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England's King as a Country Squire

Sandringham
Where His Majesty
drops the firesome
Etiquette of Throne
and Court



Queen
Alexandra



Sandringham Market, noted for its Game
from the Royal Preserves



The Royal
Christmas
Tree

The reversion of the best types of royalty in Europe from the pomp and circumstance of exalted rank and their desire to return, as much as society will permit them, to simple and more healthy methods of life is more strongly shown by King Edward of England than by any other great sovereign, aside from the unhappy Czar of Russia. King Edward, who loves roast short ribs of beef and Irish potatoes better than any other dish known to the royal cooks, also much prefers his private country home to the famous palaces left him by such famous old English monarchs as Henry VIII. or the ill-fated Charles I., who loved Buckingham Palace best of all the Stuart royal residences.

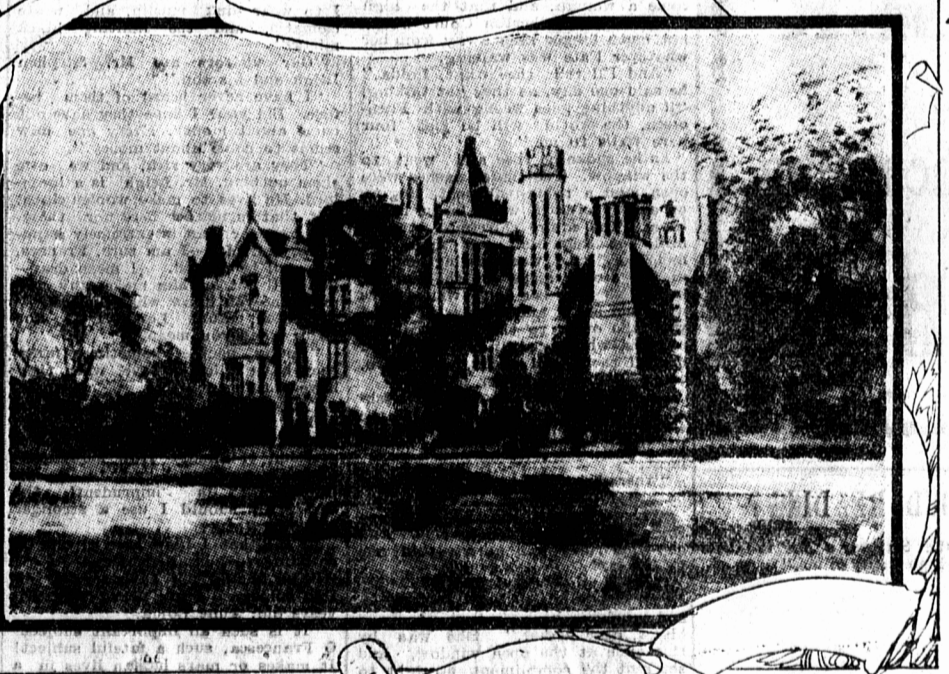
The King's country home, known as Sandringham House, where His Majesty is now staying, was purchased for him by his father, the Prince Consort, some 43 years ago, at the cost of \$1,200,000. The house stands in a park of some 600 acres. If to this we add the farms, kitchen gardens and plantations, the estate comprises some 12,000 acres. It has a rent roll of about \$50,000, and, if rumor is correct, the King has always made a point of spending this on improving the estate, in which case he must have spent in this way alone considerably over a million dollars. To understand what the King has accomplished at Sandringham one cannot do better than to glance first at the residence, then at the gardens, farms, and last, but by no means least, the model dwellings which the King has had erected for his workmen.

Sandringham House may be described as a typical country mansion; it is by no means a palace; indeed, if the truth must be told, a dozen homes could be mentioned far larger and more elaborate. Yet Sandringham House has a dignified and pleasing appearance. It is of modernized Elizabethan architecture, built of red brick, with Ketton stone dressing. Over the door at the main entrance one reads the following inscription: "This house was built by Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and Alexandra his wife, in the year of our Lord 1870."

As a matter of fact, the estate was purchased some nine years previous to that date, but the Old Manor House was in such a condition that, after vainly trying to patch it up and add to it, it was found desirable to pull it all down and build an entirely new residence. Thirteen years ago Sandringham was again in the hands of the builders after a disastrous fire, when the entire roof of the main buildings was damaged and the whole of the two upper floors were burned beyond the possibility of saving them. But the King who was then, of course, the Prince of Wales, cheerfully set to work to rebuild the ruined portion of the house, and Sandringham, or at least the new part of it, is today completely fireproof



The King of England
and Portugal



Sandringham House
The King's favorite residence and where the King of Portugal
was entertained during the Christmas holidays

with iron and concrete floors. The fire cost the King \$70,000, and made Sandringham an unusually costly residence for that particular year. It will be seen from the above that the house is entirely a modern structure. It has a frontage of some 500 feet, and it is so designed that the majority of the principal rooms overlook the terrace and the beautiful gardens beyond.

