

# GEORGE VI AND ELIZABETH CROWNED

## Five Million Voices Cry, "God Save the King!" as Guns Boom Glad Tidings From Historic Tower of London.

London, England.—"God save the King!"

As the great guns of the Tower of London boomed forth the news that the Archbishop of Canterbury had placed the weighty Crown of St. Edward, the Crown of England, upon the head of George VI, the cry came forth in a mighty swell from five million throats as from the throat of one man.

This was the climax of the greatest show on earth, a show for which a generous share of the throng which lined the six and one-half miles of the processional route had waited without moving from their places through the dampness of a London spring night and, indeed, through part of the preceding day.

Those of the King's subjects who had not been able to afford \$2 to \$250 for a seat that would assure them a glimpse of their new monarch on his proudest day began marking off space along the curb on the afternoon of May 11. Smart alecks who thought they could put off their vigil until sunrise of Coronation Day were doomed to stretch their necks an inch or two in twelve hours of straining to see over several rows of earlier arrivals.

### "A Quiet Empire."

It was a heavy day of work at the end of many back-breaking weeks of preparation for the 9,000 gentlemen and ladies of the peerage whose rank and purse entitled them to sit for an entire day in 10 to 25 pounds of clothing per capita, on a hard seat 19 inches wide without ever moving. But it was a magnificent show.

"The Lord give you fruitful lands and healthful seasons," said the archbishop in the benediction which followed the crowning of the King, "victorious fleets and armies, and a quiet Empire."

No one in Britain could deny that in a time of world-wide unrest, a time of urgent necessity for imperial strength and unity, the political expediency of "a quiet Empire" prompted the government to make of this the most splendid coronation in all history. The government expense in the crowning of George VI has been estimated to be double that in the coronation of his father 26 years ago; its backing of the dazzling pageantry required expenditures of \$2,620,000 of public funds, not counting an estimated \$500,000 spent by the royal household in entertaining royal and foreign guests.

In the vast coronation pageant the government hoped to lend new emphasis to that sentiment which is the real bond holding the empire together, and which is symbolized by the crown and the man who wears it. There is still an undercurrent of dissatisfaction over the abdication of Edward VIII. The new King and Queen must be popularized to the fullest possible extent. The coronation was an opportunity to accomplish this, and the government could afford to let none of it slip past.

The show and the crowd lived up to all advance billing. It was estimated that there were 300,000 visitors who had to cross the ocean. All London's 12,000 hotel rooms were sold out. Souvenir manufacturers and vendors did the expected land office business. The drink bill for toasting the new King was guessed at \$10,000,000.

### Queen Goes First.

Pomp and regal solemnity were byword of the day from the time the King and Queen boarded the coronation coach at Buckingham Palace in mid-morning. Eight magnificent cream-colored horses drew the ancient four-ton vehicle down the streets it has traversed since 1761, when it was built for Queen Anne. In its heavily ornate gold and jewels it carried the spectators back through the pages of history to those days before the American colonies had revolted and prevented the British Empire from including the lion's share of North America.

The ancient coach, a tradition at coronations, bore the royal couple down the mall to the Abbey, where the Queen's procession left the King to enter first, so that she could stand and wait for him by the chairs of state, or recognition chairs, in front of the royal box where the other members of the royal family were seated.

Peers and peeresses were in their places before the central figures of the coronation drama arrived. And before them the real martyrs had assumed their positions. These were the eight newspaper photographers the government had permitted to be present.

Abhorring the thought of flash bulbs marring the solemnity of such an occasion, but still anxious that pictures be taken, officials hid upon a solution. They provided camouflaged quarters for camera men in false pillars and other positions which blended into the background of the Abbey. Narrow slits in the walls of these refuges enabled the cameras to peer out at the spectacle. But the poor "photogs!" They had to be "set up" before anyone entered the Abbey and maintain their



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, officially crowned in one of history's most spectacular and colorful coronations.

cramped positions for eight or nine hours. They were not permitted to withdraw until everyone else had left.

