

LONDON

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, Dec. 4, 1936.

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In London they've been using the words --  
Constitutional crisis. Tonight that usage is doubly and  
triply justified. The expression "royal romance" becomes  
rather insignificant <sup>now</sup> in the face of what ~~is~~ is most  
profoundly -- a Constitutional crisis, one that cuts right  
to the bottom of the system of the British Empire.

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( Today Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin <sup>anxiously awaited</sup> made his <sup>^</sup> declaration  
<sup>And -</sup> in the House of Commons. <sup>^</sup> He put his Government completely and  
unchangeably in opposition to the marriage of Edward VIII and  
Mrs. Simpson.) He said ~~that~~ there was no such thing as a  
morganatic marriage in the law of England. The King's wife  
necessarily becomes the Queen. He emphasized the significance  
of the word Queen by referring to -- Her Late Majesty Queen  
Alexandra, and Her Majesty Queen Mary. The Prime Minister  
admitted that it would be possible to enact legislation which  
would permit King Edward to marry Mrs. Simpson without also  
making her Queen. But Baldwin added, "His Majesty's Government  
are not prepared to introduce such legislation." And that's

as loud a way of saying NO as a British Prime Minister permits himself.

Then he resorted to the most powerful argument of all. He ~~xxx~~ spoke of the British Dominions, those semi-independent nations held together only by the Crown of England. These are his words: "Such a change," said he, "could not be effected without the assent of all the Dominions." But ~~did~~ would the Dominions give ~~that~~ <sup>their</sup> assent ~~to the King's~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~marriage.~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>?</sup>

~~Mrs. Simpson.~~ The Prime Minister said NO. "I am satisfied from inquiries I have made," he declared, "that this assent would not be forthcoming."

As they listened to this the members of Parliament knew quite well that the leaders in the Dominions are opposed to the King's marriage. For example, there's Canada. The Canadian government is reported -- backing Baldwin. King Edward has his friends and supporters, many of them. But Canadian advisers ~~point~~ <sup>see</sup> point to the powerful Catholic element, ~~and~~, especially the French Canadians -- who are fervently opposed to divorce.

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The Canadian newspapers for the most part call upon the King to sacrifice his personal inclinations. ~~Here~~ ~~The Canadian~~

<sup>It Here</sup> ~~opposition has~~ a curious sidelight -- an editorial in the Quebec Chronical Telegraph, today, <sup>in which</sup> the abdication of Edward VIII is considered in these roundabout words:-

"Knowing the taste of His Majesty," says the Quebec paper, "and his love of Canada, ~~strangely~~ stranger things have happened than that he should take up his residence <sup>on his ranch</sup> near Calgary, Alberta."

<sup>Quebec</sup> The Chronical-Telegraph goes on to suggest still another country for the King's residence, should he quit the throne. What country? The Quebec paper mentions the origin of Mrs. Simpson, remarks that the King's immense popularity in the United States would be increased by his giving up his throne for an American wife. It concludes that the couple might go to live in the United States.

<sup>And</sup> Wouldn't that be something for the tabloids?

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The opposition of the Dominions was a dominating thought in the British Parliament today. The Commons can legislate for England, but not for Canada, South Africa, Australia or New Zealand. <sup>a</sup> ~~Those in~~ <sup>English</sup> politics must reckon with the solemn fact that there is not only England to be considered, but <sup>the Parliamentary</sup> the whole empire. ~~The~~ <sup>the</sup> proceedings were nervous, jittery. There was unusual confusion.)

While the Prime Minister was being questioned there was an episode which shows how one particular name was in every mind in London today. You can guess the name. Several members clamored to be recognized by the Chair -- one was especially insistent. The perplexed and perspiring speaker banged his gavel and called to that pertinacious member of Parliament:

"All right, Mr. Simpson, all right!" A hush fell upon the House of Commons. There ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> an M.P. named Simpson, but, he was not among those present.

The speaker blushed scarlet -- was his face red!

"I mean," he stammered, "I mean Mr. Jagger." ~~The~~ <sup>R</sup>

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slip of speech by the speaker of the House of Commons -- that ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> an indication of the Parliamentary jitters today.

