so many great personages will have traversed the globe to attend, comes in this way to its conclusion. There will follow, indeed, the holy communion, but it is to be only a prelude to the recessional pageant and the dispersal of the great assembly.

Strict About Costumes.

Careful rehearsals of these elaborate services will make it possible for the preparations for one ceremony to be concluded while the previous ceremony is being fulfilled. There is a possibility of awkward hitches due to the tendency the Queen has shown to insist upon modifications. She has authorized a great concession in permitting robes and kirtles worn at the coronation of King Edward to be worn at the forthcoming coronation. There is to be no trifling, however, with the traditional costume. The dress worn by peeresses is to consist of a kirtle of crimson velvet, bordered all round, with a narrow edging of miniver scalloped in front.

plain otherwise. The royal command was issued to this effect from the early marshal's office some weeks ago, so that no peeress could complain of lack of reasonable warning. The kirtle, which may be fastened down the back or in front, according to London Truth, is to open from the waist and widen gradually down to the ground. No harem effects and no tightening of the lines to display the figure will be tolerated. The kirtle may be gathered back in three festoons, each tied with a bow of gold tinsel. The sleeves will be about nine inches long and have two narrow rows of miniver, below which are five lappets. The petticoat must be white or slightly cream colored. Gaudily hued stockings are expressly prohibited, as are all open-work effects. The idea in the mind of her Majesty is to deprive wealthy persons entitled to witness the coronation of any advantage they might possess through vastness of financial resources.

From the Conquerors' Time.

Nothing illustrates more impressively, comments the London Times, the essential continuity of the British throne and realm than this order of the coronation. "It contains many vital elements which date back to the time of Egbert, Archbishop of York, in the middle of the eighth century." In forms essentially unchanged, says our contemporary, though necessarily modified in detail from time to time as the reformation, the restoration, the revolution and the Hanoverian succession modified polity, it has regulated the coronation of Kings at Westminster Abbey from the accession of William the Conqueror down to the days of King George and Queen Mary. "In the essential symbolism of this venerable ceremonial there can, of course, be no avoidable innovations and it will be seen that such changes as it has been thought necessary or expedient to make for the coming occasion are, for the most part, either well considered revisions to some worthy and more ancient usage or slight abridgements designed to save their Majesties unnecessary fatigue." The coronation proper, it may be noted here, is to be followed by the delivery of the Bible to the sovereign as "the most valuable thing that this world affords." This portion of the ceremony, says the London Times, has been observed continuously since the time of William and Mary.

Brilliant Procession.

For the coronation of King George

the procession will be the most brilliant seen in England since the first jubilee of Queen Victoria. It will be preceded by several lesser processions. The Prince of Wales, Princess Mary, and the other royal children, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and the other members of the royal family will all drive to the Abbey severally.

The procession of their Majesties will be headed by mounted police and a strong detachment of Life Guards. Then will come the over-sea and Indian representatives, all mounted, with a resplendent display of uniforms. They will form up prior to the start of the procession in the Mall. There will be an escort of Life Guards or Dragoons in attendance on each of the heirs-apparent or heirs-presumptive and the other royal personages who will be present. These guests will take part in the procession in order of precedence, and to obtain perfect satisfaction on these points the Earl Marshal and the College of Arms have had to deal with the most difficult of the tasks entailed by the coronation. All these personages will proceed in front of their Majesties to the Abbey, each representative of a sovereign power being accompanied by his suite.

The king and queen will be in the state coach drawn by cream-colored ponies, each with a groom at its bridle. An escort of Yeomen and Gentlemen-at-Arms will be in attendance, as well as a sovereign's escort of Life Guards, with standard.

60,000 Soldiers and Police.

The day after the coronation, when their Majesties make their progress through London, including a portion south of the Thames, the spectacle will be chiefly of a naval and military character. The procession will be a mile long and contain representatives of every branch of the services. Indian officers, both British and native, oversea contingents, and detachments of an officer and twenty-five men from each unit of the Home Army will be included in the procession. The Navy will lead, and the carriages containing the King and Queen and the members of the royal family who will take part will be preceded by the chiefs of the Navy and Army, among them the field-marshal, admirals, aides-de-camp, and the officers of the household. The streets will be kept by about 60,000 police and soldiers, including 100 officers and men from each of the Territorial battalions.

It is planned to light 2,500 bonfires

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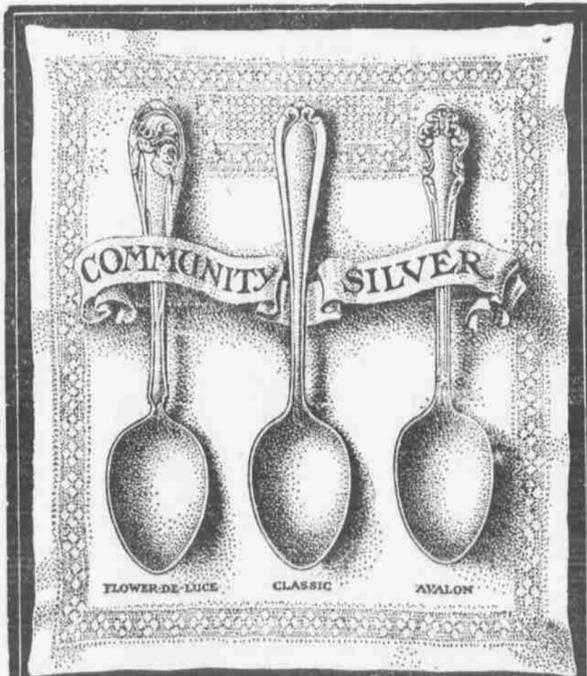
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