

EDWARD VIII AS PRINCE AND KING

Held Affection Of All His Subjects And Was Well Known In Canada

By The Canadian Press

The world's most popular citizen, in good times or bad, handsome Edward VIII was an idol of the English-speaking world from the time of his birth. To an unusual measure he attracted the light which beats upon Britain's Throne and on the heir to it. His common touch delighted Europe, the Americas, the Dominions.

He played poker with his ranch hands in Alberta, danced with Canadian girls on his first visit to the Dominion in 1919. He chuckled happily when the Northern Ontario mining town of Timmins welcomed him with a streamer of bunting hung outside the station which read: "This is your town, paint it red or any damn color you like."

There were unusual demonstrations of joy when he was born June 23, 1894, a male heir-apparent for the sceptre then held by his aging grandmother, Queen Victoria. As Prince of Wales he achieved popularity never before accorded one man by so much of the world. He became more intimate with the Empire than any previous heir to the Throne.

He ascended the Throne Jan. 20, 1936, on the death of King George V. sorrowful but determined to "follow in the footsteps of my beloved father." Less than 11 months later he and an American divorcee, Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, stood in the centre of the Empire's most threatening constitutional crisis in centuries.

The "Bachelor King" wished to marry at last. Romance that the Empire had hoped would come to him had arrived when he was 42 years old. But the charming woman he wished to marry was not only a commoner, she was in process of being divorced from her shipping-broker husband, Ernest Simpson. She had previously been once divorced.

CLASHES WITH CABINET

Immediately the question of his abdication arose. Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin told a breathless House of Commons that he had advised His Majesty such a marriage as was proposed would have the approval neither of the Government nor the Dominions. If it took place, Mrs. Simpson would be Queen. A morganatic marriage was not possible.

As the crisis developed in intensity, Mrs. Simpson hurried to the South of France where she issued a statement saying she was willing to "withdraw" from a position which had become "unhappy and untenable." Silent in his Fort Belvedere residence, the King was the subject of the world's anxiety. His problem was the world's news.

Edward's day-to-day life was news for years, especially after his famous 1919 visit to Canada and the United States. But he had been in headlines more frequently than usual since his accession to the Throne. Three outstanding events marked his early reign.

Chief of these was his dedication of Canada's war memorial at Vimy Ridge July 26, 1936. Six thousand Canadian veterans were in the great throng of 100,000 that stood before him that day when he said: "In dedicating this memorial to our fallen comrades our thoughts turn rather to the splendor of their sacrifice and to the consecration of our love for them than to the cannonage which beat upon this ridge a score of years ago.... In that spirit, in the spirit of thankfulness for their devotion and of pride for their comradeship, I unveil this memorial to Canada's dead."

The King's attendance at Vimy Ridge resulted in a spontaneous demonstration of affection by Canadians and French alike. Later, Mr. J. J. Macdonald entertained the Canadian pilgrims at a garden party at Buckingham Palace, the smiling Monarch was nearly mobbed by admirers.

REVOLVER THROWN AT KING

A few weeks before the dedication, while he was riding back to the Palace from a military review in Hyde Park, His Majesty was the centre of a sensation. On June 16, George Andrew McMahon, an Irishman, pointed a revolver at the King. A police reservist knocked the revolver to the road in front of the King's horse. McMahon, who said he had no intention of shooting the King, was sentenced to a year in jail for "producing near the person of the King a pistol, with intent to alarm His Majesty."

Edward was never closer to his people than a few days before his love for Wallis Simpson shattered the harmony of his reign. He visited the depressed areas of South Wales on Nov. 18 and 19, talked with men who hadn't worked for 10 years or more. "Everything that can be done will be done," he assured poverty-stricken South Wales. He urged the people not to lose heart.

Sleek, high-strung, closely resembling his grandfather King Edward VII in physical appearance, Edward became a man during the war. He said so when he returned from the front. He went to France as a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards. He was made captain in 1918 and colonel in 1919.

Within a few months after the close of the war the good-looking Prince of Wales set out to see for the first time the Empire that one day would be his. As he started for Canada, he was merely making a tour traditional with the heir-apparent. His father and his grandfather had made the visit before him.

The 25-year-old Prince landed in Halifax to be received by cheering thousands. The visit became a triumphant journey across the senior Dominion that focused for the first time the world's eyes on Edward. At once he became the most-talked-of and most photographed young man in the world.

