DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

INAUGURATING A NEW REIGN: PLANNING FOR ACCESSION AND CORONATION

BOB MORRIS

The Constitution Unit

3.37 Naval Review……..23

3.38-3.42 Costs of Coronation……....23

3.43-3.46 Contemporary and retrospective reactions to the 1953 Coronation……..27

4.1-4.24 The Next Coronation……..27

4.1-4.3 Introduction……....27

4.4-4.13 Religious voices……27

4.14-4.16 Secular voices……..30

4.17-4.24 Adding a civil ceremony in Westminster Hall……..31

5 Conclusions……...34

In 2016 the Constitution Unit started a project looking at the oaths required of a new sovereign following accession. As part of the background research Bob Morris has been reading the government papers in the National Archives about previous accessions, in particular the accession of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 and her coronation in 1953, as well as the memoirs of some of the participants. They contained a treasure trove of fascinating material, which it seemed a shame not to publish. So alongside our report on the Accession and Coronation oaths – *Swearing in the new King: Accession Declarations and Oaths* -

The UK no longer has the capacity to mount anything like this spectacle. The next coronation will inevitably be smaller. Archaic elements such as the Court of Claims could be dropped.

Most religious writing assumes that the coronation will continue to be an Anglican service; centred round the Eucharist, but finding a place for other Christian denominations and religions; and that it may

1.1 The ceremonies of accession and coronation help to define not just the monarchy, but the nation whom the monarch is there to represent. The first chapter of this report seeks to summarise some of the essential features of 21st century Britain, and how much those have changed since the last accession in 1952.

1.2 The UK population is both much larger and more diverse than in 1952. A population of nearly 51 million has risen by about 30 per cent to 65 million in 2016 and now includes an ethnic minority population of over 11 per cent according to the 2011 census. Life expectancy at birth in 1952 was 78 years for males and 83 years for females. In 2012 the comparative figures were 91 and 94 years. Levels of formal educational attainment have risen markedly: in 1952 fewer than 5 per cent of age cohorts attended university; in 2016 the proportion was nearly fifty per cent.

1.3 In 1952 the UK was a very different place. It was still recovering from World War II 1939-45. Bomb sites continued to lurk in major cities. Food rationing had been reduced but not yet abolished. The need to carry wartime identity cards was not repealed until 1952. The British Nationality Act 1948 continued the ability of all Commonwealth (including colonial) citizens to travel and settle in the UK free from immigration control. There was still capital punishment for murder and some other very serious offences, and male homosexual behaviour remained criminalised. All plays for public performance had to be submitted for censorship by the Lord Chamberlain, an official of the Royal Household.

1.4 Military conscription was retained in peacetime (until 1963) in a global deployment of armed forces of 863,000 men in 1952 in bases in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Mediterranean, Egypt, Cyrenaica, the Persian Gulf, Aden, Hong Kong, the West Indies and Malaya. Total UK regular armed forces in October 2017, following the latest round of cuts, were less than one fifth of the size at 147,500. The regular army (82,040 October 2017) is now smaller than the police service in England and Wales (126,000 March 2017), let alone the UK (150,000 March 2017).

1.5 Active warfare from 1950 in Korea involving UK troops continued until the armistice of July 1953. Anti-insurgency operations lasted in Malaya during 1948-60, and the Mau Mau rising in Kenya was beginning to develop from 1952. In sum, the UK in 1952 was a dowdy, still heavily militarised and war-disciplined society where mining, textiles and heavy industry dominated the economy. The consumer and the permissive societies were still some way off.

1.6 Granted the UK monarchy's constitutional association with religion, an important dimension of social change is the degree of secularisation that has continued

15 per cent in 2001. Surveys indicate that about 6 per cent of the population actually attend religious services – 1-2 per cent in the case of Anglicans - and that 49 per cent of respondents have no religious affiliation.

1.7 Other statistics underline the decline in support for the Church of England. Baptisms have gone down by over 80 per cent, and confirmations by over 90 per cent, with a decline in live birth baptisms from 672,000 in 1950 to 130,000 in 2014, and in confirmations from 142,000 to 18,000 in 2014. The number of marriages celebrated by the Church has declined from 109,000 in 1990 to 43,000 in 2016. Though not impoverished, the Church struggles to maintain the full parochial ministry it once possessed: in rural areas one vicar can serve half a dozen parishes.

