

21 FEB 1929.

### Dictator of Reforms Abdicates His Throne

#### King Amanullah in Contrast to King Alexander Surrenders Supreme Power While the Other Takes it At a Political Crisis

#### A BRITISH VIEW

"The problem of government is not to devise an ideal system, but to work out a system which will give good results in the conditions and for the people of a particular country. Modernism and centralization will not do for fanatical classes." —The Daily Telegraph.

"The experience of many kings and princes of Asia may at least console him in his retirement. His own grandfather, Abdurrahman, ate the bread of exile for eleven weary years before he returned to rule Afghanistan with a rod of iron." —The Times.

King Amanullah of Afghanistan has abdicated, and his elder brother, who was the heir to the Throne ten years ago and was supplanted, now succeeds to the Throne. Whether he will prove as good a King as Amanullah remains to be seen, but our prophecy some weeks ago that the ex-King would learn that the way of the reformer is hard is justified by events.

"His pilgrimage to Europe was a dangerous adventure, which proved his undoing," says the Morning Post, and in a letter goes back to the Old Testament for its illustration of this modern happening.

"The Afghans are the strongest and most fanatical of Mohammedans; and the annulling of Queen Souriya on board ship was the beginning of a series of changes every one of which was felt to be an outrage to their faith."

"An Old Testament Comparison" — If one reads the story which followed let them read those chapters in the First Book of Kings which relate the conflict between King Ahab and Queen Jezebel on the one side and Elijah and his brother-prophets on the other.

"The Mullahs are a great power in Afghanistan. When they opposed the King's commands he put certain of them to death, but could not break an influence far more powerful than his own."

"And Allah said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee; because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord."

"That, we may be certain, is how the Mullahs regarded Amanullah's attempts to introduce European clothing, the education and unveiling of women, and all the other departures from the customs of their faith."

"I was a hopeless crusade from the first, and has come to its inevitable end. Amanullah has so bitterly fended off the feeling in Afghanistan that after a sharp fight he has found the only course open to him to throw himself upon the mercy of the brother whose Throne he had usurped. So ends an amazing story. As to the future, we can only say that Inaytullah is the rightful King, and is said to follow the policy of his father. If he does so, he is assured of the friendship of this country."

"The ex-King's error," asserts the Times, "seems to have lain not in his zeal for reform but in his concentration of effort on non-essential but annoying changes; above all in his refusal to recognize that he had not acquired the prestige of the Turkish Dictator whom he imitated, and that his country did not reproduce the conditions that enabled Ghazi Mustafa Kemal to impose his reforms upon a sturdy but highly disciplined people."

"Seeds Will Surely Germinate" — Yet, whatever his mistakes, whatever his miscalculations, he is entitled to a large measure of sympathy from the Western world which he paid the compliment of imitation. He has failed, but he has failed in what every European who believes in the value of our civilization holds to be a good cause. Nor is his failure yet assured. He has sown seeds among the young generation of Afghans that will surely germinate.

"He has insisted on the value of education and of organization, and on the necessity of learning more from the West than the use of machine-guns and magazine rifles, and of suppressing that widespread financial corruption which has been the center of so many Asiatic monarchies."

"His unswerving zeal doubtless aroused the indignation of many of his subjects, especially when it was manifested in attempts to improve the status and to modify the traditional dress of women—but all his consequences will hardly disappear. He may leave Afghanistan forever, but if the Mullahs have seen the last of him, they may not have seen the last of his reforms."

"The Daily Telegraph sums up the policy which has led to King Amanullah's overthrow. After alluding to the King's journey to Europe it states:—

"On the return of the King and Queen an endeavor was made to put these ideas into practice. The King himself announced that he would be his own Prime Minister, that libraries and incomes would be established, and girls and boys between 6 and 11 years of age in Kabul compulsorily educated together."