BLOSSOMED IN CANADA

Whether or not the British government saw in Edward its ambassador of empire, it is doubtful if the quiet young man who landed in Nova Scotia in 1919 and captured a nation's heart was ever expected to do more than carry out the tradition of dignity and tact which his progenitors had established. His great success in Canada and United States was certainly not foreseen by British newspapers.

Representatives of British papers who accompanied the Royal party had been instructed to send a brief despatch daily on the progress of the Prince through Canada. By the time the party reached Toronto the home papers had raised their order to a column a day and after Toronto the correspondents were told to go the limit.

The Prince of Wales was a distinct personality now. The clothes he wore were next season's fashion. The latest dance wasn't accepted in the best ballrooms until the Prince had been reported its devotee and the Prince usually was a devotee.

Britons who accompanied the Prince in 1919 said the Queen had used her influence to train Edward for the role of Ambassador of Empire which he filled so well. One story had it that she looked to him to keep the Empire together and that when he began his tours she told him continuance of the British connection with the Dominions might rest in his hands.

Edward's affection for his mother was known to be warm. In his wanderings about the world he often referred to Queen Mary in informal talk and even his British schoolboy reserve did not cloak the tremendous affection he held for his mother.

While serving on the staff of the Canadian corps near the close of the war, he asked the corps photographer for two prints of a picture of himself entering the captured city of Valenciennes. "I want one for the family and one for the girl," he said. The photographer was not the more embarrassed of the two.

RANCHER IN CANADA

Through his speeches during the 20's in all the British Dominions, most of the colonies and many of the dependencies, in United States, Argentina, Japan, Chile and Uruguay he preached the doctrine of the British Empire as a force for the world's good. In Burke's Peerage it was noted that he resided at St. James's Palace London, and at the "E. P." Ranch, near Calgary. He once remarked he would like to spend his days commuting between these two places.

The 1919 tour of Canada was succeeded by two semi-official visits and the Prince became a familiar figure in Canada. He acquired his Alberta ranch and learned to pick out the likeliest stock for it. He acquired degrees in several Canadian universities and rank in several Canadian regiments. Speaking to the Canadian Club in London in November, 1922, the Prince said:

"I always feel that I have a right to call myself a Canadian because I am, in a small way, a rancher. I always feel that my small ranch in Alberta is to me a great link with Canada and that it is an assurance that I shall return there some day."

Perhaps the secret of his early success was his great responsiveness to other people. He went to great pains to meet the mood and mentality of people presented to him for even a brief visit. He convinced technicians he was enormously interested in their pet hobby. He gave the impression of wanting to know all about you, and having learned, to remember. Hundreds of Canadians who took him at his word and visited St. James's Palace while in London tell of his keen memory of people and incidents.

When the Prince began his 1919 tour, a strike was in progress in the mining district of Northern Ontario. His Majesty decided that it would be safer to cross the water to the St. Lawrence district. The Royal party went by sea and reached Quebec which was to have been occupied. Later the Prince returned to the mainland on his way back east, cancelled a hunt-

ing trip to make time for the trip through the Porcupine mining industry.

The result was that the citizenry in that part of the world gave the Prince a welcome which must have settled the fears of the most anxious official.

LEARNED TO BE SPEAKER

New York was another place where officials hesitated to take the Prince. At the time the city was full of anti-English feeling engendered by the Irish home rule question. Partly because of the Prince's insistence he was finally allowed to go. One incident, characteristic of the man but amazing to the United States mind, helped to bring New Yorkers around to a belief that a Prince could be also a simple gentleman.

At a gala performance in the Metropolitan a huge, ornate chair was set in front of the Royal box. All other chairs in the box ranged behind it. When the Prince came in with General Pershing the ovation from the fashionable throng lasted minutes. At the end of it the Prince felt for his chair, turned to survey with horror the gilded throne, then picked it up and started to move it to the back of the box. Startled attendants rushed it away. The Prince gathered up two small chairs, and set one down for Pershing beside his own.

Between 1920 and 1936 Edward made countless speeches. Most of them followed his first Canadian tour. Between the time that he spoke at Carnarvon on the attainment of his official majority and his first speech in Canada, he spoke only once—St. Anselm's Church in South London, June 13, 1914. As Duke of Cornwall he spoke of housing conditions in the old Duchy of Cornwall estate in South London. Time after time in Canada he warned Canadians against slum conditions and while the country was new to prevent overcrowding in cities.