WHERE THE KING ENJOYS LIFE

Of the rooms in the house, with their costly treasures, His Majesty forbids anything like a detailed description. There are three drawing-rooms, two small ones and a large one. They are all connected with the entrance hall by a broad corridor, which is ornamented with pieces of art-

our, ancient china, stuffed birds, etc. The large drawing-room is a magnificent apartment, fitted with windows reaching from ceiling to floor. The walls are paneled with pink and blue and with moldings of gold and cream. The furniture is upholstered in pale blue, with threads of deep crimson and gold; the hangings are of rich chenille; the floor of polished oak, with rich Indian rugs distributed here and there. A plentiful scattering of music and books gives it a homelike appearance.

The apartment best known to the people of Norfolk county is the ball-room. It is of immense size and of lofty construction. There is hardly a father, a laborer, or servant in the employ of the King who

cannot say that he has not had a good time in this apartment. There are three "annual" dances held there—the "county," the "Tenants" and the "servants" balls. Until a few years ago the King and Queen always led off the dancing on these occasions, but since he ascended the throne His Majesty has been too much occupied with affairs of state to always put in a personal appearance, but with characteristic thoughtfulness sees that everything is done to make the ball a success and his working people made happy. The King's workroom many would describe as small, but it is in this room that His Majesty answers his correspondence and transacts all the business affairs connected with his estate. In an adjoining room may be seen

a complete postoffice. You can buy a stamp or take out a money order at Sandringham House in the very same way as you can in a postoffice in the Strand in London.

The spacious dining-room, the three libraries, the conservatories, the billiard-room, gunroom and an interesting apartment containing numerous sporting trophies and cups won by the King's cattle competition are all handsome apartments, quietly but tastefully and artistically furnished.

KING'S GARDENS AND FARMHOUSES.

After all it is the gardens and farms that are the chief charm of Sandringham. Indeed, it was these latter which

decided the King to give up Osborne House and retain Sandringham when he came to the throne.

To fully appreciate the beauty of the gardens at Sandringham, one should stand on the terrace front, when a scene of rare beauty enchants the eye. There are no geometrical beds of gorgeous mosaic, nor groups of statuary—in fact, none of the flashy devices of so-called "grand" gardens. The velvety turf descends in shallow slopes to the lake, with its blue surface dotted with tiny islands, whose trees are mirrored in the water. Here the lake narrows until a pretty rustic bridge is able to reach across it, and further on it diminishes into a stream trickling through purple heather and

fringes of feathery bamboos, while everywhere is the singing of birds and the soothing cry of the wood pigeon.

Beyond the garden is the park, which has a peculiarly personal interest. From his mother the King has inherited a taste for memorial trees, and the illustrious guests at Sandringham have not often escaped without being asked to plant one. At the base of each is an iron label carrying an inscription that describes the kind of tree and tells who planted it. To enumerate them would be a tedious task to perform, for from the Kaiser and the Czar downwards there is scarcely an European potentate of importance who has not growing in Sandringham Park a tree planted with his own hands.

His Majesty's delight when at Sandringham is to visit his farm. As soon as his correspondence is finished he hastens away from his house across the parks to the kennels and studs, taking visitors with him when he can persuade them to join him.

His Majesty is a farmer in the true sense of the word, as distinguished from the owner of an estate upon which there are farms. Indeed the King, whose training has been essentially that of an English country gentleman, takes the liveliest personal interest in every detail connected with his land, himself marking out trees to be felled and directing where others should be planted, and superintending the choice of stocks, and all questions that have to do with the carrying on of the lands and farm. It is a wonderful farm, for nowhere else is so much high-bred stock to be seen upon the same area.

The Queen's model dairy is a place where she and her daughters have spent many delightful hours in the mysteries of butter-making. Also there are technical schools on the estate and a village club. The latter was founded by the King for the benefit of the villagers and the men and youths employed on the estate.

It was the late Earl of Derby who said: "Half the secret of the King's unrivaled popularity is that he is a sportsman to the backbone." Indeed he is a past master of the gun, and ranks among the dozen best shots in the United Kingdom. He has shot bears at dangerously close quarters in the Carpathian Mountains, and dozens of fierce boars have fallen to his gun in Germany. He sent a bullet through the head of one at a distance of over 200 yards.

But it is pleasant shooting that the King loves best, particularly when he can shoot over his own preserves at Sandringham. From 10,000 to 12,000 pheasants are reared on the estate annually, and the first shoot which takes place on the King's birthday is one of the chief events of the year. On that day about 60 hunters are employed, all of whom are uniformly dressed and each carries a flag. There are about 13,000 acres of shooting belonging to or rented by the King, and the Prince of Wales rents about 10,000 acres. What the bags have been like is no secret. The best season was that of 1896-97, when, according to a card which hangs in the head keeper's office, there were obtained 13,958 pheasants, 955 partridges, 836 hares, 6,185 rabbits, 77 woodcocks, 8 snipes, 52 teal, 271 wild ducks, 18 pigeons and 27 various birds.

YOUR WORN-OUT STOMACH

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