

Mr. Stagg.

THE ROYAL MAUNDY

Because of the Coronation preparations in Westminster Abbey the Queen has agreed that the Royal Maundy gifts shall be distributed in St. Paul's Cathedral next year, on April 2, for the first time since the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. A revised illustrated history of the ancient ceremony has been prepared by the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Almonry for sale at 2s 6d, post free, on behalf of King George's Jubilee Trust. Applications for the book, with postal order, should be sent to Mr. E. E. Ratcliffe, 7, Queen Anne's-gate, Westminster, S.W.1.

Graving.

D. Tel.

9/9/52



The
**COURT
NEWS**

THE QUEEN is to visit the City on April 2, when she goes to St. Paul's to distribute the Royal Maundy at the traditional Maundy Service.

This will be the first time for 16 years that the service has been held at St. Paul's. Normally it takes place at Westminster Abbey, but in Coronation years when the Abbey is closed it is transferred to the Cathedral, where King George VI distributed the Maundy in 1937.

At this service, which dates back to the days when Sovereigns washed the feet of the poor in commemoration of Christ's washing of the Apostles' feet, "as many old men and as many old women as the Sovereign has years of age" receive gifts of money in lieu of the ancient gifts of food and clothing. They also get as many pence as the Sovereign has years of age in the specially minted silver Maundy pieces — silver pence, twopences, threepences and groats.

The Queen's birthday is on April 21, when she will be 27, so this year there will be 27 men and 27 women recipients, each receiving 2s. 4d. in the silver pence.



So far it has not been decided whether the Queen, who will be accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, shall be received in State by the Lord Mayor when she enters the City at Temple Bar or on the Embankment. King George was received in 1937 by the then Lord Mayor, who handed him the Pearl Sword in token of the City's fealty.

After the service the Queen and the Duke are expected to drive to Windsor Castle, where instructions have been received to prepare the Royal apartments for them. The Queen will be in residence at the Castle until the end of April, during which time she will fulfil a number of important engagements.

E. News.
19/2/53.

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1.29 P M THE QUEEN DISTRIBUTES MAUNDY MONEY.

THE QUEEN, MAKING A ROYAL ACT OF HUMILITY, CENTURIES OLD, DISTRIBUTED THE ROYAL MAUNDY TO AGE MEN AND WOMEN IN ST PAULS CATHEDRAL THIS MORNING. TOGETHER WITH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH SHE CARRIED POSIES OF SWEET SMELLING HERBS AS THEY WALKED IN PRO-CESSION DOWN THE CENTRAL AISLE TO THEIR PLACES IN THE CHOIR

TWICE, THE QUEEN WENT DOWN THE LINES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN STANDING IN THE AISLE UNDER THE GREAT DOME TO HAND EACH HER EASTER TIDE ALMS.

THE QUEEN WAS DRESSED IN MOURNING FOR QUEEN MARY. SHE WORE A BLACK COAT AND SMALL BLACK HAT WITH A HALF VEIL. AT THE SHOULDER OF THE COAT WAS A DIAMOND BROOCH, HER ONLY JEWELLERY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SPECIALLY MINTED SILVER MAUNDY PENCE BORE THE QUEEN'S HEAD. LAST YEAR AT THIS ANNUAL SERVICE, WHICH FELL JUST AFTER THE DEATH OF HER FATHER, THE MAUNDY MONEY STILL CARRIED THE HEAD OF KING GEORGE THE SIXTH

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1.39PM.

ADD THE QUEEN

BEING IN THE QUEEN'S 27TH YEAR, 27 OLD MEN AND THE SAME NUMBER OF OLD WOMEN THIS YEAR RECEIVED THE SILVER PENCE. AGE AND ILLNESS PREVENTED FIVE OF THEM FROM ATTENDING THIS MORNING'S SERVICE, CUSTOMARILY HELD ON THE THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY. BECAUSE OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CORONATION, THE ABBEY COULD NOT BE USED TODAY.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON, DR. WAND, THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF ST PAULS, RECEIVED THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE AT THE GREAT WEST DOOR OF THE CATHEDRAL.

WITH THE CHORISTERS OF THE CHAPELS ROYAL SINGING "ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL", THEY WALKED IN PROCESSION DOWN THE AISLE. THEN FOLLOWED THE PROCESSION OF THE ROYAL ALMONRY, WITH A YEOMAN OF THE GUARD CARRYING THE GREAT SILVER MAUNDY DISH, DATING BACK TO THE DAYS OF CHARLES THE SECOND, ON WHICH WERE THE ROYAL ALMS IN TUDOR STYLE PURSES TIED WITH LONG LEATHER THONGS.

THE LORD MAYOR AND SHERIFFS, AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY CORPORATION, WERE PRESENT AT THE SERVICE.

YEOMEN OF THE GUARD, WITH THEIR EIGHT FEET LONG HALBERDS STOOD ON DUTY AT POINTS THROUGH THE CATHEDRAL - BY THE PULPIT AND LECTERN AND DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE AISLE. BY THE RAILS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHOIR WERE THE CHILDREN OF THE ROYAL ALMONRY, TWO BOYS AND TWO YOUNG GIRLS, CARRYING POSIES.

THE CHORAL SERVICE HAD CONTINUED FOR HALF AN HOUR WHEN THE QUEEN, ACCOMPANIED BY THE LORD HIGH ALMONER, THE BISHOP OF ST ALBANS (DR GRESFORD JONES), CAME DOWN FROM HER PLACE NEAR THE ALTAR TO

MAKE THE FIRST DISTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE WAITING UNDER THE GREAT DOME.

THERE WERE GREEN PURSES CONTAINING AN ALLOWANCE OF £1-15 FOR EACH WOMAN, AND WHITE PURSES CONTAINING £2-5 FOR EACH MAN. THIS WAS IN LIEU OF CLOTHING.

1.48 PM.

ADD THE QUEEN

THE SECOND DISTRIBUTION WAS MADE TEN MINUTES LATER. THIS TIME THERE WAS, FOR EACH MAN AND WOMAN, A RED PURSE, CONTAINING £1, REPRESENTING PART OF THE MAUNDY, AND 30/- IN LIEU OF PROVISIONS. EACH RECEIVED ALSO A WHITE PURSE CONTAINING THE SPECIAL SILVER MAUNDY PENNIES, TUPPENCES, THREEPENCES, AND FOURPENCES, AS MANY PENCE AS THE QUEEN IS YEARS OF AGE.

TOWARDS THE END THERE WAS A PRAYER, THE OPENING WORDS OF WHICH RAN: " WE THANK THEE, OH LORD, AND PRAISE THY NAME, THAT THOU HAST NOT ONLY BESTOWED GREATNESS AND MAJESTY UPON OUR SOVEREIGN LADY, QUEEN ELIZABETH, BUT HAST GIVEN HER A HEART ALSO TO SHOW MERCY TO THE POOR AND NEEDY."