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## KING GEORGE

(London Cor. Springfield Republican.)

It used to be the fashion to look on the man who will reign over the British Empire as George V. as a good natured, but rather stupid man, but recent developments have given reason to believe that this is not so. No doubt George's court will be a very different one from Edward's, but there are many Englishmen who think this will not be a bad idea.

To begin with, George V. will be the first English monarch since the Stuart days of whom it will be possible to say that he is wholly and indisputably English.

Even his grandmother, Queen Victoria, spoke English with a German accent, although she was intensely English in sentiment. The pro-German inclinations of the first four Georges were notorious, and most of them could hardly understand the language of the country over which they had been called to rule.

George speaks no language but English. He had the usual drilling at school in the European tongues, of course, but so soon as his formal education was finished he promptly forgot all about them, declaring emphatically that English was quite good enough for all his wants. He doesn't like foreigners, and in fact, one of his father's chief trials lies in persuading him to be ordinarily civil to diplomats and distinguished visitors whom it is his duty as heir apparent to the throne to meet.

"Why should I see the brutes?" he is reported to have asked recently when a number of distinguished European statesmen were visiting London and he was called on to receive them. The King explained that it was necessary for him to be civil, and he acquiesced and was formally polite, but he hurried through the ceremony as quickly as possible.

The thoroughness with which the Prince has made himself master of South African problems is typical of all his work. Every now and again he makes a speech at some public function that surprises every one by its grasp on the subject treated. Such a one was his famous "Wake Up, England" speech, delivered at a Guildhall banquet a few years ago, when he tried to arouse the country to a sense of how it was being distanced in the race for the world's commerce by the younger nations, including the United States.

It is the fashion when a prince makes a speech like that to say that it was written for him by some one else, but in the case of George of Wales this is not so. He prepares every speech that he makes himself as carefully as any public man among his subjects. Of course, this does not mean that he does not trust to a secretary to look up his figures and references, but every busy politician does that. The fact remains that the speech is his own ideas, phrasing and construction. Perhaps this thoroughness is the result of his early training.

To this day George has remained the bluff sailor and his virtues and shortcomings are those of the man who follows the sea.

An excellent story of his modesty refers to the time when he was a young officer on a warship which had put in at Nova Scotia to coal. A prominent American politician was at Halifax when the vessel entered the port, and in hope of seeing the young Prince he obtained permission to inspect the ship.

Cooling was in progress when he came on board, and the captain, who was busy, turned him over to a young officer, who showed him all over the ship.

The officer's face was begrimed with coal dust and his uniform showed that he had been called from superintending the trimming of the bunkers to act as host to the visitor. The American questioned him about the Prince.

The Prince detests cards and hardly can be persuaded to take a hand when he is staying at a country house. He cares nothing for racing, for which his father had a passion, and he cares even less for entertaining, while his father's love for surrounding himself with clever people has made his court the most brilliant in Europe. There is no better evidence of this than the difference between the life at Marlborough house now and when the King was Prince of Wales.

This does not mean, however, that the Prince is any or stupid or that he is not keenly conscious of the duties connected with his high position. When he is called on to take part in any English or colonial function he responds gladly, and there is no man in the country who is better informed on home and imperial problems. His choice of friends is significant in itself. They are all selected either from the old English nobility or from men who have made their mark in the development of the empire. Lord Strathcona, who began life as Donald Smith, a trapper for the Hudson's Bay company in Canada, is one of his most trusted friends and advisers, and another is Lord Mount Stephen, whose career has been identified with the development of the great Canadian Pacific railway system. He has no use for the new nobility of wealth which has sprung up in recent years in England, and the international financiers, many of them of Eastern origin, who swarm about his father, will find the court a very cold place indeed, when he succeeds to the throne.

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"I can't be seen today," he asked. "I'm afraid his features won't be visible," was the reply.

"Oh, I suppose you keep him wrapped up in cotton wool when a job like this is on," said the American, but the young officer only laughed good-naturedly.

Finally, when he had been shown everything there was to see, the American went to say good-by to the captain, who asked him if he had seen all he wanted.

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