

POWERS OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS ARE QUERIED

Britain Alone Could Cause Alteration in Line --- Outlying Parts of Empire Might Refuse to Be Bound by Act

MANCHESTER, Dec. 17.—Professor Berridge Keith, regius professor of Sanskrit and comparative philology at Edinburgh University in an article in the Manchester Guardian, discussed the succession to the throne in the light of the Statute of Westminster.

"The statute expressly provided that for any alteration touching the succession there is requisite the assent of the Dominions," he said. "But this requirement is only placed in the preamble to the act. It was deliberately decided not to give it the force of law."

"Under the terms of the existing

constitutions of the Dominions, any alteration in the succession enacted by the Imperial Parliament would be a matter of strict law have automatic effect in the Dominions without the necessity of any assent by their Parliaments.

"It is clear therefore in law that the British Parliament could alter the succession for the whole Empire without the assent of the Dominion Parliaments. But constitutionally it would clearly be bound to ask such assent, and, if so desired by any Dominion, to insert in its legislation an express declaration that the change would not apply to that Dominion unless and until it adopted it."

Ottawa Government Keeps Counsel

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—Premier Baldwin's statement to the British House of Commons was not considered likely to bring from the Government here any statement on the constitutional crisis or the attitude toward it. Throughout, Premier King has refused to make any observations on the subject except to make it clear that Canada and the Dominions have not taken any initiative in the matter. This attitude has brought forth some criticism on the ground that, in a matter of such far reaching importance, the Canadian public is entitled to be fully informed of the position and action of its Government.

Mr. Baldwin's announcement that his communications with His Majesty on this question have been purely personal and informal deepens the impression that any exchanges he has had with the Dominion Governments have been of a similar character and more informal than official. He has undoubtedly sounded out all the overseas Governments as to what they personally think about the matter, particularly the possibility of the King entering into a morganatic marriage.

Any communication sent from here is described as essentially of a personal character and, for that reason, treated with more than usual privacy and also with extraordinary caution.

If Parliament were in session, which will not occur until January 14 no doubt the subject would be brought up in the House and a statement pressed for. By the time the House meets, the matter, it is hoped, may be adjusted satisfactorily. This, however, will not prevent steps being taken to ascertain in the nature of the communications and even to have them produced on the table of the House. The Government has a large discretionary power in any such matter and would not be inclined to go any further or as far as the British Ministry appears to have gone.

The whole disposition here seems to be to regard the subject as more essentially between His Majesty and the British Government. The King introduced the matter by declaring his intention to the British Prime Minister, but there is no information to support the idea that, similarly, he

HEADACHE OVER QUESTION OF 3RD ROOSEVELT TERM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — Among the politicians there are three schools of thought on the much-discussed topic of a third term for President Roosevelt.

A surprisingly large number are reasoning that Mr. Roosevelt, with his flair for precedent-smashing, would welcome a third nomination, and will silently look forward to such an event in 1940.

Others believe he has no intention whatever of being a candidate again, and will be forced by the pressure of circumstances to say so definitely before his second administration is far advanced.

Still others are of the opinion that, not intending to run in 1940, he nevertheless will refrain from making any statement, thus using his silence as a lever to maintain his party control during the next four years.

Of course, none can possibly know the answer except the President himself. It is not the sort of thing he would discuss at this stage with his friends. If he made any decision now it would be because of the public situation, and in that case his statement would be addressed to the public.

So again he has the politicians guessing. No one loves such an advantage better than he, and the logic of the case argues that he will keep things as they are for a long time to come.

Real Problems Ahead

It cannot be supposed, however,

communicated with the overseas governments through the channel of the Governors-General, who are his personal representatives in the Dominions. When, as believed, no advice from them was sought in this way, none was tendered. Quite evidently any broaching of the matter here has been through Mr. Baldwin on his initiative and between the two Prime Ministers.

Under the Statute of Westminster, the Dominion Governments have the right, through the Governor-General, to make direct representations to the King. The fact that this has not been done, as far as can be learned, does not mean any abandonment of such privilege, but simply a decision not to take advantage of it.

Mr. Baldwin's statement definitely suggests that his representations to the overseas governments concerned the principle of a morganatic marriage. His earlier statement that he had reason to believe that the Dominion governments would not favor the legalization of such a marriage by special statute, creates the impression that they sided with him on that point. Canada, however, was not specifically mentioned.

