

A Royal Row Over the Late King Edward's Royal Gems.



"King George and Queen Mary are really fighting for the treasures left by King Edward in Queen Alexandra's possession, that they may go to their son the Prince of Wales and his descendants."

AN extraordinary contest between King George and his mother, Queen Alexandra, or her testamentary representatives, is threatened.

The late King Edward left a vast quantity of art treasures, gold and silver plate, presents and so forth, valued at upward of \$15,000,000. He had been a very popular prince and monarch, and during a long life he had received presents from all over the world. The Indian princes whom he visited during his famous tour of India alone sent him \$3,000,000 of beautiful presents.

By a liberal interpretation of an ambiguous codicil to King Edward's will, Queen Alexandra took possession of all these treasures. They included all the most valuable furnishings of Buckingham Palace, which she removed to her present London residence—Marlborough House.

The King did not like to interfere with his mother's disposition of the property she had already enjoyed, but the real crisis will come when Queen Alexandra attempts to dispose of them by will.

There is strong reason to believe that she intends to leave most of these treasures to her favorite grandson, Prince Olaf, son of her favorite daughter, Queen Maud of Norway. King George and Queen Mary naturally assert these things should go to their oldest son, the Prince of Wales. Queen Alexandra is credited with the intention of scattering many ornaments of the royal palaces among her relatives in Denmark, Russia, Greece and other foreign countries.

It is even said that she claims the right to dispose of the Cullinan diamond, the largest in the world, which was presented to King Edward by the South African colonies. It was divided in two parts for the sake of appearance.

The struggle for this property is the real cause of the savage hostility known to exist between Queen Alexandra and Queen Mary. They have never appeared together at any ceremony since King Edward's death. Queen Alexandra has on every possible occasion usurped the social privileges of the reigning Queen, while Queen Mary has caused her mother-in-law to feel a desire to stay away from public ceremonies.

The disagreement arises in the

first place from the hasty manner in which King Edward's will was drawn. The monarch's will in England is not subject to probate duty. The ordinary English law relating to wills does not apply to the King's will at all; if it did it is highly probable that ere this a receiver would have been appointed over the late King's estate, for King Edward bequeathed it in a manner that left his wishes respecting the division of it open to a good deal of doubt.

In the Summer of 1909 King Edward's solicitor went down to Sandringham and received the King's instructions to draw up his will. Sir Ernest Cassel, the financier, who was a great personal friend of King Edward, and Lord Knollys were made trustees to the will. Under this document Queen Alexandra was to receive money amounting to about \$500,000 and the use of Sandringham House and all its contents for life and also all the gold and silver and art treasures at Buckingham Palace, which were the personal possessions of the late King. This document later was submitted to the King, who signed it after a few minor alterations were made in it.

Nothing more was done in the matter until nearly a year later when King Edward returned from his last journey from the Continent in what his doctors told him was a dying condition. Sir Ernest

George Says Belong to the British Royal Family



Queen Alexandra Claims the Right to Will Away \$15,000,000 Worth of Jewels and Art Treasures Which King



Dowager Queen Alexandra with Her \$2,000,000 Outfit of Pearls, Which It Is Feared She Intends to Bequeath Away from the British Royal Family.

(Above) Queen Alexandra Wearing the Royal Gems and Diamonds Which She Kept After King Edward's Death. (To the Left) Queen Mary, Showing Her Comparative Poverty in Diamonds, Pearls and Other Mineral Wealth.

Palace since the early days of Queen Victoria's reign, and it is understood that Queen Victoria had stipulated that they should be kept always at Buckingham Palace.

But Queen Alexandra claimed that they were included in the art treasures left to her by King Edward. Finally, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, was sent for and on his advice Queen Alexandra was allowed to take them. Her Majesty undertook to sign a document acknowledging them to be merely "lent" and that they might be taken back to Buckingham Palace in the event of her death. But this document has, as a matter of fact, never been signed.

The value of the gold and silver treasures claimed by Queen Alexandra were placed by the court jeweler before they left Buckingham Palace roughly at \$10,000,000, but a more recent and more careful estimate of their value puts the figure nearer \$15,000,000.

