

Had Many Contacts With Royalty

Thousands of Prince Edward Islanders will flock to Charlottetown to greet our Royal visitors on November 9th, but it is doubtful if any of those present will view the spectacle with more interest than ex-Chief Birtwhistle of the Charlottetown Police, former member of the Scots Guard, and an ex-member of the old Royal Northwest Mounted Police.

Schooled in all the niceties and exactitudes of military ceremony, and as one who has frequently taken part in the glittering pageantry of Royal functions in England, the former head of the local police will see the show through the eyes of an expert. He will note the bearing and drill precision of the guard of honor, will look for any omission in the correctness of uniforms worn, of any lapse in traditional procedures.



Ex-Chief A. Birtwhistle

was the second coronation Mr. Birtwhistle had attended in ten years. Before the Mounties left England they were presented with Coronation Medals by King George V personally. The King was assisted in this ceremony by the famous Lord Kitchener of Khartoum.

Prince of Wales' Visit

Of his many contacts with British Royalty, ex-Chief Birtwhistle cherishes most the part he played in the visit to Canada, in 1919, of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII and now the Duke of Windsor. During that memorable tour of the Prince across Canada, the Royal party, to break the ceaseless and demanding routine of official receptions, became the guests of the Mounties, on an Indian Reservation twenty-four miles from Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

There in Prairie country the Prince was miles from the nearest settlement, and except for one visit to a nearby town to unveil a soldiers war memorial, was able to rest and relax.

It was while the Prince was enjoying this holiday from his Royal duties that Mr. Birtwhistle became aware that the real boss of the tour was an old sea-dog, Admiral Halsey. The Admiral, it developed, had been placed in charge of the Prince by King George V, and the old sailor, a stickler for discipline, ruled with a firm hand, and the Prince obeyed.

Ex-Chief Birtwhistle, because he was in command of the Prairie camp, was a close observer of all the movements of the Prince and his entourage. He relates with some amusement that the Prince was a "pecky" eater and at breakfast one morning refused his porridge.

"I don't like porridge," said His Royal Highness. The starchy old Admiral wagged a finger under the Royal nose and said, "You'll eat it; your father put me in charge of you, and you will do as I say."

On the day when the Prince unveiled the soldiers' monument some miles away from camp, he rode to the scene on horseback. Somehow or other his riding crop became lost, and his valet borrowed one owned by Mr. Birtwhistle. When camp broke up, the Prince presented the ex-Chief with a silver-mounted briar pipe.

The last role Mr. Birtwhistle played in connection with Royalty, was as Chief of Police at Charlottetown, when the present King and Queen visited the city in 1939. In his official capacity he assisted in arranging details of the Royal reception at that time.

When Elizabeth and Philip come here in November, it will be the first time in fifty years that Mr. Birtwhistle has been a bystander on such an occasion, and not an active participant in the courtesies extended Royalty.

CRATHIE CHURCH MUCH BELOVED BY ROYAL FAMILY

A church which has a warm corner in the hearts of the Royal family is that at Crathie, on Desjardins, which looks across the river to Balmoral Castle, where they spend long spells in the summer and fall.

Queen Victoria loved it; so did King Edward and the rest of the Royal Family, and the Royal days at Crathie were red letter ones for Princess Elizabeth and her sister Margaret Rose. They loved the little church on the hill, the bells from which were just audible at Balmoral as they set off from the castle to the service.

The stained glass windows, the plaques on the walls are memorials to members of the Royal Family. The church itself holds only a little more than 300 of a congregation but it is packed each Sunday the King and Queen and any members of the Royal Family are in the district.

Visitors who crowd round the church on Sundays to see the arrival or departure of the Royal Family are not allowed into the church until the villagers themselves are seated. And the services are of the simplest kind.

The pulpit is made of 18 different kinds of Scottish granite set with pebbles gathered from the holy Isle of Iona.

Balater, six miles away, has its long association with royalty commemorated in names like Victoria Road, Albert Road; there is a Victoria Hall and even a Victoria Garage.



Queen Mary

Gracious Queen Mother Beloved Of Her People

Of all the members of the Royal Family, none has a greater claim on the affections and loyalty of the peoples of the Commonwealth than Queen Mary who, after many years of devoted service and the tribulations of two wars, still remains gracious and serene, devoting her life to her high ideals and to duty as she has always seen it.

