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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, CEYLON.

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GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

ON Friday last this Council was adjourned *sine die*. Little was it then suspected that you would within a few hours be again here assembled, and that at the dictates of the grim reaper—Death. Still less was there the slightest foreboding that our well-beloved Sovereign was at that very moment rapidly approaching the last bourn, and that heavy clouds of national calamity—unexpected and terrible—were gathering to break over our heads.

The Almighty in His wisdom has decreed that He should take unto Himself our great and illustrious Sovereign Lord King Edward, and that—with his life's brave mission but partly fulfilled—he should exchange a terrestrial for a celestial Crown. It is not for us poor mortals to demur at this inscrutable dispensation of Providence; it is rather our bounden duty to bow submissively to this manifestation of the Divine Will, and with humble, reverent hearts to recognize that when the sands of life are run out and the sheaves are garnered, the Royal Monarch with national work still unfinished has to accompany the reaper in proper turn with the most lowly of his subjects,—one of the millions for whom he has been earnestly labouring until the very last.

It is the suddenness of the blow which makes these millions of loving subjects—who are to be found nowhere more than in Ceylon—unable to realize that King Edward VII. of blessed and glorious memory has been taken from them.

Equally with King George V.—whom may Heaven in its mercy long preserve, and whose declaration on accession is now before us—they cannot but feel that in their late Sovereign Liege Lord, whom they regarded with most fervent and affectionate loyalty, they had also the supreme privilege of having a loving, ever-ready friend.

Of commanding personality; the wisest and most sagacious of Monarchs; the kindest and most sympathetic of Rulers; a keen philanthropist whose invaluable works and aims will ever be cherished by a grateful people; a devotee to national pastimes;—King Edward will for these attributes, for nobility of purpose, and for devotion to duty, be ever known hereafter in history as the focus of affectionate admiration by the many races and kindreds over whose destinies he presided for nearly a decade.

You, Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, are the trusty representatives of all classes and sections of a community who, judging by the large number of communications which I have received, are mourning over what they feel to be a grave personal loss. You can well understand the nature of their sore affliction and the depths of their emotion. I can myself but inadequately and with insufficient pathos echo the feelings divulged to me by their telegrams and letters. You are however in a position to convey to them an expression of my heartfelt gratitude at having received, as my Sovereign's representative, such unaffected manifestations of deep-seated affectionate loyalty.

In such moments of national sorrow you will, as representatives of the people of Ceylon, not be slow to join with me in extending the deepest sympathy to those very near and dear to King Edward in the great loss they have so unexpectedly suffered. To the beneficent mercies of an All-seeing Providence do we submissively commend our well-beloved Dowager-Queen Alexandra in this her terrible bereavement. For nearly half a century has she brilliantly shone as the beautiful Consort of our dear departed King, full of good works, full of loving sympathy for the poor, the sick, and the afflicted, a devoted helpmate, a model wife and mother. God bless her! May she go through her trial strengthened by the thought that she has been very closely associated with the maintenance of peace, benevolent rule, and affectionate intercourse with the people. In her distress may she be comforted with the loving care of a devoted family, and may she in her son—the successor to her husband—find the reflex of King Edward's glory destined to dissipate the cloud of darkness which has now fallen on the Nation. It is for the purpose of expressing, in however inadequate a manner, our feelings of deepest sympathy with King George V. and the other members of the Royal Family in the terrible affliction which has befallen them, that I have summoned you to meet to-day. The resolution which I have prepared for your acceptance will, I am aware, not nearly cover what you feel; I venture to say that no formal resolution could do so. I would ask you, however, to pass my poor effort in solemn, reverential silence, and allow me to telegraph it to the Secretary of State for submission to His Majesty:—

“We, the Legislative Council of Ceylon, present our humble duty to the King and other Members of the Royal Family, and with reverential, loyal respect desire respectfully to express to them feelings of most heartfelt sympathy in their terrible affliction caused by the sudden death of our beloved Sovereign King Edward VII. of blessed and glorious memory.”

Legislative Council Chamber,  
Colombo, May 9, 1910.

HENRY McCALLUM,  
Governor.

## PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it has pleased ALMIGHTY GOD to call to His mercy our late Sovereign Lord KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and all other His late Majesty's Dominions is solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty Prince, GEORGE FREDERICK ERNEST ALBERT, We therefore, the Governor and Executive Council of Ceylon, assisted by the Chief Justice of the Island of Ceylon, the Naval Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Squadron, the Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court, the Members of the Legislative Council, the Mayor of Colombo, and by numbers of the principal inhabitants, do now hereby with one full voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim that the High and Mighty Prince GEORGE FREDERICK ERNEST ALBERT is now, by the death of our late Sovereign of happy and glorious memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, Supreme Lord in and over the Island of Ceylon and the Dependencies thereof, to whom We do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless the Royal Prince GEORGE THE FIFTH with long and happy years to reign over us.

Given at Colombo, in the Island of Ceylon, this Ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine hundred and Ten.

GOD SAVE THE KING.