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News Review of Current Events the World Over

King Edward Abdicates and Is Succeeded by Duke of York
—Pope Stricken With Paralysis—Wallace Promises Better Farm Program.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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LOVE and the British constitution are the winners in the great contest that has stirred the vast empire to its furthest borders. Edward VIII, steadfast in his determination to make Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson his wife, abdicated as king of Great Britain and emperor of India, and his brother, the duke of York, reigns in his stead as George VI.



George VI

Edward's fateful decision was communicated to the house of commons by Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin. Haggard and deeply moved, the man who has borne the brunt of the struggle on behalf of the cabinet and parliament handed the speaker the royal message and the speaker read it to the half stunned members. This is what Edward said:

"Realizing as I do the gravity of this step I can only hope that I shall have the understanding of my people in the decision I have taken and the reasons which have led me to take it.

"I conceive that I am not overlooking the duty that rests on me to place in the forefront the public interest when I declare that I am conscious that I can no longer discharge this heavy task with efficiency or with satisfaction to myself.

"I have accordingly this morning executed an instrument of abdication in the terms following:

"I, Edward VIII of Great Britain, Ireland, the British dominions beyond the seas, king, emperor of India, do hereby declare my irrevocable determination to renounce the throne for myself and my descendants. My desire is that effect should be given to this instrument of abdication immediately.

"In token thereof I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of December, 1936, in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are subscribed."

There followed a request that the accession of his brother to the throne be expedited, and accordingly enabling legislation effecting the abdication and the accession of the new king was promptly introduced and put through the house of commons and the house of lords.

The new king was proclaimed with the traditional ceremony following an assembly of the accession council made up of privy counselors and other distinguished persons.

That evening the ex-king went on the air to broadcast a message of farewell to the half billion people who had been his subjects.

Edward left England for his self-imposed exile and probably never will return to his native land. Where he will make his home has not been announced. It was stated in Cannes, where Mrs. Simpson was with friends, that he would not go there now. "Wally" publicly offered to renounce her association with the king, if that would settle the controversy, but he chose otherwise. Her divorce would not become absolute until April 27, but steps were taken in London to speed up the date.

Notwithstanding the widespread sympathy for Edward and his once enormous popularity, the general sentiment throughout the British

empire is now that he let his country down, that he mainly was to blame for bringing on the crisis and, to quote one correspondent, that "the cabinet's victory was the only possible victory which could be allowed on the present issue." The great majority of the people did not think Mrs. Simpson, a commoner and twice divorced, was fit to be queen of England. The cabinet and the house of commons emphatically vetoed a morganatic marriage. If he would be true to his love, there was nothing left for the king to do but abdicate.

For a day after announcing his resignation of the throne, Edward remained king. But as soon as parliament passed the abdication measure it was carried to him, and the moment he signed the document Edward ceased to reign. It was presumed that, with the permission of the new king, Edward would retain the duchy of Cornwall and its revenues. With his other resources he goes into exile with an annual income of about \$500,000.

In all the British dominions steps were taken to ratify the abdication of the king and the accession of the duke of York. There was considerable uneasiness concerning the course the legislature of the Irish Free State might pursue, for events seemed to give Ireland the chance to shake off the last vestiges of adherence to the British empire.

STRICKEN with paralysis that affected both his legs, Pope Pius XI was believed to be in a serious condition because he already was afflicted with asthma, arterio sclerosis and high blood pressure. At first the holy father flatly refused to submit to a medical examination, saying "I am in the hands of God," and he even insisted on dictating and signing letters. But later he was persuaded to take complete repose, which his physicians said was vitally necessary. Father Agostino Gemelli of Milan, a medical expert, was summoned to Vatican City and gave out a statement indicating that rigid measures were being taken to stave off possible uremic poisoning.



Pope Pius XI

The pope's illness was discovered when he was unable to arise for a ceremonial concluding a week of spiritual exercises. He was barely able to stir the left leg and physicians found that the heaviness of limb had spread also to the right leg.

WITH the launching of the Gneisenau, her second 26,000-ton battleship, Germany moved another step toward her goal of a navy large enough to bottle up the Russian fleet. Reichsfuehrer Hitler and many high officials attended the ceremony. The ship was christened by Frau Maerker, widow of the commander of the old Gneisenau, which went down in the battle of the Falkland islands 22 years ago.

Berlin correspondents believe the new German fleet will have reached 420,000 tons by 1942. It will possess no less than five 35,000-ton battleships, to which can be added two 26,000-ton battleships, three existing 1,000-ton pocket battleships and fourteen light and heavy cruisers, including three more 10,000-ton boats. There will be 40 destroyers and torpedo boats, two airplane carriers and submarines up to the limit of the 1935 pact with Great Britain.

