

QUEER SITUATION OF THE BRITISH CABINET.

Belief That a Dissolution of Parliament is Near at Hand.

London cable says: Perplexity is the result of this morning's outcome of yesterday's extraordinary proceedings and much ironical comment is made on the figure of "Cabinet" that the Cabinet cuts. The Tory Morning Post describes the situation as a "spot barred debate," in which every one played the "spot stroke," and says the debate has not cleared the air, but shows that the air wants clearing. This idea permeates the comments in this morning's papers.

That even if the Cabinet is content with its "open mind," and Mr. Chamberlain retains his seat on the ground, in which he has only invited the country to discuss the question, such a patching up cannot possibly last long and that a Cabinet break up and a dissolution of Parliament is not far distant. The latest gossip in best informed quarters is to the effect that Mr. Chamberlain will not resign, while the Government will endeavor to dispose of the Irish land bill and stave off a crisis until October.

It is generally agreed that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's onset was a surprise to Mr. Chamberlain, who had not expected such wholesale protests against his proposals. The Daily Chronicle (Liberal), referring to Mr. Chamberlain's statement to the secretary of the Birmingham Liberal Unionist Association, points out that Canada gives a bounty on steel and iron and asks whether Mr. Chamberlain would put a countervailing duty on bounty-fed Canadian imports. This, it is said, would be to embark on a tariff war with the Colonies.

The Times believes that the Premier will exert his influence to the utmost to preserve harmony in the Cabinet, in the hope of postponing a dissolution of Parliament until it has passed the domestic bills now in hand. That the interest in the political situation had been enhanced by the dramatic development of the day was fully evidenced to-day by the remarkable animation and alertness of everybody in and about the House when the time approached for the resumption of the debate in the House of Commons on the amendment of Henry Chaplin to the budget bill.

The debate was resumed by Major Selby, Conservative, who as a convinced free trader rejected in the repeat of the grain tax. Sir Charles Dike, Advanced Radical, contended that the House had a right to demand an opportunity for pronouncing judgment on this important fiscal question. The speaker denied that protectionist countries were attacking the British Empire, and that the markets of the world, Germany had not even hurt Great Britain's market in South America, and when one considered the great natural advantages of the British Empire, and her highly cultivated population, it was marvellous that she had not years ago attained the first place in trade. The commerce of the United States, he said, is not protected, but it had been retarded rather than advanced by the adoption of protection.

A London cable says: There was a suspension in the event in the House of Commons yesterday owing to the unexpected appearance of a general rumour that a modus vivendi or a concordat of some kind had been arranged in the Cabinet. The debate was continued languidly, with the continued intervention on the part of the supporters of the Government that Premier Balfour would come up smiling at the end, smooth over everything with his comforting optimism, and prove that everybody was virtuous, that there was "much ado about nothing," and that under the strictest theory of the collective responsibility of the Cabinet, every minister was entitled for with latitude as to his private opinions.

The Premier's Speech. This is what he did towards midnight, after there had been a dribbling debate, and after Mr. Asquith had succeeded in inducing the sorry plight of the Ministerials in general, and Mr. Chamberlain in particular, and Mr. Lloyd-George had made a most incisive speech. Mr. Balfour spoke without an air of conviction, and even more carelessly than usual, disclosing indifference to the gravity of the issues raised, by both Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Mr. Chamberlain, and an open mind respecting the entire question of fiscal revision. He minimized the question of Ministerial responsibility for the statements of an individual Minister, and while he reiterated his opinion that no tax could be put upon imported food without the full assent of British workmen, he enlarged upon the phenomena of a single tariff wall against the United Kingdom, the growth of the trusts in the United States and the increasing ardor of the colonies for closer union with the mother country.

A Specious Reference. He closed with a special reference to Gladstone's conversion to home rule and Pitt's adoption of free trade without consultation with the general electorate, but neglected to add that both statesmen had settled their conclusions respecting the politics recommended, whereas he himself did not profess to know his own mind. Notion Overwhelmingly Debated. The division was taken with a full roll, and only 28 Tories voted for Mr. Chamberlain's amendment, the rest against being 224. The Liberals were united in supporting the repeal of the corn tax, and the Irish members as they have generally

done, voted solidly for the English system of unrestricted free trade.

A Belated Appeal. Mr. Lloyd-George had cut out Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, but the Liberal leader, after being jockeyed out of his privileges, made a belated appeal for further discussion of the whole subject.

