

## NEPAL CORONATION

festive

Kathmandu was in ~~hastimam~~ mood. It was Coronation Day.

King Mahendra retired to private apartments for <sup>u</sup>ablution and anointing before being crowned monarch of the Kingdom of Nepal, which lies between India and Tibet. In the

25 palace courtyard the ceremony took place. The 36-year-old King, here enthroned with Queen Laxmi, succeeded his father a year ago last March. At the precise time ordained by

the royal astrologers, 10.43, the King was first invested with a gold headband, then with the state crown, said to be worth £600,000. With a population of about 9m

65 60 Nepal is almost <sup>t size of</sup> ~~as large as~~ England and Wales. ↑ The Coronation

over, the King and Queen rode in a silver-chased howdah

68 round the palace precincts. The Earl of Scarborough, representing

~~the~~ Queen Elizabeth, shared a howdah with ministers from

Red China. Later, a procession two-miles long made its way to the royal ~~manar~~ durbar.

98 Here 200,000 did honour to the newly crowned King of Nepal.