The opposition to the marriage culminated with the report that if King Edward insists on the wedding he demands, Queen Mary will retire from all private appearances, and will go into seclusion. We are told of the Queen Mother's outbreak of tears when her oldest son went to see her. They say the Duke and Dutchess of York, next in line to the succession, are determined that if the King makes the marriage - they will leave England, will retire to the continent. That's how much opposed they are. The Duke of York has been much in evidence in London as the heir presumptive, the one who would succeed to the crown should the King abdicate.

Last night we heard how Prime Minister Baldwin had given the King until seven o'clock tonight to make up his mind. Baldwin went to see the King. They conferred and the Prime Minister announced to the awaiting press: - "You might as well go home, gentlemen. I will make my statement tomorrow morning at ten o'clock." Tonight, the Crown of England <sup>is</sup> in the balance.

The King is reported as firm as ever in his determination to marry Mrs. Simpson. But she has left England, gone to France - seeking quiet from the political turmoil her romance has stirred up.) Today in France a French actress tried to snap a picture of the fleeing American woman. Mrs. Simpson's chauffeur interposed violently; knocked the camera out of the hand of the actress and her hat off too. A man tried to take a picture. The chauffeur slapped down his camera. The man struck back, a quick exchange of blows.

So tonight King Edward is left alone to face the battle.

A story came out today in which an Englishman is quoted as saying the King has already become tired of the romance, won't be too tragically cast down if he breaks with Mrs. Simpson. Therefore, says this Englishman, the crisis will blow over -- with no wedding. But the word from London in no wise bears this out.

The news reports show Edward the Eighth as strong willed as ever.

Indeed (the prospects of a monumental battle in British politics flared today with the mention of the name of Winston Churchill. The bold and daring Churchill said to be standing in support

of the King.) All of which has this important angle: -suppose the King insists on marriage, and also refuses to abdicate? Suppose the Baldwin Cabinet resigns?

Then, the next step of the monarch might be to call upon any prominent political personality, any former Cabinet minister, and ask him to form a Cabinet. That's where Winston Churchill fits into the picture. He might line up a ministry and go before the House of Commons. He would surely be defeated, voted down. Which would be his cue to move for an election, "go to the country." In that case the question of the King and Mrs. Simpson would become the issue in a political campaign and an astonishing political campaign it would be!

Winston Churchill, who has no party of his own, would lead a cause that would be merely the King's question of marriage. Churchill would certainly make a flaming fighter. A descendant of the Duke of Marlborough, First Lord of the Admiralty during the World War, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, stormy petrel of British politics -- he is a brilliant and formidable campaigner

in an election. He would carry the King's cause to the people in thundering style.

Edward the Eighth believes he has the masses of Great Britain on his side. For he is a King who champions the poor. His hope is that his popularity would carry the day. And the British masses seem to be with him, to a large extent.

Tonight in London parades are marching the streets with torches and flares. Workingmen cheering and shouting:--  
"Long live the King"!

Just suppose that mighty popularity should triumph? Suppose the vote of England should sanction the King's marriage to Mrs. Simpson, by sending a parliamentary majority in favor? Still - there remain the British dominions who are not governed by the British Parliament and who have their own word to say about the crown of the empire. So therein lies the meaning of those two words that are being spoken everywhere in England: -- Constitutional Crisis!



TIME

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Here's a postscript to the news from London -- a finishing touch. Each year Time Magazine takes a poll of its readers -- to select the most prominent personality of the year. Today this year's poll is announced. First comes President Roosevelt, undoubtedly the man of the year. Then King Edward VIII of England. Next to that monarch of crisis and controversy -- guess who? Mrs. Simpson. She takes third place as the year's outstanding personality. <sup>¶</sup> Going down along the line we find -- Governor Landon, Postmaster General <sup>Tru</sup> Farley, Blackshirt Dictator Mussolini, Home Run Hitter Lou Gehrig, and Doc Townsend, <sup>of</sup> Old Age Pension <sup>fame.</sup> That takes us down to ninth place among the world personalities. And who do we find here? Mr. Simpson -- *my word!* Ernest A. Simpson. That certainly is a finishing touch, <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ today's story of a kingly crisis in London.

FOLLOW KING

Like Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, King Edward today is asking himself: "To be or not to be." Endless quotations from Shakespeare are applicable in this crisis involving the throne of England. Having just come from seeing Hamlet for a second time in a fortnight I find myself thinking and speaking a bit like Shakespeare's characters.

At any rate I came away from the second Hamlet unable to decide which I like the better, the Gielgud or the Leslie Howard - but leaning toward the latter. They are utterly different, and it's hard to compare them. Both are superb. Having seen one, I found myself getting double enjoyment out of the other. A chance to see two such Hamlets in the same season is rare indeed.

