

The passing of King George V

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THE PASSING OF KING GEORGE V

The British Empire mourns the passing of its Sovereign, and of a man whose sterling character, kindly personality and broad humanity had made him beloved by all his subjects and respected by the whole world.

The deepest and most heartfelt sympathy of the Swiss people goes out to His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family.

His late Majesty was born the second son of King Edward VII, on June 3rd, 1865. His elder brother, Prince Albert Victor, afterwards created a peer by the title of Duke of Clarence, was destined for the Army, while Prince George's own inclinations indicated the Royal Navy as his career.

Prince George took full advantage of the opportunity thus afforded to devote himself whole-heartedly to his naval work. The best-known incidents of the King's early days in the Navy are the cruises in Her M.'s ship *Bacchante* from 1879-1882 in the course of which he visited all the large outposts of the British Empire.

After a stay of some months in Switzerland (Lausanne and Geneva) he returned to duty in Her Majesty's ship *Canada* in 1884; shortly before his 25th birthday he was appointed to the command of Her Majesty's ship *Thrush*.

In January, 1892, his elder brother, Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, died and Prince George stepped into the position of Heir Apparent to the Throne. From that moment his old calling, so far as actual naval work was concerned, was to be subordinated to the duties of his new position.

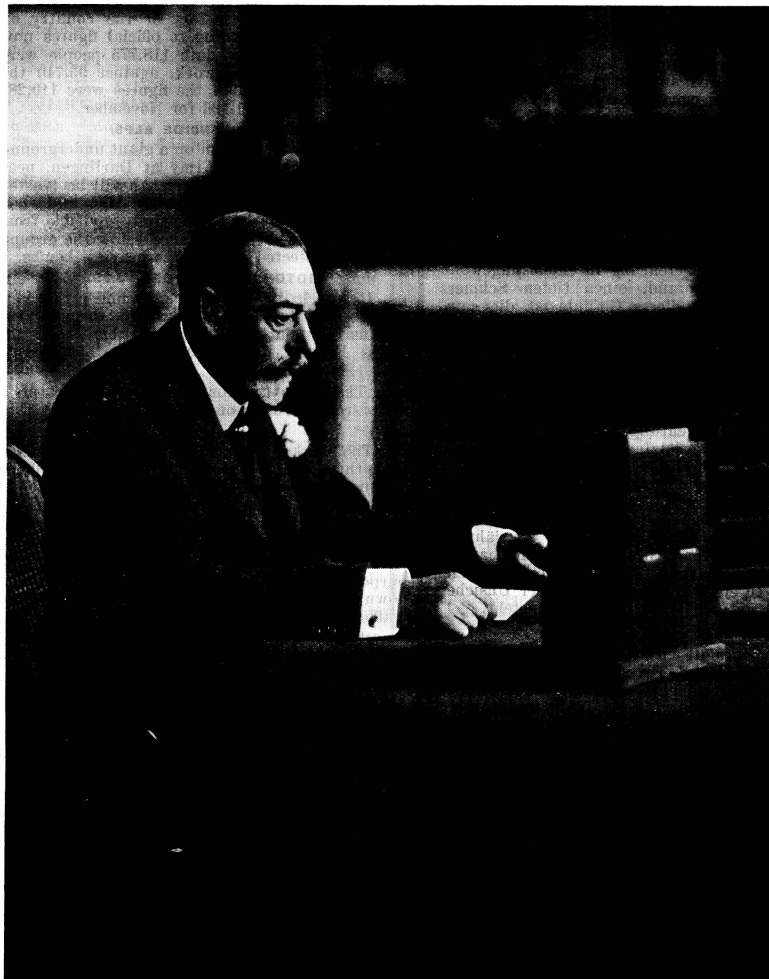
On May 3rd, 1893, Queen Victoria made the welcome announcement that she had given her consent to the betrothal of Prince George to Princess Victoria Mary, only daughter of the Duke of Teck and of the English Princess who was best known by her maiden name "Princess May." —

When the South African War had been in progress for fifteen months, Queen Victoria died, on January 22nd, 1901. The Duke of York was not given at once the title of Prince of Wales, it was not, indeed until November 9th, 1901, that the title of Prince of Wales was conferred upon his Royal Highness by the King.

In 1901 the Royal couple visited all the most considerable distant ports in the Empire. —

King Edward's death came with unexpected suddenness in May, 1910, and the Prince of Wales ascended the Throne. The coronation took place on June 22nd, 1911, and in the same year on December 12th, King George was proclaimed in open Durbar at Delhi, Emperor of India.

In November, 1914 he visited the Western front and again in 1915. Nine days after the Armistice, on November 20th,



(PHOTO: TIMES COPYRIGHT.)

THE LATE KING GEORGE AT THE MICROPHONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

1918, the King accompanied by the Queen, went to Rosyth where he inspected the Navy, a few days later the King, with the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, made a State visit to Paris. In 1924 the most important ceremony was that of opening the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley on St. George's Day. The sympathy of the whole nation went out to His Majesty on the

death of Queen Alexandra on November 20th, 1925.

In the last quarter of 1928 the King was stricken with an illness which incapacitated him for several months and brought him perilously near death.

The year 1935 will go down in history as that in which the nation offered unstinted homage to a beloved monarch.

A Son Excellence

Le Très Honorable Anthony EDEN, M.C., M.P.,

Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique aux Affaires Etrangères, etc., etc., etc.,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

Londres, le 21 janvier 1936.

Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat,

C'est avec une profonde émotion que mon Gouvernement a appris, par l'intermédiaire du Chargé d'Affaires de Grande-Bretagne, que le Tout-Puissant a rappelé auprès de Lui Sa Majesté George, Cinquième du Nom, Roi de Grande-Bretagne, d'Irlande et des Possessions britanniques au-delà des mers, Empereur des Indes.

D'ordre du Président de la Confédération, j'ai la douloureuse mission de transmettre à Votre Excellence l'expression de ses sentiments de sincère sympathie et l'assurance de la grande part que lui et le Conseil Fédéral prennent au deuil de la Nation britannique.

Dès son entrevue avec Mr. Shone, le Président a envoyé au Roi Edouard un message de condoléances.

Puis-je encore prier Votre Excellence de s'entremettre auprès du Premier Ministre et du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté en leur renouvelant combien le Gouvernement Suisse s'associe au deuil qui vient de les frapper.

Qu'il me soit permis de vous offrir ici l'expression des sentiments de sympathie qui m'animent personnellement devant ce douloureux événement.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, l'assurance de la plus haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être de Votre Excellence, le très humble et très obéissant Serviteur.

(sig.) C. R. PARAVICINI.