Catholic Duke Takes Charge Of Coronation

Norfolk Family Has Supervised Rite for More Than 700 Years

MANY people think it is odd that the Coronation arrangements in Westminster Abbey should be made by a Roman Catholic—the Duke of Norfolk. But it is not half as odd as some of the things that went on when the Duke's predecessors held the job.

The Dukes and Earls of Norfolk have been in the coronation business for more than 700 years and a more turbulent bunch of barons never crowned a king. Their story is a potted history of England.

An earl called Roger Bigod was the first Norfolk to be marshal, in 1246. He spent half his time quarreling with Henry III, but never ran a coronation because the king outlived him.

The next earl, also called Roger Bigod, was luckier. He fixed the coronation of Edward I, the man who took the Stone of Scone from Scotland and put it under his throne.

Afterwards Edward posted the earl overseas, but he refused to go. "By God, Bigod, you shall go or hang," said the king. "By God, O king," said Bigod, "I shall neither go nor hang." And he didn't.

Brother Got Job

The next king, Edward II, thought he would like a more friendly earl marshal, so he gave the job to his brother. A woman carried the title at the coronation of Richard II, and in 1386 it went to another Earl of Norfolk, who was given the right to carry a gold rod with rings at each end instead of a plain wooden one.

It didn't do him much good. He had the usual row with the king, was banished, and died of plague in Venice.

The next earl marshal was a promising lad, but he got mixed up in a conspiracy and was executed without trial at the age of 19.

The cavalcade of Norfolk earl marshals goes on. The next one missed Agincourt because he was ill, but turned out for the coronation of Henry VI.

He was followed by a duke who distinguished himself by arriving a day late for the Battle of St. Albans, in 1455.

There was a second Battle of St. Albans five years later. He was in time for that, but left afterwards and went over to the other side.

This was during the Wars of the Roses, if you remember, and the wily duke switched from red to white in good time to be on the right side when Edward IV proclaimed himself king at Westminster.

After the death of the next earl marshal, who doesn't seem to have committed any outrageous acts of violence or defiance, the dukedom of Norfolk and the earl marshalcy became extinct.

The dukedom was given to one of the Princes in the Tower, but, as you know, the Princes were murdered, and so it became extinct again.

But you can't keep a good title down, and it an extinct fish can come to life after 50,000,000 years what's a generation or two to the Dukes of Norfolk?

Salary Was £20

The first of the Howard family—to which the present duke belongs—got the title two days before the coronation of Richard III. The Old Pals Act was operating well at the time. The salary for being earl marshal was fixed in 1483 at £20, and has remained so ever since.

Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, but Norfolk did not get the chance of running the next coronation because he was killed in the battle too.

After that the title was taken away from the Howards, till one of them gave the Scots such a beating at Flodden Field that he was made a duke again. Unlike so many of the Norfolks and Howard, he died a natural death, aged eighty.

He had 11 sons and seven daughters, and couldn't stand Cardinal Wolsey.

The next duke, who was earl marshal at the trial of Anne Boleyn, couldn't stand Wolsey either, and helped to get him thrown out.

Katherine Howard, who married Henry VIII, was the duke's niece, and things looked good till he was thrown in the Tower and his title taken away.

He had the nearest escape from the scaffold in the Norfolk record. One evening Henry VIII gave the order for him to be executed next morning, and then died in the night himself.

So the order was never carried out, and Norfolk not only got his life back but his title too.

