

class "b."

B+7 2nd Prize

✓ V.A. subject ✓
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CARTERTON HIGH SCHOOL

THE
ROYAL EMPIRE SOCIETY
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Ans'd

A Description of
Coronation Day in Australia.
and
What we were all celebrating

Ever since the day long ago when William the Conqueror was crowned at Westminster, in the Abbey built by the good King Edward the Confessor, the Sacring or Hallowing or, as we call it to-day, the Coronation of the monarch has always been a time of great national celebration for the people of England. It is a time of traditional pageantry, of spectacle and excitement.

At the coronation of our Queen, Elizabeth II, all this rejoicing was increased a hundred fold. A young, beautiful, good Queen, riding in a golden coach, surrounded by colour and pageantry, and accompanied by representatives of the British Commonwealth of Nations, captured the imagination of the world. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, prime ministers, led by Sir Winston Churchill in the uniform of the Warden of the King's Ports, Indian Princes in their eastern robes, Queen Salote from the tiny Pacific island of Tonga, and many others all proceeded to the coronation service.

In Australia loyalty to the royal family matches our wide blue skies and limitless horizons. From the tropical gulf country in the north to the apple Isle of Tasmania in the south; from the wide sunburnt plains of the west to the great rolling pastures (in the) and forests in the east, excitement mounted up as the great day approached. We heard on the wireless, read in the newspapers and were told by the teachers in the schools of how the Londoners were (preparation) preparing for this great coronation, about the people hanging up flags and bunting, and everywhere there were beautiful flowers.

In Parliament Square were massed flowers from all over the Commonwealth, including wild flowers which were picked in Sydney and flown to England.

So many of our relatives and friends who went to the Coronation, told us of the great preparations and this seemed to make it more real for us. As the great day drew closer, we were becoming more excited. We looked forward to seeing the processions and celebrations in our own small town and to coming home to listen to the broadcast of the wonderful coronation procession and service direct from England.

Most celebrations in Australia took two days. In my own district on the first day a celebration was held in the open air at the school. Parents and children were grouped around the flagpole on which the Union Jack was proudly flying. The pipe and drum band was present and the shrill of the pipes reminded us of the Queen's Scottish ancestry. After the singing of the National Anthem and other songs, the president of the Returned Soldiers League unveiled a portrait of the Queen which was presented to the school by the League. Then an address was given about the pageantry and meaning of the Coronation. We were reminded that it is a solemn religious service of dedication and that we too must dedicate ourselves to the Christian ideals embodied in our Queen. Badges with Elizabeth Regina printed on them, and a red, white and blue ribbon attached, were given to the children by the teachers. Trees were then planted in front of the school by Shire councillors.

The second day of the celebrations was a public holiday. In the morning there was a civic service after which the processions set out in which the (brown) scouts and girls-guides marched and many organizations and business houses entered gaily decorated floats. The processions went to the park.

where athletic sports were held, trees were again planted this time in the park, some very close to the ones planted on Queen Elizabeth's twenty-first birthday. The public then adjourned to the town hall where a free picture show was given, when this was over, we all hurried home to listen to the B.B.C. broadcast.

In thousands of homes all over Australia people tuned in their radios to hear the B.B.C. broadcast of the procession to the Abbey and the coronation service. We could hear the crowds cheering especially for the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, ~~the~~ cheering reached its ^{climax} when the Queen, with the Duke at her side, passed on towards the Abbey in the wonderful golden coach drawn by eight Windsor greys. Some others in the procession were, the Yeomen of the Guard, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, the Queen's Bargemaster and Twelve Watermen, the Queen's Escort of Officers from the Commonwealth contingents and the Queen's Standard Bearer.

Now we loved the music which echoed in the Abbey! It was a cold night and, as we sat around the fire, we were able to take part in the service although we were twelve thousand miles from England.

We heard the trumpets sound and the voice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, "Sir, I here present unto you Queen Elizabeth, your undoubted Queen." There followed the Oath, the Presenting of the Holy Bible, "The most valuable thing that this world affords," the anointing and the presenting of the symbols of Monarchy. The spurs of Chivalry, the sword of Truth, the armills "the ties that bind her to her people," the Orb and the Sceptres. The Queen ^{was} dressed in the magnificent Robe Royal. Then came the climax, the putting on of St. Edward's crown, the symbol of Royal Majesty. At that moment ^{the queen was enthroned} not only in the heart of England, in

Coronation
Service

Westminster abbey but also in the hearts of millions of her subjects all round the world.

As the Queen left the abbey with the Imperial State Crown glowing on her head and the Orb and Sceptre in her hands, the crowds cheered and cheered and the church bells ~~pealed~~ pealed.

But the coronation of the Kings and Queens of England means not only gaiety, not only colour and pageantry stretching back through history, it means "The voluntary dedication by the Monarch of his or her whole life to the service of the nation; and it also means the acceptance by us of all that the Monarch stands for. This exchange of the vows of dedication is the real meaning of the coronation service."

In this troubled world this dedication by our young Queen, of her whole life, be it long or short, to the service of others touched the hearts all new of (good-will) good-will.

And within the Empire we children promised in our hearts to do as she asked us on her twenty-first birthday - to share her burden with her and "all go forward to-gether with an unwavering faith a high courage and a quiet heart."

"Book on English Coronation" Professor Gilbert Murray
Official programme of the coronation issued by King
George's Jubilee Trust.

"Most Excellent Majesty" by Dermot Morrah