1.8 In 1956 34 per cent of those surveyed thought that the Queen was 'especially chosen by God', the number declining to 30 per cent when the survey was repeated in 1960. It is unlikely that a similar number would do so now.[1] A 1992 survey, for example, found no spontaneous respondent awareness of the monarchy's religious dimension.[2]

1.9 In 1952 the UK remained at the head of a global colonial empire and sported the necessary large armed forces accordingly. Whereas India had by then become an independent republic, it remained in the association of the British Commonwealth independent countries. These included Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon, all of which were monarchies with the UK sovereign as head of state. In 2018, principally as a result of decolonisation, the Commonwealth has grown to 53 members, fifteen of which are 'realms' where the sovereign of the UK is their head of state. Unlike other surviving European monarchies, the UK monarchy is therefore still an international monarchy.

1.10 Although the UK continues to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council and is the fifth largest world economy, its relative global position has changed in a world where there were only 50 independent states in 1945 to one where now there are over 190. In addition to belonging to the permanent defence alliance of the North-Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the UK has formed other associations requiring some pooling of sovereignty, most notably from 1973 in what is now the European Union (EU) and also accepting from 1966 the full jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights.[3]

1.11 Britain is said to punch above its weight, a boast which reflects – and admits - that its global reach has declined. Because the sovereign is also head of state in fifteen Commonwealth countries, Britain may still have an international monarchy but it is no longer a truly international power. In 1952 the main threat to the nation was thermo-nuclear war with the Warsaw pact. Whilst the collapse of the Soviet Union from 1989 appeared to remove that threat, others have emerged to replace it. Nowadays the UK is compelled to manoeuvre in a more fractious world

---

[1] Harris L. M. (1966) *Long to Reign Over Us?* (London, Kimber). The exercise also found that 'The idea of religious leadership… although inherent in certain comments, was rarely raised directly and spontaneously.' p. 29.

[2] Billig M. (1992) *Talking of the Royal Family* (London, Routledge). A forty-year old survey made the same point about attitudes as a whole: 'The most important general finding in the monarchy survey is the shallowness of the British response to their Queen'. See Rose R. and Kavanagh D. (1976) 'The Monarchy in Contemporary Political Culture', *Comparative Politics,* Vol. 8, No. 4, 548-576 at p. 566.

[3] At the time of writing, it seems that the UK may exit from the EU though on what terms is unknown.

where post-imperial genies have emerged from old imperial bottles in the shapes of ethnic nationalism and state-sponsored and non-state terrorism not necessarily tied and limited to territories outside the UK. The suicide vest has appeared in the capital and Irish terrorism is not entirely defunct.

1.12

time. Women who were peeresses in their own right and all Scottish peers (as opposed to a capped number since 1706/7) were allowed to sit under the 1963 Peerage Act.

1.18 The most important change to the Lords was the abolition in 1999 of the right of hereditary peers to sit except for 90 elected by them plus two hereditary officers of state, the Earl Marshal and the Lord Great Chamberlain. This meant the political marginalisation of the hereditary peerage and contributed to a situation where the Conservative party could no longer rely on a permanent Conservative majority in the House. The still unfettered ability of Prime Ministers to recommend the creation of peers has led to a House of over 800 members and no party enjoying an overall majority. Various attempts subsequently to achieve further reform of the House have failed.

1.19 Some of these changes have had implied effects for the monarchy. For example, the political marginalisation of the peerage could be said logically to challenge the hereditary principle of monarchy itself. In practice that has not happened: democratisation seems to have led to the perception of the peerage being anomalous without collateral damage to the monarchy, which is perceived as being above the political fray and retaining useful constitutional functions. Similarly, devolution and its potential for fragmentation has underlined the monarchy's identification with the concept of the whole of the political union of the four nations.[5]

1.20 On the other hand, there have been three constitutional changes directly affecting the monarchy itself, the first two of which have diluted its remaining constitutional powers. These are its roles in selecting the prime minister and in whether to accede to requests for the dissolution of Parliament and consequent holding of fresh general elections. The first discretionary power evaporated in the mid-1960s when it became the settled practice of all political parties to select their own leaders and leave no doubt about who should become prime minister whichever party won an election. Where there was no overall winner, the Cabinet Manual of 2010 set out the rules for government formation where the responsibility for reaching agreement was a matter for the parties, the outcome to be communicated to the sovereign who was not otherwise to become involved in the process. Finally, the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011 established statutory rules for dissolution and the calling of general elections which abolished the prerogative power of dissolution and no longer require the involvement of the sovereign.

