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## The Empire Coronation Rally of Youth

We had been invited to represent the School at the Empire Coronation Youth Rally in London on May 19th (1937) Imagine for a moment the vast dome of the Albert Hall, brilliantly lighted and colourfully decorated with red, white and blue. Tiers upon tiers of seats encircle the walls, surrounding the platform, where many famous people were seated.

Here was gathered the greatest assembly which has ever represented the youth of the Empire. The memorable sight of so many young people from every corner the Empire singing the National Anthem with all the reverence, fervour and wholeheartedness that such an occasion evoked greatly thrilled and brought home to each of us the realisation our individual insignificance and collective consequence.

The King was reprinted by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester. Also there were the Prime Minister of England, Mr Stanley Baldwin, now Earl Baldwin of Bewdley; Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India; Mr Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada; Mr Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia, and Mr Savage, prime minister of New Zealand.

We were privileged in that Mr Baldwin addressed to us his last public speech as Prime Minister, and his words stirred us deeply. Like many of the other speakers, he reminded us that we boys and girls were the trustees of posterity. Many of us, he said, might attain responsible places, and should therefore, in youth prepare to take our places. In speaking, he addressed not only his visible audience, the delegates, who were but the representatives of his real audience, the boys and girls of the Empire. Had my pen the power of his tongue, I might communicate to you the fervour of his words. Perhaps you heard his speech over the wireless, and perhaps you absorbed something of the atmosphere which stilled our tongues, and fixed eyes, ears, and mind on the speaker and his thrilling words.

Nor did our activities end there, for on the next day we saw the King and Queen leave Buckingham Palace for the Lord Mayor's Banquet. Earlier we had visited Westminster Abbey and had seen the splendid sight of the building in its Coronation splendour. There again in the afternoon we went on a more solemn occasion; a service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Empire representatives gathered in the Abbey itself, and those of Great Britain, in Westminster Hall, to which the Archbishop's address was relayed. Later he came in person to address us there.

Those two days had filled us all with a new respect and understanding. For the first time, many of us had seen our King. We realised now, if not before, what he stood for.

The Youth Rally inspired in us feelings devotion, loyalty and service, such that, at the end of the service our shout of "God Save the King!" was one of implicit faith and deepest sincerity.

J G COLE, OLIVE EAYRES YEAR 6

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