HEADS of 24 delegations to the peace conference in Buenos Aires outlined national policies, and among them was Secretary of State Hull, who proposed a program containing what he termed "eight pillars of peace" upon which rest peace and prosperity. These were:

1. Internal quiet and education.
2. Frequent international conferences.
3. Swift ratification of existing peace pacts.
4. Adoption of a common neutrality policy.
5. Fair and equal commercial policies.
6. Practical international cooperation.
7. Strengthening of international law.
8. Faithful observance of the sanctity of treaties.

Next day Mr. Hull offered a neutrality pact for all American republics. His plan would create a permanent inter-American consultative committee to co-ordinate existing peace instruments and bring agreement on a common neutrality policy, based on the United States' neutrality theory.

JOHN HAMILTON, chairman of the Republican national committee, called a meeting of that body to be held in Chicago December 17, and announced that at that time he would submit his resignation.

Mr. Hamilton desires that the committee shall be able to address itself to the plans for a party comeback with a clean slate and with new officers in command, if a change of personnel shall be deemed more conducive to success.

The management of the late campaign has been criticized by some leaders in the East, and also by a few of the most radical of the western leaders; but it may well be that the criticism represents only minority views of the committee and that Mr. Hamilton's resignation will not be accepted.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY HENRY MORGENTHAU announced the mid-December financing operations of the treasury, the main features being further borrowing and refunding that will put the national debt above 34 billion dollars, lowered interest rates on government bonds and elimination of preferential treatment for the small investor. The secretary said that the December 15 financing, which includes the borrowing of 700 millions to cover continuation of deficits incurred, would be the last until March, when heavy income tax collections will pour into the treasury. Refunding raises the overall amount of the financing to \$1,486,631,900.

In announcing that the treasury would not permit the small investor to have his subscription up to \$5,000 met in full as in the past, but would be forced to accept a pro rata share just as is the big bond buyer, Morgenthau declared that the public had "abused" the privilege. The plan "to give the little fellow a break" was initiated by Secretary Ogden Mills during the Hoover regime.

FROM Manila came belated dispatches telling of the worst disaster that ever befell the Philippines—a great flood which swept through the fertile and densely populated Cagayan valley in northern Luzon and destroying possibly thousands of the inhabitants. The full extent of the death toll may never be known. The waters of the Cagayan river, suddenly swollen by a typhoon and torrential rains, inundated many villages and towns in the 50 mile wide valley. So isolated was the stricken area that a former provincial military commander required four days to fight his way to an outlying point from which he informed the world of the disaster. Military airplanes were used to carry medical supplies and relief agents to the district.



MARIAN turned slowly from where she had been surveying herself for a critical moment, and looked across the room at her twin sister. "I'm so tired of all this Christmas fuss," she said languidly; "it is all so old-fashioned, so outdated."

"Are you expressing my feelings?" Nadine's voice was even more languid; "but how in the world are we going to make our dear family feel as we do about the matter? You know they are already in the throes of Christmas preparations." She threw out her slender hands in a gesture of infinite boredom as she finished.

"We can let them know that we won't be a part of the silly business—we can serve notice on them that we are going to work against all the noise and fuss that is made about Christmas."

Forgetting their pose of boredom and sophistication for a moment, the seventeen-year-old twins jumped excitedly around the room. "Just think of how they will be shocked!" Marian cried; "I can see mother and dad. It is all going to be so exciting—fighting the world, so to speak."

But they were taken back quite a little when they announced their big news. "Mother's voice was very serious." "If you really feel that way, I guess the rest of us will have to celebrate without you. We're going to miss you a lot, of course, but we must consider your feelings." The twins failed to see the twinkle in her eyes as she looked across the table at dad.

As if to make matters worse, Bill and Dick laughed in derision at their plan. "I bet they'll be on their knees to get in on our fun be-

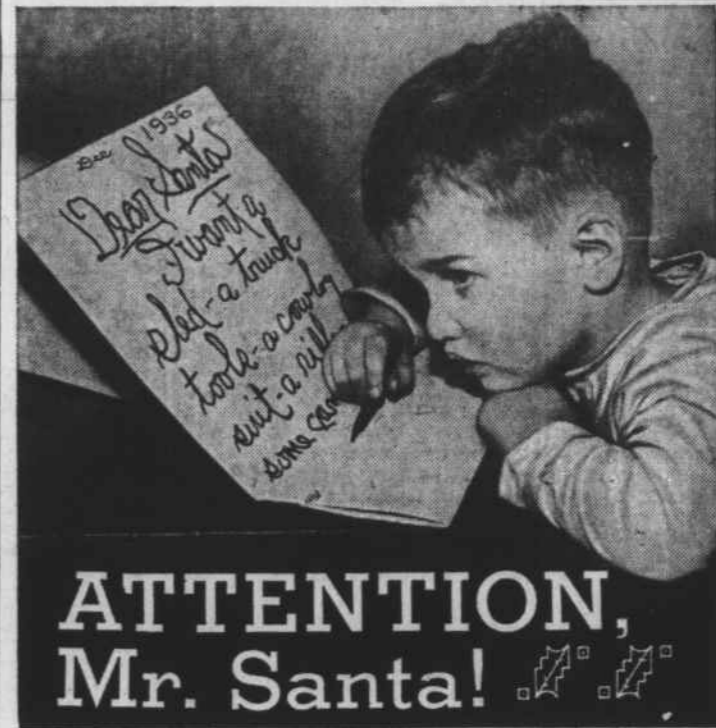


"I'm Going to Do Like Everybody Else," She Said.