His first big speech was on the occasion of his acceptance of the freedom of the City of London in the Guildhall, May 29, 1919. He spoke of the war and of the London regiments, and added: "The part I played was, I fear, a very insignificant one, but from one point of view I shall never regret my periods of service overseas. In those four years I mixed with men. In those four years I found my manhood. When I think of the future and the heavy responsibilities which may fall to my lot I feel that the experience gained since 1914 will stand me in good stead."

It was in Canada that Edward got his real training in speech-making. Before the end of the tour he was making impromptu speeches here and there while officials of his suite tried to hide their nervousness. But the Prince showed he was quite capable of grasping the requirements of any particular occasion.

In Calgary he spoke of his desire to explore the northwest—the MacKenzie Valley and the Peace River country. When he said he hoped to visit Canada soon again, the likelihood of another visit did not seem great. But shortly afterwards he purchased a ranch near Calgary and became an Alberta taxpayer.

Complimented Canada

At Montreal in 1919 the Prince said: "The union of the two races in Canada was never a matter of mere political convenience. On the contrary it was, and will always remain, an example of the highest political wisdom, for which the Empire owes an inestimable debt to Cartier, MacDonald and the other statesmen of both races who brought it about."

At Toronto in the same year, acknowledging the welcomes given to him, he said:

"I realize that they have been given to me as the King's son coming to Canada as the heir to the British Throne. My first visit to the great Dominion has made me realize more fully than ever what a great privilege and what a great responsibility that confers upon me and I value these welcomes all the more highly because they have come from the Canadian nation as a whole, from all sections of the community, whatever their party, whatever their education."

"I ask myself, what does that mean? It means I think that the Throne stand: for a heritage of common aims and ideals shared equally by all sections, all parties, and all nations within the British Commonwealth. No Government represents or stands for all parties or all nations within the Empire. But despite this there is a common sentiment which is shared not only by all nations within the Empire, but also by all political parties within each nation. It was this common sentiment which made us stand together in the Great War."

A few days later in Washington, the Prince told a public gathering that he came not only as a representative of the British Empire but also as a Canadian. He spoke of the unguarded boundary line and added: "North of that frontier we cherish our British institutions, our British form of freedom, our British allegiance to the King. South of it you cherish equally the institutions into which the American citizen is born. The forms are different, but the aim of both systems of government is the same."

FAMED WHEN PRINCE For Personal Touch

The "personal touch" for which Edward VIII was famous both when he was Prince of Wales and when he was King came naturally to him. Close friends believe he established a life-long relationship with the common people during the Great War, and there was no doubt of his ability to talk with anyone when he first visited Canada in 1919.

He gave a luncheon during that visit in Winnipeg—an informal luncheon. Noted men from all parts of Canada were to attend and the young Prince, then 25 years old, wasn't convinced it was sufficient to print on the invitation cards "informal dress."

"I'm going to wear my old grey suit," he announced. On the invitation cards was printed: "Lounge suits." They say that invitation was the first document Edward ever dictated for himself.

Lost His Shirt

It was common knowledge, too, that the Prince lost his pants in 1919 at Regina and his shirt a few years later at E. P. Ranch. Somebody stole his pants in Saskatchewan's Government House—the "football britches" the Prince wore on early-morning runs. Edward's own ranch hands took care of the shirt. They taught the Prince to play poker and gave him several notable beatings. But Edward, in turn, taught them to play bridge and trounced them just as badly.

The "personal touch" of Edward was so famous that Pethick Lawrence, formerly financial secretary in the Labor Government said: "We have in our present King a man who has more direct and intimate associations with our common people than any Monarch since the days of Charles II."

KING REAL FRIEND TO VIMY PILGRIMS

Canadian war veterans who went overseas in 1936 to attend the unveiling of Canada's war memorial at Vimy Ridge saw King Edward VIII in his happiest mood. Among the 6,000 ex-servicemen from the Dominion who made up part of the great throng at the ceremony, His Majesty was friendly and informal.



KING EDWARD VIII

When Life Was Happier For King And Friend



No hint of the storm that soon was to rage about them was evident when this picture of King Edward VIII and Mrs. Wallis Simpson was taken last summer, during their attendance at the Ascot races. The photo, radioed from London to New York City, shows the pair in merry mood during an interval between races.

Still later, when he entertained the visitors at a Garden Party on Buckingham Palace lawn, he was the popular idol of the pilgrims. It rained that day but the King and his men from Canada, their mothers and wives, will never forget the occasion.