The Ministerialists Confident. Ministerialists have recovered their spirits, and assert that no resignation will occur, and that the Government will enact the land bill and close the session with undiminished prestige. They neglect to add that the Unionist party has been hopelessly divided by the discussions of the last two days, and that the country can have little confidence in a Government whose members are as far apart on fiscal and economic policies as the east is from the west. I. N. F.

BEDSPRING MEN IN JAIL.

Inspector Murray landed them after Patient Trailing. Chatham, Ont., June 15.—Inspector John W. Murray has been tracking a couple of chaps who were ostensibly selling bedsprings in the towns and villages of Western Ontario, and who gave their names as Barber. The detective says while selling bedsprings they were simply "spotting" places which they would later on burglarize. They are alleged to have broken into Brown's hardware store at Thamesville, and stolen, among other things, some razors.

The bedspring men also visited Plattsville, Oxford County, and it is alleged, smashed the door of the safe of the Plattsville Milling Company, but failed to get into the vault. They also, it is charged, smashed the door of the safe of McKee Bros. carriage factory in Plattsville, but got nothing. It turned out that the safe was not locked, and labor was thus wasted. Mr. Murray trailed the men to Kent County, secured their arrest, and they are now in Chatham Jail awaiting trial. Mr. Murray expects to go to Chatham to present after his evidence has been given here.

LEFT MUCH MONEY.

Will of Alexander Fraser, Lumberman, in Probate Court. Ottawa, Ont., June 15.—A petition was filed in the Surrogate Court to-day for the probate of the will of the late Alexander Fraser, lumberman. The application is made by his two sons, John L. and W. H. A. Fraser. The value of the estate is placed at \$2,125,000, of which \$3,075,000 is personal and \$28,600 is real estate. There is no other information contained in the petition. No affidavits have been filed, nor is the will filed. Mr. J. G. Forgie, of Pembroke, is acting solicitor for the estate. It is understood that about five years ago the late Mr. Fraser transferred about \$5,000,000 worth of limits and lumber property to his sons.

A TERRIBLE CONFESSION.

Woman Poisoned Brother, Wife and a Child. Detroit, June 15.—A despatch from Kankakee, Mich., says: After two weeks' work Prosecutor E. C. Smith has secured the confession of Mrs. Mary A. Knight to the cold-blooded, premeditated murder of her own brother, John Murphy, Gertrude Murphy, his wife, and their three-months' old baby. A partial confession was made Monday evening, in which Mrs. McKnight denied killing the baby.

GAVE STRYCHNINE CAPSULES

Late last night Smith again called at the woman's cell at her request, and at that time she made a complete confession. In her first statement she admitted giving Mr. and Mrs. Murphy capsules of strychnine and quinine mixed. Last night she said: "I don't intend to harm them. I did give the baby the strychnine. It woke up and cried while its mother was gone, and I mixed up a little strychnine in a glass with some water and gave a spoonful to the baby. I didn't mean to harm the little thing at all. I confessed all to the Lord this afternoon and I feel that He has forgiven me. I really didn't mean to harm any of them. When Gertrude came home and found the baby dead she got awfully nervous. She came to me and said, 'Mary, can't you give me something?' I said, 'I really didn't think that I would hurt her if I gave her one of the capsules. She had spasms right after that, and I suppose that it was the strychnine that killed her. I really didn't mean to hurt her. Then John seemed to feel so badly about it, so I broken up that I often thought after Gertrude died that it would be better if he were to go, too. John was feeling bad one night, a couple of weeks after Gertrude died. He came to me and wanted something to quiet him. I had two or three of the capsules on my dresser, and I told him to go and get one of them. I didn't mean to hurt him, but I thought that it would soothe him, and then I thought that it would be for the best if he were to go anyway. He helped himself. I don't know whether he took one or two. Then he went and by-and-by he called me. Mother came, too, and he began to have those spasms. I suppose that the strychnine was working. He soon died.'"