1.21 These diminutions of monarchical power have not led to a loss of the sovereign's popularity: if anything they have reinforced it by emphasising that the sovereign is clearly non-party political as the result of rules, now set out explicitly in a Cabinet Manual, which explains the sovereign's role and codifies the key constitutional conventions involving the sovereign. Nonetheless, it is also the case that the monarchy does remain the ultimate longstop in the sense of retaining authority to intervene should existing arrangements break down. This feature almost certainly has low salience in popular appreciation of the position. It does not, therefore, disturb

[5] Put in another way, the absence of political involvement can be seen one of the prerequisites of royal survival. Mulling over the results of Mass Observation surveys in 1956 and 1960, Leonard Harris concluded '…nothing is more certain than that if the monarchy is to survive…it must remain, and be seen to remain, politically inoffensive'. Harris, p. 102.

2.1 ‘Demise’ is the term used to cover the actions required following the death of a sovereign and the installation of the successor. In the past, the operations have been ultimately controlled by the Cabinet which decides on the overall level and scale of activity; since the late 1920s this has been guided by the Cabinet Office, a central government secretariat created only during World War I. A programme of events beginning with the Accession Council proclaiming the new sovereign has traditionally stretched up to the coronation and beyond, culminating in post-coronation royal tours to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and drives through the four quadrants of London. The following describes past practice and considers possible changes.[8]

2.2 Under the common law, there is no hiatus between one sovereign and another: the heir as defined by legislation immediately succeeds on the former sovereign’s death. As soon as reasonably possible within twenty-four hours of the death, an Accession Council is su41.000008872 0 595.4 841.8

2.4 Parliament is recalled for Parliamentarians to take their oaths of allegiance to the new sovereign and mourn the death of the old. Since the Demise of the Crown Act 1901 fresh oaths have not been required of others previously sworn, for example members of the judiciary and other oath-taking public offices.

2.5 The second stage starts with the Lord President leading a small deputation including the Archbishop and the most senior Cabinet members to wait by prior arrangement on the new sovereign who is then conducted to their first Privy Council meeting. This takes place in the Throne Room of the Palace and attendance is confined to members of the UK Privy Council alone.[11]

2.6 It is at this meeting that the new sovereign makes an inaugural Declaration and swears the oath to support the Church of Scotland required under the Act of Union 1707. Amongst other pieces of formal business that ensue are approving the arrangements for the lying in state and funeral of the deceased sovereign and ensuring the continuity of public business, for example by decreeing that the Great Seal of the last sovereign can remain in use until replaced. Orders are given for the Proclamation of the Accession Council to be officially cried in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, and for appropriate alterations to the royal prayers in the Church of England.

2.7 This is a non-statutory statement made by the new sovereign as first business at their first Privy Council. The accompanying Constitution Unit paper *Swearing in the New King* examines the history of the personal declaration and considers how the next one may be cast. For the purpose of the current paper it will be enough to include for background illustration the text used by the Queen in 1952:

> Your Royal Highnesses, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen:
>
> By the sudden death of my dear Father, I am called to assume the duties and responsibilities of the Sovereignty.
>
> At this time of deep sorrow, it is a profound consolation to me to be assured of the sympathy which you and all my Peoples feel towards me, to my Mother, and my Sister, and to the other members of my Family. My Father was our revered and beloved Head, as he was of the wider Family of his subjects: the grief that his loss brings is shared among us all.
>
> My heart is too full to say more to you today than that I shall always work, as my Father did throughout his Reign, to uphold constitutional government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my Peoples, spread as they are all the world over. I know that in my resolve to follow his shining example of service and devotion, I shall be inspired by the loyalty and affection of those whose Queen I have been called to be, and

11

High Commissioners (including for India, the only then independent Commonwealth country not also a realm) and various office holders like Garter and the Lord Mayor of London. The Church of England was represented by the Bishop of London in the absence of Archbishop Fisher who was indisposed at the time.[14] The Privy Council meeting on 8 February was attended by a slightly smaller number of 170 Privy Councillors alone headed by the Duke of Gloucester and thereafter reported by the *Gazette* strictly in order of rank and seniority.[15]

