

59/64.

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD:

Carnarvon Castle, built by Edward the First 700 years ago, was to make a noble setting for the Royal National Eisteddfod; and Wales takes pride in the fact that centuries before there was a castle there, Welsh song and poetry already existed. So the ceremonial harks back to the days of the Druids, when outside the Welsh border culture was rare indeed. The Gorsedd of Bards saw the Horn of Plenty borne to the Arch Druid. It showed how splendidly the country's traditions have survived through the ages.

Now came the procession to the pavilion on the Eisteddfod Ground, for the keenly awaited ceremony of Crowning the Bard. The honour went to the writer of a long poem in free metre on the subject of Chains. Tom Huws was the judges' choice, his poem lauding the now vanishing society of slate quarrymen. Tom Huws is such a fervent upholder of the Welsh language that he opposes even a royal visit to next year's Eisteddfod, but for the moment his triumph as the crowned bard was all that mattered.