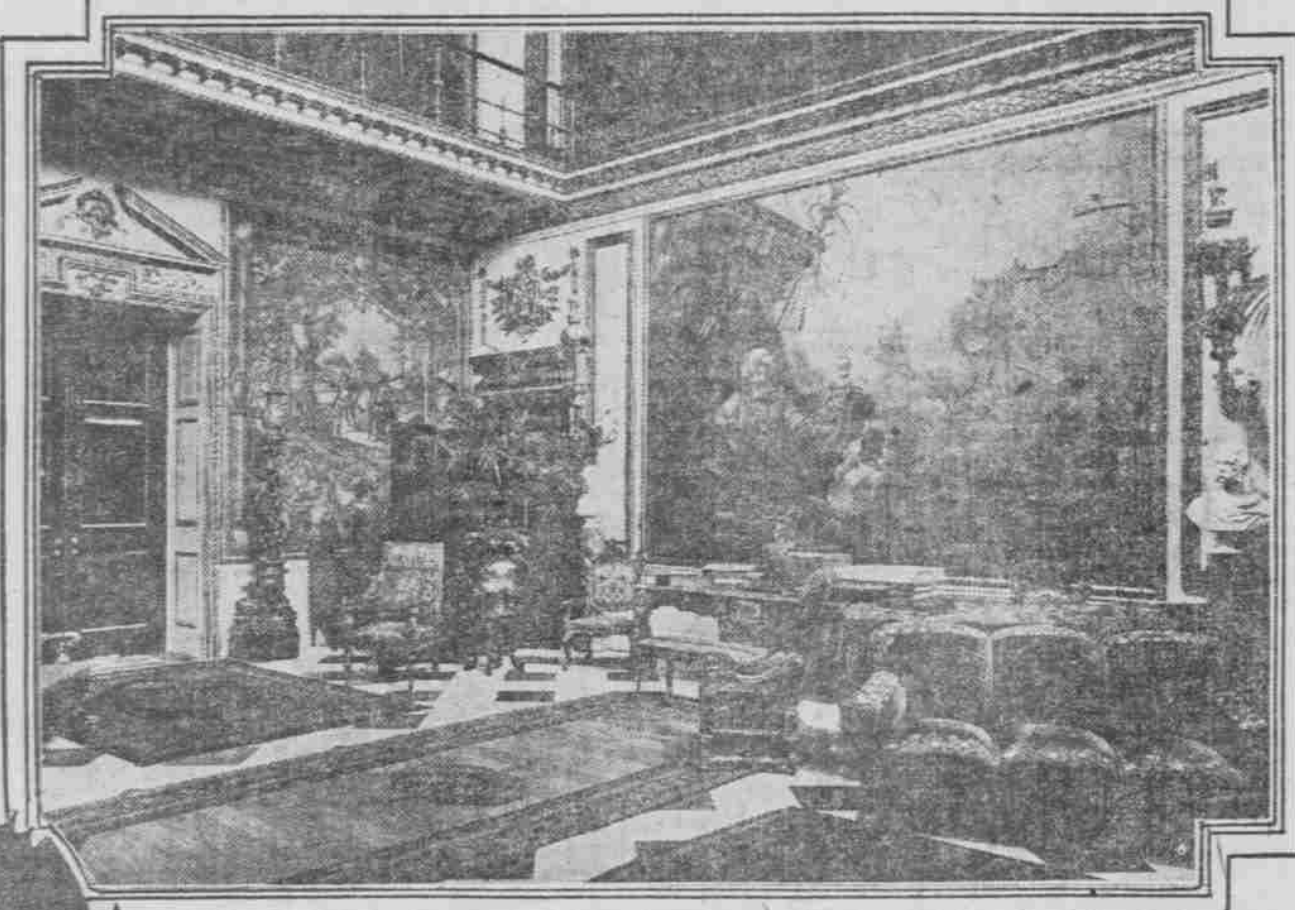
It is understood by those behind the scenes at Marlborough House that Queen Alexandra will bequeath the gold and silver treasures to her daughter, Queen Maud of Norway, which would mean that

they would all ultimately go to the latter's son, Prince Olaf. But if Her Majesty made such testament it would hardly be allowed to take effect without strong opposition on the part of King George and Queen Mary, who are quite resolved that the Prince of Wales shall have the greater part of the treasures. Still stronger opposition would be made to any testament bequeathing the Gobelin's tapestries away from the direct heir to the throne.

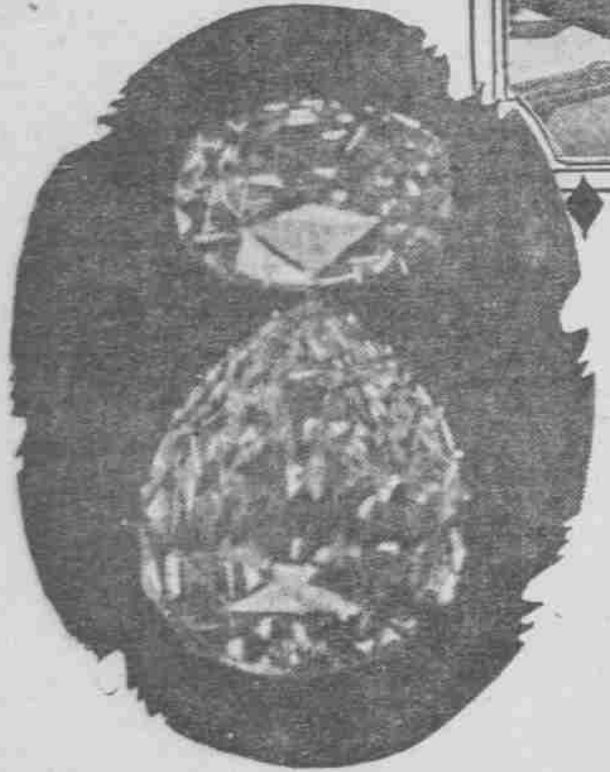
Much negotiation is being carried on at the present time by Sir Ernest Cassel with Queen Alexandra concerning her own will, about which Her Majesty insists on preserving the most absolute secrecy.

