

PROGRESSIVES HOLD MEETING AT SASKATOON

The Western Members-Elect
Headed by Crerar, in Secret
Conference.

PRESENTS "PROPOSITION"

The Acceptance of Proposals
Would Mean Alliance With
Liberal Party.

SASKATOON, Dec. 20.—(By Canadian Press).—There is reason for believing that the Progressive members-elect of Parliament for Western Canada, who met here today to consider the unusual political situation, did not close the door on negotiations with Premier-elect W. L. Mackenzie King with a view to sharing with the Liberals responsibility for the next administration.

When the conference broke up tonight after two lengthy sessions, Hon. T. A. Crerar, Progressive leader, announced that there was no statement to make. He said it had been a fine meeting, he was quite satisfied with

the result of it, and no further meeting would be held.

The conference was held behind closed doors, and the members-elect were pledged to secrecy.

High MacLean, defeated Progressive candidate in Regina, was the only one present at the deliberations who is not a member-elect of the new parliament.

Alberta sent its ten members; Saskatchewan sent thirteen, and Manitoba ten. No member of the conference would divulge what occurred behind the locked doors. The secrets were well kept, but this much is positively known—that the Progressive leader presented to the gathering a certain proposition which had been made to him on behalf of the Liberal leader, and the acceptance of which would create an alliance between the two parties, or between such of them as followed their leader the whole distance. Included in the arrangement would be the acceptance by Mr. Crerar of a portfolio—probably any one he might choose except finance—in the cabinet of Mr. King. Details of the proposition are lacking.

Might Join Liberals.

It is not known, for instance, whether there was to be a definite meeting of the two parties, or whether it was proposed that the Progressives should give to the Liberals an independent support in the house, which would remove any danger of defeat for the King cabinet, perhaps in its youthful days.

Close students of the political situation tonight express the opinion that the Progressive caucus has decided that on the giving of certain definite pledges by the Liberals the Progressives will agree to share with them the responsibilities of government. The theory is expressed that the

Progressive members have set out what they consider the basic principles of their movement—dealing, for instance, with the tariff, the national railways, freight rates, national resources, etc.—and that they will require definite assurance from Mr. King that these planks from the Progressive platform will be incorporated into the active Liberal policy before they will consider themselves safeguarded to an extent justifying the inclusion of their leader in a Liberal government. This theory is not consistent with the statement of one member that no definite decision has been reached, and of another that they were "all at sea."

FARMER FOUND HANGING IN BARN

OSHAWA, Dec. 20.—Yesterday afternoon Joseph Thompson of the Kingston road was found hanging in his barn. He left the house early in the afternoon to cut some wood, and his long absence caused members of the family to go out in search for him. He had been in failing health for some time. He was born in Ireland 52 years ago, and since coming to this country had resided in Deseronto until recently. Besides a widow, he leaves four children—one daughter and three sons.

Headaches From Slight Colds.

Laxative BROMO QUININE Tablets soon relieve headaches caused from Colds. A tonic, laxative, and germ destroyer. The genuine bears the signature of E. W. Grove. (Be sure you get BROMO.) 30c. Made in Canada. x

ARCHDUKE IS AGENT.

Vienna.—The former Austrian archduke and admiral, known as Leopold Woelfling, has accepted a position as advertising agent for a local newspaper.

JUDGE 1,200 BIRDS AT WINTER SHOW

Woodstock Officials Will Announce
Winners Wednesday Morning.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

WOODSTOCK, Dec. 20.—The annual winter show of the Woodstock Poultry Association is now in progress. Over 1,200 birds are cooped, and the judges were busy today placing the awards. The entries include birds from many points in Western Ontario. The judging will be completed tonight, and the winners announced tomorrow.

A large entry was received from Walker and Walker, London, but due to an accident did not arrive. The birds had been loaded on a large truck, and the junior member of the firm was in the act of cranking the motor preparatory to starting for Woodstock when the crank struck him, breaking his arm.

CLAIMS HE SAW
12 YANKS HANGED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—George H. Taylor of Philadelphia, who served with the United States Army overseas, told a Senate committee today that he saw twelve United States soldiers hanged around Is-sur-Tille, France, from April to June, 1919, but was unable to say whether any of them had been convicted by court-martial.

FEAR LIBERALS WON'T RATIFY BANK MERGER

Financial Circles in Montreal
Believe Action Was "Too
Precipitate."

OTHER BANKS ASK SHARE

Point To Sovereign Bank
Solution As Precedent To
Be Followed.

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—In view of disclosures regarding the Merchants Bank situation coupled with a rapidly developing opposition to the proposed merger with the Bank of Montreal there is a growing impression at the capital that ratification of the consummated merger by the new government is by no means certain.

