

# MEN OF TO-DAY

## A Strenuous Premier

THAT stormy petrel of Canadian politics abbreviated as "B. C." has taken another spasm. A general election is imminent—more than a year before it was due in the natural course of a quadrennium. Two of the McBride Conservative ministry have resigned. The Liberal Opposition has just changed leaders. Hon. Messrs. Tatlow and Fulton have left the cabinet, both on account of a railway deal. Premier McBride begins to have the stern joy of being a king in times of defection. Mr. McBride stood for the guaranteeing of the bonds of the Canadian Northern Railway, which intends to run a line from Yellowhead Pass down to Kamloops, thence by way of New Westminster to Vancouver. The bonds were to be guaranteed at thirty-five thousand dollars a mile. The two ministers who have resigned oppose the guarantee. They are by some suspected of being in collusion with the C. P. R. The situation is highly interesting and will of course furnish a deal of campaign material for the election, which will be held on November 25th; nominations will be two weeks earlier.

Mr. McBride has been in politics most of his life. Furthermore, he has been in British Columbia almost ever since he was born in New Westminster in 1870. While a lad he left home to attend Dalhousie University in Halifax; but he soon got back to the West; into politics when twenty-six years of age. In 1898 he became member for Dewdney in the Legislature, which up to this time had been largely without party; composed of coalitions and double shuffles peculiar to a new country. He was the first member on a straight party ticket. In 1900 he became cabinet minister. In June, 1903, he carried his party ticket still further when he became temporary Conservative Premier in succession to E. G. Prior, whose coalition ministry had resigned. In November of that year he retained his seat and his premiership in a provincial general election. Again in February, 1907, he was re-elected both as Premier and as member for Victoria, where he has always lived since he became a public man. There seems to be little doubt that he will be returned to power in November; as the Opposition has been considerably disorganised and at the last election stood 16 Liberals to 23 Conservatives, with three Socialists in the House.

## Ferrer and Socialism

THE shooting of Professor Ferrer, the Spanish socialistic-revolutionist, by order of King Alfonso, has become of greater interest to at least two continents than even the execution of Dhinagri the Hindu revolutionist, in London. Prof. Ferrer was a scholar, a gentleman, a man of wealth—and a socialist. He was a specialist in education. To all intents and purposes he was a man whose aim was to enlighten the people. He has been called the Tolstoi of Spain—with some latitude. Accused of complicity in the anarchist attempt upon King Alfonso at the time of the King's marriage to the Princess Ena, he became a menace to existing institutions. That he was an anarchist is not possible of proof. His socialism, however, was by no means of a gentle type. Whatever it was—he has paid the penalty; and he has set socialists agog on two continents. Victor Grayson, the English agitator, addressing a tumultuous meeting on London streets the other day, laid the crime of Ferrer's execution at the door of King Edward, the uncle of King Alfonso. However, Mr.

Grayson has been violent before without full cause. In New York about the same time, Mr. Charles Edward Russell chairmanned a meeting in which Alfonso and all such rulers were openly condemned. Mr. Russell is the author who a few years ago got on the trail of Jack London, the literary avowed apostle of socialism, for plagiarising from a Canadian writer. There seem to be all sorts and conditions of socialists. There is Bernard Shaw, the aristocrat, who makes socialism a hobby; Mr. H. G. Wells, the novelist, who makes it a study; and in Canada there are not a few sincere men of that stripe who have for years been labouring and in some instances agitating on behalf of the cause. There are already several Socialist members in the British Columbia Legislature. As yet we seem to be pretty well steered clear of the anarchist brand in Canada. But we have not as yet succeeded in defining socialism in this country; which may be largely because we have not the social conditions to make the cause urgent. No doubt, however, the execution of Professor Ferrer, whether merited or not, will do somewhat to crystallise public opinion, even in this country. The affair is dramatic in the extreme. Pathetic pictures are drawn of the daughter of the convicted revolutionist vainly appealing to the young King to spare her father's life. There are contradictory rumours from the palace of Alfonso's violent upbraiding of Premier Maura for interference with the King's prerogative to exercise clemency. There are stories that Alfonso is in the power of the Monks, the enemies of Ferrer. Certainly Spain has become heir to a vista of troubles of which it is difficult to foresee the end.

\* \* \*

## A Boy's Hero

TO be a hero is a precarious thing. So many heroes of to-day are the forgotten ones of to-morrow. Ten years ago Canadians began to make a new roll of honour in the Boer War. High among these was the somewhat unusual and altogether romantic figure of Baden-Powell, the man who held Mafeking for a hundred and so-many days, and became the most conspicuous character in that part of the field. After the war there were those who began to say that he was only an ordinary man; a mere spectacle; something of a military charlatan, and so forth. But Baden-Powell has lived long enough and done enough since the war to re-convince his detractors. Now he has been knighted. He has organised the famous body of boy scouts which is one of the most sensible phases of boy militarism. To become a boy scout a lad has to prove himself capable of at least two things: he must be able to track an enemy for a mile without being observed; and to light any fire with one match. The boy scouts organisation numbers many recruits among Canadian lads. One of the most enthusiastic congratulatory cablegrams received by the new K.C.V.O. was from the organisation of boy scouts in Toronto. Baden-Powell joined the British army in 1876.

\* \* \*

## A Fighting Farmer Leader

HON. JOHN OLIVER, M.P.P., is the new leader of the Opposition in British Columbia. He is an old-timer and a real farmer. His predecessor, Hon. J. A. MacDonald is to become a judge. Mr. Oliver is ready at any given notice to turn his plough-share into a sword. He is out to give the McBride government a warm time. It is rumoured that he will run in direct opposition to the Premier in the city of Victoria. In the illustration on this page he is seen talking to Mr. R. H. Drury, a former M.P.P. The Opposition leader's constituency is Delta and his post office address is Mud Bay—which seems to be combination enough to strand almost any man.



Hon. Richard McBride,  
Premier of British Columbia.



Professor Francisco Ferrer,  
Revolutionist Executed in Spain.



A Farmer Leader,  
On the left—Hon. John Oliver, M.P.P., new Leader of the  
Opposition in British Columbia.



Sir R. S. Baden-Powell,  
In his Boy Scout's Costume