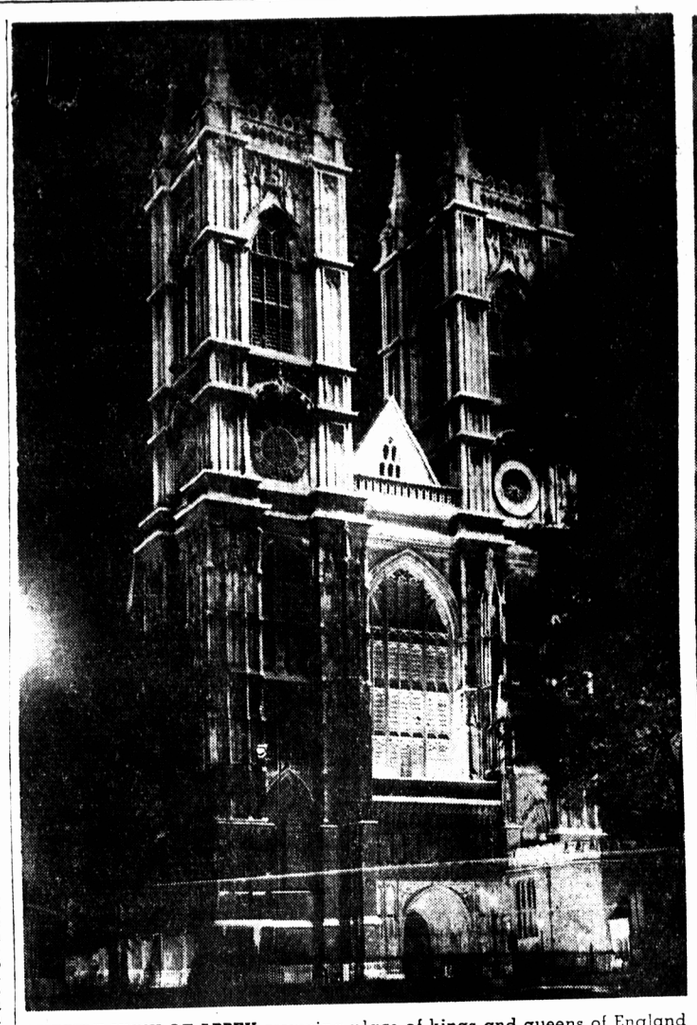
His son was not so lucky. He had been executed at the Tower ten days before the King died.

The same thing happened to his son, who was earl marshal at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth I. He made the mistake of wanting to marry Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth wasn't going to stand for that, so off came another Norfolk head, and bang went the title again.

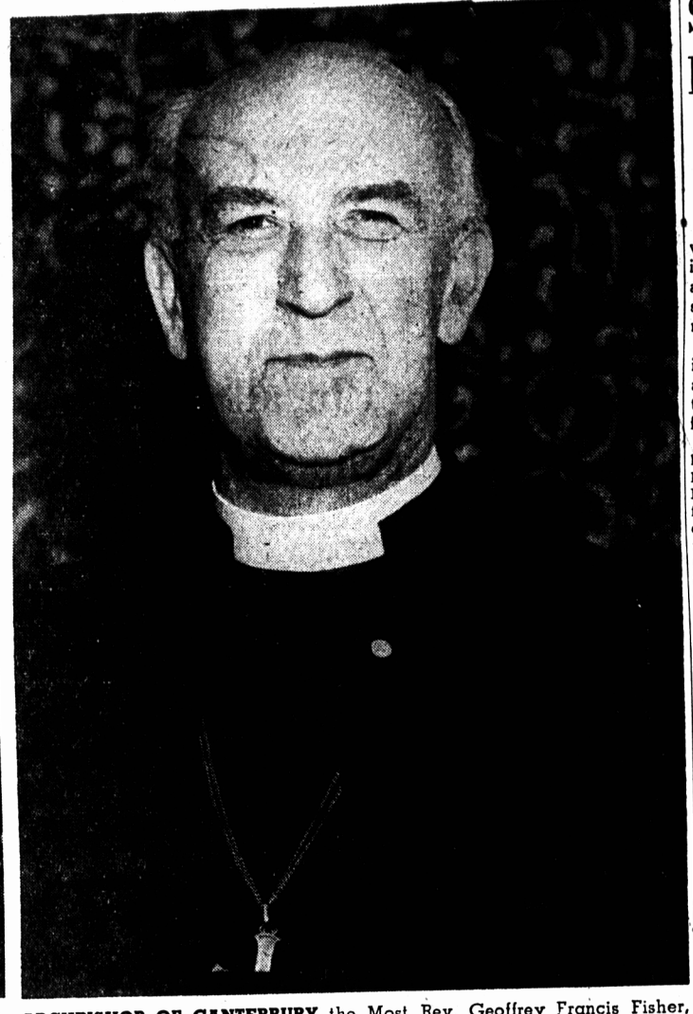
There wasn't another Duke of Norfolk for 88 years, when Charles II gave the family a new deal. He made one of the Howards the duke again, and made another the earl marshal.