best if he were to go anyway. He helped himself. I don't know whether he took one or two. Then he went and by-and-by he called me. Mother came, too, and he began to have those spasms. I suppose that the strychnine was working. He soon died." The whole of the confession was given voluntarily, and Mrs. McKnight signed it after Prosecutor Smith had written it out. It is rumored tonight that Mrs. McKnight has confessed to the murder of several other relatives. This assertion lacks confirmation. Mrs. McKnight tried to collect the insurance on her brother's life, and also attempted to secure payments on mortgages by him. Her actions in regard to these matters aroused suspicion of foul play. Eight other persons, besides the three to whose murder Mrs. McKnight confessed to-day, investigation shows, have died in the past fourteen years under circumstances that in view of the confession are thought to be very suspicious. All of the eight were either relatives or intimate friends who died while living with Mrs. McKnight or while she was at their homes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toronto street car earnings for May were \$175,221. City's percentage, \$17,522. A nine-year-old lad, Roy Gillett, has been arrested in Toronto, charged with arson. By the collapse of a steamer's gangway at Anoff, Russia, twelve persons were drowned. The seat of Senator Masson was declared vacant in the Senate because of non-attendance, noted in Raphael. The charge of healing by the laying on of hands was not touched upon. He will have eight days to submit a written recantation. It was further decided, however, that if he would agree to refrain from all ministerial functions whatever and take a vacation for three months, the time within which he may consider whether to recant or not would be extended for that period.

The Canadian Order of Woodmen of the World's bill was reported to the Senate Banking and Commerce Committee.

The Toronto Board of Control let the contract for a new 13,000,000-gallon pumping engine to the John Inglis Co., Toronto. Price, \$135,000.

Coroner Jensen will summon the civic authorities in connection with the death of Chas. Irwin, killed at the foot of Yonge street, Toronto.

C. P. R. freight employees, who went on strike at Vancouver and other western points, have declared the strike off and will be taken back as required on the company's terms.

Mr. William Nichol, sen., while engaged in spreading gravel on Main street, Altona, dropped dead from a heart failure. He had been a resident of Altona township for a great number of years.

There is no one article in the Encyclopaedia that gives so large a return for the money as a good porous stoneware plaster, such as Carter's Smart Wood and Belladonna Sackache Plaster.

Jord Vento has been elected one of the vice-presidents of the American Congress of Tuberculosis. Dr. E. J. Barrick, of Toronto, was elected president, and Dr. P. H. Bryer first vice-president.

The reservoir on the mountain side at North Bend, British Columbia, gave way, and the town was nearly overwhelmed by a torrent of water. The railway track for some distance and several small houses were swept away.

FOUR PERSONS MAY DIE.

Ottawa Woman and Three Children Severely Burned. Ottawa despatch: Mrs. Charles Casagway, 72 Labretton street, wife of a C. P. R. fireman, was probably fatally burned by the explosion of a lamp in her house last night. The lamp fell from her hand as she was going downstairs and set fire to her clothing. She rushed upstairs, roused her six children, broke a window with a chair, and telling her children to follow her, took her three-month-old baby in her arms and jumped from the second story to the pavement. She and the baby and two children were so badly burned and bruised that their recovery is doubtful. They were taken to the Walter Street Hospital. The fire was put out before it had done much damage.

MANY VICTIMS OF FLOODS IN ARKANSAS AND TEXAS.

Earthquake Shocks Terrify Mexicans, Who Pray for Mercy. Clarendon, Ark., June 15.—Seven persons were drowned on Wednesday at Aberdeen, twelve miles below here, on White River, by the capsizing of a houseboat. The victims were W. B. Moneybaker and wife, J. M. Clark and wife, two boys and a girl. The people were engaged in gathering mussel shells.

El Paso, Tex., June 12.—Twelve bodies of flood victims have been recovered at Clifton, Arizona, but the death list generally is placed at thirty-one. Many of the bodies were never recovered. The rush of waters bore most of the bodies from Chase Creek into San Francisco River.

Harrowing tales of death are brought in by people living along Chase Canon. One man reported another twelve people struggling in the water and believing all of them

BAR LIQUOR MANUFACTURERS

Orange Grand Lodge Makes Important Change in Constitution. Winnipeg, June 15.—The sessions of the Orange Grand Lodge of British North America this morning were held in the afternoon, and were entirely devoted to the work and the reception of reports of committees. To-morrow the delegates will be shown around the city, and banqueted in the evening.

The constitution was changed to make it impossible for any manufacturer of liquor to become a member of the Order. The motion was carried by a very full lodge by over three to one.

IN OLD KAINUCK.

Justice Has Hard Work to Keep Up With the Law-breakers. Louisville, Ky., June 15.—A despatch from Jackson, Ky., says: Captain B. J. Ewen stated to-day to State Inspector Hines, who is Governor Beckham's personal representative here, that he (Ewen) was offered five \$1,000 bills to testify in the Jette case, that he was excited immediately after the shooting, and did not remember whether the man was Jette or not.

