

AFTERMATH—

A King Accedes, A Man Is Exiled



George VI, Rex Imperator

THE speaker's voice tightened as the last words winged to all corners of the earth:

"I did not forget the country or the empire. You must believe me . . . I have found it impossible to carry on the heavy burden of responsibility . . . without the help and support of the woman I love . . .

"And I lay down my burden . . .

"God bless you all! God save the King!"

Then, swiftly, Edward, no longer a king, sped by auto, boat and train into exile—the first monarch in all Britain's history voluntarily to choose abdication. It was 248 years to the day since James II fled England and neither James nor any other member of the House of Stuart was ever able to come back.

By his action, Edward was the latest recruit to the ranks of seven Kings without crowns now living on the Continent. The others are Alfonso XIII, who fled Spain in 1931 to escape rebels; ex-Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany who, at 77, is leading the life of a country gentleman at Doorn, Holland; Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, living with his family in England; Prajadhipok of Siam, now in a quiet Surrey town, who voluntarily abdicated after a dispute with his ministers in 1934; Ferdinand I of Bulgaria, who abdicated in 1918 and is now living in a modest German home; Amanullah of Afghanistan who, since he fled his royal palace in 1929 after attempts to westernize the country, has resided in Italy; and Abdul Medjid who stepped down from the Turkish throne when Dictator Mustapha Kemal took over the government. Abdul Medjid lives in Nice.

The radio speech was Edward's farewell to the empire he had ruled for 324 days. For the seven minutes he was on the air, the activity of London stood stock-still. In the streets, women wept. In drinking places, crowds were silent. In an auditorium, two wrestlers froze in action as Edward started speaking. It was as though a motion picture had stopped suddenly to hold a tableau.

In the Royal Lodge in Great Windsor Park, the Royal Family, as unaware as any of what Edward was to say, listened to the radio, their eyes moist, their faces taut.

When Edward finished speaking, the strain was over. With his words "God save the King!" the empire was ready to pick up the threads which had become so entangled for the week during which Edward struggled against the organized forces of British opinion.

Accession: Once again, as they had less than a year before, gold-coated couriers galloped through the streets, this time to proclaim ". . . that the high and mighty Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George has now become our only lawful, rightful liege, George VI . . ." In every country of the empire, guns thundered a salute to the

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new King. It was the third time since Elizabethan days that brother has succeeded brother: James II, deposed in 1688, was the brother of Charles II; William IV was the brother of George IV.

As his first act, the new King conferred on Edward the Dukedom of Windsor, one of the highest titles in the English peerage. (The dukedom was introduced by King Edward III in 1337 who made his eldest son, Edward, the Black Prince, the first Duke of Cornwall. A duke is styled "His grace" and "most noble" and is officially addressed by the crown as "our right trusty and right entirely beloved cousin." Next highest in degree is a marquess, then an earl, viscount and baron in descending order.)

As the Duke of Windsor, Edward left England, but not yet to meet "the woman I love." It was believed last week that the woman, the American Mrs. Simpson, preferred to defer their reunion until after her divorce decree becomes final next April 27. But already there were reports that the two would meet, under chaperonage, pos-



Canterbury Blamed an "Alien" Group sibly before the end of the year.

Exile: In a fast-travelling automobile, Edward, no longer a king but still wealthy with a reputed income of \$500,000 a year, sped to Portsmouth, England. Accompanying him into exile were only his loyal equerry, Col. Piers Legh; his private detective, David Storier; a valet and a pet Cairn terrier. Leaving the auto, the party went aboard the warship *Fury* which immediately steamed for Boulogne in France. Then, as various countries speculated on the possibility of the Duke of Windsor seeking refuge in their lands, he rode by train to Vienna.

His first, but presumably not to be his last, haven was Enzesfeld Castle as a guest of Baron Eugene de Rothschild. The Duke's refuge was an 800-year-old castle on the edge of Vienna forest overlooking a trout-filled stream which winds eventually to the Danube. The Baron, one of the wealthiest men in Central Europe, is the third son of the late Albert Baron Rothschild, head of the celebrated Vienna banking house. His wife, a former Philadelphia girl, is declared to be one of the 20 best-dressed women in the world.

Reactions: In London, the ministers who had won their battle with the King had other tasks ahead. The reaction of the dominions had to be weighed. The opinion of other countries was awaited.

Throughout the Empire, the violent repercussions which were feared at first were not heard. Canada, senior dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations, proclaimed the accession in quiet fashion. Newfoundland, oldest British possession in North America, New Zealand, Australia, the Straits Settlements, all joyfully accepted the accession. In Kenya colony, East Africa, natives listened in awed silence as the rolling phrases of the proclamation were read to them.

Most anxiously, the British ministers watched for Ireland's reaction and when it came, they were more pleased than otherwise. For the Irish Free State, while it passed a bill making itself independent of Great Brit-

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ain in all domestic affairs, did not move to cast off from the Empire. An act passed by the Irish Parliament abolished the office of Governor General, representative of the King, but Ireland was still to remain with Great Britain in its foreign dealings.

