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CORONATION FLASHES

Handsome Coronation souvenir-pencils like this are being turned out by the thousand at a factory in London. Every child over five years of age, at school in London, will be given one by the L.C.C. next June. So that means that, with six months to go, about 4,32,000 pencils have got to be made. Cutting, drilling, polishing, the makers are hard at it to get them ready in time.

Five million separate pieces are needed to make all the pencils. Spare leads, a blue plastic body, rolled gold bands and gold-plated clips will make them worthy souvenirs of the great occasion.

At Braintree, Essex, work has begun on the rich velvet robes that Her Majesty will wear at the Coronation ceremony. From Lady Hart Dyke's farm in Kent came the raw silk which, after being dyed Royal Purple, is carefully wound by experts before the actual weaving begins. Robes for King Edward the Seventh's Coronation were woven by this firm which was founded in the 17th century. Today the ancient craft is carried on with looms that have hardly changed for centuries. In the hands of Mrs. Calver lies the skill of a lifetime.

Steadily the two twenty yard lengths of velvet are being prepared to make a robe fit for a Queen on Coronation Day.

The Coronation has gone to hat-designers heads already. Many of their creations (like this one called "Maharaja") are inspired by Elizabethan head-wear, or, as designer Otto Lucas now shows us, by the crowns and coronets worn at the Coronation service. This (appropriately) is called "Crown Jewels." It's in red velvet with a white brim.

An interested guest today is Lady Lawson. Now lovely Dexter Dawn shows us a tight-fitting purple velvet cap, which matches her coffee-coloured stole. Its name: "Fever of Love."

Mrs. Peter Thornycroft and Madame Massigli take a look at "The Princes in the Tower." That's the name of this white satin and angora coronet, decorated with pearls. Traditional designs, cunningly adapted will set the keynote for women of fashion in Coronation year.