

November 7, 1936; p. 11

## QUEENLY ENIGMA: What Will Mrs. Simpson and King Edward Do? Asks Wondering World

Nobody mentioned the King. For that matter, no British newspaper mentioned that Mrs. Simpson was his friend.

But minutes before the Baltimore belle slipped out of Ipswich Assizes with her second divorce in her pocket, a million conversations were being launched around the world with the phrase:

"Now that she's free—"

Japanese and New Yorkers and Icelanders wondered, like Britons, whether, "now that she's free," the American woman would:

1. Fade out of the picture as Wallis Warfield to spare her "Davey" any embarrassment;
2. Simply continue to be Mrs. Simpson, "his closest friend";
3. Become his morganatic wife;
4. Become his Queen Consort, his inferior and subject, thereby enjoying the following ancient prerogatives:
  - a. The making of grants, gifts, or contracts without the King;
  - b. Suing and being sued without the King;
  - c. Receiving by gift from her husband;
  - d. Having her courts and offices as if she were a sole person;
  - e. Holding for treason those who plot against her life;
  - f. Being tried by her own equals for offenses;
  - g. Receiving her ancient revenue of Queen Gold (personal revenue).

There is no law to prevent the King's making her his Queen, if he wishes. Even the established Church of England could perform the ceremony, for under the Divorce Laws of 1857, divorced people may remarry in church. A prelate or clergyman need not officiate if he objects, but he may not refuse the use of his church, or forbid another clergyman to officiate.

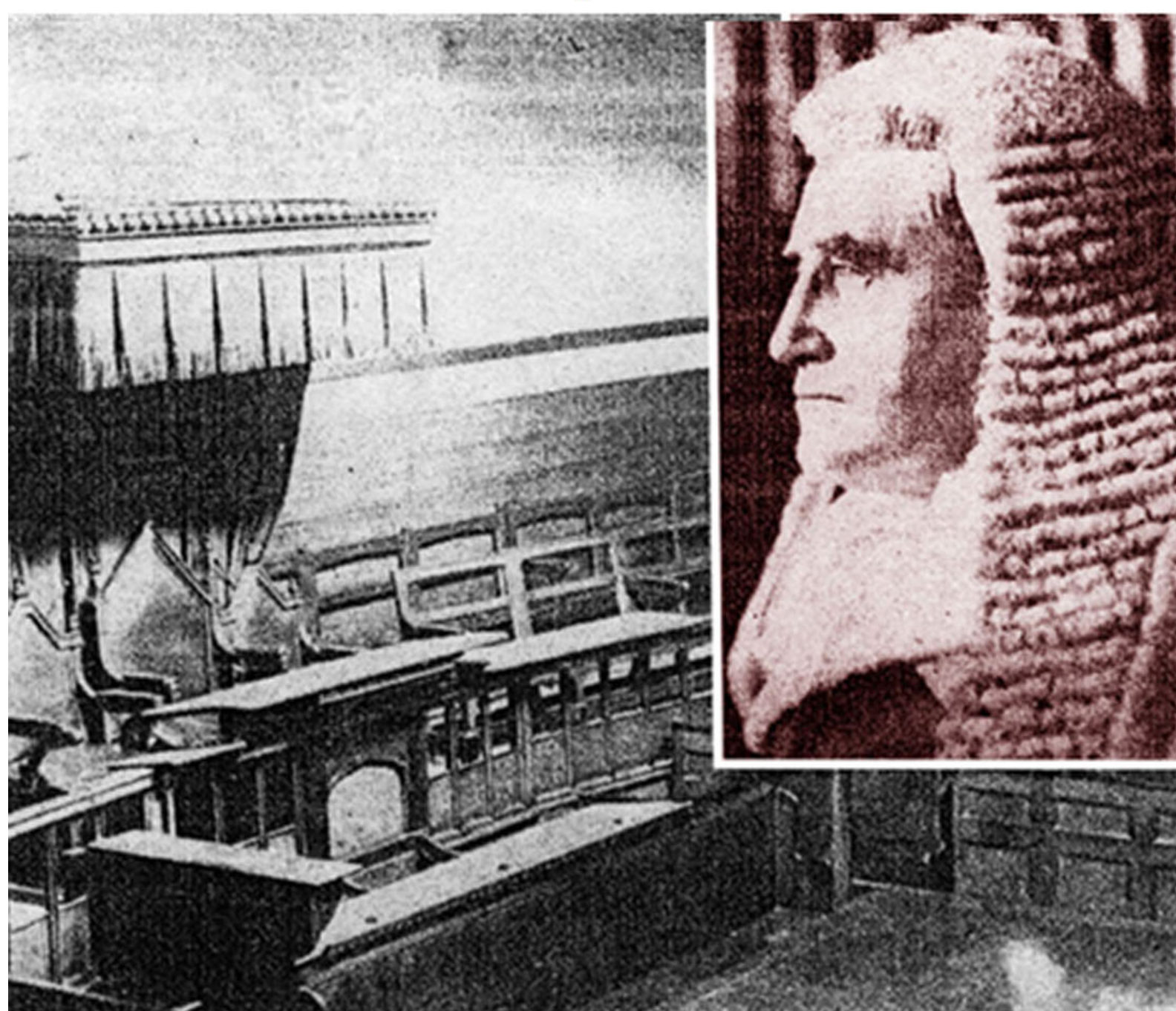
**Inconsistency**—In practise, the Church's attitude is contradictory: while refusing to admit there is such a thing as divorce, it takes a stand against it. Four years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England, close friend of the Queen Mother, and traditional officiating clergyman at a royal marriage ceremony, voiced his "desire that in the case of any person previously married, who has been separated by divorce from a husband or wife who is still alive, the marriage should not be solemnized in church."

