

Wide World

Ruler of one-fourth of the globe: "Edward the Eighth, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India."

"Beneath Whose awful Hand we hold Dominion over palm and pine"

Edward VIII: The Making of a King

Will He Be Britain's First 'Socialist' Monarch? Social-Mindedness Conceded, With Future, Not the Past, His Guide

"There plays the last King of England."

It was November 9, 1902, the sixty-first birthday of King Edward VII of Britain. He and the last Emperor of Germany were watching a merry-eyed, tow-headed lad of eight romp on the spacious lawns of Balmoral Castle, Scotland.

That merry-eyed, tow-headed lad now is Edward VIII, ruler over one-fourth of the earth through the death of his father, George V.

The Seventh Edward took tremendous interest in the Eighth Edward. It was he who picked Henry P. Hansell, in June, 1902, as tutor for his eldest grandson and Prince Albert, now Duke of York and Heir-Presumptive to the British Throne. The tutor remained at his job until the outbreak of the War. He is said to have had more to do with molding their characters than any one person.

King-Making

In "A King in the Making," Genevieve Parkhurst told how:

"King Edward had very definite plans for his grandson. He wanted him to be a friend of the people—to understand them, and to develop those qualities which would make him, when his day came, a beloved, and, therefore, wise ruler.

"In his own youth he had been kept aloof from all those who were not within the royal circle. His education had been planned with a stern eye toward the actual duties of a sovereign. He was not allowed to read or study any book or subject which might lead him away from the practical. Even Sir Walter Scott was forbidden, lest his mind should wander toward the adventurous and romantic."

That King Edward's ideas on the making of a king have borne richly in the person of King Edward VIII is widely accepted. But the new King has packed adventure into his forty-one and a half years.

This slight, boyish-looking chap (he is five and one-half feet tall and weighs 125 pounds) has traveled 200,000 miles. He never has visited a country without trying to bring back some knowledge of its people, their language, and customs.

For his education, he has found travel the best way to discover the why of many things. For his diversion, he has turned to sport. Perhaps that is why he has a trim, athletic figure and fresh complexion.

To Edward VIII it is sportsmanship, not the sport, that counts.

Here is his own application of the principles of sportsmanship, made in a speech at the Guildhall, London, several years ago:

"The sportsman needs love of adventure. He needs courage to understand it and take risks.

"He requires energy and initiative, quickness of judgment and action, however sudden and startling the emergency; good temper, patience, and perseverance. . . .

"Well, what single quality have I put into that catalog which isn't essential to the statesman? Surely none. And are there not lessons from the parallel that leap to the mind?"

Whether he can follow one new manifestation of his love of sport—aviation—is going to be a knotty problem for the new King's Cabinet Ministers. He is the first British King to have flown.

When he returned to London with the Duke of York from their father's death-bed at Sandringham, Norfolk, they flew in one of the new King's private air-planes. Both can fly, but never go aloft alone.

Air-planes are one symbol of the modernity of this second generation of Windsors. In "The Biography of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," W. and L. Townsend pointed out:

"The Prince of Wales will, without question, make as good a King as his father. Yet, he is a King, not of the past, but of the future. . . .

"It requires only a very little intelligence to see that the Youth of Britain is moving in a world entirely different from that of their elders, constrained only by the realization of their immaturity from attempting to put into practise the ideas they hold; soon, the youth of to-day will be the middle-aged backbone of England. They will be able to realize their ideals; and their leader will be the Prince of Wales!"

British officialdom probably would deny that a king ever has his finger in the political pie, yet, even in this century, there have been evidences of the royal, withal impartial, touch.

The depression has focused the new King's attention on matters political. He is most interested in unemployment and slum-housing problems. Talking on these

subjects, he does not mince words. Recently, after inspecting the slums of some of Britain's chief cities, he returned to London, and, soon after, was invited to a Guildhall function. There, industrial and political bigwigs expected to hear pat words of praise.

Instead, he blistered their ears with:

"There are a great many slum-dwellings in this country that are relics of a bygone idea of what was tolerable for workmen. That type of home must be demolished. They are not, and must not be, considered fit for the coming generation. . . .

"This nation can not afford to perpetuate such slums. What's the use of treating the diseases of slum-dwellers, especially the children, if, when cured, they are to be sent back to such slums? It is a disgrace to our national life."

Those are outspoken words for royalty. Would a king be allowed to speak his mind so brusquely? That is what William Philip Simms, Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor, implies in asking: "Will Britain's new sovereign, Edward VIII, come to be known as the Empire's 'Socialist King'?"

"Precedent Smashing"

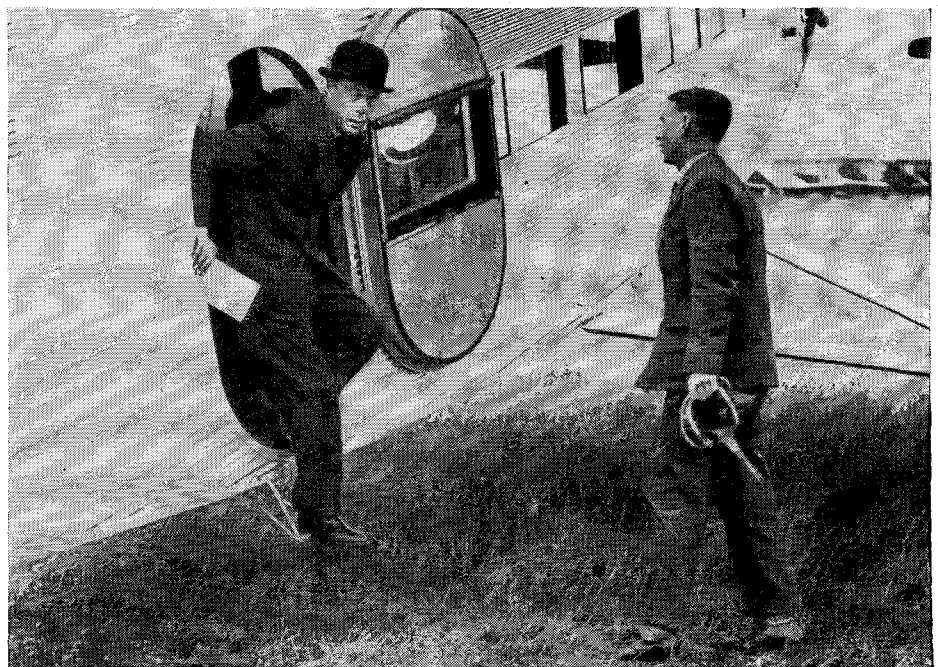
"There are those in England who predict he will. They say he will turn Britain upside down, smash precedent, and do and say things never said or done by any British monarch in history."

But Mr. Simms hesitates over the Socialist tag, finding:

"The new King will hardly be a 'Socialist King.' But he is, and will likely remain, social-minded. . . .

"Never has the new ruler of England been a 'stuffed shirt.' He played the game even when a stripling. . . . A rebel against the conventions all his life, Britain's new King can hardly become a slave to them now. . . .

"No one expects him to play politics, if, by politics, is meant active interference with Party rule; but, as a moral force, probably no man alive wields so much prestige. His reign, therefore, may see vast changes."



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One symbol of the modernity of Britain's new ruler: Edward VIII, aviation enthusiast