

Transcribed from an unidentified Bridgwater newspaper, late June 1927

**PAGEANT.**

(Continued from pages 3 and 10.)

**THE FINAL REHEARSAL.**

**GREAT AUDIENCE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN**

There were remarkable scenes in the Pageant ground on Monday night, when the final dress rehearsal was held, and was attended by the school children of the town and district, who were admitted at a reduced fee. The youngsters packed the huge stand, and the ends of the arena reserved for spectators were also crowded, the audience probably numbering over 2,000. In addition to the children of Bridgwater and the surrounding villages, parties of scholars came by charabanc from Taunton, Langport, Ilminster, Minehead, and Street. The scene on the Bath-road was one of great animation, for in addition to the young folk, many of whom were accompanied by their parents, the road was alive with vehicles of all descriptions conveying the performers in their brilliant costumes.

The performance itself went off splendidly, and showed how well each episode had been rehearsed, everything going through without a single hitch. Through the three hours which the Pageant ran the behaviour of the children was, on the whole, excellent, although towards the end there was some restlessness, until the great final scene, in which the ship and the modern trades of Bridgwater appears. These, and the massing of the whole 1,000 performers, seemed to impress the youngsters greatly, and when the huge cross was lit up there was a spontaneous expression of wonderment. The procession to the singing of "O God, our help in ages past." was a moving scene.

Among the episodes which delighted young audience the most were the St Matthew's Fair and Sedgemoor. In the former, full of life and animation, the amusing incidents produced hearty laughter from the "kiddies," who became wildly excited at the battle scenes of Sedgemoor, especially when the Royalist troopers galloped into the arena, sending the defeated Monmouth army and the townsfolk flying in all directions. The pretty scenes in the Prologue, particularly the dancing, seemed to delight the children, and the Riots and Blake episodes were also popular, in fact, the whole performance was one which stamps the Pageant as the most magnificent spectacle which Bridgwater has ever produced.

The flags from the Bridgewaters overseas are carried in the final procession.

There was an army of journalists and Press photographers present, representing the leading London and provincial newspapers, so that the Pageant will give Bridgwater a splendid advertisement. The Pressmen were loud in their praise of the whole production.

**SPLENDID BOOKINGS.**

The bookings throughout the week of the Pageant are splendid, and given anything like reasonably fine weather a financial success is assured. At the Pageant office there has been a continual stream of people obtaining tickets, but so huge is the accommodation there are still plenty of good seats to be obtained especially for the Saturday evening performance. An early visit to the Pageant office, however, is recommended.