Charles made both titles hereditary, and the Norfolks never lost their stripes again. But they had some narrow escapes.

The first of the earl marshals under Charles II's new deal was a Catholic, and had to appoint a deputy to do his work. Of the next five three were Catholics, who were not allowed to run coronations, and two were Protestants, who were.



OUTSIDE VIEW OF ABBEY crowning place of kings and queens of England since the Norman Conquest. Abbey was founded by Edward the Confessor.



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY the Most Rev. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, who will crown Queen Elizabeth II. As "fee" he may claim articles used.

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, the Most Rev. Cyril Forster Garbett, P.C., D.D., who will assist the Archbishop of Canterbury at Coronation.

DEAN OF WESTMINSTER as the inheritor of the privileges of the Abbott of St. Peter has the right to instruct sovereign on duty.

Small Boy and His Sister Eagerly Await Great Day

Prince Charles and Princess Anne Watch as Preparations Speed Ahead

By Dorothy Barkley

On Coronation Day, one small boy and his small sister will be in their seventh heaven of delight. They have long been i nthe centre of preparations for this special day, have been told about it from their mother and father, and have watched the soldiers rehearsing outside the Palace and in the parks. And now the great day has arrived.

Of course, they don't yet understand their own significance in this scheme of things—when you are only four or two-and-a-bit you don't understand everything that goes on. But you do take note that this is a very special day, and there is plenty of fun to be enjoyed.

The two children? You must have guessed—Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall, and his sister Princess Anne. Their pictures are familiar to millions. The one, a chubby little boy, confident, sturdy, well made, with thick golden-brown hair, and sea-blue eyes; the other, a fairy-tale princess, with English rose colouring, fair curly hair, laughing blue eyes, dainty and tall for her age.

Royal etiquette — the do's and dont's of a life in the public eye—they have been told all about that. Out in the park with his nanny, Miss Helen Lightbody, Prince Charles knows he must look straight in front of him in his pram, must not talk to strange children, must not run away from his nurse. Travelling in a car through the streets of London, he knows how to return the cheers of the crowd with a royal wave, and how not to look too scared of the photographers' flash bulbs. (Once, though, the small boy in him got the better of his royal training, and he blew a kiss to the crowd). He already knows the correct procedure on a railway station too — he has obviously watched his mother. On Ballater

Princess Anne

station last summer, at the end of a family holiday in Scotland, Prince Charles solemnly shook hands with the station master before boarding the train that was to bring him south to London.

And party etiquette has been well learned, too—he and Princess Anne bow and curtsy to their hostess. Just now, Prince Charles is at the question-asking age, besieges everyone with why and what and how. In features and mannerisms he has already been described as a miniature edition of the Duke of Edinburgh. One characteristic, in particular, he has in common with his father—his passion to see "how it works." Out for a walk in London with his grandmother, the Queen Mother, for instance, they stopped to watch a mechanical crane at work.

Fascinated, he pleaded to be allowed to sit in the "bucket" and work the crane. His grandmother insisted that he should wait until he was older. He did wait—until he was 10 minutes older. Then his grandmother gave in—and Prince Charles was lifted into the operator's seat.

Sister Determined

Princess Anne is of an equally determined disposition — determined, that is, not to be bossed by her elder brother. And, although she has several dolls and a doll's pram, she does her best to keep up with Prince Charles, and prefer's boy's games and toys.