"Had this been all, all might yet have been well, but he went contrary

to many of the cherished social and religious feelings of his subjects by putting a ban on polygamy, by insisting on European clothing, by declaring that the Mohammedan Sunday was no longer a holiday, by forbidding the wearing of the fez and by abolishing the purdah and the veil for women. Popular discontent at length broke forth in civil war, in which Amanullah's troops suffered defeat."

"His error," says the Evening Standard, "the error which brought about his downfall, probably consisted in believing himself to be the man to carry out this task. He evidently was not. His whole career has suggested much ambition and little discretion, and the intemperate haste with which he promulgated his reforms was very far from statesmanlike."

"Kamal Pasha stood in a wholly different relation to his people. The Turks had passed through a century of continual loss and disgrace, culminating in a disaster which made them feel that they were on the brink of destruction. Then there arose a national hero who saved them and whom they were inclined in consequence devotedly to obey."

"He on his side saw that his prestige offered an opportunity for the introduction of Western customs which might never recur, and that it was to be done at all it must be done quickly. King Amanullah had earned no such reverence from the Afghans. Amanullah failed in a work of statesmanship because he was not a great statesman."

"This adventure may postpone the Westernization of Afghanistan, but it is highly unlikely that it will ever avert. There may be much to be said against our civilization, and our own sages frequently refer to the wisdom of peoples which remain in their primitive condition."

"Nevertheless, in the long run, few peoples of the earth decline the material advantages of civilization."

"A Dangerous Factor." — "Despite his present adversity," says the Star, "the ex-King is clearly not without support in his own country, or he could not have gone as far as he did. Nor can it be expected that even this sharp lesson will rob so alert and enterprising a man of his ambitions. That is the most dangerous factor so far as we are concerned. Our main interest is a strong and independent Afghanistan, but for some time at least the future is bound to be uncertain with so active a potential Pretender hovering about its uneasy borders."

"In dealing with the Guadalcanal case, the report says that in the course of the inquiry it became evident that two men, Tuatukombo and Billy Viti, alias 'Talloia,' were the chief instigators of the murders. Tuatukombo was known as the village head man, while Billy Viti had been a good constable until he had been fined \$15 in 1926, when he, too, had become a bad man. Billy, it appears, had been charged with having more wives than the law allowed, so he was summoned before Fannusua. He came bringing his three wives, 'to whom there is ample evidence to show that he was married according to native custom. It was on the charge of having a third wife that he was convicted and fined.'"

"Sir H. C. Moorhouse declares on information and belief that he is convinced that the official Fannusua did not exercise sufficient care as to whether the complaint was actually lodged by the first wife, as required by the law or was one worked up by the police, 'possibly acting under a wrong interpretation of the law.'"

"At any rate, smarting under the humiliation of the fine, Billy Viti allied himself with the notorious Tuatukombo and became his friend. When this friend was arrested he planned the extinction of his enemy Fannusua."

"I am of the opinion," says Sir H. C. Moorhouse, "that the murders were not due to any general hatred of government measures among the tribe concerned, leading to some act by which they endeavored to throw off this, to them, intolerable yoke, but to a combination of circumstances in which the personal element mainly entered. The native tax had nothing to do with these murders."

"The Malaita Murders" — Dealing with the Malaita murders, Sir H. C. Moorhouse pays a high tribute to Mr. Bell, who "well-nigh achieved the impossible" as District Officer, and who gained the confidence of the natives by his interest in their affairs and his ever-present, if sometimes stern, sense of justice."

"Basiana, who was the leader of the affair, was head of one of the clans and a devil devil man of considerable influence. He had been for some time sacrificing pigs (the number has been put as high as seventy) to find out if the auguries were auspicious. Suddenly his chance came; the time for the annual payment of the tax was imminent, when, if there was any resentment among the people against the government, it would be at its keenest; 'the gods' were favorable; Mr. Bell would land as usual at the 'tax house' and give the opportunity."

