

1025520
1025520
53/25
1025520
1025520

CORONATION CAMEOS

At the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths workshops in London, craftsmen are at work on the Imperial State Crown, altering it for Her Majesty for Coronation Day. Made in 1838 for Queen Victoria, the crown, when re-set, contains 2,783 diamonds and 311 other precious jewels, which only a highly skilled craftsman can re-set correctly. They are of even greater value than those in St. Edward's crown, with which the act of coronation is performed. The Imperial State Crown will be worn by the Queen on her drive through London after the ceremony.

Among the most famous jewels mounted in the crown are the magnificent second star of Africa, which is cut from the Cullinan Diamond, and (above it) the historic Black Prince's Ruby. In skilled hands a crown of history is prepared for an historic occasion. At mills in Braintree, Essex, 69-year-old Bill Beard is at work on his fourth Coronation preparing for the weaving of the Cloth of Gold which forms part of Her Majesty's Royal Vestments. A sixteen-and-a-half year old lad, Alf Fuller weaves the material of which the flat metal thread is 90% silver and 2 1/2% pure gold. In one full day Alf can produce only one yard of this precious fabric.

Mr. David Eccles, the Minister of Works, watches the manufacture of a fabric, known as the Queensway, which will adorn the balconies, and which will be used as curtaining in the Abbey. The frontal of the Royal boxes and the covering of the Regalia table will also be of this same Queensway design.

The world's widest power loom is being used to make the great Coronation carpet at a factory in Glasgow. When it is completed the carpet will measure 188 feet long by 17 feet wide. Many of those employed on it helped to weave the carpets for the last two Coronations.

Her Majesty's State Coach makes one of its rare appearances outside the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. Paintings by Cipriani, on the coach's panels are colourful tributes to the people of Britain.

/-