For his better protection, Captain Ewen was to-day taken to the military camp where he will be guarded for the present.

CONVICTED OF HERESY.

The Rev. Hugo Wendell Has Eight Days to Recant. Philadelphia, June 15.—The Rev. Hugo Wendell of Trinity Church, Trenton, was convicted to-day by the Lutheran Ministerium, assembled at St. Paul's Church, of heresy, in claiming to have communicated with departed spirits and the angel Raphael. The charge of healing by the laying on of hands was not touched upon. He will have eight days to submit a written recantation. It was further decided, however, that if he would agree to refrain from all ministerial functions whatever and take a vacation for three months, the time within which he may consider whether to recant or not would be extended for that period.

\$100,000 LONDON FIRE.

Wholesale Dry Goods Warehouse Destroyed. London, Ont., report: The wholesale dry goods warehouse of McMahen & Granger was completely destroyed by fire to-night. Nothing but debris and blackened walls remain. The warehouse was situated in the center of the Granite block, the adjoining wholesales of A. M. Smith & Co., grocery, and Bowman & Co., meat, falling to the extent of between \$10,000 and \$10,000 each from smoke and water. McMahon & Granger had just received the full complement of the season's goods, and carried a stock estimated to be worth \$85,000. Their loss will be covered by insurance to the extent of \$65,000. The building was owned by Mr. C. W. Adams, who carried an insurance of \$50,000 in the Stratford and Phoenix. The other companies interested are the Commercial Union London Mutual, Norwich Union, Atlas, Canadian, and London Assurance.

The cause of the fire is a mystery, but it is said at the door of boys who were smoking near some waste at the premises during the afternoon. When discovered, the fire had gained considerable headway, and edged on by a stiff north wind it made rapid progress until it had gained complete possession, and was belching forth flames from the front from the basement to the fourth story.

The firemen did excellent work in bringing the flames under control. A number of incipient fires were discovered just in time.

SET FIRE TO HER CLOTHING.

Terrible Death of Three-year-old Child Near Brockville. Brockville, Ont., June 15.—News comes from Rock Spring of a terrible accident, which resulted fatally to a three-year-old daughter of Alex. McLeod. The child was playing with matches, which set fire to her clothing. She ran to her father, who succeeded in smothering the flames, but not before the child was frightfully burned, particularly about the head. She died a few hours later in great agony.

HEARD AT SEMLIN.

Buda Pesth, June 11.—A despatch from Semlin, Hungary, six miles from Belgrade, confirms the statement from Cologne of the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga.

QUEEN DRAGA'S BROTHER SLAIN.

London, June 11.—Despatches received here confirming the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia add that three ministers of the King, together with several aides de camp and Queen Draga's brother, were also murdered.

WOMEN BUTCHERED TOO.

Vienna, June 11.—A despatch from Semlin, Hungary, says that, in addition to the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga, Premier Marovitch, his wife, the commander of the Palace Guard, and two other persons were murdered.

A FAKEY STORY.

Berlin, June 11.—The Frankfort Zeitung, in its version of the tragedy, says that when the troops entered the royal bedroom King Alexander seized a revolver and shot the Queen and then killed himself.

A DETAILED STORY.

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PRETENDER ENTHRONED.

A further telegram from the same source says that the career of the Obrenovitch dynasty was closed in the early hours of this morning. To-day a requiem mass was being sung in memory of Prince Michael, and now the last of his race, the newly proclaimed King, who was a pretender to the throne for many years. He was born in Belgrade in 1846, and was married in 1883 to Princess Zorka, daughter of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro. She died in 1890.

ANOTHER VERSION.

Cologne, June 11.—The Cologne Gazette prints a despatch from Belgrade, which says a story is current there that the late Alexander was recently considering effecting a separation from Queen Draga, and that the latter, becoming aware of this, planned preventive measures. Some eight military officers last night, the despatch adds, entered the palace and tried to carry off the Queen by force, but encountered strong resistance on the part of the Queen's partisans, and in the fierce struggle which followed the King and Queen and their respective supporters were killed.

As the troops advanced the excitement in the streets grew steadily. In spite of the pouring rain, thousands of people gathered in the vicinity of the palace. Everywhere troops were posted and field guns were placed in position to quickly deal with any opposition to the newly formed government's will. The soldiers discarded their cockades bearing the late King Alexander's cipher, and substituted for it flowers, green twigs and leaves.