"A big meeting was held, at which the waverers 'were brought only to heel by Basiana playing his trump card, the 'big swear' against which apparently no Malaita man could stand. It does not require much imagination to picture Basiana and the other leaders pointing out that there was a unique opportunity, favored by 'the gods,' of getting rid once and for all of the government who had interfered with their playful habit of promiscuous murder, and arrested and hanged their people for what was in their eyes justifiable homicide, who had substituted a paltry fine or short term of imprisonment for the death sentence for adultery, who were endeavoring to clean up their villages and force their pigs into styes where they had to be fed, and who finally had ordered them to give up their 'Sniders' (a generic term for any form of old rifle). In fairness to the administration, it must be recorded that the calling in of the 'Sniders' was

"done on Mr. Bell's own initiative and without the knowledge or consent of the Resident Commissioner."

"Dingaans Day" — Rev. George Walker in the London Daily Telegraph: (December 16, 1928, Dingaans Day, the great national festival of South Africa, commemorated the defeat of the great Zulu chieftain by a Boer force under Adria Pretorius at Blood River.) The key to the understanding of the attitude of the average South African to the inescapable native question is the recognition that South Africa, apart from the southwestern corner, is still frontier, with frontier ideals and fears. Essentially, though there may be many "setbacks" as there are individuals, there is one determining factor in the approach: Dingaans shadow remains in the background. . . . The story of the American frontier is repeated. The Zulu has not yet acquired the romantic color of the redskin, and the dress of Zulu and Matabele is less adapted to effective display upon the stage. Yet they are at least as brave, and probably were a more disciplined and dangerous foe. The Western farmer of yesterday would have seen the reason for many of the apparently irksome regulations of modern South Africa. . . . The memory of Dingaans Day is at the back of the white man's mind; the native is a man of war, not a docile hewer of wood and drawer of water, and nothing more."

"India and Dominion Status" — Bombay Daily Mail: The British Dominions, before and after obtaining complete self-government, were and are laboring under the same defects which are said to exist in India. These difficulties did not, however, militate against the grant of self-government to the Dominions, while in India they are pointed out to be insuperable difficulties. There are those who argue that the grant of immediate Dominion status or anything approaching it to India would spell disaster to it. It did not do so in other parts of the British Empire."

"Of the mutual systems of guaranteeing bank deposits, originally operative in eight States, all have broken down except two."

"Between 1921 and 1924," he says, "the average real wages for a normal week of full employment rose by more than eight per cent. In the same period the weekly hours of work were reduced more than 10 per cent. The result is that employees were set the task, if they were to maintain their pre-war position, of increasing their efficiency by nearly 20 per cent."

"The census of production in 1924 indicated an increase of efficiency to that date just about sufficient to balance the shortened hours, but it was not able to make in addition any contribution toward meeting the increased weekly wage. Thus already in 1924 employers in those industries, where the increase of efficiency had not been above the average, were making heavy weather."

"Between 1924 and 1928, money and wages remained practically unchanged, while return to the gold standard at pre-war parity had the effect of increasing real wages by a further 8 per cent. It follows that employers have been faced with the task of improving their efficiency by 16 per cent, as compared with 1924, before they could recover their pre-war position. Now it is not over-optimistic, I think, to suppose that efficiency is being increased at 1½ per cent, per annum on an average in the whole field of industry, which, if it is the case, is a considerable achievement. This means that to-day that efficiency has reduced the adverse lead from 16 per cent. to about 10 per cent."

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### British Get Truth Of Island Murders

#### Investigator Leads 1927 Tragedies in Solomon Islands Had No Real Revolutionary Basis

#### REVENGE A MOTIVE

Nearly two years ago reports came from the Solomon Islands, in the Pacific, of a revolt among the natives in which members of the island constabulary had been slain at Guadalcanal and Malaita; it was periodically reported for several weeks that the killings were the precursors of a general rising of the islanders. Later information revealed that certain members of the Kolokumaha tribe on the island of Guadalcanal had, indeed, slain three members of the armed constabulary, named Fannusua, Gena and Yeki, together with a boy named Kekipeta, who happened to be in their company, and that nine tribesmen had been arrested and tried for the crimes, of whom two were acquitted, one reprieved and six hanged.

