

Feb. 20, 1937

OTHER LANDS Edward's Purse



Edward Kissed His Only Sister

"Well, you do look fit!"

With those words Mary, 39-year-old Princess Royal of Britain and only sister of Edward, Duke of Windsor, greeted the former King upon her arrival in Vienna, Austria, last week. Closest of all relatives to the man who abdicated the English throne last December for "the woman I love," Mary thus became the first member of the royal family to visit the Duke since his historic decision. She was accompanied by her husband, the Earl of Harewood.

As an enthusiastic crowd looked on, Edward, nearly overcome with emotion, helped his sister descend from the train, placed his hands on her shoulders, kissed her on both cheeks, and then shook hands with the Earl. From West Bahnhof station the Duke and his guests drove to the borrowed chateau of Baron Eugene de Rothschild at Enzesfeld. There in carefree and affectionate mood Edward and Mary had long intimate fireside chats.

Purpose of the Princess Royal's visit, withheld officially, was reported to be to discuss with the Duke his future financial position, his prospective marriage to Wallis Warfield Simpson, and the sale of Sandringham, Edward's country estate in England. In addition, there were many matters of family concern which were left unsettled in the bustle preceding the abdication. Because of her closeness to the ex-monarch and her discretion, Mary was entrusted by family and government with the delicate mission.

Government officials were said to be anxious to wind up the final phases of the abdication before the coronation in May. Queen Mary and members of her family were disturbed lest the former ruler appear either like a family outcast or a useless drain on the national or family purse. Edward

himself, feeling the lack of ready cash for the first time in his life, was anxious to complete the financial settlement. He was faced with bills and a cost of \$60 a day for operating the Rothschild chateau. Besides, there were his plans to wed Mrs. Simpson April 27, the day her divorce from Ernest A. Simpson is expected to become final.

While rumors circulated in London that the Princess Royal was trying to persuade her brother not to marry the former Baltimorean, so much Labor opposition to granting him a \$125,000 annual allowance developed in Parliament that the British cabinet decided to make no provision for Windsor's income directly from the treasury. Instead, the London Sunday Express reported, the new civil list which is soon to be given Parliament will be increased sufficiently to enable King George VI to provide an annuity for Edward out of his own purse.

Whether Edward gets his "pension" or not, he still holds one financial ace in the hole. That is ownership of Sandringham. The late King George left that estate, built by Windsor's grandfather, Edward VII, at a cost of \$1,500,000, to his "eldest son" and not to "the King." Edward never liked Sandringham, but Queen Mary and King George VI do and have offered to pay \$500,000 for it. Edward was reported holding out for \$750,000.

"If the worst comes to the worst," remarked the Duke, "I'll always pick up a living showing people around Schoenbrunn—I know it so well."

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