Socially, too, British royalty frowns on divorce. Queen Mary refused to receive divorcées in court, following the example of her strong-willed mother-in-law. Queen Victoria, devoting her life to Prince Albert's sainted memory, even frowned on the remarriage of widows, altho she was the child of a widow's second union.

But times are changing under the new King, tradition after tradition is being shattered.

Whereas Parliament could not forbid the match, it could ban "Queen Wally's" children from the throne. Moreover, it could cut or abolish the King's public income of \$2,700,000 a year. At present, he does not receive \$600,000 of this amount—





Scene of Mrs. Simpson's divorce trial at Ipswich where Justice Sir John Hawke presided

\$200,000 destined for his bride, the remainder for a future Prince of Wales.

Dowagers and bewhiskered Colonials—thinking of the glories of the past, the dearth of monarchs, the solidity of England and the pitiable state of the world at the moment—hope that “the nice thing will be done.” But things like the friendship of the King and Mrs. Simpson haven't been happening with any great regularity of late, and memories are just a bit rusty on what the “nice thing” might be.

Edward could, of course, marry morganatically, like George IV, who, as Prince of Wales, made the twice-widowed, Roman Catholic Maria Fitzherbert his wife. Later, oppressed by debt, the “first gentleman of Europe” broke off the match and married Princess Caroline.

A morganatic marriage is one in which a person of high rank marries an inferior who can not share his title; the children forfeit any right of succession.

The term comes from *morgengabe*—the morning gift a husband gave his wife after their wedding. In Germanic countries, the “left-handed” wife's status varied with circumstances. When Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, married the Countess Sophie Chotek, old Emperor Franz Josef and his etiquette-bound court blackballed her. Then Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany impulsively placed her on his left at a dinner.

Thereafter, tho her children were banned from the throne, her social position in Austria was improved.

**Status Quo**—Friends of the King and Mrs. Simpson, uncertain of how the British people might react to a marriage, either regal or morganatic, feel that perhaps the best way would be to let things go on as they are—as friends. Memories of Edward's grandfather tend to condone any amatory alliances as long as they don't get in the way of affairs of state.

While the question of Edward's intentions tortured the entire American press British editors still declined to speculate. The *London Times* set the tone for the story with its head-line: “Undefended Divorce Suit: Case at Ipswich Assizes.”

Yet London society talked of nothing else.

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*Mrs. Simpson: 3*

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As Prince of Wales, the monarch used to toss off a full tumbler of Scotch and never show it, and on one occasion he had to be assisted from an Oxford club (he sent in his resignation next day). Under Mrs. Simpson's guidance, however, he is said to have limited his drinking. One story, undoubtedly an invention, has his mentor remarking:

"Now Edward, you're one over the VIIIth."

The King supposedly enjoys simple pleasures with the "domestic" Mrs. Simpson. She cooks meals with him in her flat, London hears, substituting "homey" comforts for dull court formality.

**Busy Monarch**—Last week, however, witnessed no such cozy parties.

King Edward put in long hours with Privy Councilors and other officials, discussing coronation problems and his speech for the opening of Parliament.

Mrs. Simpson, secluded in her new Cumberland Terrace home, informed the United Press that she might travel for a time. Not in the United States, she added, hotly.

"I'll never go back after all the nasty things they've said about me," she protested. "I could never show my face there. I don't know why they should talk about me in that way. I'm not important."

The comment to which she objected was summarized neatly in an eleven-word editorial in the *Washington Daily News*:

"The Court granted Mrs. Simpson, American grass widow, her divorce yesterday."

The article bore the caption:  
**GOD SAVE THE KING!**

Second marriage: the certificate issued at London's General Register Office in 1928 to Mrs. Wallis Warfield Spencer and Mr. Ernest Aldrich Simpson

**CERTIFIED COPY of an Entry of MARRIAGE**  
 © 16 & 7 Wm. IV., cap. 86).

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,  
 SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.

Application Number: 4427

**REGISTRATION DISTRICT: CHELSEA**

**1928. Marriage solemnized at the Registrar Office in the District of Chelsea in the County of London.**

No. When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Address at the time of Marriage.	Trade, Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession at Date.
54 20th JULY 1928	Ernest Aldrich Simpson	31 years	The divorced husband of Dorothea Parsons formerly Parsons Spinster	Shipbroker	11th Crescent, Chelsea	Ernest Louis Simpson	Shipbroker
	Wallis Warfield Spencer formerly Warfield Spinster	32 years	Formerly the wife of Earle Winfield Spencer from whom she obtained a divorce		29 St. James's Street W.	Wallis Warfield (deceased)	Of Independent Means

MARRIED in the Registrar Office according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England by the Registrar John Edwards Glegg in the presence of Ed. Brock, Registrar and Thomas Aylard, Supt. Registrar

The Marriage between Ernest A. Simpson and Wallis Warfield Spencer

**CERTIFIED to be a true Copy of an Entry in the Certified Copy of a Register of Marriages in the District above mentioned.**

Given at the General Register Office, Somerset House, London, under the Seal of the said Office, the 24th day of September 1928.

M14967

The Certificate is signed by the Registrar in the following form:—  
 I, the Registrar, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original entry in the Register of Marriages in the District of Chelsea in the County of London, as entered in the said Register in accordance with the provisions of the said Act of Parliament, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original entry in the said Register as entered in the said Register in accordance with the provisions of the said Act of Parliament, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original entry in the said Register as entered in the said Register in accordance with the provisions of the said Act of Parliament.