

A Prince Sets Up a Fund for Youth

Living Up to His Motto, "I Serve," the British Heir Proposes Silver Jubilee Trust for "Fine Citizens in the Making"



The Prince of Wales with his niece, Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York

On a platform in the doorway connecting the Picture Gallery and the Queen Anne Drawing Room in St. James's Palace stood a slender, light-haired, blue-eyed figure weighing no more than 115 pounds. Around him were 500 civic, religious, and youth-movement leaders from all parts of Great Britain.

They included Lords Lieutenant, Lord Mayors and Lord Provosts, Mayors and Provosts of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi, Commissioner Mapp, Chief of Staff of the Salvation Army; the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, leaders of the Free Churches, and representatives of the Roman Catholic faith.

They had come to hear what the youthful-looking, ruddy-cheeked Heir to the British Throne had to suggest for the celebration of his father's silver jubilee. The Prince of Wales's motto is "Ich dien" ("I serve"), which has come down to him from Edward the Black Prince, who took the watchword from the King of Bohemia, slain at Crécy in 1346.

His Rule of Life

The 600-year-old two-word rule of life to which the Prince of Wales must live up to carries a thousand obligations. Here was another. What would he suggest—a memorial statue, another graven image to be set up in some London square?

"I think of no call," said the Prince, simply, "that makes so universal an appeal as

the cause of youth." He had consulted with his parents and ascertained that "nothing else would give the King and Queen such pleasure as the devotion of a national thank-offering to the welfare of the younger generation."

It was not a new organization he proposed, but a trust fund to be set up for existing youth-organizations—clubs, Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigades, and all others formed to help youth.

Remembering his own youth—he started his hard schooling at eight—the forty-year-old Prince expressed his concern for boys and girls after they have left school up to eighteen, when "the interest of home and school declines, and they enter the world at the most critical moment of their physical, moral and mental development."

"As I see it," he said, "girls and boys need three things to fit them for life. They need discipline, they need friends, and, finally, they need recreation and interest. These gifts will help youth to master the means of making life worth while.

"There is no sadder sight in the world than aimless and dispirited youth. On the other hand, I know of no more heartening sight than boys or girls who have been grouped together by some voluntary juvenile organization which gives them amusement, physical and mental training, new loyalties, and new hopes. They are no longer individuals adrift, but fine citizens in the making."

Problem of Youth

The fund proposed by the Prince is called King George's Jubilee Trust. Pennies, as well as pounds, will be accepted. The 500 leaders present immediately volunteered for the task, and when the papers carried the news it was warmly received from Land's End to John O'Groat's.

"The Prince," said *The News Chronicle* of London, "has put his finger on the weakest point in our present social structure. The State shows at least some concern for infancy and childhood, for the blind and defective, for the widow and the aged. The task of helping youth at the most critical age has been abandoned almost entirely to voluntary agencies, and the Prince wisely does not seek to supersede, but to reinforce and extend them.

"He claims, rightly, that there is no more fruitful field of public service than this; and his call will be answered with enthusiasm by the countless thousands whose thoughts and aspirations he has so happily interpreted."

The romantic title of *Sir Galahad* no longer suffices to describe the Prince of Wales. He has seen naval and military service, been a salesman of empire, and counselor-at-large. At forty—his birthday falls on June 23—he turns his mind to the problem which besets all countries—the problem of youth.