The statement of Sir Montagu Allan to the effect that the directors of the Merchants Bank did not know of the bank's position is regarded as a serious charge.

It is recalled that the bank statement issued by the Dominion government in October last recorded an unimpaired reserve for the bank in question when as a matter of fact the impairment is said to have occurred long before that time.

The only conclusion to be arrived at is that there was deliberate deception of the shareholders and depositors either by the bank itself or by the finance department.

If a crash of the Thornton, Davidson brokerage firm was responsible for the impairment of the bank's reserve such impairment must have been known early in the year, and the bank succeeded in carrying on in spite of it.

In the meantime the stock has been absorbed and the danger of disaster is past. The question has now resolved itself into a struggle, and a legitimate one, to prevent the consummation of a merger which, if it is a share for Merchants Bank brought about, will place the Bank of Montreal in an even more dominating

position than it is at present. If the Merchants Bank is to be absorbed and there is no other solution, then other banks than the Bank of Montreal desire a share of the business.

A solution similar to that reached in connection with the Sovereign Bank some years ago may be adopted. In the latter case it will be recalled 13 banks joined to share the business of the concern.

MERGER TOO PRECIPITATE.

MONTREAL, Dec. 20.—Information as to the state of affairs within the Merchants Bank is still lacking, and the indications are that the statement to the shareholders will not be ready for a few days yet.

Opinion is divided as to the necessity for the step announced, the absorption of that institution by the Bank of Montreal.

Many feel that in this instance someone had been too precipitate, too easily carried away by fear and an unwillingness to face an ordeal. Others say that when the whole truth comes out matters will take on a different complexion.

"The Merchants Bank is an old and respected institution," said a well-known businessman today. "If it has been victimized and is still as solvent as the Bank of Montreal believes it to be, it would seem to be the better plan that those now actively concerned take the public into their confidence. In this way they would get public sympathy and the confidence extended to the public would be reciprocal. Although there is abnormal rivalry among the larger banks, the feeling is that the Bank of Montreal has more to gain by the pursuance of a helpful policy than might result from aggrandizement in further expansion."

"Montreal is proud of her banks, and will feel very regretful if one of its old institutions with 394 branches all over Canada is ruthlessly uprooted. Surely the absorption will not take place without better reasons than those given out. There is a strong belief in the big banks of Canada could, without the slightest embarrassment or loss of revenue, give such assistance and counsel as would avert such a calamity as the Merchants Bank absorption, and doubtless the finance minister will see that his influence to this end is not only desirable but imperative."

Is Quite Solvent.

Among financial and business men the opinion prevails that the Merchants Bank is quite solvent, especially in view of Sir Montagu Allan's statement that its capital has been in no way impaired. They say that now resolved itself into a struggle, and a legitimate one, to prevent the consummation of a merger which, if it is a share for Merchants Bank brought about, will place the Bank of Montreal in an even more dominating

Pastor Tells Court He Keeps Close Watch On Trust Company

TORONTO, Dec. 20.—During the trial today of an action brought by Rev. Robert E. Knowles, a well-known Presbyterian minister, formerly of Galt, against the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York, for \$10,000 damages because the defendant company had discontinued paying him \$25 per week insurance, the plaintiff infused a little dry humor into his answers under cross-examination. He admitted that he was "technically studying law" and wrote articles for newspapers and that he was co-executor of his father's estate, valued at \$20,000.

"Who takes the burden of looking after the estate, you or the trust company?" he was asked.

"The trust company looks after the estate," Mr. Knowles replied; "I look after the trust company."

The plaintiff stated that under two policies with the defendant company he had at first been paid \$25 a week, then \$12.50 and later \$6.25. The insurance began in March, 1913. The payments ended a year ago, though he did not feel that he had fully recovered his health.

The defence was that Mr. Knowles was declared physically and mentally sound in January last, and that he is not now entitled to payments under the policies and has not been since January 21 last.

liquidation to those owning the bank is tangible proof of the Merchants Bank's solvency.

"In the olden days before the furor of rivalry in expansion the stronger banks were willing to help any other solvent bank over a hard place," was one of the statements made today.

2 MORE ARRESTED IN MOORE CASE

TORONTO, Dec. 20.—Mark Bates and his 15-year-old son were arrested in Fort Burwell by Provincial Constables Smythe and Cressy and brought to the city this afternoon. They are alleged to have been members of the crew of the tug "John R. Moore," now held under seizure by the customs department. Bates was held on a breach of the Ontario temperance act charge. The son is in the Children's Shelter.