fore Christmas," Bill predicted. And as if that were not enough, he suggested that now there would be nothing to buy for the twins, moving he could have the twins moving picture outfit he had wanted so long. "I hope you don't change your mind, sweet sisters," he cautioned, as he proceeded to put a huge piece of pie in his mouth. "I do want that picture machine pretty bad."

The twins threw scornful glances in his direction; they couldn't trust themselves to speak. There were things they had forgotten when they made their big resolve to do away with Christmas preparations. As soon as dinner was over, they hurried from the table.

The days that followed were not very happy. The twins could find no one interested in their plan to change the way of keeping Christmas. Even the most modern of their friends laughed them to scorn. No one was really interested in advancement, they decided. Here they were willing and eager to get a new crusade started, one that would save time and temper and money, and no one, not even their best friends, would lend a hand.



Their Christmas GOOD DEED by Jocile Webb Pearson

BILLIE JONES adored his big brother. Jim had been a boy scout before going to college and to be a scout like Jim was Billie's one ambition.

"If we're going to be scouts," he confided to his chum Joe Perkins, "we oughta begin practicin'."

"Yea, but how do we know how to begin?" inquired Joe.

"Huh," snorted Billie, "anyone can do a good deed every day."

"We can help our mothers," said Joe. "Sure," replied Billie, "but this must be somethin' special like helpin' old Miss Riley carry her basket when it was icy, or somethin'. An' bein' Christmas, we oughta give somethin'; mebbe a present, too. Say, I got an idea, Joe. Why can't we give her somethin' for our first good deed? She don't have a daddy or nobody to help her."

They grew fretful, impatient, even peevish at each other.

One evening Nadine came home and found Marian in their mother's bedroom, peering into some boxes that had just been delivered. Nadine smiled to herself, and hurried from the doorway so Marian would not see her.

But next day in the toy department of Smith's store, things came to a showdown. The twins ran into each other, found themselves side by side clutching for foolish things that lay on the counter. Brown eyes challenged blue as they stood in the crowded aisle. Guilt showed plainly on both faces.

Then Nadine was speaking, quickly, incoherently: "You might as well know, Marian, I'm chucking your silly plan. I'm going to do like everybody else. I'm going to make a big fuss about Christmas. I want to push through the crowds—to buy foolish things—to hang up holly wreaths—to do just everything! . . . And if I'm not mistaken, you're just dying to do the same?"

"You're absolutely right," Marian answered, utterly careless of the amused glances thrown in their direction. "We've been a pair of fools, but we're going to have one grand and glorious time in the two days that are left . . . We're going to make the biggest fuss about Christmas that has ever been made before."



That's the bindinest words I know."

Anyone would know it was Christmas by the spicy fragrance in the air. Even before one saw the big lighted tree in the living room. And Jim was coming home.

There were many whispered conversations and signs and giggles between the two boys that Jim's keen eyes found amusing. Coming home one evening he surprised them in the act of smuggling a basket of coal out the back gate.

"Hey, fellows! Where you going with that?" It was Joe who blurted: "Billie says it ain't no good if ya tell." Billie hung his head. "We're just practicin' for our good deed," he stammered, "an' this is our good deed. We been doin' it for two weeks—I mean takin' coal to Miss Riley. She's poor an' deaf an' ain't got no daddy to get her coal—half the time we take it from Joe's house"—Billie looked appealingly at Jim.

"An' she only had a teeny little bit," put in Joe, staunchly. "An' you're s'posed to give to folks Christmas, ain't you?"

"I salute two mighty fine scouts right now," said Jim. "But first we'll have to make clear the scout ideas of property rights. Deliver your coal, then come up to my room and we'll talk things over."

When old Mrs. Riley hobbled to her door in response to a loud knock Christmas eve, she did not see two little boys scamper behind the coal shed, but she did see a huge basket filled with a generous supply of food, and many bulgy packages piled high on the top, with a "Merry Christmas to you" tied to it.

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Beginning of the Year As early as 251 B.C., the Romans accepted January as the beginning of the year. They named the month in honor of Janus, the two-faced god, as looking both into the past and the future. During the Middle Ages the year was made to begin at various dates. In England, in 1751, January was made the first month by act of Parliament.