Queen Mary is a very real person. Perhaps no better testimony to her kindness could be given than that her own servants never want to leave her service; many have been with her all their working lives, some until death. Such devotion is not commanded, it is earned.

The Queen Mother is famous for her practical outlook. Long ago, when personages were not expected to have knowledge of practical things, Queen Mary would often astonish those around her by thoroughly investigating domestic details. Even today, she likes to talk to a workman about his job and from the first manages to dispel any feeling that her questions are a polite formality; they never are, her grasp of practical details confirms it.

One aspect of her character was revealed in the carpet which she made with her own hands and which is now in Canada for all time. Millions of stitches and eight years of work in her spare time went to its completion.

On being told in school the history of the Queen Mother's carpet, a small boy remarked, "It just shows what you can do if you keep on going." When his school teacher wrote to Queen Mary telling her of this remark, the Queen Mother was delighted with it. She wanted him to be told at the age of 84 she was "keeping on going".

The public has a short memory; so it may be difficult for many to picture the Queen Mother as she

and was making another carpet.

Throughout her life she has been a collector of fine arts, particularly antiques. She is well known in antique shops and her knowledge of furniture, pottery, prints or jade is that of a specialist, while her collection, particularly of jade, is one of the best in Britain.

Marion Crawford, governess to Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, soon discovered the fine character of Queen Mary and how much all members of the Royal Family rely on her for sound advice. Miss Crawford relates that when she was married the Queen Mother made her a gift of some pictures. First arrived the pictures, says Miss Crawford, then a man to hang them, and finally Queen Mary herself to see that the job was done properly.

When Christmas comes around, all members of the Royal Family know that their Christmas cards must be kept for the Queen Mother. When the festive season is over Queen Mary sends around to all the homes for the cards which she diligently sorts herself and uses for her charities.

Nothing can swerve Queen Mary from her duty and loyalty to the things she believes in. Many years ago, she wrote a few words defining her sentiments on loyalty. They ran:

"Remember that life is made up of loyalty: Loyalty to your friends; loyalty to things beautiful and good; loyalty to the country in which you live; loyalty to your king; and above all, for this holds all other loyalties together, loyalty to God."

The public has a short memory; so it may be difficult for many to picture the Queen Mother as she

was when George V ascended the throne. She was a tall, comely woman with a glowing personality, pretty as a picture, with a mass of close curls about her well-shaped head. Her beauty was outstanding in the Court of her day, and like many other members of the Royal Family, she set fashions in wearing apparel.

Today, her life is comparatively quiet by comparison with the full and arduous years in the past. She visits the hospitals in which she is so interested and has never missed visiting the British Industries Fair since it was founded.

Until this year, she walked miles around the fair buildings, stopping to admire new products and to talk with manufacturers. This year, after about an hour on foot, she had to have a wheel chair for the rest of her tour. Yet, she managed still to retain her dignity as she was pushed through the crowds.

Between the Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth there is a genuine affection which has grown through the years. From the first, Queen Mary was charmed with her Scottish daughter-in-law.

At 84, the Queen Mother's public appearances are few. Surrounded by her ladies who have been with her many years she follows a strict daily routine answering her correspondence and attending to her many charitable works. The best comment on the Queen Mother's nature is found in the last words at night of one of her beloved ladies-in-waiting for many years.

"Good night, gracious and beloved Ma'am."

CUSTOM DECREES NO ROYAL GIFTS

In accordance with an ancient custom, gifts are never offered to the King without petitioning first for his consent. If the King is pleased to accept the gift, intimation is made to the would-be donor; but they are never accepted where it is thought there might be an interested motive, the rejection being conveyed in a polite but firm note.

KEEP CROWN JEWELS

The Scottish Crown and Royal jewels are kept under lock and key in a specially guarded display cabinet in Edinburgh Castle where the public may see them. They were removed during the war and stored underground for safety.

MADE LOVERS' KNOT

When Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Liverpool Cathedral in March, 1939 they stenciled their initials "E" and "P" on one of the great pillars. The letters entwined in a true lovers' knot have been cut into the stone of the pillar.

King George V was also styled George I of the House of Windsor.

Edward, Prince of Wales, was known as "the Commonwealth's most efficient commercial ambassador."

Lord Kingsale enjoys the hereditary privilege of keeping his hat on in the presence of the King, a family right since 1692.



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