

BRITAIN'S SILVER JUBILEE  
ONE OF GREATEST IN HISTORY  
OF VAST BRITISH EMPIRE

A Brief History of Two Preceding Jubilees During Reign of Queen Victoria. — H. M. King George V. and Queen Mary Have Been a Living Example of the Modesty, Steadfastness and Patience of the British People During the Past Twenty-five years.

(By Henry J. Sowerby)

On May 6 the British nation commemorates the day, twenty-five years ago, when King George V ascended the imperial throne. In brilliant Silver Jubilee ceremonies extending over three months King George and Queen Mary will receive tributes of respect and affection from the people of the British Empire and from those who bear them good will and esteem in all parts of the world.

Twice before within living memory in 1887 and 1897, has ancient London laid itself out pomp and pageantry of a royal jubilee. In point of outward display—processions, levees, banquets and thanksgiving services—the Silver Jubilee of 1935 will resemble its predecessors. But how different it will be in all other respects!

Fifty years of Queen Victoria's reign was commemorated with a magnificence until then unheard of in the workaday streets of the capital. Around the pageants of '87 floated the glamour of the great Durbar of '76 that had added "Empress of India" to the titles of the Queen, as the coping stone of an empire that had approached its zenith. Only twenty years before, Canada had come of age in an act of confederation; only ten years before, the annexation of the Transvaal had paved the way for the handiwork of Rhodes in South Africa. The cheers that went from the throats of the British people to the venerable Queen on that stirring occasion carried with them the note of pride of empire. The joy and the jubilation was for the British race alone. It was difficult for others to share.

Another ten years and London beheld the added splendor of the great Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Britain had turned the zenith. Decades of strenuous empire-building had yielded a brief fruition. Those brief pinnacle-years of fruition have made a lasting mark. We know them as "the Nineties." But even as the nineties ran

their memorable course, a note of questioning began to be heard among the British people. After the zenith, what next? As the jubilee fanfares rang through the Mall, Kipling sent out his warning to the Empire:

Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Today a new jubilee has arrived. The fanfares ring out to a new race, in a new world, and their call has changed. The British people see their empire in its material aspects, past its zenith. They have passed through suffering, and disillusionment. They have learned the cost of territorial expansion. Within the twenty-five years of King George's reign, they have learned that empire brings its heavy responsibilities—responsibilities at home, within the empire and in the world at large. Within these twenty-five years they have learned that worldly power is at best transitory, that neither the sword nor the might of a great commercial system can insure permanence; they have learned that others can and will follow the path of imperialism and that, since the world is not large enough for all who wish to take that path, endless wars must come until some new motives can replace the urge of nationalism with a new sense of the brotherhood of man.

With a wisdom born of hard experience, Britain in the past twenty-five years has evolved liberal, social and political policies in development from empire to commonwealth. At home, men and women capable of speaking for the ranks of the workers have been called to share in the responsibility of government. Within the empire, legal ties between the Mother Country and the possessions overseas have been giving way to the more enduring ties of identity of interest and ideal. In the world at large British

statesmen have assumed repeatedly the role of mediator amid the conflicting aims of the governments.

What, then, is the meaning behind the jubilee fanfares of May 6? Twenty five years of change have left their mark. Instead of the bejeweled magnificence of a new Empire of India there is naught but a move to hand back to India a good measure of self-government. Instead of the resounding voice of a Tennyson adding literary glamour to imperial aspiration, there is raised a chorus clamoring to discredit the achievements of the sword and resign power and influence to a League of Nations office in foreign lands.

As the Royal Family receives the acclaim of the people on the drive to the Thanksgiving service at St. Paul's the cheers are, in a greater sense than ever before, a tribute of thankfulness (continued on page eleven)

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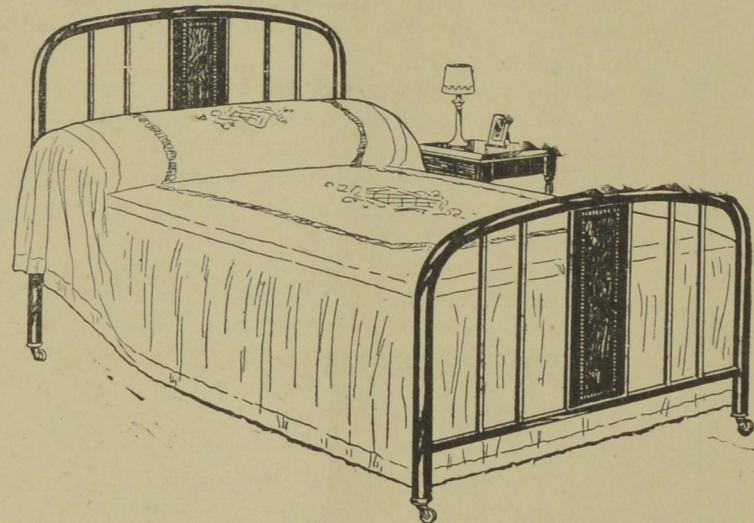
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