

MARGINAL NOTES

ROYALTY MAKES HISTORY

THE COMING OF THEIR MAJESTIES.—The official visit of His Majesty King George VI and his consort, Queen Elizabeth, to Canada during the present month has not only furnished material for a new and notable chapter in the history of the English throne, but it has also served by its evocation of the reverence and affection of the whole Canadian people, to turn our minds back to the time when theology and politics were closely united, both in theory and practice, and the throne stood before the people as a symbol of the religious basis of government. That was before the utilitarian theory came to invade English political thought, and the tendency of that theory was to regard ethics from an empirical rather than an intuitive standpoint with the result that its votaries looked upon conformity to the rule of law as a matter of expediency rather than as a course of conduct inspired by a sense of the moral duty of obedience to the civil power.¹ Bentham's idea that utility is the foundation of morals has been scouted as nonsense by later English philosophers, and Herbert Spencer's prediction of the evanescence of conscience has met much the same fate. Schiller² says of it: "As a matter of fact this evanescence does not seem to have begun as yet: on the contrary, the ethical importance of the conscience seems to be increasing, and its evolution to be still in its initial stages."

While the doctrine that kingship is despotic because it is divine (advanced by Richard II at the end of the fourteenth century) was given its quietus in the revolution of 1688 which drove James II from the throne, there is an indubitable element of sacredness associated with the office of an English king by virtue of the oath he takes on his coronation to "maintain the laws of God" and "the true profession of the Gospel." Moreover, after the administration of the oath the king receives at episcopal hands anointment with consecrated oil, and following upon this rite he is clothed with ceremonial garments and presented with a sword, typifying the administration of justice; with the orb surmounted by a cross, signifying that the whole world is

¹ "This sense is the priceless legacy bequeathed to our own day by the believers in the Divine Right of Kings." Figgis: *The Divine Right of Kings* (1914) p. 266.

² *Must Philosophers Disagree?* (1934) p. 139.

subject to the rule of Christ; and with a ring, token of his royal dignity and defence of the Christian faith.

All this ceremonial precedes the formal act of enthronization, and its religious element serves to remind us of the priestly character of primitive royalty. At a time such as the present when the forces of evil are entrenched in some of the high places of the earth, prepared to make it for enlightened men the worst of all possible worlds, it is good to think of His Majesty King George VI as a sworn defender of the Christian faith. It refreshes one's heart to recall how thoroughly his bearing responded to the solemnity of the ceremonial of his coronation as it proceeded within the historic walls of Westminster Abbey some two years ago. And shall those who listened to his words as they rang round the British world on the evening of the day which saw him enthroned ever cease to honour the man who spoke them? We make no apology for quoting here a portion of his broadcast :

To many millions the Crown is a symbol of unity. By the grace of God and by the will of the free peoples of the British Commonwealth I have assumed that Crown. In me, as your King, is vested for a time the duty of maintaining its honour and integrity. This is indeed a grave and constant responsibility, but it gave me confidence to see your representatives in the Abbey and to know that you were enabled to join in that infinitely beautiful ceremonial. Its outward forms come down from distant times, but its inner meaning and message are always new. For the highest of distinctions is the service for others, and to the ministry of kingship I have, with your sharing, dedicated myself with the Queen at my side in words of the deepest solemnity. We will, God helping us, faithfully discharge our trust.

Words like these could only come from the heart of one qualified for leadership in the pursuit of the 'good social life'—one who believes that the purpose of government is the regulation of man's duty to man in society, and that the test of such duty is to be found in the moral code of those who hold the Christian faith.

In the fierce light that beats upon a throne no flaw can be found in the King's attitude towards his subjects of all grades and conditions. Indeed his conduct as monarch exemplifies the wisdom of those who hold that high office and leadership in a democratic State should be entrusted only to those whose noble qualities impel them to consecrate their lives to the service of their fellow-men.

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ROYAL PARTNERSHIP.—In the administration of his public duties His Majesty has been enthusiastically and efficiently

assisted by the Queen. Her beauty and charm of manner have idolized her in the hearts of the people of the home-land, and the part she has personally played there in the furtherance of social service effort has won for her respect and admiration in abundant measure. Since her arrival in Canada her demeanour towards all with whom she has come in contact has been cordial rather than formal—showing that she did not put off her native crown of gracious womanhood when she assumed the crown of Queen. She is making a place for herself in regal annals different in kind but none the less appurtenant to the spirit of the age than that of her great namesake in the sixteenth century.