And when you're a Princess — even though only two years old—you are an important person. Anne has already had named after her a chrysanthemum, a street, a British railways locomotive (this in honour of her second birthday and much to the envy of Charles). And two waltzes have been composed for her.

From one point of view she is, perhaps the more fortunate of the two. Not for her the strict training for cares of state; future responsibilities cast no shadows on her. She will be the one who bothers less about constitutional history and the duties of monarchs. She will be the Princess Margaret of the house.

When you are four your birthday is an important event. But when you are a Prince—and the Heir Apparent—your birthday has public importance, too. On his fourth birthday last November, flags flew, in his honour, throughout the day on public buildings, and the National Anthem was played before the BBC news in the morning.

The Guards band was also paraded in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace to greet him. They played, while he and his sister listened enchanted, "Happy Birthday to You" and a selection of children's tunes. For tea, there was all the traditional party food — jellies, trifles, and three birthday cakes. The Palace corridors—much more fun to play in than Clarence House —were cleared of their furniture and busts so that the children could race and play games. For the first time, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were both able to spend the day with their son, and they had kept it free of public engagements

Another sign that the little Prince is fast growing up comes in the "informative visits," many of them with the Queen Mother, which will probably become more frequent in the future. These have included his first public concert (at the Royal Festival Hall, attended by 3,000 children), a trip on the Thames aboard a police launch, and a visit to a dockyard to watch the dock workers and see the men who go down to the sea in ships. And Prince Charles usually see the films of his parents' public appearances.

When the Royal Family moved into Buckingham Palace, Princess Margaret insisted on moving out to her own suite, so that the children could have her old room as their nursery with a view of the Mall and the Changing of the Guard. In this wing of the Palace there is now a self-contained flat, complete with kitchen, for the children and their staff. The nursery has light blue walls, regency chintzes, old-fashioned mahogany furniture, and small, half-size tables and chairs for the children's meals.

Frequent Visitors

Popular and frequent visitors are Grannie, (the Queen Mother) and Margot, (Princess Margaret, their aunt,) who is always in demand to play the piano for "square-dancing." Another, whom they often see, is Queen Mary — whom they call Gran-gran to distinguish her from their grandmother — who also delights in children.

Holidays are spent at Sandringham, Windsor, or Balmoral. Both children are seasoned travellers; Princess Anne went on the journey from London to Scotland when she was barely a month old. The family gather at these centres at Christmas and during the summer holiday in August.

Now that the children are in the same age group, they are being dressed to match one another. They have double-breasted, eight-button coats in crimson and dark green, and in pale blue for best. For the garden, they are sensibly clad, American-style, in T-shirts, middy jackets, and corduroy trousers.

Mechanical toys of any sort fascinate Prince Charles—cars, aeroplanes, boats, trains. He is the proud possessor of a pale blue, streamlined car, given to him by his grandparents. It is fitted with up-to-date gadgets — an electric horn and lights, and a "radio" (a musical box.) He also has a Shetland pony named "Cloudy," and will probably have riding lessons when he is five, the age at which the Queen and Princess Margaret learned to ride.

The Duke of Edinburgh also wants him to take up cricket and other outdoor games. His education will probably begin at this age, too. His father has said in public that he wants his son to have as democratic an education as possible — recalling his own youth at the "progressive" school, Gordonstoun.

Tiny Birds To Be Shown At London Zoo

By Craven Hill

AMONG the exhibitions being planned at London Zoo for Coronation visitors, is a display of South American humming birds. The big aviary at the Small Birds' House is being prepared for them.

The birds are being brought from Brazil and from Copenhagen Zoo.

"We hope to get at least 20 of the 600 different known species," said Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds.

"One kind we particularly want is the Pygmy Hermit, smallest of them all. About 30 of them would weigh only one ounce."

Humming-birds are big eaters, and to keep the Zoo collection well supplied with nourishment feeding bottles, blown to resemble exotic flower blooms, will be fixed to plants.

Contents of the feeding bottles will include condensed milk, honey, an infant's patent food, meat extract, and some medicated charcoal to keep the food fresh.

