

Opposite

Executives of the Canadian Club and the two future Kings of the United Kingdom, 19 August 1927.

- 1 Unknown
- 2 Edward G. Baynes
- 3 James G. Todhunter
- 4 R. A. Simpson
- 5 W. O. Banfield
- 6 H. W. Long (Chief of Police)
- 7 W. J. Baird
- 8 J. Lukin Johnson
- 9 R. Marpole
- 10 William Harold Malkin
- 11 G. Farrell
- 12 Unknown
- 13 W. Dalton
- 14 J. J. Banfield
- 15 C. S. McHarg
- 16 Reverend P. T. Pilkey
- 17 F. F. Schooly
- 18 A. E. Foreman
- 19 J. H. Griffin
- 20 Captain Leckey
- 21 J. V. R. Dunlop
- 22 A. F. Lascelles
- 23 Louis D. Taylor, Mayor of Vancouver
- 24 Brigadier-General Victor W. Odlum
- 25 Honourable James Horace King, Federal Minister of Public Works
- 26 HRH Prince Edward (later King Edward VII)
- 27 William Carey Ditmars, President of the Canadian Club
- 28 HRH Prince George (later King George VI)
- 29 Honourable Peter Heenan, Federal Minister of Labour
- 30 F. R. McD Russell, King's Counsel
- 31 Brigadier General G.F. Trotter, Military Secretary to His Royal Highnesses

Two Future Kings

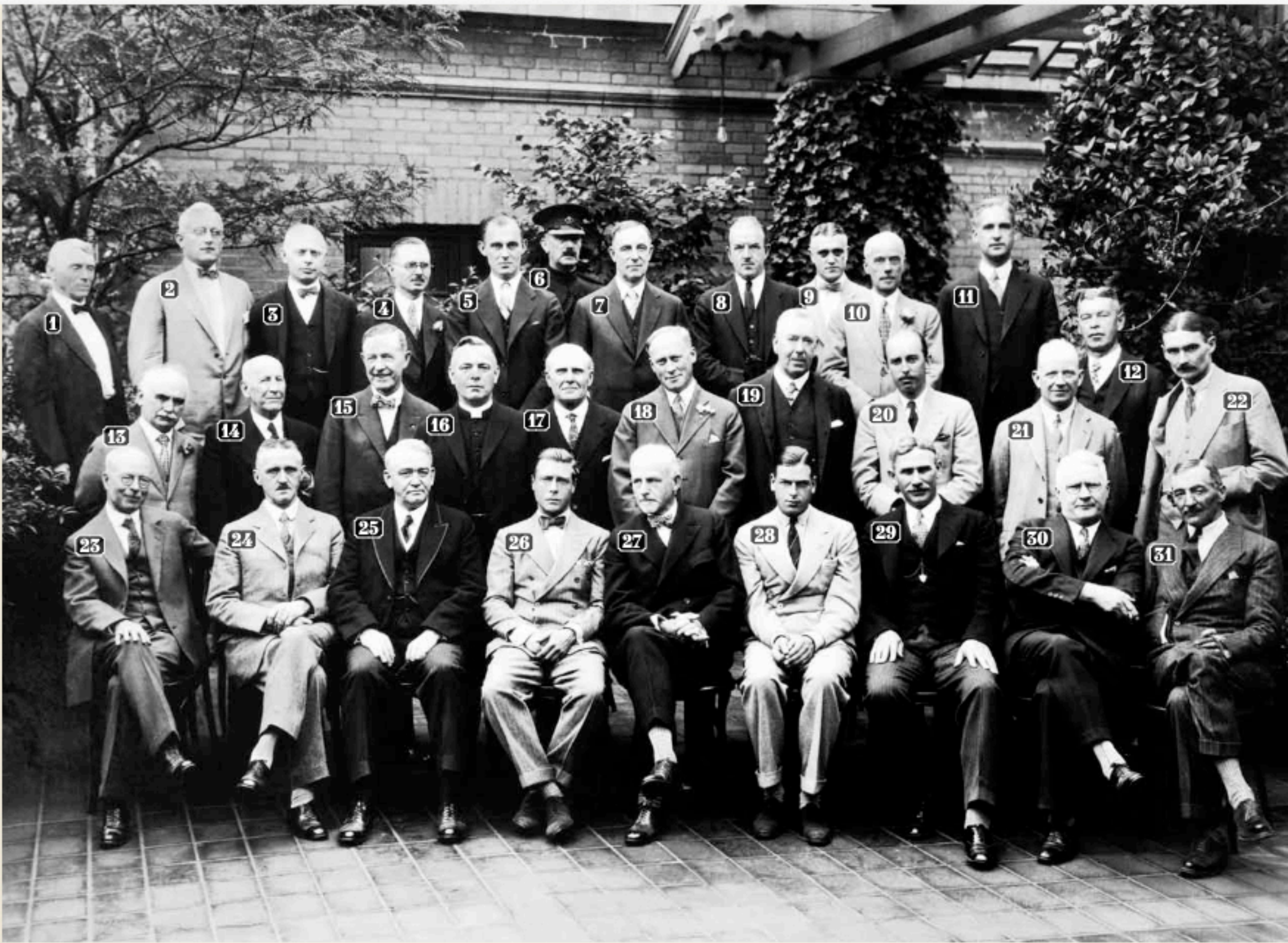
The two sons of King George V were guests in the second Hotel Vancouver. They arrived by train on 19 August 1927 to participate in the city’s celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. The Prince of Wales and his brother Prince George together with the Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister of England, had arrived in Montreal on 31 July 1927. Baldwin and the princes travelled in eastern Canada together before he sailed from Sydney, NS, on 18 August 1927 for England. The highlight for the royal brothers was very likely the time they spent at Prince Edward’s 10,000-acre ranch in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta.