Satisfaction was expressed here over the easing of the situation and the announcement that His Majesty, in place of being rushed, is to be given ample time to reach his decision in the light of the informal opinions of his British Ministry and the reaction of the public at home and throughout the Empire.

"WHAT I SAW IN RED RUSSIA"

I imagine the distance from Lenin-grad to Moscow is something like from Montreal to Detroit. Over the route you get a fair cross-section view of Eastern Russia. Nowhere did we see one prosperous or even tidy-looking homestead or farm; no stacks of hay or other crops. The animals we saw were hungry-looking cows tethered in alfalfa patches where they close-cropped the sward in the small ring allotted to them by their halter. Farm buildings seemed disreputable and rotten through lack of repair. We saw no birds, even sparrows, let alone the pigeons most cities have. In the country the few wild crows flapped about always distant from anything moving. The inference was everything eatable had been killed.

In the Cities

There are very few shops in the cities. We saw no shops selling market garden stuff. Near Moscow suburban areas seemed to be cultivated into farm and allotment gardens where cabbages and such like garden produce were in evidence.

Among the many fine pre-revolutionary buildings in Moscow, the Grand Opera House is well cared for. In it, the remnants of the Russian Imperial Ballet still carry on, and the performance which we attended, called "The Fountain of Bakhchisarai," was a marvellous production. The orchestra consisted of sixty-four pieces, most of the musicians being elderly. The music was marvellous and the gorgeous stage settings were equal to anything one might see anywhere in the world. The theatre itself was packed, as the Government pays for the production and gives out to factories and Government staff many seats, and other seats are allotted to public and soldiers. The Great Imperial Box, which at one time was sacred to the Czars, now is occupied by the leaders or their friends of the Soviet Government.

The one thing which in particular struck me about Russia was the way in which all pictures and works of art have been preserved in the great castles and palaces taken over by the people.

While talking to one man about this I remarked that in my country, if such a revolution had taken place, and great private houses and palaces had been overrun by revolutionaries, nothing would have been left, as every man would have helped himself. His reply was: "When these palaces were raided by the people they were not looking for works of art or gold and jewels, but for food."

In one room, called the Treasure Room, in a part of the old Imperial Palace in Leningrad some eight or

that all of the fun of this situation will be on the side of the President, and all of the embarrassment on the side of those who are trying to read his mind.

Whatever he does—whatever of the three courses he adopts—Mr. Roosevelt is certain to encounter some complications. They may be more than offset by the extraordinary advantages he enjoys, but they are likely to present real problems, nevertheless, and lead to much presidential reflection.

A decision to run again, or even any gesture which would give the impression of such a decision, would have obvious repercussions. Even as matters stand, congressional debates have been sprinkled with charges of "dictatorship" and a "king complex." A resurgence of this attack, linked with third-term discussion, might conceivably cripple his legislative programme during his second term.

Any public statement that he would not accept another nomination would tend to weaken his position for another reason. His silence would be a club, warning embryonic resurrectionists within the party that they might again have him to deal with as party leader in 1940. A renunciation would remove that club from his hands.

Finally, if he decided not to run but kept his decision to himself, there again would be disadvantages as well as advantages. Chief among the embarrassing factors factors would be the resentment of men in his own party who want to run in 1940 themselves.

Something like that developed in 1908. Mr. Coolidge refused to go beyond his statement that he did not "choose" to run; and many believed he wanted the nomination. Yet Mr. Hoover was running, and Mr. Hoover was a member of the Coolidge cabinet. Many who knew both men believe that after those tense pre-convention weeks things never were the same between them.

In Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet are at least two or three who doubtless would like to succeed him. Among Democratic senators and Governors are many others. Can a non-committal presidential attitude be maintained without serious intra-party disturbance?

It is, altogether, a most intriguing situation, crammed with possibilities capable of producing enough fun and enough grief to satisfy everybody. Who will profit most by it cannot, at this stage, be even guessed.

