

The Daily Gleaner



PUBLISHED BY
THE GLEANER, LIMITED
Managing Director, JAS. H. CROCKETT

DAILY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
By Mail outside City of
Fredericton.....\$4.00 per year

The Gleaner Telephone Calls:
Business Office.....138
Subscription and Advertising.....215-11
Mechanical Department.....215-21
News Department.....258

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1925.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

From the reports on the political situation emanating from Ottawa, it is apparent that no immediate change of Government is impending. While there has been no official statement, it has become pretty well known that Premier King plans to secure a seat for himself and that, so long as the Conservatives lack the 123 seats necessary to give them a majority of one, he proposes to hold on and meet Parliament and let it decide. The obvious intention of the Premier is to go ahead and meet Parliament, and when the Ministry, shaken to its foundations by the upheaval, is challenged, reliance is evidently placed on the Conservatives and Independents to pull them through, at least for a short session. The probability of another general election is very evident, but meanwhile, there would be a highly interesting session and the newly elected members would have a chance of securing an initial indemnity. One great weakness in Premier King's proposed programme is the hostile attitude assumed by Mr. Forke, the Progressive leader, and his recent references to the older parties leaves little hope of any real rapprochement between the Progressive and Liberal parties, and without this the King Government could not carry on for a day. The King Cabinet itself is in a wrecked condition, with the Premier and eight of his colleagues without seats. The moral effect of the defeat of nine Ministers cannot be ignored, and is certainly a great handicap to the Government in seeking a continuance of power.

The ultimate end of the stalemate must be another general election, in which the Government will endeavor to again hold the Quebec Bloc and add to its followers from the Prairie Provinces, especially from Saskatchewan, where it made some progress in the recent election. In the meantime the Conservative party is prepared for any eventuality and would eagerly embrace the opportunity of a fresh appeal to the electorate. Canadians generally will welcome an end to the present difficulties and the presence of a strong and efficient administration at Ottawa.

KEMAL OUSTS THE DERVISHES.

Angora has gone a step further in its attack upon Moslem traditions by closing the monasteries and turning the dervishes out to shift for themselves. The outside world would say that Kemal Pasha by this radical act had stirred up a hornet's nest, that it had not seen Turkey stand calmly by while he wiped out Moslem institutions of far greater importance. After abolishing the sultanate and the caliphate, outlawing polygamy and taking the veil from woman and the fez from man, the closing of the dervish monasteries appears a minor incident in Turkey's progress toward Western standards of government and civilization.

The world knows the dervishes principally through the ease with which they can work themselves into an appearance of ecstatic religious fervor. At Constantinople and most other cities with large Moslem populations tourist and traveler by the payment of a small fee can usually see exhibitions of their whirling, howling or whispering at their monasteries. They are also familiar figures, with their great sheets of hair and long beards, their tall hats and long black robes, immense strings of beads and collections of sacred charms, around markets and coffee houses of Moslem towns.

They are generally credited with little education or Islamic culture, and as their name indicates, they are beggars, the people "at the door." They are supposed to possess the mystical power of seeing and interpreting visions. With this reputation they have been able to exercise such a strong influence over the ignorant as to make them leaders of fanatical outbreaks against non-Moslems and members of their own faith against whom they have a grievance.

The dervishes date back to the beginning of the Islamic attempt to conquer the world. They were members of one of the secret orders or

fraternities which found precedents for their pretensions to visions and personal communication with Allah in the life of the Prophet himself. The number of these secret orders grew until they reached thousands. Moslem rulers, even caliphs, often had good reason to fear their power and suppressed them either by law or by the scimitar. The first of the Mad Mullahs was a whirling dervish, and he and the pretenders who followed him carried bands of the most fanatic of the order to inspire their troops and often to lead them in battle.

Between the dervishes and the Moslem clergy, especially the more educated of the ulemas, there has been strife for years. The ulemas dreaded the dervishes' power over the masses, and they believed that the public money appropriated to the maintenance of their monasteries was worse than wasted.

Among the modern Moslem leaders there will be little regret over Angora's action. The only fear that Kemal may have is that the dervishes may still have popular authority enough to turn Moslem fanaticism against him. But he has given Turkish Moslems so many shocks in the past that they should be shocked proof by this time.

BUT

If Mackenzie King, and the Progressives can't make a deal the Liberal Government will meet its Waterloo within a few days after the opening of the next Parliament. The present attitude of Leader Forke of the Prairie Provinces may be intended to carry the suggestion that the two factions cannot "get together." But there is the Hudson Bay Railway, a number of Branch lines in the West, a low tariff. Mr. King is anxious to hold on, and Mr. Forke, through the ascendancy of the West, is master of the situation. And there you have it.

THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTION.

The parliamentary election in Australia on November 21st is of greater interest than usual. In announcing it Mr. Bruce, the Prime Minister, declared that the purpose was to enable the electors to decide whether they desired the Commonwealth to be governed by Parliament or by outside influences. This was putting the case strongly, but it was justified, remarks the Montreal Gazette. The situation is in a way the outcome of the so-called men's strike; but it is really the development of changes that have been going on for many years. In the big Commonwealth there is no party calling itself conservative or professing conservative principles. The politicians are divided into Liberals, of an advanced type, and various groups of extremists, the largest and most revolutionary being the Labor party. It has passed under the control of the extremists, who frame its pronouncements, formulate its policies and direct its strikes. Mr. Bruce says these men are not in the majority, and control the organizations by their activity rather than by numbers. This may well be the case. Quite recently in Great Britain a test of strength between the Reds and the trades union members of more moderate view showed the extremists to be in number an almost negligible minority. The activities of the Reds in Australia and the force with which they asserted their position had such effect on the politicians, however, that their demands were conceded, till capitalists were deterred from investing in new industries; wages, hours of labor and other conditions were regulated by special courts being established to decide issues arising out of the relations of employer and employee. The legislatures of the states as well as the Parliament of the Commonwealth have alike gone the length in according to the demands made in the name of organized labor. It is not too much to say that members of organized labor were created a privileged class and under the law could do things that would be counted criminal on the part of an ordinary citizen. This did not satisfy those at the head of the fighting unions. In the case of the seamen's strike now going on, the decisions of the courts were disregarded and the strike maintained. The strikers interrupted and for a time paralyzed the trade of the ports, putting business enterprises to heavy expense and loss. Mr. Bruce, setting the case of the Government before the electors, said the great trade unions had been captured by the extremists. They had among them men who strive to foment industrial strife, class war and direct action by methods foreign to national instincts and having no application to Australian conditions. If Australians were to ensure peace and progress, the influence of such men must be ruthlessly destroyed. So that the needed laws may be made effective, the electors are to give their judgment. There has been in history no exact parallel to the situation. As Mr. Bruce put it, the labor organizations have become anti-democratic. Their growth in numbers and financial strength has increased the numbers and strength of their paid officials. The tendency has been to make the individual subservient to the officials whose salary he pays. The Government does not propose as yet to legislate against the unions as unions. It is proposed to restore the unions' control over itself, its officials, and, especially, over its funds. The

introduction of the secret ballot in connection with union action, is the means he has in view. He will not depend upon moral influence alone, but will confer on the arbitration tribunal judicial power to enforce its decisions, and give it greater control over the parties under its jurisdiction. Both purposes may prove ineffectual. In Australia, as in other countries, there are labor leaders who, like Mr. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, think their position puts them above the ordinary citizen and that they need heed neither the public interests nor the statute law. Such men will resist any encroachment on their assumed privileges while they can get followers. The contest in Australia is, therefore, one between organized labor and the rest of the community. The first contest may be won by organized labor, though this is not likely. The end will be certain, however. Democracy makes many blunders; but it retains in its hands power to correct them. It will not long submit to a section of the people overruling by force the will of all the people.

FRANCE WANTS WORKERS.

While England is struggling with her unemployment problem French labor is almost completely employed. Only in the shipping business is there any lack of work. French industry and agriculture are in need of hands to help in production. There is a scarcity of native French workers amounting to more than a million, partly due to losses in the war. Nevertheless, there are more Frenchmen available for employment to-day than in 1914, so that the shortage is due to the increased activity in production everywhere apparent.

France is a self-supporting country, but industrial expansion has brought it to the point where it has been obliged to import foreign labor. Here would be an outlet for some of the unemployed of Great Britain, but they seem averse to emigrating to the Continent. It is to Italy and to Spain that France has appealed and immigration thence is growing at a surprising rate. The subject was regulated by a treaty signed in 1919. At first the Italians came in dribsles, now they are moving across the frontier by the thousands.

Hon. T. A. Cramer's old riding of Marquette switched over to the Conservative column. Only regret is that the boss Progressive of them all wasn't in the race to get his share of it all. His decision that discretion is the better part of valor was absolutely vindicated.

Hon. Bob Rogers floats back to where he belongs, and Premier King is deprived of keeping one of the promises he spread so freely over a smiling west. For Mr. Norris isn't in a position to accept a portfolio.

