

2515P21

CEREMONY OF THE SWANS - - The King's  
Swan-master conducts the time-honoured ceremony of "swan  
upping" on the Thames.

-Windsor-

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Picture:-

Money will buy nearly all sorts of birds,--  
--but notswans. Here is the procession led by the--  
--King's Swan-master going to round up all the  
graceful birds for marking.

Swan-upping it's called. No less than--  
--fifty-seven are being rounded up by the boats.

It's a difficult job. First of all the--  
--parent birds have to be dealt with. They're fierce  
fighters in defence--  
--of their families, and a blow from a powerful wing--  
--is no joke. When each has had its wings tied attention  
is turned to the youngsters. Some are taken--  
--by the Crown. Those apportioned to the Dyers Company  
have--  
--their beaks marked with a single nkek, and the birds--  
--for the Vintners Company are given a pair - - couple - -  
of nkeks.

After all this fuss is over the swans--  
--are given their liberty again. And that's the only  
part of the business which pleases them at all.

Everyone who sees this unique and picturesque ceremony  
of marking the royal birds enjoys it - - well, nearly everyone !  
His luck wasn't in.

2-11-1911

At one point during the stately return procession, the carmen of the livery Company's swan master's boats rise with cars erect, until the King's Swan Master gives a signal for three cheers for His Majesty.

(EFFECTS).