

## The Albertan

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FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1910.

## THE POLITICAL SITUATION

Mr. A. C. Petherford has resigned as premier of the province, and thus ends the first and only government of the province ever known. Mr. A. C. Petherford is now premier of the province and is all that there is at present of a responsible government.

It is unnecessary to consider very much the cause of the downfall of the Petherford administration. A bad railway deal and an incompetent premier have done the rest. The Petherford government was a failure from the very first sign of storm and the result was inevitable.

The new leader is an able, experienced gentleman. He has shown his worth in administration and has been a very successful judge. He is respected as wise, honest, tactful, diplomatic and discreet. He is up to date and progressive.

The Albertan does not hesitate to state its opinion, which is, that it would have been the right thing to have called upon Hon. W. H. Cushing to form a government. He made the mistake, he made the fight, he really led the administration, he soundly defeated the opposition and was in the forefront of the battle. He saved the province from a disastrous situation.

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## The cabinet or not, he is the big man in the province of Alberta today.

The report that any member of the late government is to find a place in the new government is hardly to be believed.

If Premier Sifton cancels the contract, or gets the province out of the tangle in some way, he will make a big start in convincing the public that he is the right man for the premiership of the province.

Both factions seem to be prepared to give up the battle and make some sacrifices and unless we are very much mistaken Premier Sifton will be worthy of whatever sacrifices are made. He is making some sacrifices himself.

## The Polar Expedition

To trace the "why and wherefore" of the first Antarctic voyage it is necessary to look back a moment to the geographers of Roman times. The great Greco-Roman astronomer and geographer, Claudius Ptolemaeus ("Ptolemy," as we most commonly call him), was one of the greatest men of science who ever lived. His astronomical book was only finally superseded by the great work of Newton. Similarly, his geographical work remained at least the basis of all cosmographical knowledge up to the latter days of Newton also. Thus the illustrious Greco-Roman scientist has the rare distinction of being the greatest authority on two most important branches of human knowledge—astronomy and geography—for over fifteen centuries, from A. D. 130 to about 1500.

The curious thing about Ptolemy is that even his errors (inevitable errors at the time) led to further advancement in scientific knowledge. His brief, but brilliant, work on the voyage of Columbus (who thereby imagined only a short voyage separated Europe from those eastern shores of Asia which he set forth seeking, incidentally discovering America). And by this mistaken theory concerning the existence of a "great south land," Ptolemy prepared the way for the Antarctic discoveries of Captain Cook; and Cook led the way for those of the illustrious Shackleton.

The discovery of South Georgia by Vesputius in 1492, and of the South Shetlands by Dirk Gerrits in 1645, has been dismissed as comparatively insignificant. It may be said that the history of Antarctic exploration begins in comparatively recent times, for the first expedition of real importance to the southern seas was that of Captain Cook in his second voyage (1772-73). Starting in 1772, Cook was directed to establish a station on the coast of the great Antarctic continent (the pole myth bequeathed by the Roman geographers which had not yet been definitely disproven from the time of the expedition of Captain Cook). On January 17, 1773, the Antarctic Circle was crossed for the first time in longitude 33 degrees and a half E. A single day's journey around the Southern Pole, Cook failed to discover any trace of Ptolemy's supposed great southern continent, which he thus definitely proved to be non-existent.

Passing over nine or ten intermediate voyages, the finest expedition that had yet explored the South Polar seas sailed from Hobart (Tasmania) in December, 1840. This was the famous expedition of the ships Erebus and Terror, under the command of the intrepid Ross, after whose little time was attempted in the Antarctic until the closing years of the nineteenth century.

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## THE TALE OF THE COMET

A Musical Comedy in Which Are Many Stars—Music by the Spheres.

News Item: The comet may have become separated from its tail. News Item: The comet is going toward the Pleiades. The Tale of the Comet—A musical comedy in one carefully short act.

Cast: The Comet. The Pleiades. Music—By Spheres.

Act I: Opening Chorus of Pleiades.

O where, O where has the Comet gone?

O where, O where can it be? With its head so bright and its tail so long.

O where, O where is he? Enter Comet (minus tail).

Comet—O pain my appearance. Thou lovely sisters seven.

With saddened wail I tell my tale. While basking in the sun.

Pleiades—Alas! alas! that this should come to pass!

First Pleiade (sad and slow)—O tell me, light of brother birth. How did this thing occur?

No doubt, collision with the earth. Has knocked it off, good sir.

Second Pl.—O no, that cannot be the case. My dear Elizabeth, be not so. Or, in the loose expanse.

He'd laugh himself to death. Third Pl.—Not so, my dear, you both are wrong.

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Fourth Pl.—I think they have some things below. With which they scrape the sky. No doubt, they meanly scraped him.

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To you, Electra, then I'll speak. To you I will explain. The reason why today I sweep. My flaming train.

Is simply this. All things must change. Or else all things were vile. I've simply said an ancient tale. Because they're out of style.

Exit The Comet. Tableau. Curtain.

## Money Scandals of Manuel's Court

London, May 25.—King Manuel of Portugal and his mother, Queen Amelia, made such heavy pecuniary sacrifices during the few months following his accession to the throne, a couple of years ago, in order to clear off the national treasury and his other creditors, that it seems very hard that they should be once more confronted by court scandals of a monetary character, of which the republican and anti-dynastic press and party are making the most.

It is said that the king's household, whom he had, in his own words, "bought cheap." These boasts having become involved in difficulties through having accepted too extensive credit to Queen Pia. But this is a particularly flagrant case.

Sister of King Humbert. The present King of Portugal, a sister of King Humbert of Italy, and the only one of the late King Victor Emmanuel's children who inherited his royal character, and declines to continue to furnish large sums of money over and over again to his father's debts, spent not in his dominions, but either in Portugal or in Paris.

Not long before her son's tragic murder it was claimed in the national legislature at Lisbon that money had been obtained without proper warrant from the national treasury by the queen mother, in order to settle some of her more pressing debts, and these charges were confirmed in the legislative investigation following the accession of the present king. He succeeded in effecting a settlement of the amount which she owed to the state, but now finds it beyond his power to attend to her private debts; the more so as she seems to have no conception whatever of the value of money.

It has been frequently urged that she should leave the kingdom and make her home in Italy, since her presence at Lisbon constitutes a source of weakness to her grandson, whose position on the throne is by no means secure, but she has turned a deaf ear to all remonstrances, and was so broken by the murder of her son and eldest grandson that during the year following the tragedy the matter was allowed to drop. Now, however, the demand for her virtual banishment is being revived, and she may be com-

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