The two men, 33 and 31 years old respectively, stepped off the train in Vancouver only to learn that Premier John Oliver had passed away a day earlier. Without so much as a moment to collect their thoughts, the two princes began what can only be described as a 24/7 tour of the city. The dignitaries’ first stop was at the Pacific National Exhibition, where they were given a ride on the giant roller coaster before being whisked off to a photo opportunity on the roof top of the Hotel Vancouver that was followed by a luncheon with 1,200 Canadian Club members. They afterwards took in a game of golf, visited a military hospital, and met with dignitaries—before attending a ball and dance in their honour.

An excerpt from the older brother’s short speech perhaps gave a clue to his thoughts on becoming the next King of England:

Gentlemen, as I expect you have found out, it is not a bad thing to have two strings in one’s bow. I am now in that happy position today: my second string is my young brother, who, having shared with me in our wonderful tour through Canada and in the hospitality you have shown us today, is anxious to tell you in his own words how much he has enjoyed it. I must not keep him, or you, waiting any longer.

In retrospect Prince Edward’s speech and the comments about having a second arrow in the bow could be taken as a premonition of what was to happen later. When King George V died in 1936, Prince Edward became King Edward VIII, but only briefly. He fell in love with an American divorcee, and Prime Minister Baldwin told him that for political and religious reasons he could not marry her and remain king. Edward decided to abdicate the throne to marry the love of his life. After stepping down, he was created the Duke



Scrunched between many Vancouver dignitaries, the two sons of King George V—The Prince of Wales and Prince George—are the youngest members of the group for a photo opportunity on the rooftop of the second Hotel Vancouver. Having just returned from a roller coaster ride at the Pacific National Exhibition and aware they would each be giving speeches to a large group, the two future kings appear most uncomfortable.

of Windsor and in 1938 toured Nazi Germany. During the Second World War Sir Winston Churchill, the new Prime Minister of England, aware that the Duke was a Nazi sympathizer, moved him “out of the way” to the Bahamas as its Governor.

His replacement younger brother George became King George VI and ruled during the tumultuous Second World War. Although Britain and its allies ultimately won the war, the United States and the Soviet Union began to rise as world powers and the British Empire declined, paving the way for the Cold War.