(i) *Regnal titles of the King and his wife*

2.12 The first decision of a new King is to choose his regnal name. Although it may be assumed that Prince Charles will choose 'Charles III' as his title, that style is not at all automatic or preordained. As already seen, Victoria's successor chose to be known as Edward VII rather than Albert despite having invariably used the latter name alone up to his accession.sed the latter

2.18 Televising the proceedings will draw attention to questions of dress. It

Hyde Park Corner for the coffin's transfer to a car for the journey to interment in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

2.22 Large crowds assemble on these occasions. They require careful management by the Metropolitan police in London and secondment of a considerable number of their officers to

3.1 Coronations do not make a sovereign, the law does.[26] What coronations are said to signify is the conferment of God's grace on the head of state and the symbolic deference of all earthly power to a higher, spiritual authority. In something like their current form, coronations in England date from that of Edgar of Wessex in 973. The sovereign is recognised, swears a three-part oath to observe the laws, temper justice with mercy and support the church. Traditions of Saxon election and Roman and Byzantine sacerdotalism are fused in a rite which includes anointing with sacred oil, being invested with the symbols of authority, receiving homage and taking communion. It is followed by a grand procession of the crowned sovereign through the capital.

diameter of which 1,285 were distributed gratis to the Queen, all peers and MPs attending, and

3.11 The coronation of 1953 followed a dowdy period of drab post-war exhaustion and slow recovery. The new sovereign was a young, not long married mother of two small children whose

planning was undertaken by the Coronation Executive Committee chaired by the Earl Marshal and generally mirroring at executive level the membership of the main committee.[38]

3.15 An innovation was the inclusion of the Commonwealth High Commissioners, then limited to a total of six, on the Coronation Executive Committee. Both in 1937 and in 1952/3 there was great concern to find ways of associating Commonwealth countries with accession arrangements

of 1953 for the main contractors – Messrs Mowlem – to erect the viewing stands, prepare the Annexe and the 'theatre'[41], and all the other sub-contractors to install lighting, broadcasting and filming equipment and so on.

3.19 The Annexe[42] was a large temporarya/F0 1e4(l)dinf ladde-6(ge t)e4(l)w[(co)rk wh(l)-6(o)se desi5(n)gn M

your power maintain the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law?" It was one of the characteristics of the Free Churches that they were not established by law. Having regard to this it would obviously be extremely difficult to include the Free Churches of England and Wales with the Church of Scotland'. The Committee took note accordingly.[47]

3.27 The upshot was that the rubric followed very closely that of 1937. The Archbishop's suggestion that the sovereign's oath make a generic reference to the Commonwealth realms rather than continue to cite them individually was rejected. Otherwise, apart from the omission of reference to India, the substitution of Northern Ireland for Ireland and the addition of mention of Pakistan and Ceylon, the oath was unchanged. As mentioned, the only other innovation was to find a place for the Moderator of the Church of Scotland to participate in the ceremony for the first time.[48] The role assigned was to present the bible to the Queen using the traditional formula of presentation, actions formerly discharged by the Archbishop himself.[49]

3.28 The most important point was that the coronation took place within the Anglican service of communion. As Archbishop Lang had pointed out in 1937,[50] this effectively excluded the participation of other Christian priests let alone – and not thought of at the time – other religions. One of the issues for the future is whether and, if so, how far the Church of England should maintain the same position for future coronations.

3.29 In the event, the ceremony in 1953 passed off very smoothly. The ring, as in Victoria's coronation, was not forced painfully on to the wrong finger; nor was the St Edward's crown placed on the sovereign's head back to front as for Edward VII. After processing out of the Abbey, the Queen took a light lunch in the Annexe in a room decorated with a tasteful borrowed landscape.

(i) At the Abbey

unions. Striving for a rational scheme, the Earl Marshall calculated that it was necessary to address no fewer than forty-two categories of eligible persons. Granted that the peerage of nearly 1,000 expected invitations to include their wives and the Commons likewise expected generous provision, by the time Privy Councillors were also accommodated there was little room for manoeuvre to fit in enhanced categories. After reducing military and civil service numbers and shaving other groups – the baronets, for example, were reduced from twenty-five to two – the ceiling of just over 8,000 places could not be sustained in a building where every square inch had been commandeered.[51]

