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## A Brilliant Spectacle

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### A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE.

The Trooping of the Colour on the Horse Guards Parade was an exceptionally interesting and brilliant affair. Not only was King George's Colour being trooped for the first time, but three years had passed since the ceremony was last performed. It was abandoned in 1909 on account of bad weather and in 1910 because of the mourning for King Edward.

The occasion was rendered still more noteworthy by the distinguished gathering which witnessed the spectacle. The King, the Duke of Connaught, and several Royal Princes were in the position of honour on the parade. The Queen, the Prince of Wales, Princess Mary, and Prince George, with other members of the Royal Family, occupied seats in the Levée Room at the Horse Guards and watched the scene from the windows above the central archway. The Prime Minister had a party of guests on a stand erected in the garden of his official residence. The windows of the Government offices, which form three sides of the imposing square, were filled with spectators, and a great crowd of specially invited persons stood behind the inner line of sentries. But none were more keenly interested in or more appreciative of the stately ceremony than the Dominion Premiers and other Oversea visitors who occupied a stand to the north of the central block of the Horse Guards. The Trooping of the Colour has never been performed before such a representative gathering of the Empire, and the spectacle of an ancient and picturesque ceremony performed by the best-drilled troops of the Kingdom naturally made a profound impression on the Imperial guests. The framework of the picture was completed by a great assemblage of the general public which could be seen from the

general public, which could be seen stretching far into the leafy distances of St. James's Park.

### THE TROOPS AND THE PROCESSION.

The weather was brilliantly fine, and the troops, of whom there were more than 2,000 on parade, formed in a hollow square facing east, made a brave display in the sunlight. In front of the saluting point were companies of the 2nd Scots Guards, which furnished the escort for the Colour, and of the 1st and 3rd Grenadier Guards. On the north side of the square were companies of the 3rd Grenadier Guards and of the 3rd Coldstream Guards, and opposite them were detachments of Life Guards and Horse Guards, and the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards under the direction of Lieutenant Mackenzie Rogan. The Colour, under the charge of a sergeant with double sentries, occupied its usual position on the north side of the Parade.

The troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. O. Monk (Coldstream Guards), Field Officer in Brigade Waiting, paraded at 10.30, and by that time most of the spectators had taken up their positions. A few minutes before 11 o'clock the Queen, dressed in pale mauve, arrived at the Horse Guards and drove in by the main entrance. Her Majesty was received with a Royal salute by a detachment of the 1st Life Guards, who were drawn up across Whitehall. Punctually at 11 o'clock the King's Procession, which had been formed in front of Buckingham Palace, moved slowly from the Mall into the Parade to the accompaniment of the cheers of the spectators in the Park. The Procession added the final touch of colour and variety to the scene. The King and the Duke of Connaught, who rode together, both wore the uniform of the Grenadier Guards, with the Order of the Garter. Accompanying them were Prince Arthur of Connaught and Prince Christian, and Colonel the Maharaja of Bikaner, in gorgeous costume. In attendance on the King were Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, General Lord William Seymour, General Sir W. G. Nicholson, General Sir John French, and other distinguished officers and members of the Household, whose names will be found in the Court Circular on another page. Thirteen Military Attachés of Foreign Powers formed a brilliant group and the

Powers formed a brilliant group, and the three Indian Orderly Officers also attracted much attention. Detachments of the 1st Life Guards were at the head and rear of the Procession, which made its way to the saluting point, where his Majesty received a Royal salute, while the massed bands played the National Anthem.

### THE CEREMONY.

The ceremonial programme was then begun. First came the inspection of the line. The Royal Procession made a stately progress along the whole length of the line, the bands playing a slow march and then a quick step. At one point the horse which the Duke of Connaught was riding became restive and slightly upset the balance of the Procession, but his Royal Highness soon had it under control. When the King and his splendid retinue had again taken up their positions under the shadow of the Horse Guards the ceremony of Trooping the Colour was begun. The massed bands and drums of the Brigade of Guards and the pipers of the Scots Guards moved in slow time from right to left of the line and after counter-marching returned to a quick march. Behind them the escort moved towards the Colour to the tune of "The British Grenadiers." The Colour was received with solemn ceremonial by the junior subaltern of the Guard, and it was borne back in slow time to the right of the line to the strains of "The Grenadiers' March" and "The Coburg March." This piece of military ritual, making an irresistible appeal to soldier and civilian alike, was perfectly carried out. Next came the march past, first in slow and then in quick time, the King moving slightly forward to take the salute. The bands played appropriate marches, first for the Scots Guards, then for the Grenadier Guards, and finally for the Coldstream Guards. The precision with which the various movements were effected and the fine appearance of the troops were admired on every hand, and a better display of military mechanism could not be desired. At the close of the march past the line was re-formed, and the ceremony, which had occupied about an hour, ended with the Royal salute.