Bands of young men paraded the streets, waving flags and shouting "Long live Karageorgievitch." Flags are flying from nearly every house in Belgrade, and there is absolutely no display whatever of crapes or other signs of mourning.

The royal standard has been lowered from over the palace. Reports from places outside Belgrade indicate that the country accepts the disappearance of the Obrenovitch dynasty without regret.

WILL EUROPE INTERFERE?

Paris, June 11.—The startling announcement of the assassination of the King and Queen of Serbia caused a deep sensation here, particularly in government circles. The Foreign Office received early advice from the French Ministers at Belgrade, confirming the Belgrade press despatches, and adding that the city was comparatively quiet this morning, the people seeming to accept the proclamation of Prince Karageorgievitch as King. Foreign Minister Delcasse communicated his views to President Loubet. Officials of the Foreign Office say it is too soon to indicate the effect on Europe. Dynamic troubles have long been impending, the present uprising being due to the animosity of the people of the propoganda of Prince Karageorgievitch. It is called that when the Karageorgievitch dynasty secured brief rule in 1888 the European powers intervened and established a protectorate. The terminated that dynasty, whether through

SERVIAN ARMY COUP. A BLOODY REVOLUTION.

King Alexander and Queen Draga Both Assassinated.

Belgrade, Serbia, June 11.—King Alexander and Queen Draga were shot to death in the royal palace during the night.

The deed was carried out by the army. Besides the King and Queen, Premier Markovitch, Gen. Petrovitch and former Minister of War Pavlovitch were shot.

Servian Minister Confirms It. London, June 11.—M. Mijatovich, Servian Minister at London, confirms the reported assassination of the King and Queen of Serbia.

Causes of the Trouble. The Servian Minister said there were many causes leading to the revolution. A large section of the people were greatly dissatisfied with the tendency of King Alexander to eliminate the radical element from the government, and by the past century, is not regarded as a diplomatic circles in London as likely to lead to civil war. Stress is laid on the unpopularity of King Alexander's marriage to Queen Draga. King Alexander's successor, Prince Karageorgievitch, is a son-in-law of the Prince of Montenegro and is regarded as being most acceptable to the people. The universal anxiety of the government of Europe for peace advanced as a reason why the Servian situation is not likely to lead to complications. Should, however, these unexpectedly arise, official circles will immediately march into Serbia and restore order. This eventuality, however, is considered improbable.

DIRECT FROM BELGRADE.

Cologne, June 11.—A private telegram from Belgrade, Serbia, states that the very last night proclaimed Peter Karageorgievitch to be King of Serbia. The troops immediately surrounded the Konak and forced their way into the royal palace, where they assassinated King Alexander and Queen Draga. The assassination of the ministers occurred between 12 and 1 o'clock this morning.

The people of Belgrade have been flocking to the streets since 3 o'clock this morning, discussing the tragedy, but without condemnation. A strong detachment of troops is encamped about the palace of the newly proclaimed King, who was a pretender to the throne for many years. He was born in Belgrade in 1846, and was married in 1883 to Princess Zorka, daughter of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro. She died in 1890.

The streets are thronged with people, whose wishes seem to approve the coup d'etat. M. Protles, the new Minister of the Interior, was loudly cheered as he drove to the ministry. M. Avakumovic, the new Premier, belongs to the Independent Liberal party.

The people received the news of the assassinations, which were perpetrated between 12 o'clock last night and 3 this morning, quietly. The bodies of the King and Queen remain in the palace.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

"To the Servian people.—Last night the King and Queen were shot. In this grave and fateful moment friends of the fatherland have combined to form a new Government. While the Government is thus announced to the people it is convinced that the Servian people will gather round it and lend it their aid to maintain order and security throughout the land."

"The Government hereby makes known that from to-day the constitution of April 6th, 1901, comes in force. A meeting of the National representatives, dissolved by the proclamation of the 24th, is summoned to meet at Belgrade on June 16th. (Signed) Jovan Avakumovic, Premier; Ljubomir Kalavicki, Foreign Minister; Stojan Protles, Minister of the Interior; Gorg Gheneski, Minister of Commerce; Gen. Jorvan Avakumovic, Minister of War; Vojislav Velickovic, Minister of Finance; Aleksandar Ciper, Minister of Public Works; Ljubomir Schokovic, Minister of Justice."

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