3.31 Something had to give and a Conservative government decided that it had to be the peerage. This was achieved by the Lord Chancellor discovering/deciding that, although the peerage enjoyed a right of summons to Parliament, it enjoyed no commensurate right to be summoned to a coronation. There were then approximately 736 peers entitled to sit in the Lords within a total peerage of 936 including minors, peeresses in their own right and Irish and Scottish

3.34 In 1937 there had been considerable confusion and delay inflicted on the departure of the Abbey guests. A sub-

bands along the route which was lined throughout with the troops at thirty inch intervals. The printed operational orders for the military and the police ran into scores of pages. The

> …the most marked national transformation since the early 1950s has been Britain's slow, painful and not-yet-completed adjustment to the loss of imperial dominion and great power status; and the most marked royal transformation during the same period has been the slow, painful and yet-to-be-completed adjustment from being an imperial monarchy and great-power throne to something necessarily less and necessarily different.[73]

[73] Cannadine D. (2008) *Making History Now and Then,* pp. 56-7.

The author went on to argue that disestablishment would remove the restrictions on the

> size of the Abbey) and a congregation closer to that of the recent Royal Wedding (c. 2000 people) seems appropriate. (Report, p. 56)

4.13 Before leaving this discussion, it should be borne in mind that, with the exception of the voice from the established Church of Scotland, the voices recorded above are largely Anglican and all English. Nonconformist churchmen, and especially non-English nonconformists, see things differently. Pointing out that in 1953 the Church of England 'appeared simply to take the service, the occasion and its own part in it, entirely for granted', Daniel Jenkins[87] went on to argue that

> Many people in the world suspect, and some believe, that the Church of England is little more than a thinly-disguised adaptation and distortion of the Christian faith to serve the purpose of English nationalism, and English nationalism at its most self-satisfied, uncritical and sanctimonious.[88]

Arguably, greater Anglican sensitivity to this dimension would seem desirable on the next occasion especially considering, at present, how English nationalism has become more prominent.

Parliamentary acclamation/homage in St Margaret's Westminster, with a final return to Westminster Hall for an inter-faith inauguration.[95]

4.19 A Scottish observer preferred a Westminster Hall event *after*

participation in the ceremony other than as one of the spectators draws attention to whether a ceremony outside the Abbey should include some distinct Parliamentary dimension, the thought behind the rejected suggestion made at a late stage of coronation planning in 1953 that the Speaker should perform homage as representative of the common man. Such an occasion would now, of course, need to find a place not only for the Commons Speaker but for the Lords Speaker too.

4.23 There would be, of course, questions of timing as well as purpose, attendance and procedure.[100] The object would not be to compete with, still less to upstage, the coronation – for example, by holding the new ceremony – as the *Round Table* had suggested - close to the coronation. The venture would not challenge the reported plans of the new king to visit the devolved legislatures' capitals but, rather, build on that initiative. An imaginative design could

5.1 Bearing in mind how a changed Britain wishes to present itself to the world, it will be for the Cabinet of the day in the circumstances of the day to determine the arrangements for the inaugural celebrations. Contingency planning for the accession needs to be agreed in advance, because the first accession ceremonies take place on the day immediately after demise.

5.2 At the time of writing, following are the cardinal considerations that this study brings to mind –

- The accession ceremonies should be opened to media coverage and used by the new King to set the tone for the new reign. He will announce his regnal title, and how his spouse should be styled. The first is a personal choice; the second a matter on which he, and the government of the day, may think it prudent he should take advice.
- In retrospect the 1953 coronation falls to be understood as the last imperial hurrah. The UK is no longer a global or a colonial power. Celebration will therefore need to reflect what the UK has become rather than what it once was.
- This has implications for both the scale of the coronation and, above all, its style:
    - ü *Scale* – lavish route-lining, exclusive use of horses, length of processional routes, extent of street decorations, the size and composition of the Abbey congregation, the length of the service and its feudal and eucharistic elements all require radical

2 Short title.

This Act may be cited as the Accession Declaration Act 1910.

SCHEDULE

I [*here insert the name of the Sovereign*] do solemnly and sincerely in the presence of God profess, testify, and declare that I am a faithful Protestant, and that I will, according to the true intent of the enactments which secure the Protestant succession to the Throne of my Realm, uphold and maintain the said enactments to the best of my powers according to law.

1688 c. 6 1 Will and Mar)

An Act for Establishing the Coronation Oath.