BLACK LEGION CHIEF IS SEIZED IN MARYLAND

Seven Months' Hunt For Isaac White Ends

CUMBERLAND, Mo., Dec. 17.—John A. Moritz, chief investigator of the Attorney General's office of the State of Michigan, has announced the capture of Isaac (Peg-eg) White, Black Legion gang member of Detroit, in a deserted store building at Oldtown, near here. It ended a search of more than seven months.

Moritz, who came here from Michigan, said White was under indictment for "conspiracy to commit murder, arson and criminal syndicalism" in connection with the Black Legion terrorist gang, of which he was its first brigadier-general, later being demoted to a colonel.

White, alias I. M. Stull as he was known in Oldtown, was captured, Moritz said, by tracing him through the purchase of an automobile.

nine hundred pounds' weight of gold, fashioned into the most exquisite ornaments, is on view. Here, also can be seen the jeweled harness, saddles, etc., of the Czars.

Monster Emeralds

One sight which particularly impressed me was the breast-plate and crupper, set with emeralds as large as pigeon's eggs. A jeweled sword, I noticed, had had many large stones removed; that was the only thing which had been despoiled as far as I could see.

The most pathetic palace is that of Nicholas II, in one wing of which what were once royalty's private rooms are now open—left just as they were when the Czar and Zarina and their children were taken from there to Tobolsk. These rooms have been untouched.

The bullet-hole which broke the double windows in the billiard room attracts attention to the splash where the bullet has remained in the plaster close above the Czar's desk, on which desk the calendar remains set at the date on which he was removed. The billiard table is covered with war maps. His walking sticks are in one corner, and in one corridor, behind

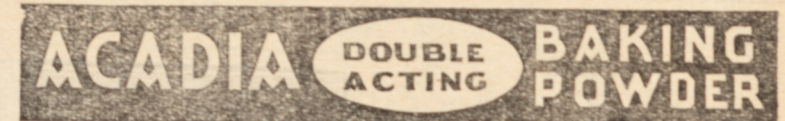


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glass cases, are dozens of uniforms—some of them gorgeous in the lace and intricate work on them—which belonged to the Czar.

I looked over all these uniforms for anything British, as the Czar not only was an Admiral of the British Fleet but an Honorary Colonel of British regiments.

These uniforms, however, must have been removed, I could not locate them.

Hon. W. S. Anderson, Newcastle, is staying at the Queen.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 17.—Memphis Lou Chiozza, grinning like a schoolboy, expressed determination today to make good for his fellow townsman, Memphis Bill Terry. Excited over Manager Terry's trade that shifted him from the Phillies to the Giants, Chiozza declared: "This is the greatest opportunity I ever had and I'm going to give Bill Terry the best I've got."

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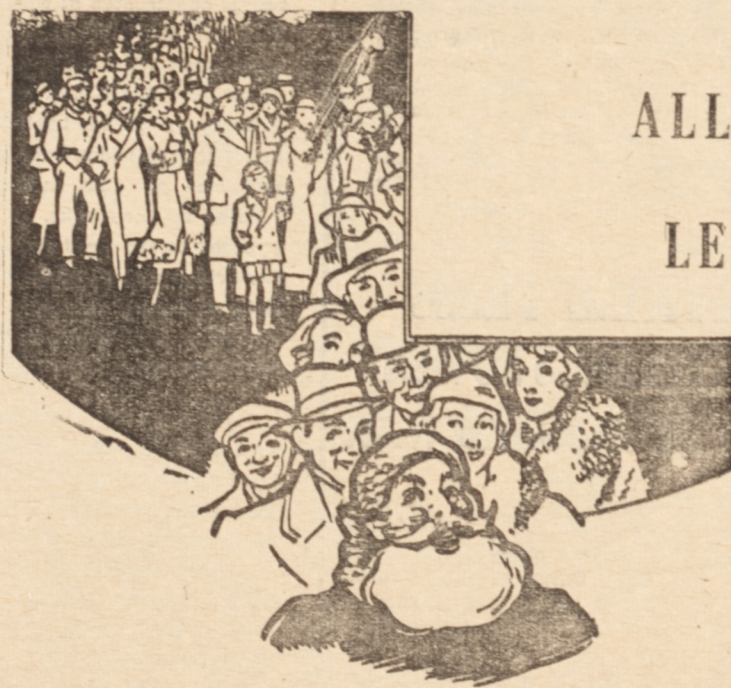
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