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LOYALTY ABOUNDING.—Beyond all doubt the coming of the King and Queen will tremendously increase the proverbial loyalty of the Canadians. There was every evidence of that in the plaudits of the people during the currency of the eastern portion of the programme of their visit. Their presence filled even the hearts of little children with a peculiar exuberance of joy. Speaking of Ottawa in particular, as one passed along the streets a youngster would cry out, "Mister, have you seen the King and Queen?" and then proudly add: "I have". The very atmosphere tingled with emotion as Their Majesties walked fearlessly through the crowds surrounding them, stopping at times to shake hands with some and smiling kindly on all. It was wisely said by a member of the House of Commons that "democratic liberties are more effectively preserved in Canada by the visit of the King and Queen than by all the censorship of subversive propaganda that could possibly be imposed".

The personal qualities of the royal pair were discerningly evaluated by Hon. Daniel C. Roper, United States Envoy to Canada, in a press interview. Speaking of the King he said :

He struck us as a man with a vitalizing conception of service. He is not tired by his many onerous duties. So much depends on one's attitude. Your King has the right attitude. He was enjoying himself, I'm convinced of that. He told me two or three times how he was looking forward to his visit to the States and of his interest in our people.

Concerning the Queen Mr. Roper exclaimed :

And the Queen? What need I say? Our hearts are beating with one throb! The Queen also has the right approach. She said to Mrs. Roper, 'Everywhere I go I seem to be meeting people of ideals'. Mrs. Roper liked that, because it's the way we feel ourselves.'

Canadians will not forget the compliment paid to themselves by Mr. Roper in the last sentence of his quoted remarks.

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THE KING IN PARLIAMENT.—His Majesty met his Canadian Parliament for the first time on the afternoon of Friday, 19th May, when he attended the Senate Chamber for the purpose of giving assent to certain Bills that had passed through both Houses. After the formalities associated with the expression of royal assent were concluded His Majesty delivered the following Speech from the Throne :

Honourable Members of the Senate :

Members of the House of Commons :

I thank you sincerely for your addresses received on my arrival at Quebec. The Queen and I deeply appreciate your loyal and affectionate messages.

I am very happy that my visit to Canada affords me the opportunity of meeting, in Parliament assembled, the members of both Houses. No ceremony could more completely symbolize the free and equal association of the nations of our Commonwealth. As my father said, on the occasion of his silver jubilee, the unity of the British empire is no longer expressed by the supremacy of the time-honoured Parliament that sits at Westminster. It finds expression today in the free association of nations enjoying common principles of government, a common attachment to ideals of peace and freedom, and bound together by a common allegiance to the Crown.

The Queen and I have been deeply touched by the warmth of the welcome accorded us since our arrival in Canada. We are greatly looking forward to visiting each of the provinces, and, before our return, to paying a brief visit to the United States.

It is my earnest hope that my present visit may give my Canadian people a deeper conception of their unity as a nation. I hope also that my visit to the United States will help to maintain the very friendly relations existing between that great country and the nations of the Commonwealth.

These visits, like the one recently made by the Queen and myself to the continent of Europe, will, we trust, be viewed as an expression of the spirit of our peoples which seek ardently for closer friendship and better relations not only with our kith and kin but with the peoples of all nations and races.

Honourable Members of the Senate :

Members of the House of Commons :

May the blessing of Divine Providence rest upon your labours and upon my realm of Canada.

By the use of the phrases "my Canadian people" and "my realm of Canada" in his Speech from the Throne the King speaks

to us from the standpoint of the sovereign authority that is his under the Canadian constitution; and when he expresses the hope that his present visit may give us "a deeper conception" of our unity as a nation we must assume that he is cognizant of the measure of disunity that has prevailed in Canada of late, and that he would be glad if immediate steps were taken to banish it. The stimulus to our loyalty furnished by his presence among us ought to ensure the fulfilment of our national duty in this respect.

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THE QUEEN HONOURS THE LAW.—Perhaps to lawyers the most notable event on the programme of the royal visit was the laying of the corner-stone by Queen Elizabeth of the building now being erected in Ottawa for housing the Supreme and Exchequer Courts of Canada. King George was present as a spectator only, as his beautiful consort was the central figure in the imposing ceremony.

Enveloped in the radiance of bright spring sunshine as she touched with a silver trowel the massive three-ton stone, the Queen might have been taken to be an incarnation of Astraea, Goddess of Justice of the Greeks, returned from the starry spaces to this world of ours for the building up of a new golden age. At all events she could not have been more tumultuously acclaimed had she so appeared in fact.