Abroad: Other nations were inclined to be sympathetic with Great Britain in the crisis which she had undergone. For the United States, President Roosevelt, returning from South America, sent the new King "good wishes for a long and happy reign."

In Russia, the press reaction was viewed as almost sympathetic to Edward. There, the citizens could not understand the "fuss" about divorce and preferred to regard the whole matter as a political game of the conservatives against the liberals.

The German press spoke respectfully and kindly of both Kings. The hope was expressed that George VI would share Edward's sympathy for the Reich and a drive was seen as under-way to win the favor of George in this respect.

Italy was generally sympathetic to Britain and the opinion was expressed that "nobody can pass judgment on Edward VIII."

The French press praised the dignity of all the principals concerned and declared that the Empire was strengthened by its ability to come through a difficult situation. The French were known to be hopeful that George would lean to their cause as opposed to Germany's, a contrary position to the one held by Edward.

In England, when the first numbing shock of the blow began to wear off, street scenes began to assume their familiar shapes. Youngsters, as they played in the gutters, sang a new ditty to an old tune:

"Hark, the herald angels sing,
Mrs. Simpson sneaked our king."

Parliament: The Commons was no longer divided between King's men and Parliament men after Prime Minister Baldwin told the dramatic story of the meeting and the discussions—the ministerial pleadings versus the immobile King—which ended with the abdication. In Commons, James Maxton, independent Laborite, vainly sought to seize the occasion to transform the monarchy into a republic but was overruled by a vote of 403 to five, as the government argued that the monarchy was above individuals.

In defeat, Maxton's parting shot was: "Remember what happened to Humpty Dumpty."

In this fashion, before Parliament turned its attention to other affairs pressing on the Empire, the abdication passed into history. Four words, in Norman French, had put the final seal on the act. In the House of Lords, members in scarlet and ermine-trimmed robes and cocked hats had given their formal approval to the abdication as the announcement was made that "Le Roy le Veult" ("The King Wishes It").

Then the building up into a public figure of George, the shy, second brother, started. It was devoutly hoped that the new ruler would bring with him into Buckingham palace that air of domesticity which was a property of George V and Queen Mary. (For a sketch of the new king see Page 16).

The populace was willing to help. In the rain on accession night, crowds stood before the new monarch's home at 145 Piccadilly, "the palace with a number," and while auto horns blew a continual salute, the throngs sang: "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

There were thoughts, of course, on the fact that some day England might have another Queen Elizabeth in the person of the 10-year-old daughter of George VI. The child was not aware of this. She was called from play with her six-year-old sister, Margaret Rose, to be told that her father and mother were now King and Queen, but that was all she was told. She asked what had happened to "Uncle David" but her question was unanswered.

Primate: "Uncle David" merely said he was happy. But even into his Austrian retreat came another bolt, hurled by the Archbishop of Canterbury,

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As the Duke of Windsor, Edward Can Smile Freely with Mrs. Simpson

head of the Church of England (Episcopal). Reputed to have played a major part in forcing Edward to choose abdication, the Archbishop spoke over the radio in condemnation of the "alien social circle" in which the ex-king had travelled.

In stinging terms, the Archbishop castigated the proposed marriage to Mrs. Simpson and the former ruler for his choice of friends. Said the Archbishop:

"... it was a craving for private happiness. Strange and sad it must be that for such a motive, however strongly it pressed on his heart, he should have disappointed hopes so high and abandoned a trust so great.

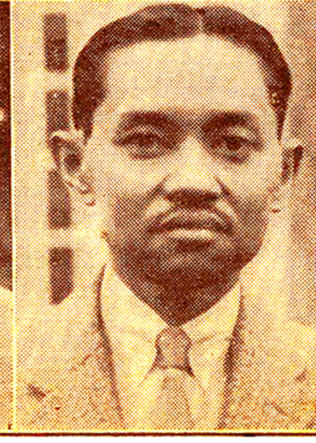
"Even more strange and sad it is that he should have sought his happiness in a manner inconsistent with Christian principles of marriage and within a social circle whose standards and ways of life are alien to all the best instincts and traditions of his people."

The Archbishop's speech set off new bitterness. Parliament threatened to make an issue of it. The Duke of Windsor was reported considering a reply. Undoubtedly he had thought that he had stated his case in the farewell speech. He had wanted something that the kingship did not offer and he made his decision. In line with this, he pointed to his brother:

"My brother . . . has one matchless blessing, enjoyed by so many of you and not bestowed on me—a happy home with wife and children."

The point, perhaps unwittingly, was underscored by George VI on his accession. These were among his first words:

"With my wife as helpmate by my side, I take up the heavy task . . ."



Among the Eight Living Rulers Now Minus Thrones Are Alfonso of Spain, Abdul Medjid of Turkey, Wilhelm of Germany, and Prajadhipok of Siam. All Live in More or Less Quiet Seclusion.