CLAIMS DRURY NOT OUT WITH LABOR

HAMILTON, Dec. 20.—Hon. Walter Rolfe, minister of labor, who represented the Ontario government at the international labor conference in Geneva, returned this morning.

He said there was no foundation for the rumors of a split between Premier Drury and his Labor followers, or that the Labor members would be dropped from the cabinet.

The premier, he said, however, would be justified in exacting a new undertaking from the Labor group as to their future support in view of the fact that two or three members of that group had not been loyal to the premier.

KING'S "WIN" GOES TO RELIEF WORK

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—The thousand-dollar election wager between Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, premier-elect, and John Bain, director of the government publicity bureau, which Mr. King won, but declined to accept, will be devoted to relief work and equally divided between the "keeping faith" (Veterans' Christmas Cheer) fund and the Salvation Army.

DIED IN HER 95TH YEAR.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

KINCARDINE, Dec. 20.—The death took place suddenly Saturday of Sarah A. Lawrence, relict of the late Alexander Campbell, aged 94 years and six months. She was born in Nasagawaga, June 10, 1827, and was married to Mr. Campbell at Fingal, April 2, 1856. Her husband predeceased her three years ago. The immediate cause of her death was a fall, which fractured a hip-bone. The funeral will take place Wednesday to Kincardine Cemetery.

PROGRESSIVE HAS LEAD OF ONE VOTE

CALGARY, Dec. 20.—J. T. Shaw, Independent-Progressive candidate in West Calgary riding, had a net lead of one vote over Hon. R. B. Bennett, minister of justice, in the recount proceedings before Judge Winter when 12 polls had been counted out of a total of 98 today.

Standard Drug Stores COME TO YOUR RESCUE

By helping to solve the gift problem — for those friends you had forgotten. Those last-minute purchases, some dainty, delightful gift for a friend or relative you finally decided to remember. We believe a visit to a Standard Drug Store will make your decision easy and also "save you money." HERE ARE A FEW OF THE SPECIAL FEATURES WE ARE OFFERING THIS WEEK:

French Ivory Combs
Fine and coarse teeth, formerly 75c value, Price **49c**

Vogue Hot Water Bottle.
Reg. \$1.50. **89c**

Thermos Bottles and Thermos Lunch Kits

are sensible and useful gifts. Various sizes. The prices are \$2.50 up.

One of the most appreciable gifts you can choose. Prices are from **\$2.50** up.

Manicure Roll-Up and Manicure Sets
We have some real value in these lines. Our display is worth while seeing. Priced at \$3.50 up

INTRODUCTORY OFFER
KLAUS (Imported) PURE SWISS MILK CHOCOLATE
Two Sizes. Three Flavors. Reg. 15c pkg. 2 for 19c
Reg. 35c pkg. 24c ALL THIS WEEK.

Gage's Holiday Stationery
Dainty, fancy packages of Box Stationery, various shapes and colors; Correspondence Cards, etc. Priced especially low.

Royale Hot Water Bottles.
3-quart size. Reg. \$3.50. **\$2.49**

French Ivory Mirrors
Bonnet shape; \$10 value **\$6.98**

Ever-Ready Safety Razor Outfits.
89c

CIGARS BY THE BOX.
Boxes of 10 Cigars.
Mona 65c
Jap 89c
David Harum \$1.00
Simon's Panetelas and Tuckett's Club Special. \$1.25

Boxes of 25 Cigars.
Japs, David Harum and Santa Clara \$2.00
Rex and Democrats \$1.79

Boxes of 50 Cigars.
All well-known makes. Prices are from \$2.90 to \$6.90

Neilson's Chocolates
The Chocolates that are different. A box of this delicious candy will add the finishing touch to Christmas Day. Pre-war prices. **35c to \$3.00**

Cutex Manicure Sets
IN HOLIDAY PACKAGES.
Small size 49c
Medium size \$1.39
Large size \$2.79

Confectionery For the Kiddies' Stockings.
Lorraine Chocolate Bars. Regular 5c 6 for 25c
Box of 24 bars 95c
Regular 10c 3 for 25c
Box of 12 bars 95c
Byng Bangers, a pure, delicious hard boiled candy, per package 35c
Salted Peanuts, in package 6 for 25c
Horehound Twist, per lb. 25c
Kerr's Butterscotch, Regular 5c 6 for 19c
Chewing Gum 3 for 10c
Patter-Krisp, in tin pkgs. 35c

French Ivory Toilet Ware
Hundreds of unique pieces of this popular line of merchandise. Also full range of Ebony Toilet Ware, all at your extremely low prices.