Whereas by the Law and Ancient Usage of this Realme the Kings and Queens thereof have taken a Solemne Oath upon the Evangelists at Their respective Coronations to maintaine the Statutes Laws and Customs of the said Realme and all the People and Inhabitants thereof in their Spirituall and Civill Rights and Properties But forasmuch as the Oath itselfe on such Occasion Administred hath heretofore beene framed in doubtfull Words and Expressions with relation to ancient Laws and Constitutions at this time unknowne To the end therefore that One Uniforme Oath may be in all Times to come taken by the Kings and Queens of this Realme and to Them respectively Adminstred at the times of Their and every of Their Coronation.

II Oath hereafter mentioned to be adminstered, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, &c.

May it please Your Majesties That the Oath herein Mentioned and hereafter Expressed shall and may be Adminstred to their most Excellent Majestyes King William and Queene Mary (whome God long preserve) at the time of Their Coronation in the presence of all Persons that shall be then and there present at the Solemnizeing thereof by the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Archbishop of Yorke or either of them or any other Bishop of this Realme whome the King's Majesty shall thereunto appoint and who shall be hereby thereunto respectively Authorized which Oath followeth and shall be Administred in this Manner That is to say,

III Form of Oath and Administration thereof.

The Arch-Bishop or Bishop shall say,

Will You solemnely Promise and Sweare to Governe the People of this Kingdome of England and the Dominions thereto belonging according to the Statutes in Parlyament Agreed on and the Laws and Customs of the same?

The King and Queene shall say,

I solemnly Promise soe to doe.

Arch Bishop or Bishop,

Will You to Your power cause Law and Justice in Mercy to be Executed in all Your Judgements?

King and Queene,

I will.

Arch Bishop or Bishop.

Will You to the utmost of Your power Maintaine the Laws of God the true Profession of the Gospell and the Protestant Reformed Religion Established by Law? And will You Preserve unto the Bishops and Clergy of this Realme and to the Churches committed to their Charge all such Rights and Priviledges as by Law doe or shall appertaine unto them or any of them.

King and Queene.

All this I Promise to doe.

After this the King and Queene laying His and Her Hand upon the Holy Gospells, shall say,

King and Queene

The things which I have here before promised I will performe and Keepe Soe help me God.

Then the King and Queene shall kisse the Booke.

IVOath to be adminstered to all future Kings and Queens.

And the said Oath shall be in like manner Adminstred to every King or Queene who shall Succeede to the Imperiall Crowne of this Realme at their respective Coronations by one of the Archbishops or Bishops of this Realme of England for the time being to be thereunto appointed by such King or Queene respectively and in the Presence of all Persons that shall be Attending Assisting or otherwise present at such their respective Coronations Any Law Statute or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

(Source: legislation.gov.uk accessed 21 March 2017.)

As administered to Elizabeth II in 1953, it was as follows:

> Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the Peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon, and of your Possessions and the other Territories to any of them belonging or pertaining, according to their respective laws and customs?
>
> *I solemnly promise so to do.*
>
> Will you to your power cause Law and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all your judgements?
>
> *I will*
>
> Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law? Will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England? And will you preserve unto the Bishops and Clergy of England, and to the Churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?

All this I promise to do.

An Act to provide for an alteration of the Royal Style and Titles.

[26th March 1953]

Whereas it is expedient that the style and titles at present appertaining to the Crown should be altered so as to reflect more clearly the existing constitutional relations of the members of the Commonwealth to one another and their recognition of the Crown as the symbol of their free association and of the Sovereign as the Head of the Commonwealth:

And whereas it was agreed between representatives of Her Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon assembled in London in the Month of December, nineteen hundred and fifty-two, that there is need for an alteration thereof which, whilst permitting of the use in relation to each of those countries of a form suiting its particular circumstances, would retain a substantial element common to all:

1 Power to alter the style and titles of the Crown.

The assent of the Parliament of the United Kingdom is hereby given to the adoption by Her Majesty, for use in relation to the United Kingdom and all other the territories for whose foreign relations Her Government in the United Kingdom is responsible, of such style and titles as Her Majesty may think fit having regard to the said agreement, in lieu of the style and titles at present appertaining to the Crown, and to the issue by Her for that purpose of Her Royal Proclamation under the Great Seal of the Realm.

2 Short Title.

This Act may be cited as the Royal Titles Act 1953.

WHEREAS there has been passed in the present Session of Parliament the Royal Titles Act, 1953 [1 & 2