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Edward and Book

While all England prepared for brother George's coronation (see page 3), former King Edward, now Duke of Windsor, from his Appesbach villa retreat at St. Wolfgang, Austria, last week won his fight to have a book about him taken out of circulation in Great Britain.

Angered by months of critical and intimate discussion of his life in British publications, the Duke, through his London solicitors, demanded that William Heinnemann, Ltd., publishers of "Coronation Commentary" by Geoffrey Dennis, withdraw it from circulation and publish a suitable apology on the ground that the book libeled him. Should the demand be refused, said the Duke's lawyers, a writ for libel would be issued.

This threatened legal action caused Londoners to stampede bookstores to buy up all available copies. Then the publishers took the fast-selling volume from English book shops and wrote the Duke a note of apology. Still, Windsor filed and pressed his suit for libel. Though open to similar action, Dodd, Mead & Co., publishers of the American edition, released the book in the United States on schedule.

Certain chapters of Dennis's book dealing with Edward's brief reign and his abdication are merciless in their criticism of him. Not only does the volume refer to reports that Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin was disturbed by other alleged grievances in addition to the former King's love for Mrs. Wallis Simpson, but it includes such things as:

"He left his land with kingly dignity and repaired to the welcome company of rich American Jewesses . . . He was a tragic, broken man, but off to the sun and white snow (he went) with full trunks and full pockets. Until his marriage (to Mrs. Wallis Simpson) was mooted they had no notion of how to get rid of him. She who they pretended was disaster was in fact a godsend. Her two divorces were a gift from heaven . . . There were other things. Things done and said in infatuation, his lover's prodigality, his shrill King's rage against those who denied her to him, things left undone in his infatuation, duty neglected . . . Irregular hours, irregular habits, muddling, fuddling, meddling."

At St. Wolfgang the Duke, happy because the six-month probation period before Mrs. Simpson's divorce decree became final had ended, planned an early reunion with "the woman I love." Friends said they would be married May 20, eight days after the coronation.