

Monarchy **Matters**

South Saskatchewan Branch
Monarchist League of Canada

March, 2018

South Saskatchewan Branch Monarchist League of Canada

Annual General Meeting

Friday, April 6, 2018, - 7:00 p.m.

Guide Hall, Broadway Ave., Regina.

General Business Meeting, followed by a social time.

All interested people are welcome.

Come and see what the South Saskatchewan Branch of the Monarchist League is doing, and to share your ideas for future activities.

Any nominations for the Board of Directors or executive positions should be given to Scott Hazelwood (306-525-6608) by April 5.

Informal meeting of the Board

The Board of Directors had an informal gathering at Government House on January 27. While a conference call with a speaker phone with Tom Richards, the Western Canada representative did not happen, the board members at the gathering had a good discussion on several items.

Queen's Birthday Luncheon

Saturday, May 12, 2018 – 12:00 noon
Travelodge South Hotel
South Albert, Regina
Carlton/Cambridge Room

Speaker – Gaye Beechy, U.E.
Past President, United Empire Loyalists in Regina

Special Guest – His Honour, Thomas Molloy, Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan

Tickets - \$30.00

For information or to purchase your ticket, phone Valeria Cade, 306-545-9890.

Deadline for buying tickets – May 4.

There will be no tickets sold at the door.

All interested people are welcome. Plan to come and bring a friend.

Regular meeting of the Board

The Board of Directors held a regular meeting on March 23 to plan for future activities of the branch. These included events of this spring and in October.

Tour of Government House

Several members of the Monarchist League took a tour of Government House on October 21, 2017. Following the tour most of the group met at the Vintage Tea Room for tea and a social time. Several others joined them for tea. All present had a pleasant social afternoon.

Government House was originally built in 1891 to be the residence of the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territories. When Saskatchewan became a province in 1905 with Regina as the capital of the province, Government House became the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan.

Government House now is a National Heritage Property and has the working office of the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan. The residence showcases life in the first years of the province. It also shows Saskatchewan's history and the province's association with the Crown. A tour of Government House will help one to gain a greater understanding of the Lieutenant-Governor's constitutional role in society and the daily activities of his position. Government House also is the scene for various social and official functions. The Government House complex also includes the Visitor's Centre, the Queen Elizabeth Art Gallery, the Edwardian Gardens, and the Sylvia Fedoruk Conservatory.

Honouring the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip

On November 20, 2017 two members of the Board of the South Saskatchewan Branch joined two members of the Regina Bell Ringers for ringing the bells at Knox Metropolitan Church in Regina in honour of the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Queen

Elizabeth and Prince Philip. The bell ringers played the Royal Anthem and several hymn tunes, including Crimond which had been especially requested by Princess Elizabeth to be used at her wedding.

A time for action

Monarchist League members should note a front-page article in the last issue of Canadian Monarchist News relating to the matter of Prince Charles being named Head of the Commonwealth when he becomes the King. The article summarizes the problems that would come if the Head of the Commonwealth was an elected individual and shows how suitable Prince Charles would be as the Head of the Commonwealth. Monarchist League members are encouraged to write the Prime Minister before the coming meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government beginning on April 16.

Your letter should state clearly, in your own words, why you feel Prince Charles should be named Head of the Commonwealth when he becomes the King. Keep your letter concise, and briefly outline some reasons for your position. Information relating to this will be available at the branch's annual meeting on April 6.

State Visit of the King and Queen of Belgium

King Philippe and Queen Mathilde made a state visit to Canada. There were a number of welcoming ceremonies, a carriage-ride, a sampling of Maple syrup treats, and a state dinner hosted by Governor-General Julie Payette at Rideau Hall. The week-long visit also included Toronto and Montreal. This was the first state visit of the Belgian monarch in forty years.

Royal Weddings

At this time weddings of members of the Royal Family are receiving special attention. The main reason is two of the Queen's grandchildren are getting married this year. Thus this is a good time to look at both the coming weddings and some royal weddings and marriages of the past.

Wedding of Prince Henry and Meghan Markle

Preparations for the wedding of Prince Henry and Meghan Markle are progressing. The couple had been seen together at such occasions as the Invictus Games at which time there was considerable speculation of a coming engagement. Since the announcement of their coming marriage, the couple have carried out a number of royal engagements together and were enthusiastically received. Meghan joined the Royal Family for Christmas at which time she started developing a friendship with the Duchess of Cambridge. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Harry, and Meghan were photographed together, and people are starting to refer to the four as the, "Fab Four." The wedding will take place at the St. George's Chapel at Windsor on May 19, and will include a carriage procession, reception at the St. George's Hall for guests, and a private reception for close friends and family that evening.