Musick.

Dec. 47

1936.

## AVIATION

I brought an aviator here to the studio with me tonight. Some might say he is the top-ranking aviator in the world just now. And they wouldn't be far wrong. I thought maybe he'd be willing to tell us a thrill story. But I guess I'll have to give it up and tell him one. Captain Edwin Musick, the chief pilot of Pan-American Airways Pacific Division, who was Capt. on the first trans-Pacific passenger flight. How many of those across-the-ocean hops have you made altogether, Captain?

MUSICK:- I've made the flight eight times, Lowell, But as I've been telling you, I haven't any thrills to tell. To us in the Pan-American service, it's strictly routine, just running to schedule.

L.T.:- Yes, Ed Musick has been saying that it's all been uneventful, work-a-day -- those stupendous airline voyages San Francisco, Honolulu, Midway Island, Wake Island, Guam, and Manila. That's a tip-off to the mechanical efficiency and technical organization of up-to-date passenger flying. Those Pan American pilots are the ultra-modern kind of aviator, methodical, coldly efficient, strictly non-thrill. You were

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telling me, Captain, that you started flying in 1913, one of a group of three.

MUSICK:- Yes, that was back in the early days of primitive equipment and ramshackle planes. There were three of us out on the Coast, We did out early flying together, but even then we didn't run into any thrills.

L.T.:- Anything special about that little group of serious aviators?

MUSICK:- Only this, Lowell, they're all still alive.

L.T.:- Alive and still flying -- after those harum-scarum aviation days of old. Sounds rather remarkable, that. So I guess it's no wonder a pilot like you regards <sup>as</sup> Pan-A merican voyage across the Pacific about the same as the Captain of an ocean liner.

MUSICK:- That's the way we feel about it, so, for an aviation thriller, if one is told, you'll have to tell it yourself.

L.T.:- Well, you can always tell one about Bert Acosta. I recall when Bert was a test pilot taking up a new type of ship. He's an engineer himself, and he told the builder that the plane was constructed wrong. Said that on landing the

contraption would buckle, the cockpit would collapse and fold right over. "However," said Bert, "I'll take it up." And he did. He flew it around, and then landed. As the wheels touched earth, Bert ducked. It was one of those old-fashioned cockpits -- the aviator's head sticking up. And it was lucky he did duck. Because, just as the plane landed it buckled. The cockpit folded, with edges shearing together like a pair of scissors. If Bert hadn't ducked he would have been the headless aviator!

MUSICK:- Well, those were the old days!

## CHINA

Here's an item from a part of the world you know so well Captain: A touch of Coleridge in the news today, the poet Coleridge -- who wrote the well remembered classics about the Ancient Mariner and Kublai Khan.

But tonight's story starts out with a strike, a walk-out in some Japanese textile mills. At TsingTao, the Chinese city which Germany held before the World War. We heard last night how the Japanese had landed soldiers at TsingTao, saying they had to protect Japan's interests in the strike complication. Tonight the Chinese are denouncing this newest Japanese putach -- saying there's no real reason for it, that the strike is about settled, everything returning to normal. They add -- that the real motive is to offset loss of prestige that Tokio has experienced in recent events in Mongolia, -- those Mongolian raids into China. The Chinese claim the attacking forces were incited by Japan and are commanded by Japanese officers. Also -- that the Chinese have beaten off the attacks. Hence the loss of prestige. And now with Great Britain and other countries busy at home, the Japanese are gobbling up more of China.

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All of this is echoed by word from Mongolia where new armed forces are being mobilized for another drive against the Chinese. They will be attacking soon, says word from the Far East -- unless indeed the new outbreak of fighting is going on right now.

The Mongolian attack is being prepared at the town of Shang-Tu -- and this is what takes us to the poet Coleridge. For Shang-Tu is nothing but a slightly varied form of the famous old name Xanadu. That was once a great place in the medieval empire of the Mongolians, in the time of Kublai Khan. So we have those famed lines of Coleridge:-

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"In Xanadu did Kublai Khan  
A stately pleasure dome decree."

But in Xanadu tonight there is no "stately pleasure dome." A Mongolian army is gathering there -- a sign of new

trouble in the Far East, in Xanadu. And what do I do? Say so long until Monday.  
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