Yes, Doc Edwards is back in the House. Now watch the statesman from Quebec prick up his ears when the Hon. Gent. from Frontenac rises in his place to make a few fervid remarks.

Premier King must have felt it coming. He has enough vacant portfolios now to keep most of the tentative appointments made during a recent tour of the land that has rejected him.

That was rather a grim reminder the Chicago Chief of Police sent to his underlings: "Gunsman sent to the morgue are never paroled."

As the elections are now one with Nineveh and Tyre, it is time to throw a few thoughts in the direction of Christmas shopping.

Potatoes look good at five dollars a barrel, but it is unfortunate that our farmers have to seek the Boston market for the best results.

Prominent citizens of the U. S. give cups for aerial speed competitions. Flowers find their way to the undertaking parlors.

If Hon. Arthur Meighen is called upon to form a Government it will not be done by grace of Hon. Mr. Patenaude.

A Mr. Drury was defeated in North Simcoe, Ont. Now let me see. That name has a reminiscent ring to it.

One wonders if each of the elected candidates can repeat off-hand all the promises he made.

G. W. V. A. Appointment Committees. The following are the various standing committees which have been named by the Fredericton Branch of the G. W. V. A. for the ensuing year: House committee—C. A. Williams, A. E. Crowley and A. Fowler; Relief—W. W. McCormack, R. W. Lindsay, and G. D. McDonald; Investigation—C. R. Hawkins, J. J. Cain and A. Fowler; Entertainment—W. P. Kelly, R. M. Bettaney, J. H. McCollum, H. Horncastle, H. L. Merrithew, F. H. Barton and F. Faulkner; Sports—E. Colwell, Dr. R. M. Macdonald and H. Beatley; The President, James T. Mavor, and secretary-treasurer, E. O. Brewer, are members of all committees. Col. T. G. Longie, I. S. O., has been named as honorary president of the branch.

The wind is blowing in the trees, it's time to pull the ancient wheats of saying farewell to bearded.

FOREIGNERS SAFE ABOUT DAMASCUS

About One-eighth of the City Destroyed by French Bombardment.

Haifa, Palestine, Nov. 2.—One-eighth of Damascus was destroyed in the recent bombardment by French troops. The fire of the French guns seemingly came without warning and the casualties are estimated at 5,000. No British were killed. Armenians and Damascus have been fleeing by the thousands and several villages between Damascus and Palmira have surrendered to bandits. The situation is grave and French forces are considered much too small. The Armenian refugees and Christians in Beirut are uneasy, but foreigners are safe yet. The French have complete control of Beirut and promise to give warning should it be necessary to bombard the city in case of a rising.

Newspaper Fairness

[The Financial Post.] Leading daily and weekly newspapers throughout Canada have been very fair in their treatment of election topics. The newspaper editors have avoided pretense to a singular degree. Newspapers that publish only one side of the political story; that find all the virtues on one side, and all the weaknesses in the political platform of the other party; add nothing to national unity. Their editors probably argue that during an election campaign is the one time of all times when a clear, definite stand must be taken by the paper and a lusty battle fought. But in fighting that battle there should be sanity and sportsmanship. It is refreshing to observe so many of the best newspapers taking the broader stand.

TURKISH TROOPS MOVING TO MOSUL

London, Nov. 2.—A despatch to the London Daily Mail from Beirut, Syria, says that Turkish troops are moving toward Mosul from Turkey.

The Daily Express has a similar report, but puts the number of Turks at 5,000 and alleges that the French have given them permission to cross Syria. The report says that Great Britain has protested to the French government the dangerous situation.

Special despatches dated Damascus November 1, confirm previous reports of the dangerous situation.

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Pumpkin, large can.....	18c	Baker's Chocolate, 1/2 lb. can.....	25c
Pure Gold Jelly Pow., 3 for.....	25c	Bulk Soda Biscuits, lb.....	18c
Watches, 3 boxes for.....	38c	Old Dutch Cleanser.....	12c
3 lb. bags Salt, per bag.....	9c	Coffee, fresh ground, per lb.....	60c
14 lb. bags salt, per bag.....	25c	Rolls Cuts, 5 lbs. for.....	25c
Shaker Salt, per box.....	13c	Corn Meal, 5 lbs. for.....	25c
Frosting Sugar, 2 lbs. for.....	25c	Fairy Soap, 3 cakes for.....	25c
		Baby's Own Soap, per cake 10c	

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For an example of industry, one is referred to the Lawrence, Mass., man who has been beating the high cost of living by painting his house at night. Until late in the evening he may be seen, brush in hand, electric flashlight in the other, busily applying paint.

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