At Vimy nothing was more illustrative of His Majesty's democratic spirit than the freedom with which he walked among the ex-servicemen. Among the first pilgrims greeted was Mrs. C. S. Woods of Winnipeg, a silver cross mother whose 11 sons had served in the war. Five of them gave their lives. Mrs. Woods was a proud woman when, in the shadow of Canada's imposing monument, King Edward approached her, shook hands and voiced his pleasure at meeting her.

REMEMBERS HIS FRIENDS

Curly Christian, Canada's only quadruple amputation veteran, grinned broadly when the King addressed him as "Curly". His Majesty asked General Sir A. C. Macdonell if he was "still okay" and if he continued to make his home in Kingston, Ont.

At Buckingham Palace, the King immediately recognized George H. Cairns of Saskatoon, father of the late Hugh Cairns, V. C., and recalled meeting him on a previous occasion.

The pilgrims made themselves thoroughly at home amid the austere surroundings of the Palace gardens. Children romped over the lawns, playing in and out of the flower beds. Families obtained comfortably on the long tables bordering the walls and seating themselves comfortably on the grass, proceeded to enjoy their alfresco lunch. Others, wandering through the Royal Palace, discovered His Majesty's notepaper and at once applied it to the use of communications with their friends at home.

Composure of the King's martialmen, gorgeously uniformed attendants on duty at the Palace, was tested when pilgrims bombarded them with requests for autographs. But they complied with dignity. So insistent were the autograph hunters on the Earl of Besborough, former Governor-General of Canada, who was present, that he had to plead for "mercy" and asked time out in order to recover from writer's cramp.

Everything was photographed. Despite the heavy downpour of rain amateur camera-men feasted themselves on snapping the great and the near-great of the Empire. The unveiling of the memorial on Vimy Ridge a few days previously was a spectacle of moving dignity and beauty; but the garden party at Buckingham Palace left on the minds of the pilgrims a more homely impression.

"STILL THE SAME MAN" AFTER ACCESSION

In the early months of his reign, King Edward VIII twice addressed his people by radio. A few weeks after the death of his father he spoke to the Empire and his words were carried to every continent and every sea. In the summer of 1936 his speech at the unveiling of Canada's war memorial at Vimy Ridge was carried to the Dominion.

In his first broadcast utterance after succeeding to the Throne, he said:

"I am better known to most of you as the Prince of Wales, the man who, during the war and since, has had the opportunity of getting to know nearly every country of the world under all conditions and circumstances. And, although I now speak to you as King, I am still the same man who has had that experience and whose constant effort will be to promote the welfare of his fellow-men."

But it was announced in November that His Majesty would not follow the custom of his father and make a Christmas-Day broadcast to the Empire.

Impressions Of Mrs. Simpson Given By London Social Writer

LONDON, December 9—Social writers in the London press naturally have had Mrs. Wallis Simpson under observation for a long time and here is what they think of her.

"She is that rare phenomenon—a woman appreciatively spoken of by all who know her. Unspectacular, intelligent, quick-witted and good-natured, she has a talent for making people feel happy and at ease, a talent that is the secret of good company. She takes a constructive interest in her home, enjoys doing many small jobs herself, is the sort of person who has a talent for both finding and keeping excellent servants. A most attractive woman, with a vibrant personality."

"E.C." in the Daily Sketch: "I don't think she could be called beautiful, judged by the conventional standards. Her nose is sharp and impudent, her chin arrogant and determined. Her hair is black, sleek and smoothly waved down to cover her ears. Narrow, black brows arch above her best feature—deep violet-blue eyes."

"In the dusty brown fortress town of Trogir in the Adriatic this summer I saw the King in informal blue linen slacks and sand shoes wandering, hand in hand with Mrs. Simpson down one of the narrow side streets."

A Daily Express writer: "She is no social snob. She still keeps contact with her old friends of all sorts, though she has too much good sense to try to mix groups. Not one of her old friends has turned into a new enemy, which is a pretty remarkable tribute. She always has had the gift of friendliness and loyalty and stands up at a drop of the hat for those she likes. She is by temperament hospitable, but she has never wasted a penny in her life. She knows values."

Outstanding Events In King Edward's Reign

LONDON, Dec. 10—(AP)—Outstanding events of the reign of King Edward VIII:

Jan. 20, 1936—Succeeded to the Throne on death of his father, King George V.

Jan. 21—Held first Privy Council at St. James's Palace, promising to follow in my father's footsteps and work, as he did throughout his life for the happiness and welfare of all classes of my subjects."