Wedding of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank

The engagement of Princess Eugenie, the younger daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, and Jack Brooksbank was announced early in 2018. Their wedding will take place on October 12, 2018, at the St.

George's Chapel at Windsor. The couple first met in 2010, and have been dating ever since. Like her sister, Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie has had to make her own way. Both are successful business women. However they do support a number of charities and do share some of the royal work with the family. Jack Brooksbank is making a successful career in the hospitality industry. St. George's Chapel was chosen as the site of their wedding because it gives a good balance between the private and the public which is important for modern royal life.

Some Royal Weddings of the Past

Royal weddings have been regarded as matters of importance throughout history. However the importance generally was centered on public policies rather than personal feelings of those being married. For centuries marriages were arranged to unite families, strengthen alliances between countries, or to confirm treaties. While it was hoped the couple would get along, no one ever considered whether the two were in love; often they hardly knew each other before their wedding day. However many of those marriages did work, and often the couple did develop emotional bonds. Now public or family policies generally are not considered, with the focus being on the personal relationship of the couple getting married.

Also, partly because of changes of royal policies, and partly because of the influence of the media some royal weddings are very public. Royal weddings generally create public interest and attention, and in previous centuries were the occasion of public celebrations. However the weddings themselves often were carried out at chapels of one of the royal palaces.

Victoria and Albert

This famous marriage was assisted by Leopold, brother of Victoria's mother. His brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, had two sons, one of whom, Albert, received an excellent education as if he was being prepared to marry Victoria. Leopold brought about a meeting between Albert and Victoria close to when she turned 18 years of age. Victoria was favorably impressed. After Victoria became Queen, Leopold had Albert come to Windsor at which time she formed a real feeling for him, which feeling was returned. Victoria and Albert were married, as Leopold had intended that they should, February 10, 1840, at the Royal Chapel in St. James Palace.

George V and Queen Mary

The marriage of George and Mary of Teck was originally a matter of family duty, but the couple did fall in love with each other. Princess Mary of Teck's mother was a granddaughter of George III, but her father was descended from the marriage of a high-born member of the Austrian court with a lady beneath his station. Thus Mary knew that her marriage would likely be arranged in part, but that her prospects were not high. Queen Victoria had other ideas. She was searching for a suitable bride for the older son of the Prince of Wales who had various weaknesses and moral failings. Queen Victoria was impressed with Mary's character and worked to bring about an engagement between her and "Prince Eddie." However the prince died of pneumonia before they were married. Thus the younger brother, George, assumed Eddie's place as successor to the Prince of Wales and was created the Duke of York. Encouraged by the family he and Princess Mary were married in the Chapel of St.

James Palace on July 6, 1893. One of the royal guests at the wedding was George's cousin, Nicholas of Russia. The two looked so much alike they could have been identical twins. Courtiers often confused the two, with Nicholas being urged not to be late for his wedding, and George being asked if he was representing the Russian Crown. George and Mary had a very happy marriage and shared a deep bond with each other.

George VI and Queen Elizabeth

By the time George VI and Elizabeth were married, the emphasis was moving from being married for public duty to reasons of personal relationships. George, known as Bertie in the family, was first introduced to Lady Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, by Princess Mary, Bertie's sister when she and Elizabeth were actively involved with Girl Guiding. Bertie made up his mind that Lady Elizabeth was the one he wanted to marry. His father, King George V, approved his choice, but commented, "you will be a lucky fellow if she accepts you." It took Bertie some time and one or two proposals before Elizabeth accepted, but Bertie's persistence won her over. She had a deep feeling for Bertie, but wanted to be sure about entering royal life. The Wedding took place on April 26, 1923 at Westminster Abby. Royal weddings now were much more public occasions. Just at the start of the bridal procession, Elizabeth spontaneously laid her bouquet on the tomb of the unknown soldier and went through the wedding without it. The reception included an eight-course "wedding breakfast" which included the cutting of a nine-foot high wedding cake. George V conferred upon Elizabeth the dignity of a princess during the breakfast. Large crowds cheered the couple cheered the popular royal couple. Weddings now were much more public events.