A few weeks previously W. R. Bell, District Officer at Malaita, had been killed at Kwialamba by Sinarangoese, who, in the fight which followed between the constabulary and the natives, had also slain Ka C. Lilies, a cadet in the Administrative Service, and a clerk named Marcus, as well as twelve members of the native constabulary. Several of those concerned in this affair were also dealt with in a coming general rising reported in the news reports to London. The British Secretary of State for the Colonies was apparently much disturbed, for in March, 1927, he sent out Lieut.-Col. Sir H. C. Moorhouse to make an investigation. His report, which was published as a State paper on Jan. 5 of the present year, shows how the British Government searched out the truth in such affairs, even in its most remote possessions, so that adequate steps may be taken before the expected calamity arrives. In these cases no steps will be necessary, for the Moorhouse report shows that the Guadalcanal tragedy was inspired by two criminals, one of a former constable, without any idea of an uprising, while the killing of Bell and his companions at Malaita had been brought about by a native leader named Basiana for revenge because Bell had already prevented a revolt which Basiana and his friends had planned.

"In dealing with the Guadalcanal case, the report says that in the course of the inquiry it became evident that two men, Tuatukombo and Billy Viti, alias 'Talloia,' were the chief instigators of the murders. Tuatukombo was known as the village head man, while Billy Viti had been a good constable until he had been fined \$15 in 1926, when he, too, had become a bad man. Billy, it appears, had been charged with having more wives than the law allowed, so he was summoned before Fannusua. He came bringing his three wives, 'to whom there is ample evidence to show that he was married according to native custom. It was on the charge of having a third wife that he was convicted and fined.'"

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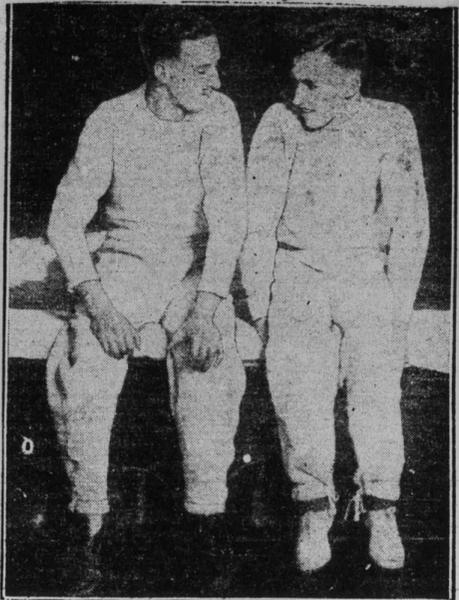
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### Keeping Maple Leaf to Fore



CANADIAN STAR PAIR SHOWING AMERICA HOW TO SPOUT  
Percy Williams and Jimmy Ball, the "fastest human," and one of the best quarter-milers, respectively.

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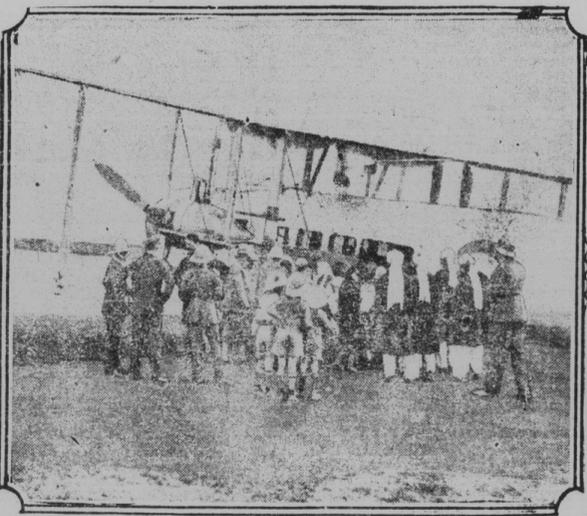
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### How the Airmen Came Through



HOW THE WOMEN WERE RESCUED FROM KABUL

First party of women and children from the British legation at Kabul, Afghanistan, twenty in all, rescued by the Royal Air Force.