Jan. 23—Followed King George's coffin through the streets to Westminster after its return from Sandringham.

Jan. 27—Mounted guard with his brothers at the bier of his father during the lying-in-state.

Jan. 28—Attended his father's funeral.

March 1—Made a broadcast speech to the Empire.

July 16—Revolver was thrown at him as he returned from inspecting the guards in Hyde Park.

July 2—Visited Vimy Ridge and unveiled Canadian war memorial.

Aug. 1—Left on five week cruise in the Adriatic with a party of which Mrs. Wallis Simpson was a member.

Sept. 14—Returned to England by airplane.

Nov. 3—Opened his first Parliament.

Nov. 11—Attended Armistice ceremonies at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Nov. 12—Inspected the home fleet at Portland.

Nov. 18—Began three day's tour of distressed areas in South Wales.

Dec. 10—Announced his abdication in favor of the Duke of York through the Speaker of the House of Commons.

whose abdication today will be written into history as one of the greatest precedent-breaking acts of British royalty, set aside another tradition in the wording of his formal abdication.

In all formal state papers he has been known as "Edward VIII, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India."

Today for the first time since his accession, reference to the deity was omitted in his own official renunciation and other state documents.

The phrases "by the Grace of God" and "Defender of the Faith" were not included.

Edward Sets Aside Another Tradition

(C. P. by Guardian's Special Wire) LONDON, Dec. 10—Edward VIII,

BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED BY RIDER AND WIFE

Birth of King Edward VIII was announced in traditional manner in the early morning of June 23, 1894, by shouts of a speeding horseman—but the news reached London by telegraph. Precedent was upset by a speedier means of communication.

The horseman on this occasion, who had proudly predicted that the first of Queen Victoria's great grandchildren would be a son, posted himself outside White Lodge, Richmond, as soon as he learned the Duchess of York, later Queen Mary, was to have her accouchement there.

When the Prince in direct line of succession was born, the rider jumped into the saddle and rode furiously into London, shouting as he went: "A Prince! A Prince!" His shouts awakened dwellers all along his route and to the day of his death he boasted he was the first to announce the Prince's birth. He was right, as far as those who lived near Richmond were concerned.

Public enthusiasm for the young Prince of Wales which began that day at a national manifestation grew to be international. His popularity knew no boundaries.

Edward's two grandmothers, the Princess of Wales (afterwards Queen Alexandra) and the Duchess of Teck, looked upon his birth and, with the nurse, carried the happy news to a nearby room where the boy's father and his grandfather paced the floor nervously like fathers and grandfathers the world over.

"We Used To Pelt The Blighters", Said King Discussing Pages

LONDON—The story of King Edward's wish, on coming to the Throne to dispense with the post of Page of the Backstairs at Buckingham Palace is told in the autobiography of the late Sir Harry Preston, published recently, writes The Morning Post.

Sir Harry, whose book is called "Leaves from My Unwritten Diary" explains that when King Edward went over the internal arrangements of the Palace with Sir Ralph Harwood he asked what function the pages fulfilled.

"All I know about them," King Edward said, "is that when I and my brothers were boys we used to pelt the blighters whenever we found them lurking about the stairs."

Sir Ralph told him that originally the pages were appointed to wait on the backstairs to prevent any unauthorized entry, and at all times to protect the King's back.

"Well, stabbing in the back is an obsolete way of disposing of kings now," observed King Edward, "so I think we might dispense with these pages."

In a later discussion, King Edward wished to have only a footman on duty at the door of his room in the Palace. Sir Ralph thought, however, that the usual page should be retained, otherwise, when the footman went on an errand, there would be no one to answer the King's bell.

"But," the King protested, "when I press my bell I don't expect to see a man appear instantly in the doorway. I can wait like anybody else." Sir Ralph suggested that the page should be kept for a time in order to test the established system, and the King turned with a disarming smile. "The fact is," he admitted, "I am not used to all this."

Sir Harry recalls that when he presented his "open sesame" passport from Madrid, he discovered that the Civil Guard could not read. Unhappily, too, a large revolver was discovered in the car, as well as some kodak films, which were taken for explosives. "Two suspicious foreigners, an enormous revolver, sticks of dynamite, a light car, the road to the frontier. A clear case."

Sir Godfrey and his friend were marched to a filthy gaol, and stayed there until a neighboring town produced an intelligent official.

Sir Harry Preston, known most to people and everyone knew him, reminds and everyone knew him, personality, and few recent books have had so long a chain of excellent anecdotes.