

WHEN ROYALTY TRAVELS

Traffic Suspended for Hours on Roads Used by Edward VII.

GUARD AGAINST MISHAP

Block System of Signalling Suspended as Being too Dangerous for Monarchs—Royal Trains Preceded by Pilot Engines at all Times Guarded by Railway Officials.

Royalty on the railroad presents to the busy American some very amusing aspects. Every time King Edward goes from one part of England to another the mercantile community of Great Britain loses something like \$5,000. This is due to the fact that English railway officials use most extraordinary methods in safeguarding royal trains. Even in performing so simple a journey as going from Windsor to London—a distance of about 25 miles—traffic is suspended for hours when the king travels that way.

On longer journeys, the loss to business houses along the line of royal route is something enormous. When the king last journeyed from Scotland to London it was estimated that the direct loss to tradesmen was something like \$15,000 on account of the tying up of traffic and delay to perishable goods.

When King Edward travels along a certain line all passenger and freight traffic—even including the fast express service—is suspended. Most elaborate precautions of every description are taken to insure royal safety. For instance, for 15 minutes before the departure of the royal train from any station all trains are held up.

The ordinary block system of signalling is suspended, as being too dangerous for monarchs. Railway officials do not seem to consider this a reflection on their own methods for safeguarding the public. They know, however, that if any of the royal party should be injured when traveling on any special line, that particular line would "see its finish," so far as the British traveling public is concerned.

Each portion of the line on which the king travels is guarded from section to section by railroad men with flags. They direct the movement of the train. There are two signalmen to every quarter of a mile. For instance, in signalling the train from Folkestone to London, upward of 388 men are required.

When his majesty is about to travel the railway station is cleared of all ordinary passengers, and only a favored few are allowed on the platform. Just before the royal carriage drives up a roll of crimson velvet carpet is carefully laid along the platform between the king's carriage and the train.

Usually the king's carriage is preceded by a few outsiders—men on horseback who clear the way—and not infrequently by a small body of cavalry, the Horse guards being the favored regiment, as the king himself is a colonel in that regiment.

Railway officials line the platform and make a low bow as his majesty passes by en route to his carriage. Usually the president of the road—or "managing director," as he is termed in England—accompanies the king; though, of course, in a separate carriage. It would not do for a mere railroad president in England to ride in the same compartment with the king himself.

The reward of the managing director for his somewhat perfunctory task is, however, often quite great. Knighthood, the Order of the Garter, and other honors are often conferred by the king upon men who have helped to make his journeys pleasant by their official presence.

As the king passes along the railway platform the various officials move in such a manner that they are always facing the royal party. Many an official has lost his job by inadvertently turning his back upon some member of the royal family when passing to a train.

As soon as the king is seated in his carriage, one of the railway directors reverently approaches King Edward, handing him a dozen copies of the way bill of the journey. This is printed in letters of gold on purple silk, and is really an elaborate time table.

The name, rank and occupation of every person traveling on the road on the royal train is also printed on the way bill. Its practical use is to remind his majesty that on the same train with him are numerous officials each ready for anything in the way of a "tip" from 50 cents up to a baronetcy.

If Queen Alexandra should be traveling with the king, or perhaps alone, she is presented with a bunch of flowers just as the train moves from the station. The presentation is made always by some little girl—the daughter of an official, or of a local mayor.

The speed of royal trains is limited to 40 miles an hour. King Edward rejoices in the possession of several royal trains, which are used exclusively for conveying his majesty, the queen, and members of their suite. When great potentates, such as the kaiser, the king of Italy, or the like, visit England, royal trains are placed at their disposal. King Edward has recently suspended the practice of placing the royal train at the convenience of dusky monarchs, who so frequently visit England; a practice always observed in Queen Victoria's reign. She even received and conveyed in a royal train King Khama, the Kafir—Fellburg Gazette.

ENGLAND'S POWER IN INDIA

Rapidly Waning and Opposition Party Gaining Ground.

"The growth of the party in India which is opposed to British rule has been so rapid and it has increased to such an extent that I look to see India granted concessions that will give her a government similar to that of Canada or Australia."

This is the declaration of N. Kershaw, a high caste native Indian of ancestry extending back over 3,000 years, and who has made a study of conditions in every leading capital of Europe and Asia, says the St. Louis Republic.

Mr. Kershaw is also a member of the Indian National Congress started by the advice of Gladstone and the Liberals of the British Parliament, twenty-three years ago.

"The Indian National Congress was started in the hope that the relations between the English people and the royal family might become closer," continued Mr. Kershaw, as he slowly smoked his Turkish cigarette. "Under the leadership of Lord Ripon, from 1880 to 1885, when he was Governor General, the cry of the people of India was 'The English for India and India for the English.' That feeling is now dying out and the cry of the people is 'India for the Indians.'"

"Queen Victoria was greatly beloved by the Hindoo women because of her expressed feeling of sympathy for them, and she was highly revered by the people of India because she had shown the Indian rulers who visited her in England such kindness."

"Although she felt kindly toward the people and made many promises of alleviating their condition, her promises were never carried out, and since her death there are many Hindoos who speak openly against England and her promises."

"Take the history of Great Britain. It is an island power and it became great through the liberal policy it has pursued. The Liberal party itself does not make enemies as does the Tory party. Its platform is expressed in the three principles, 'equal rights to all British subjects,' 'friendship with all nations,' and 'no wars.' With these three principles lived up to the people of India cannot be treated otherwise than as free citizens."

