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WEDDING MONTH OPENS

The Royal wedding day was only a short way ahead as November opened. For the Royal family, it was to be an exacting month as public engagements made their demands in addition to the wedding preparations. The King and Queen's diary began in the West Country with a visit to Plymouth. It was from this great port - nearly 400 years ago that Sir Francis Drake sailed to defeat the Spanish Armada. Today, the city of Plymouth has another bold plan - to build a new city on the ruins of the old - devastated by German bombs.

Great crowds packed the streets as the King and Queen arrived to give Royal support to the building programme. They were received by Lord Mayor Taylor.

During enemy air attacks, six thousand buildings were totally destroyed. Already, more than three thousand new houses have been built since the end of the war. Referring to the city's reconstruction programme, the King said:-

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At the site in the city centre where "Royal Parade" will cut across "Armada Way," stands the foundation stone that commemorates the start of the new city.

This memorial is the hub around which the new shopping centre will be built.

At the time of the Royal family's West Country tour, Paris saw the opening of its annual motor exhibition. Despite the virtual ban on private motoring (operating in France as well as in Britain) visitors flocked to see shiny, lavishly designed American models. France came out with a $\frac{1}{2}$ Mre Delahaye - described as the most beautiful car in the world.

Its futuristic layout will assure for it a ready market, when produced in large numbers. Another of the new cars on show, is the French Simca Six. While Foreign manufacturers came out with something different, Britain stuck to the Rolls Royce and other "Tried and Found Worthy" makes. Export figures slant the story. Last August, ten thousand British cars were sold abroad. The pre-war monthly average was just over three thousand. Now dollar starved Europe cannot afford American luxury models. With the Export target of 300,000 a year (and aided by a little imagination) British cars can make the world's market their own.

It was "Divisions" at the Royal Naval College, as the King and Queen's tour of the West Country concluded with a visit to Dartmouth.

The King was a cadet at the College before the first World War. His future son-in-law, Lieutenant Mountbatten, also graduated from here in 1939.

The Cadet's bearing demonstrated the high standard expected of the Navy. Despite the reduction in the home and overseas fleets, the College's training programme remains unaltered.

Yet the week's most colourful story came from India. In Jaipur, capital of Rajputana, it was the Dasshera Festival. Pamela Mountbatten, one of Princess Elizabeth's bridesmaids, watched the Durbar. Nearly 1000 miles away, there was fighting at Kashmir, which may lead to war between the two dominions. In Jaipur Palace yard it was a peaceful scene, as the Maharajah blessed his subjects and received the homage of his nobles.

Although the Maharajah's state now comes under the Government of India, he still exercises considerable influence.

As the month opened, it brought news of another air disaster. On the highest ridge of Hymettus, a few miles from Athens, lie the remains of a Swedish Skymaster. On a routine flight from Ankara, it crashed into the mountainside in stormy weather. The plane's 36 passengers and crew of 8 were killed instantly.

As Pathe's cameramen reached the wreckage, rescue parties came up the mountain side. Too late to help, theirs was the task of carrying the bodies down to the villages.

As on the Greek Mountainside, it was also a rainy day in Scotland, as Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Mountbatten went to Clydebank. The happiness of the Princess at being with her fiance for the occasion was evident. The event was the launching of the liner Caronia. With the wedding date now only a short time ahead, the Princess said:-

SPEECH

A 40,000 crowd packed the shipyard to offer congratulations to the Royal couple. In pouring rain, they heard the Princess launch their vessel:-

When completed this 34,000 ton liner will tour foreign countries to tell the story of the supremacy of British shipbuilding.

The Caronia is the largest liner now being built in the world. It is another contribution to Britain's merchant fleet by the workers of Clydebank. As the Princess said, it is such craftsmanship that will enable the nation to solve its problems.

As the young couple said farewell to Scotland until their return to the Highlands for their honeymoon, they heard of more wedding gifts