When the corner-stone was declared to be "well and truly laid" Her Majesty proceeded to make her first public address in Canada. By means of radio broadcast it was heard by millions of her people throughout the Dominion as well as by her immediate audience, consisting of those seated with the King on the dais and those who occupied chairs on a terraced platform erected in front of the building.

Her Majesty began her speech in English and closed it in French, using both tongues with fluency and charm. Not only because it was spoken by our Queen at a distinctively legal ceremony, but also because of the enlightenment that prevades it, the address should be perpetuated in the annals of the Canadian Bar. We quote it below :-

I am happy to lay the foundation stone of a building devoted to the administration of Justice in this great Dominion. Perhaps it is not inappropriate that this task should be performed by a woman; for woman's position in civilized society has depended upon the growth of law. Canada is rightly proud of being a land governed by the rule of law. Her judiciary and the members of her legal profession have

been true to the highest British traditions of Bench and Bar. It is fitting that on these heights above the Ottawa—surely one of the noblest situations in the world—you should add to the imposing group of buildings which house your Parliament and the executive branch of government, a worthy home for your Supreme Court. Henceforth, on these river-side cliffs, there will stand in this beautiful Capital, a group of public buildings unsurpassed as a symbol of the free and democratic institutions which are our greatest heritage.

Au Canada, comme en Grande Bretagne, la justice s'administre selon deux grandes législations différentes. Dans mon pays natal, en Ecosse, nous avons un Droit basé sur le Droit Romain, il sort de la même source que votre droit civil dans la vieille province de Québec. En Angleterre, comme dans les autres provinces du Canada, le Droit Coutumier l'emporte. A Ottawa, comme à Westminster, les deux sont administrés par la Cour suprême de Justice. Cela est, à mes yeux, d'un très heureux augure.

Voir vos deux grandes races, avec leurs législations, leurs croyances et leurs traditions différentes, s'unir de plus en plus étroitement, à l'imitation de l'Angleterre et de l'Ecosse, par les liens de l'affection, du respect, et d'un idéal commun : tel est mon désir le plus cher.

At the conclusion of the address Her Majesty was thanked by Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice, for her gracious act in laying the corner-stone and for her admirable address. He said it was a privilege to hail her as "the first Queen of Canada." The high compliment paid by her to the respect and love of justice in this country "will remain as an inspiring message. Our Judiciary and our Bar are greatly honoured by it, and will remain the protagonists of British ideals, of British traditions and of British Justice."

Before leaving the dais Her Majesty, along with the King, chatted informally with the workmen who had been engaged in placing the corner-stone in position. At this exhibition of 'royal democracy' the crowds massed about the scene of the ceremony cheered themselves hoarse.

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NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL CEREMONY.—The ceremony of the unveiling and dedication by the King of the National War Memorial took place on Sunday, the 21st May, and concluded the Ottawa programme of the royal visit. It was an exceedingly impressive event—elevating in its influence on loyalty to national traditions and fruitful, by reason of its splendour, in the promotion of the culture that along with righteousness exalts a nation. Its spiritual quality proved the wisdom of the churches that cancelled their mid-morning services in order that their congregations might be free to attend the ceremony. In the

course of his speech His Majesty said to the vast concourse of men and women that hung with unfeigned reverence upon his words :

It has been given to me today to recall Canada's part in the great conflict. Fortunately my task is already largely performed, for in the beautiful work of art which I have just unveiled vivid and enduring expression has been given to the spirit of Canada.

The Memorial speaks to the world of Canada's heart. Its symbolism has been beautifully adapted to this great end. It has been well named, "The Response". One sees at a glance the answer made by Canada when the world's peace was broken, and freedom threatened, in the fateful years of the Great War. It depicts the zeal with which this country entered the conflict.

This Memorial, however, does more than commemorate a great event in the past. It has a message for all generations and for all countries — the message which called forth Canada's response. Not by chance do the crowning figures of Peace and Freedom appear side by side. Peace and Freedom cannot long be separated. It is well that we have, in one of the world capitals, a visible reminder of so great a truth. Without freedom there can be no enduring Peace, and without Peace no enduring Freedom.

The coming of the King and Queen for a temporary sojourn among their Canadian people is not only a sign of the intimacy of the relations that now prevail between the central and outlying portions of the British Commonwealth, but it is a lesson to the nations of the world at large that democratic government can be so framed and practised as to satisfy to the fullest extent the instincts of a free people.

CHARLES MORSE.

Ottawa.
