

housewife envied the Indian delegate (Dewar Bahadur Rangachariar). The turban wound around his head was of a creamy tone, and had a border of gold. The only women who had any real part in this ceremonial of dress was Lady Chauvel (Deputy Commissioner of the Girl Guides of Victoria), and representing Australia at the opening of Parliament. Only a woman whose wholehearted support and belief was in a movement could have given up such an opportunity to wear magnificent clothes, and Lady Chauvel's slim figure showed to advantage in navy blue uniform. Many women present had had associations with the beginning of Federation. Lady Barton, widow of the first Prime Minister, was with Lady Chapman, widow of Sir Austin Chapman (the "Father of Canberra"). They were in black. Facing them were the widows of two former Prime Ministers—Lady Reid and Mrs. Alfred Deakin. With them were Dr. Cattaneo—in his ecclesiastical purple—and Dame Nellie Melba. These three women, who were at one time the power behind the throne, were given seats of honour.

The entry of the Duke and Duchess into the Senate Chamber was preceded by the Governors of the States and their wives. The Duchess seemed much frailer than when she arrived in Australia. She seemed too weary even to hold a bouquet of roses presented to her, and rather bewildered at the pomp and ceremony of it all. She appeared glad when the Duke signalled with his eyes to the Governor-General that they might sit down. The Duke transferred the message also with his eyes to the Duchess, and they sat while the Clerk of the Senate opened an imposing red leather box containing two sheets of crackling parchment, and read the proclamation.

#### IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

The outer stands in front of Parliament House were long ago given the title of "the family circle." Yesterday they earned it. Sable coats rubbed shoulders with the humble "bunny end." Tall silk hats were given an unwanted tilt by the brandishing of many well-worn felts raised in vociferous cheering. There was no attempt at smart dressing in the family circle, and nothing official in the allocation of the seats. Yet, in many ways it was the most interesting stand of all. As one old man expressed it, when speaking of those sitting around him, "We're the coves who put these chaps up there." And some of the "coves," both men and women, had toil-worn hands. They were the pioneers of the district, representing two or more generations, who are building up the great capital of our country.

There were others as well—important units in the administrative machinery. There were nurses—military and otherwise—sailors and soldiers, boys and girls, babies and feeding bottles, and a stray pup or two.

The attitude of the crowd was reverent. There was no semblance of holiday mood during the ceremony. A few futile attempts were made to introduce the carnival spirit by girls, who brought bright-coloured balloons, ticklers, and kewpies on sticks, but they quickly realized that such things struck a discordant note, and they were surreptitiously put under seats, to the delight of children, who watched them eagerly and

as they drove up to Parliament House steps. The cheers were swelled a few minutes later, when the lances of the Light Horse escort, tossing away down the martial tributary, told that the royal pair were approaching. The plaudits were drowned in the thrumming of 21 aeroplanes circling aloft. Whirling and wheeling with the sun flashing on their wings, their shadows flickering to and fro over the assemblage, they made a deep bass for the music of the bands, and the singing during the opening ceremony. Bluish puffs of smoke from the first battery of the R.A.F.A. arose, and the crash of the guns added a still deeper and more warlike note to the chorus.

#### The Duchess Delighted.

Facing the vast and brilliant assemblage, the Duke and Duchess could not repress the delight which the scene afforded them. Beyond the great colourful picture immediately round them, beyond the vast sea of faces and the pretty bungalows scattered about the brand new suburbs extending right out to the foothills. The Duke and Duchess looked out upon the fair setting which benign Nature had provided for the world's youngest capital, and which will live for all time, while the brilliant glitter and pomp of to-day's ceremony will quickly become a thing of only transient splendour. The Duke and Duchess looked out upon the ; at ragged ranges sloping gradually to the plains, and behind them, standing out like majestic sentinels keeping watch over this new-born city, other mountainous peaks. Still further beyond, veiled in the mist and in great masses of snow-white clouds they saw dark-blue ridges and peaks away in the illimitable distance.

"What a charming picture it is," said the Duchess as she turned aside to another of the distinguished visitors.

"In the years to come," she added, "I will fill in mentally this wonderful picture of Nature with the great city that is to arise here."

The Duke and Duchess were a little surprised to learn that the great undulating plains, flushed with golden sunshine and bright with the well-modelled buildings of a big city in the making, were peopled only a few years back largely by sheep browsing peacefully about, and were clothed with a deep and dreamy silence which they will never know again.

#### A Royal Salute.

Echoing cheers and a thunderous royal salute of 21 guns by the 1st Battery of the R.A.F.A. crashed out as the Duke and Duchess in the State carriage drawn by four horses, and with an imposing mounted escort, reached Brisbane avenue, the salute only dying away as they arrived at Parliament House, ablaze with flags, and took their places to the accompaniment of a fanfare of bugles amid the brilliant scene on the richly carpeted and gaily dressed dais at the door of the great white building suggestive of the splendour of stately Moorish architecture.