A general color scheme of blue and gold with rich, soft velvet hangings made a brilliant background for the cast and for the spectators in their gorgeous uniforms and gowns. Peeresses wore robes of crimson velvet, trimmed in ermine, unless they happened to be of royal blood, in which event they were required to don the purple velvet of royalty. The court gowns worn underneath were of white, cream, silver or gold. Fashion experts estimated that the most economical of them cost at least \$1,200. Uniforms of the men started at about \$600 and went up from there.

### History's Greatest Gem Display

This did not, of course, include the jewelry of the coronets. The cheapest coronet could hardly have been purchased for less than \$100. The total of all the rings, bracelets, necklaces, etc., worn by the 9,000 present must have run into the millions, and was probably the most costly and magnificent display of



The Crown of St. Edward, or Crown of England, made for Charles II in 1662 and worn, because of its excessive weight, for but a fleeting moment by George VI during the coronation ceremony.

gems ever worn in one place at one time in the world's history.

Rank of the members of the nobility was indicated by the amount of ermine on the robes of the women and the length of their trains. A duchess was marked by four rows of ermine on her robe, and a train two yards long. A marchioness was permitted three and one-half rows of ermine and a one-and-three-fourths-yard train; a countess half a row less of ermine, half a yard less train; rank was further graded down at half a row and half a yard per classification.

The head of the procession, which had included a great list of dignitaries, the King's representatives and royal persons with their families from all over the world had been waiting at the west door of the Abbey, and as the royal coach approached, filed in to await their monarch. Following them came the chaplains, deans and officers of Westminster, then the archbishops with the Queen consort and the ladies and gentlemen of the court.

### Enter the King.

Noblemen close behind bore the staff and the sceptre, with the cross and the golden spurs, and the three swords which signify mercy, temporal justice and spiritual justice. These were the trappings of St. Ed-

ward, with which English kings are invested.

Then came more dignitaries, and the King's sceptre with the dove symbolic of mercy and equity; the King's gold and diamond orb, surmounted by the Christian cross; the crown of St. Edward, the patent and the chalice and the Bible.

Then entered George VI in the crimson robes of state, to join his Queen, and march through the choir and up the stairs to the theatre. Passing the thrones, they then knelt at the faldstools before the recognition chairs to offer prayers. Next they proceeded about the Abbey to all four sides before the view of the assemblage. The King faced each side of the Abbey as the Archbishop, in loud tones, announced him.

After the regalia had been brought and placed by the dean of Westminster upon the altar, the Archbishop asked the King, according to ritual, "Sire, is your Majesty willing to take the oath?" and the King answered, "I am willing." He gave his oath to govern the peoples of the British Isles and the Empire according to their laws and customs; to maintain the profession of the Gospel and the Church of England. After he had kissed the Bible and signed the oath, the King repeated and subscribed to the declaration required by parliament and, with the assemblage, prepared for the communion service.

Following this lengthy service, the King, having first removed the cap and robes of state, ascended to the throne of St. Edward, the ancient chair which contains beneath its seat the historic Stone of Scone upon which the kings of Scotland sat as they were crowned a thousand years ago. After a silk pall had been put over the King, the Archbishop anointed him upon the head, breast and face with the holy oil, and he was ready to be presented with the spurs and the sword.

### King Receives His Crown.

These given, George VI removed the pall and was clothed for the first time in the royal robe of purple. The orb and cross were brought from the altar by the Dean of Westminster and placed in the King's hands by the Archbishop. He was next invested with the ring and the sceptres.

Then as the King bowed his head the Dean of Westminster brought the Crown of St. Edward, and the Archbishop, receiving it from him, held it but momentarily upon the head of the King (its weight is terrific).

This was the signal for the trumpets and the guns in the Tower of London, for the peers and peeresses to cry "God save the King!" and for the millions who, along the processional line outside, had been waiting for that moment, to toss their hats in the air and cry likewise, "God save the King!" The peers were now allowed to put on their coronets.