One thing certain is that Queen Alexandra claims to be able to dispose of all that she now holds absolutely as she pleases.

The shrewd and diplomatic friend of King Edward, who is counseling King Majesty, may be able to persuade her to make a testament that will not prove contentious, but from what is known of her disposition it seems more probable that she will provoke a struggle for the treasures of King Edward.



The Famous Gobelin's Tapestries Which Queen Alexandra Moved from Buckingham Palace to Marlborough House and Which King George Says Belong to Him.



The Cullinan the World's Largest Diamond, Given to King Edward, by the South African Colonies, Which Queen Alexandra Says Should Be Hers.

Cassel, who, with Lord Knollys, was trustee to the King's will was then summoned to Sandringham, but he was out of England and did not arrive until the day after the monarch had returned to Buckingham Palace and was actually on his death-bed. In his friend's absence King Edward would give no instructions about his will, though he had announced his intention of making several alterations in it. The financier arrived at Buckingham Palace late on Wednesday afternoon; to him in the presence of Lord Knollys and the present King George, King Edward gave instructions concerning the disposition of his personal property, possessions and estates. These instructions were taken down in brief by the financier on some sheets of foolscap, which

were sent to King Edward's lawyer post haste to be fully written out as a final codicil to the existing will. The codicil was to have been signed by King Edward on Thursday, but it never was, for on Thursday he was in a state of coma and he never recovered consciousness. The unsigned will dealt with a number of bequests to personal friends of the King, notably to one fair friend, who received under it an annuity of \$50,000 per annum. It was agreed between King George and his mother, who were the chief beneficiaries under King Edward's will, to treat this unsigned codicil so far as the bequests to friends were concerned as if it had been signed, but when it came to King Edward's bequests to Queen Alexandra as made under this doc-

ument Her Majesty objected to it as not truly representing her husband's wishes. Her Majesty had good reasons for raising these objections because the financier who took down King Edward's instructions admitted that they were given somewhat confusedly and that they might not represent the King's real wishes.

The great point of contention which arose between King George and Queen Alexandra over King Edward's will was whether part of the money (about \$500,000) left to her by the monarch and all the gold and silver and art treasures at Buckingham Palace were bequeathed to her absolutely or were to revert at her death to the Prince of Wales. King George maintained (and still maintains) that the money and treasures should revert to the Prince of Wales; Queen Alexandra claims that they were left to her absolutely.

The King could not afford to have an open rupture with his mother on such a question. Queen Alexandra was allowed to have everything she claimed, and Her Majesty, it must be added, claimed everything in sight, from the wine in the cellar to the flag on the roof of Buckingham Palace.

When she moved to Marlborough House she took all the gold, silver and art treasures which had actually been purchased by or given to King Edward. The gold and silver treasures were put down in the big plate room at Marlborough House and the art treasures in the way of old masters, statuary, priceless old furniture, gifts from Oriental potentates, china and tapestries were disposed about the different rooms at Marlborough House.

Over the removal of the famous Gobelin's tapestries from Buckingham Palace an open quarrel very nearly occurred between King George and his mother; the tapestries had been at Buckingham

Women Advisers for Male Novelists

THE increasing attention given by authors and playwrights to women, their habits, dress and occupations, has led to the birth of a new profession—that of feminine adviser on all things feminine.

Her business is to prevent the author from falling into the numerous pitfalls that await him when he describes the dress and coiffure of his heroine.

A bright Parisienne, one of the pioneers of the new profession, says that many literary men live in the provinces or live retired lives, which give them no opportunity of seeing feminine fashions. That is why their descriptions of women's dress are so often ludicrous.

"Novels are read mostly by women," says this expert, "and nothing jars more on a woman than an inaccurate dress description; it

spoils the most cleverly written story.

A novelist, for instance, finds it very difficult to give an exact description of the tea gown worn by the heroine in the love scene, or the tailor-made costume worn in the Bois de Boulogne.

"What the modern novelist needs to learn is the correct use of a few technical terms. He should know that the cashmere shawl of his grandmother's time is now used to line mantles, that evening gowns are called kimonos and are made of crepe de chine, that hats are made of Tagel and English straw, and finally that mustard-colored ribbons are all the rage."

The feminine expert nearly always remains anonymous, but, of course, she claims a share in the royalties earned by the work which her advice has helped to mould.