Overhead was the aerial escort in strikingly impressive formation. Dominating the brilliant pageantry were the three great arms of the nation's defence assembled from every part of the continent to help to make the historic picture and stir deeply a vast assemblage under the spell of a profoundly historic occasion. Lining the beflagged route to the House were

your presence with us. His Majesty the King is the visible symbol of our unity. He is the centre of all our loyalties. That he should associate himself with his Australian subjects in this historic ceremony by commissioning Your Royal Highness to represent him is a source of deep satisfaction to us all. We ask you to convey to His Majesty our devoted homage, and an assurance of our loyalty and affection to his throne and person.

Twenty-six years have passed since the King was pleased to inaugurate the first Parliament of the Commonwealth. In those days our national aspirations were vague and almost undefined. Full of high hope and brave endeavour we were launching on an uncharted sea. We have emerged with a definite national consciousness. We have evolved great policies, which are so embedded in the soul of the nation that they not only govern our lives to-day but point the course which we, and future generations, must inevitably follow.

We have played our part in war, and proved ourselves worthy to endure. The sacrifices, sufferings, and untold trials of those who went, and those who waited have bound us inseparably together. Within this period of little more than a century, a nation has been born.

With humility in our hearts we render thanks to Divine Providence for all that we have done and are. We remember with gratitude the fostering care of the mother country, and the protection we have enjoyed under the British flag.

To-day it is our solemn duty to reaffirm our faith in our country, and our devotion to the Crown and Empire. Great though our progress has been, Australia is but on the threshold of achievement. In the future, millions of the British race will people this land. In numbers surpassing the motherland, standing resolutely for those principles of freedom and justice upon which the Empire is based, who can foretell how great may be the part our nation will play in the years to come.

To-day we look back and review our faith by remembering what has been achieved. Thus we will strengthen ourselves for the greater accomplishment that lies before us. Within these portals will be framed those laws which will mould the destiny of a people. May those who enter this open door govern with justice, reason, and equal favour to all. May they do so in humility and without self-interest. May they think and act nationally. May they speak with the voice of those who sent them here—the voice of the people.

Inspired by those who have gone before us, let us dedicate ourselves to service, and march forward to our destiny with firm purpose, and high resolve.

Prior to opening the door the Duke said:—We are gathered here this morning to open the first meeting of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in a new capital city, and I should like, if I may, to try to give an expression to some of the thoughts that come to me at this historic moment.

It is impossible not to be moved by the significance of to-day's events as a great landmark in the history of Australia. I say this not only because this day sees the opening of a new Parliament House, and marks the inauguration of a new capital city—but more because one feels the stir-

rings of a new birth of quickened national activity, of a fuller consciousness of your destiny as one of the great self-governing units of the British Empire. It seems peculiarly fitting that the inauguration of your new capital should come so soon after the Imperial Conference, with its recognition of the growth to full nationhood of the members of the British Commonwealth.

To-day marks the end of an epoch and the beginning of another, and one's thoughts turn instinctively to what the future may have in store. One's own life would hardly be worth living without its dreams of better things, and the life of a nation without such dreams of a better and a larger future would be poor indeed. Standing and looking out over the beautiful site that has been chosen for the Federal Capital, I think of those men who worked for a Federated Australia, and whose aim was realized when my father opened the first Federal Parliament in 1901. We are now building on the foundations which they laid.

I think we should all have in our hearts one other vision. On Anzac Day we commemorated those gallant men and women who laid down their lives in the war. Though they have passed into the Great Beyond, they are still speaking to those who choose to listen. And if Australia listens to the voices of the noble army of the dead, and if the great army of those living, and those yet unborn, is determined to march in step with them towards the ideals for which they died, then the glorious destiny of this country will be assured for all time.

#### HIS MAJESTY'S MESSAGE.

The Duke ended his speech by announcing that it afforded him much pleasure to convey from His Majesty the King the following message, which arrived yesterday:—

"Our thoughts are with you on this day of happy memory for myself and the Queen. On this occasion of signal importance in the history of Australia I ask you to assure the people of the Commonwealth of my heartfelt wishes for their continued happiness and progress. I share their pride in the new capital city, and join in their prayers for its successful future."

#### DEDICATION SERVICE.

The impressive service to mark the dedication opened with the hymn "O God, our help," and included a special prayer by the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church (Right Rev. R. Scott West). This stated:—"We dedicate this house to Thy glory and to the service of the people that, like a city set on a hill, it may radiate light and guidance throughout the years. Bless our Commonwealth with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Bestow upon all the spirit of service, love, and mutual forbearance." The blessing was pronounced by the Acting Primate, Archbishop Riley, of Perth. Among others taking part in the service was the President-General of the Methodist Church (Rev. J. G. When).

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