Simm's Guaranteed Lather Brushes.
50c to **\$7.50**

Military Hairbrushes
Solid ebony backs, good bristles, pair **\$3**

Hudnut's Toilet Water, Violet Sec, Extreme Violet and Yanky Clover.
\$2.25.

Taylor's Shaving Sets
Soap and Safety Razor **98c**

Vogue Royal Florida Water
Small size 32c
Large size 69c

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STANDARD DRUG, LIMITED
Western Ontario's Original Cut-Rate Druggists
"WE SAVE YOU MONEY"

BIG, NEW DOWNTOWN STORE
168 Dundas Street No. 3 Store

NO. 1 STORE (Main Store)
252 Dundas Street Phone 4040

NO. 2 STORE (Near Grigg House)
344 Richmond Street Phone 1261

NO. 4 STORE (East London)
664 Dundas Street Phone 2027

BIG, NEW DOWNTOWN STORE
168 Dundas Street No. 3 Store

BLouses.
Creme de Chine Blouses, in colors of white and flesh, the latest styles, daintily trimmed. Each **\$6.50**

Kingsmill's
Just Four More Days Then Xmas

Beautiful Silk Underskirts
What could be more acceptable, more appropriate and appreciated than silk undergarments? This department is at its best. The very newest designs, prettily trimmed, are here for your early choosing.
Here is a special that is certain to bring an instantaneous demand. Silk Underskirts, in all colors. Regular **\$4.50** \$6.75 value, at

This Neckwear Will Appeal
We positively have the daintiest and prettiest Neckwear in London. The major portion of this stock is importation works of beauty, reasonably priced.
Jersey Silk, colors, braid trimming, Imported **\$1.00 to \$2.00**
Fancy Neck Sets, with lace and top trimming. Priced per set **\$1.25 to \$2.50**

Ladies' Hose
Ladies' Fancy Lace Stripe Hose, pure silk, in brown, navy and black, per pair **\$2.50**
Pure Thread Silk Hose, in full fashion, in colors of brown, grey, navy, white and black. Some made and pink. Special **\$2.00**

Sale of Christmas Crackers
Hundreds upon hundreds of the famous Tom Thumb Crackers for the kiddies' glorious Christmas. Per box **\$2.00 down to 50c**

Values For the Infants
Infants' Brushed Wool Bonnets, with earlaps **\$1.75**
Infants' White Woolen Bonnets, prettily trimmed. On sale **\$1.25**
Infants' Hand-Crocheted Jackets, in variety of good styles, up to **\$4.00**
Children's Bassinets, special priced for Christmas **\$12.50 down to \$6.75**
Children's Warm Cot Blankets, regularly sell for \$2.25. Now **\$1.49**
Padded Silk Cot Covers, assorted colors **\$6.00 down to \$1.50**
Three-Piece Brushed Wool Teddy Suits, special at only **\$3.75**
Infants' Woolen Mittens, per pair, only **50c up to \$1.25**
Children's Kimonos **\$3.50 \$4.00 \$6.00**
See Window Display.

Values For the Ladies
Ladies' Quilted Jap Vests, just put in stock, black with mauve silk linings, sizes 38 to 42. Special price this week **\$1.75**
Five dozen Silk Waists in black and white, neatly tailored, made of good quality messaline and habutai silk, sizes 36 to 44; \$4.50 values. Now at **\$2.25**
White Cotton Nightgowns, slipover style, trimmed with pale blue stitching, regular \$3.50 values. Now on sale **\$2.75**
Shot Taffetine Underskirts, all shades and sizes. Only **\$6.00**

WOOL SCARFS
Brushed Wool Scarfs, in colors of rose, blue, grey, purple, green. At **\$2.25**

GLOVES
Most people will accept any article with thanks, but the practical and sensible gifts have a lasting appreciation. A pair of gloves chosen from our stock will please her.
Ladies' French Kid Glove, with colored plique sewn, blown fingers, Paris point stitching. Colors grey and brown. Neatly boxed, at **\$6.50**
Ladies' Cape Gauntlet Glove, with colored inset and strapped wrist, plique sewn, black embroidery, neatly boxed. Special at **\$7.00**
Ladies' Six-Button French Kid Glove, three pearl domes, plique sewn, wide black embroidery, neatly boxed. White only at **\$7.50**

TEA KETTLES.
Select yours from three dozen now on sale. Nickel-Plated Tea Kettles, formerly sold for \$3.00. Now **\$2.65**

Kingsmill's
PERCOLATORS
Several Aluminum Coffee Percolators, which regularly sell for \$3.00. To clear this week only **\$2.35**