"Then why is it that conditions are such in my country that people are dying on the streets of starvation, that between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 perish in this manner every year, while the country is used as a dumping ground for the sons of the English nobility, who want an easy berth and are provided for 1157 in 1833, 1857, 1870, 1890 and 1901 we were successively promised the same liberty and freedom that the people of England enjoy."

"We have never received it and these promises have never been carried out. There is no resemblance between the freedom and justice in England and that served out in India. In the Indian civil service, the Indian medical service, the Indian forestry, the Indian public works, the engineering, the police, the veterinary, the army and the navy departments the examinations are all held in England."

"What is the result? Why, most of the natives of India who are qualified to pass these examinations are unable to go to England to take them on account of the expense, and the result is that our people are at a disadvantage from the start and these most desirable positions are almost entirely filled by natives of England."

"The same situation exists in the educational field in our country," continued Mr. Kershaw. "We have 295,000,000 people, and the annual appropriation for our schools is \$10,500,000, while we pay \$21,000,000 annually for the support of the army in India and \$8,000,000 annually for the support of the army in England. All this comes out of the Indian treasury."

"This is only one instance. They subsidize English steamers out of the Indian treasury, and the Indians have to pay three times the amount of postage to send a letter to England than the English people do to send a letter to India. There are 60,000,000 people in India who cannot get enough to eat, more than one meal a day, and between 4,000,000 and 4,500,000 die of the plague and starvation every year. The plague is due to underfeeding in most instances."

"Industrial education is the foundation of the nation in this day and age. We have not one mining school, not one technical institution in the whole Empire. We are the biggest cotton growing nation in the world, yet we import more than \$14,000,000 worth of goods every year."

Military Postage Stamps.

These postage stamps are a decided novelty. Issued in Italy, they are reserved for franking the correspondence of non-commissioned officers and men of the Italian army.

There are different stamps for various corps and regiments, and consequently a large number of designs. For instance, on the stamp assigned to one regiment is the portrait of the colonel, on another a representation of a court martial and on others views of the cities where particular corps are stationed; while on the stamp specially reserved for the Bersaglieri appear a few notes of music—those of the first bar of their famous refrain. None of these stamps will be offered for sale by the authorities, nor should they be sold by soldiers, and collectors will doubtless experience some difficulty in obtaining unused specimens.—Westminster Gazette.

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Apart from this vast array of aristocratic satellites the emperor has an exclusive military suite, a naval suite and 42 other officers. Another department is the secret civil cabinet of the emperor, headed by His Excellency Dr. von Lucanus. The medical suite of the emperor consists of three physicians. The emperor has her own household, consisting of a chief mistress, a chief mistress and a half a dozen mistresses, all of whom are princesses and countesses, besides a chief master of the household, a master of ceremonies, a vice master of ceremonies, and a medical suite. Each one of the kaiser's six sons has also his own household and his own suite of attendants, though on a much smaller scale.

These high noblemen, of course, are not permanently in attendance, but the kaiser is always surrounded by a large group of them wherever he goes and whatever he does. When he rides out they follow him in the order of their ranks. One of them assists the kaiser to mount his horse and another assists the stirrups. A third carries the kaiser's overcoat and a fourth a spare handkerchief for his majesty. The emperor is thus continually in an environment which tends to increase his haughtiness and imperial pride and his sense of his own supreme importance.

Ladies who are admitted to the presence of the kaiser must curtsy so low that they almost lie upon the ground at his feet. All persons, men and women alike, must kiss the hand of the empress when they are presented to her or when she addresses them. When the emperor desires strangers to dine with him he does not invite them, but the marshal of the court informs them that his majesty commands their presence at dinner on such and such a date and at such and such a time. The guests assemble and are escorted into the dining room where the vice-marshal of the court shows them their places. They must not, however, take their seats until the kaiser has taken his seat and they have to remain standing round the table until the kaiser enters the room. The kaiser invariably compels his guests to wait for him on such occasions, frequently as long as 15 or 20 minutes. Two heralds then advance from the direction of the kaiser's private apartments and take up their stand on either side of the door through which the emperor will enter. The master of the ceremony then appears in a gorgeous braided uniform and bearing his wand of office with which he strikes the floor three times. This is the sign that the emperor is at hand and a moment later his majesty becomes visible, marches briskly into the room, acknowledges the profound bows of his guests with a slight inclination of his imperial head and takes his seat. Close upon his heels follow those of his military, naval and personal suites who are doing duty for the occasion.

No one at the imperial table may begin to eat or drink until the kaiser has set the example. No one is allowed on any pretext whatever to leave the table while the emperor remains sitting. When the dinner is over the emperor rises, bows slightly and disappears through the door by which he had entered and after his departure his guests are free to depart.

There are very stringent regulations regarding the dress which must be worn in the presence of the emperor. Officers of the army must invariably appear in full parade uniform with their swords dangling at their left hand sides and wearing on their breasts all their orders, decorations and medals. Ministers of state, high administrative officials, and gentlemen who move in court society are obliged to appear in court dress, which consists of a black knee breeches, silk stockings and buckles shoes. All male persons who do not belong to high society, but who happen to be in the presence of the emperor for any particular occasion, are compelled to wear a full dress suit, with silk hat, patent leather boots and white tie.

Women are obliged to appear at the imperial court in extremely low cut dresses, displaying the largest possible proportion of their bodily charms. The dress must not be reddish, but must be square, and the shoulders must be absolutely bare, with the exception of two supporting bands.—Boston Post.

A Serbian Custom.

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