

MAKING A NEW KING

Alfonso Now Monarch of Spain

BRILLIANT SPECTACLE OF ROYAL FLUMIDDLE

Bankrupt Exchequer Drained to Make a Grand Display of Magnificence

Madrid, May 17.—His Majesty, Alfonso XIII. King of Spain, solemnly took the oath to the Constitution in the Hall of Assembly of the Chamber of Deputies today, with the utmost ceremony and in accordance with all the religious forms and ancient rites.

Shortly after the break of day the ceremonies began with a salute of twenty-one cannon shots, marking the opening of the day, and at the same hour the church bells throughout Madrid began ringing. At 10 o'clock the court dignitaries and distinguished persons who were to take part in the royal cortege began to assemble in the halls of the Royal palace. The ladies wore court dress and the dignitaries were in full uniform. The Envoys Extraordinary, the Ambassadors, the Ministers Plenipotentiary, and the Charge d'Affaires, with their wives, assembled at the palace at 11 o'clock and were invited by the Master of Ceremonies to repair to the Chamber of Deputies and take the places reserved for them.

The firing of cannon announced to the expectant populace that the time had arrived for the departure of the royal procession for the scene of the day's ceremonies. Leaving behind the magnificent pile of granite and marble with its superb view of the Valley of Manzanares, the royal cortege moved slowly southward toward the capital. The entire route, which lay through the Calle de Alcalá, the Puerto del Sol and other famous thoroughfares and public squares was ablaze with color. The innate love of the Spaniard for color and display had found vent in a wealth of decorations that was as bewildering as it was gorgeous and attractive. Entire house fronts were hidden beneath masses of red and yellow bunting and from every possible point fluttered flags and streamers bearing the royal coat of arms. The streets were marked by double rows of Venetian masts from which floated banners of gorgeous hue.

Previous to this an immense body of troops had been gathered around the palace, and from one end of the route to the other, followed by the royal party in passing from the palace to the Chamber of Deputies and from there to the Church of San Francisco El Grande, troops formed double lines on both sides those immediately protecting his Majesty being the royal halberdiers and detachments from the various cavalry regiments.

Two facts were worthy of note in regard to the progress of the royal cortege through the crowded streets. In the pageant itself, with the gilded carriages of state and all the gala uniforms, there was nothing to suggest the poverty of the Spanish monarchy, while in the enthusiastic demonstrations of the populace there was no outward indication of

that spirit of discontent and revolution which is supposed to exist among the Spanish people. For the time being everyone appear absorbed in the enjoyment of the gorgeous spectacle. For the first time in nearly a score of years Spain was to have a king and the contemplation of that fact alone was sufficient cause for satisfaction. So the people gave their hearty cheer to the young monarch, not forgetting the queen mother, now about to relinquish the reins of government in favor of him to whom she has given all her care and affections since his birth under such pathetic circumstances sixteen years ago today.

Upon arrival at the Chamber of Deputies the King was received at the foot of the exterior stairway by the President of the Chamber, who conducted his Majesty to the Hall of Assembly, where the throne and altar had been erected on a raised platform, above which hung a rich canopy of purple and gold. There was little room to spare in the great hall, spacious though it is. Senators and Deputies were grouped about the foot of the throne. Near by were the prelates and clergy of the Roman Catholic church. The body of the hall, except that portion reserved for relatives of the king and high officials of state, was given over to the hereditary nobility and others whose rank and position entitled them to admittance. The women wore court gowns, while the men appeared in brilliant uniform or in evening dress. One of the most gorgeous bits of coloring in the great picture was furnished by the foreign representatives occupying the tribune. These for the most part were accompanied by large suites, whose brilliant uniforms, representing the courts and armies of the civilized world, added greatly to the splendor of the occasion. Conspicuous among these distinguished foreign visitors were Dr. J. L. M. Curry, the official representative of the United States; the Duke of Connaught, representing Great Britain; Prince Albert of Prussia; Grand Duke Alexis of Russia; Archduke Frederick of Austria; the Duke of Aosta, representing Italy; Crown Prince Gustavus of Sweden; Prince Christian of Denmark and Prince Albert of Belgium. The Pope was represented by a delegation of eminent prelates headed by Cardinal Vanutelli, former nuncio of Madrid.

The King, upon entering the hall, bowed the knee before the Senators and Deputies and also to the tribune occupied by the foreign representative. His Majesty, having removed the robe which he wore in the carriage, now appeared in the brilliant uniform of a captain-general of the Spanish army. The queen mother wore a white, low-necked dress, with a long train, which was borne by four court chamberlains. As their Majesties passed up the aisle the members of the nobility and others ranged selves in two lines leading from the entrance to the throne. The dignitaries carry the royal mantles stationed themselves on the first step to the throne. A dignitary holding the sword of the monarchy stood on the second step of the throne, while the bearer of the standard occupied the third step. Other auxiliaries to the pageant were grouped about in suitable order. Upon the altar beneath the crucifix were placed the open books of the Evangelists and of the Spanish constitution.

The ceremony of taking the oath and the anointment occupied scarcely a quarter of an hour and was as follows.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo mounted the steps of the throne, placed

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himself in front of the king and invited his Majesty to make, before his faithful subjects and in a loud voice, his profession of faith, and presented him with the open book. The anointment and the administration of the oath followed, both ceremonies being conducted with great solemnity and impressiveness.

His Majesty received the benediction from the special envoy of the Pope, who recited the prayer prescribed by the ritual. The young king arose and ordered that the royal mantle with the Collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece be presented to him. They were presented on cushions richly ornamented with gold. One of the assistants of his Majesty adjusted the royal mantle. In a similar manner his Majesty caused to be presented to him the scepter and sword, and having taken the scepter in one hand and the sword in the other he seated himself on the throne. In a few moments he arose and placed the sword and scepter on cushions beside him, where reposed also the crown of Spain. This terminated the actual ceremonies of the occasion.

The foreign representatives, the clergy, the grandees and all the persons present presented their felicitations upon the conclusion of the ceremonies of appointment and the administration of the oath. The procession then moved to the Church of San Francisco El Grande in the same order and with the same ceremony that it had left the palace. All along the way there were enthusiastic shouts from the crowds that filled the streets and public squares, Alfonso XIII., now a king in fact as well as in name, graciously acknowledging the salutations.

The ceremonies at the church were simple but impressive. Here the clergy were the active participants, the actors of the day being little more than passive listeners. Upon entering the sacred edifice his Majesty proceeded down the long aisle lined by the grandees and their ladies and the foreign representatives and ambassadors. Arriving at the altar the young monarch handed the insignia of office to his attendants and knelt in prayer, while the Archbishop read the litanies. The service concluded with the Te Deum. Once outside the church and on the return journey to the Royal Palace the king, was greeted with fanfares of trumpets, the booming of cannons, the ringing of bells and cheers from tens of thousands of throats.

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