Prince Charles

Religious Significance of Coronation is Stressed

By the Bishop of Coventry

BEHIND the pageantry, the trumpets, the television, the crowds and the wireless, what more is there? I will try to put simply the poignant, human and personal thing. We all feel it. It is the thought of the young Queen, there, as it were, alone, and with all there is to be laid upon her for life.

As she enters the west door of the great Abbey, the Christian heart of the English race, there will be waiting there the representatives of all the Commonwealth. We shall wish to help her, and we shall know for certain what is in her mind. She has told us it is to consecrate herself, to offer her life ahead to her Lord, and through Him, to her peoples.

She will move up to the High Alter to the service. To understand this you can open the Book of Common Prayer and read the service for the Communion and that of the consecration of a Bishop. The Coronation service, as is the consecration of a Bishop, is set in the framework of the Communion service.

The Queen is seated before the High Altar. The Archbishop, accompanied by the Officers of State, moves to the east, north, west and south and proclaims: "I present to you Queen Elizabeth your undoubted Queen", and the trumpets sound. The Queen takes the Oath to serve all her Realms and Territories overseas and to preserve The Church, and lays her hand on the Gospel for the day in the opened, great Bible.

The proclamation has been made and the Oaths taken. The ceremony goes back to the time when the Saxon Lords in the Witan raised their elected king on a shield before the people.

The Communion service then opens with the Epistle, the Gospel, and the Creed, but she is not yet Queen. She is made Queen by the act of anointing, not by the crowning itself.

Act of Anointing

The anointing with oil is one of the sacraments of the Church. In many churches the Holy Oil is blessed by the Bishop and kept on the altar and taken out for the blessing and the healing of the sick.

The rite of anointing the monarch with oil goes back to the prophet Elisha and to the anointing of Solomon. This has been the essential rite in the making of kings in the history of Christian Europe. The sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual thing, and we Christians believe that a special gift is given of God's Spirit to the young Queen to fit her for her work. She certainly believes this.

To help her then, we should join with the Archbishop in the moment of anointing.

The Archbishop anoints with the sign of the Cross, the two hands, the breast and the head of the Sovereign. He will pray: "Our Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God who by His Father was anointed with gladness, pour down upon her head and heart the Blessing of the Holy Ghost."

By virtue of the anointing she is now Queen and will take her seat on the Chair of Scone of Edward I.

The drama of the sacramental acts continues. She will receive the Sword of Justice. She is vested with the royal robes similar to those of a priest. The Orb with the Cross upon it is given to her and the Archbishop will say: "When you see this Orb thus set under the Cross, remember that the whole world is subject to the Power and Empire of Christ our Redeemer."

She will receive the ring—"the ensign of Kingly Dignity and of Defence of the Catholic Faith." The two sceptres of Justice and Mercy are placed in her hands. They represent in the superb words of the English Law of the "Queen's Justice" and the "Queen's Peace" that she is now Queen; she has been anointed and robed. Then comes the crowning by the Archbishop and "GOD SAVE THE QUEEN".

She is then given the Bible. "We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom, here is the royal Law. These are the lively Oracles of God." She is blessed and enthroned and the homage is paid.

From all this tremendous pageantry, the proclamations and acts of state, the service then turns quietly into its completion in the Communion service within which it began. If we want to help the Queen, whom we must love indeed and who does ask for our prayers, we can think of the young Queen, so far alone with the burden of and weight of public ceremony. And we can follow her when she now turns to that which means most to her and to those of our Church, to the familiar words, prayers and rites, the content of which she knows by heart, and in her heart.

She herself will offer to the Archbishop, to be placed on the Altar, the Bread and the Wine of the sacrament, and with it offer herself and us all to be of the Body of Christ and of His purpose. She will kneel by herself and take "the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for Thee and the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for Thee."

If, reader, you want to help her, she would ask you to follow this in the Communion service of the Book of Common Prayer. Have it ready for this need and, beside the television or the radio, join in yourself at that point which will mean most to her.