There followed more religious ceremonies of great length and solemnity, and then the coronation of the Queen, following which the peeresses cried, "God save the Queen!" and donned their coronets.

Still more long hours of ceremony. Then, in the early evening the King's coach at last passed once more down the processional route, and the millions who had waited all day for the sight went home happy.

## Ask Me Another

### A General Quiz

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1. How many languages and systems of writing are there?
2. What state has contributed the most Supreme court justices?
3. In what year was a performance of "Aida" given at the foot of the Pyramids in Egypt?
4. Who guards the White House?
5. Who wrote the "Comedie Humaine"?
6. What was a bireme?
7. Of what musical instrument was the clavichord a forerunner?
8. Who were the Jacobites?
9. Of what country was Catherine de Medici queen?
10. In what country is Mecca?
11. In what war was James Clinton a noted American general?
12. How many sovereigns have been crowned in Westminster Abbey?

### Answers

1. Dr. Frank H. Vizetelly says that there are six thousand seven hundred and sixty named tongues and systems of writing in the world.
2. New York has contributed the most United States Supreme court justices, 10.
3. In 1912 an impressive open-air production of the opera was given there.
4. The White House has its own police force of 48 men. This includes a captain, a lieutenant, three sergeants and 43 policemen. There are also 10 Secret Service men.
5. This is the title of an uncompleted series of nearly a hundred novels by Balzac, designed to give a panoramic picture of the manners and morals of the time. He began the work in 1829, adopting the general title in 1842.
6. An ancient galley having two banks of oars.
7. The piano.
8. Adherents of James II or his line.
9. France.
10. Arabia.
11. The Revolution.
12. Thirty-seven sovereigns have been crowned in the abbey, and 25 queens consort—all of the kings and queens since William the Conqueror. Eighteen sovereigns and 14 queens are buried there.

### Little Red Schoolhouses

There are 135,542 little red schoolhouses dotting the nation's countryside. One-room affairs, they represent 57 per cent of all American school buildings and for the most part teach good old-fashioned American education with the three R's as the basis.—Literary Digest.

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  - Fourth Prize . . . \$ 100 in Cash
  - Fifth Prize . . . \$ 50 in Cash
  - Sixth Prize . . . \$ 25 in Cash
  - Seventh Prize . . . \$ 15 in Cash
  - Eighth Prize . . . \$ 10 in Cash
- And THIRTY PRIZES (Ninth to Thirty-eighth inclusive) . . . . . \$5.00 each

1. Write a simple slogan of not more than 10 words on "What Boys Town means to America As a Check On Crime." Boys Town, you know, is the Home of a Nation's Homeless Boys. And it is the neglected, homeless boys of today that become the hardened criminals of tomorrow. Boys Town has made good, upright citizens of 4,446 homeless boys already. Not a single one of those boys is in a jail or penitentiary today.
2. Your slogan should be as simple and striking as possible. For example: "Build Boys Town and Check Crime at Its Source." The simplest, most effective statement in ten words or less of what Boys Town means to America as a Check On Crime is the one that will win.
3. Every slogan entered in the contest must be accompanied by one new one-year subscription to this newspaper, a two-year renewal of a subscription of a two-year past due subscription paid up—at the regular rate. For every such subscription turned in, one slogan may be entered. You can enter as many slogans as you choose, just so each slogan is accompanied by a new subscription, a two-year renewal or a two-year past due subscription paid up.
4. Literature telling all about Boys Town will be given you free at the office of this newspaper upon request.
5. Final results of the contest, together with the winning slogans will be announced in this newspaper the week following the close of the contest. The contest closes Tuesday, April 13. Results will be announced in this newspaper the following week on the regular publication date.
6. This newspaper will turn over \$1.00 to the Build Boys Town Fund for each slogan entered in the contest, for the erection of the new dormitory building, so badly needed there.
7. Winning slogans become the property of Boys Town.
8. In case of a tie, duplicate awards will be made.
9. Decision of the Judges is of course final.

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