

# The Standard

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## THE UNIONIST LEADERSHIP.

The resignation of Mr. Balfour from the leadership of the Unionist party removes from the sphere of active politics not only a great parliamentarian but a man of many sterling qualities which have won for him a unique position in the English speaking world. That falling health is the reason for his retirement will add to the general regret for it holds out little hope that Mr. Balfour, who has been leader of the British House of Commons longer than any other man with the single exception of Pitt, will take a position in any future Conservative Ministry. His resignation is to his party, as Viscount Middleton well expresses it, an almost irreparable loss, and spokesmen of all parties agree that his withdrawal will leave a great gap. He is not retiring from Parliament, but his attendance there will presumably be limited. In the present session he has only twice been present at debates.

Mr. Balfour has been one of the most conspicuous figures of the British Parliament for the last twenty years. Of late years, as Premier and as leader of the Opposition, he has been a dominating personality in the affairs of the Empire. His first notable service was as Irish secretary, during which time the Crimes Act was put in force. He was first elected leader of the House of Commons upon the death of Mr. W. H. Smith, and throughout the session of 1892 he displayed increasing ability in leading the Unionist party. With the return of Mr. Gladstone to power, Mr. Balfour directed his speeches against the Home Rule measure for Ireland. On the return of the Unionist party to power in 1905, Mr. Balfour again became leader of the House. His leadership, while aggressive, was always marked with a courtliness and tact which won him favor from both sides. When the recent crisis arose over the passage of the Veto Bill, limiting the powers of the House of Lords, Mr. Balfour handled a difficult situation with diplomatic skill. The supreme test of the Veto Bill was its acceptance or rejection by the House of Lords, and if rejected the creation of a large number of peers to force it through the upper branch of Parliament. In this emergency, Mr. Balfour was for concession without forcing the issue of creating new peers, whereas an ultra-conservative element, known as the "Die-hards," were determined to resist the veto measure to the last. The policy of Mr. Balfour prevailed and the Veto measure was accepted by the House of Lords.

That there have been attacks in a section of the press upon Mr. Balfour's attitude on this question cannot be denied. The "Die-hards" and "Last Ditchers" of the recent struggle in the Lords were credited with a desire to make trouble. The formation of a "Halsbury Club" within the Conservative party was claimed to be a movement having directly in view the deposition of Mr. Balfour from the leadership. Lord Halsbury, however, the aged and highly brilliant leader of the "Die-hards" in the Lords, in a letter to the Times distinctly disclaimed any "disloyalty towards Mr. Balfour." Mr. Balfour, himself, in a notable speech delivered at East Lothian, after the adjournment of Parliament, with great dignity ignored the attacks that had been made upon him and spoke of himself as a leader without giving any signs that his authority had been questioned.

The murmurs died away, and today not even the extremists receive Mr. Balfour's resignation otherwise than with regret. "Without doubt," says a London despatch, "he can have a vote of confidence if he will withdraw his resignation." No better tribute to the trust reposed in Mr. Balfour could be found than the announcement that the first question which Unionists will determine before the party meeting next Monday is whether he can be induced to remain leader on any terms satisfactory to himself. But from the very definite statement which Mr. Balfour has made public regarding his retirement there seems little likelihood of his reconsidering his decision.

Naturally speculation turns to discuss the name of Mr. Balfour's probable successor. Three men high in the councils of the party are prominently mentioned, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Walter Long and Mr. F. E. Smith. Mr. Chamberlain early came into political prominence as the son of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, but has shown great ability on his own account and made an excellent Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mr. Balfour's Government. He became private secretary to his father on completing his education in Germany and France and as a young man of twenty-nine was elected Unionist member for East Worcestershire. It was in the following year that he made his maiden speech in the House of Commons, and among those who listened to it was Mr. Gladstone, Prime Minister of the day, between whom and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain there had by that time risen the keenest political antagonism. On the very subject that had separated the two statesmen—namely, Home Rule—Mr. Austen Chamberlain made his maiden speech. Mr. Gladstone, with that fine courtesy which always distinguished him, promptly offered his congratulations. "It was a speech," he said, "that must have been dear and refreshing to a father's heart." Those who witnessed the scene say that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was visibly moved by the generous words of his old chief, and we can well believe that Mr. Austen Chamberlain has never forgotten them.

The young member for East Worcestershire soon proved himself a good parliamentarian man, and in 1895 came a recognition of his ability in his appointment as Civil Lord of the Admiralty. In office his business powers, his level head, and his concentration on his work were soon made manifest. As a result promotion came rapidly. From 1900 to 1902 he was Financial Secretary to the Treasury; from 1902 to 1903 Postmaster General; and in 1903, at the early age of forty, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has always been himself very popular in office by his comradeship with his subordinates and his ready and sympathetic understanding of departmental as well as administrative difficulties.

Mr. Walter Hume Long is the Unionist member for Dublin County, South Division. He was born at Bath in 1854 and educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford. From 1880 to 1892 he was parliamentary secretary to the Local Government Board under Mr. Ritchie and helped him to create the London County Council. From 1895 to 1900 he was President of the Board of Agriculture; then until 1906 he was President of the Local Government Board, and in March, 1907, he went into the ministry as the Irish secretaryship. At the present time Mr. Long is chairman and leader of the Irish Unionists in the House of Commons.

Mr. F. E. Smith, the third mentioned for the leadership of the Unionist party, is a self-made man and some points in his career are worth noting. By winning a scholarship he was enabled to go to Oxford University in 1880 and in his college days took first class honors. He

was elected Fellow and Lecturer of Merton College in 1886. As a Fellow he remained at the University for about three years, keeping his terms at Gray's Inn in the meantime, and he was eventually called to the bar in 1889. Not long afterwards he set up in practice at Liverpool, and the briefs presently began to come in. Concurrently with his rising fortunes came the re-awakening of yet another ambition, born of the days when he was president of the Oxford Union. In that excellent training ground for a parliamentary career he had proved himself a capable orator and debater, and now that there was no longer any reason for stifling his political bent, he entered into public affairs and became Mr. T. P. O'Connor's opponent in the Scotland division of Liverpool. There was never any actual contest at the polls, however, for Mr. Smith afterwards transferred himself to the Walton division and was triumphantly returned as a Unionist at the general election of 1906.

Up to this time Mr. Smith had been before the political public only for a little over two years, and possessed no reputation outside Liverpool, save as a rising barrister. But with the opening of Parliament came the opportunity of his life. Late one afternoon, when the Chamber was crowded with new and eager members, he rose suddenly to his feet, and with his hands in his pockets, addressed the House. At first no one heeded very much what the new member for the Walton division was saying. He had a short, hasty method of utterance, which was not particularly attractive, and his voice was hard, high-pitched and perhaps a little monotonous. But gradually the blinding cleverness of his speech began to fascinate the House, and everybody settled down to listen to him, realizing that in this slight, pale-faced and apparently emotionless young man, they had encountered a force to be reckoned with. Their attention was amply rewarded. They heard the most brilliant maiden speech that has ever been uttered in the House of Commons within living memory, and Mr. F. E. Smith awoke next day to find himself famous.

Younger than any other prominent personage among the Conservatives, Mr. Smith is regarded by many as the most able man in sight. He is a strong advocate of conservative social reform and a larger part in the comforts and deencies of life for the working class. With great skill he has grafted his social reform policy on to the older policy of protection, and he proposes to devote the money raised by taxes on imported merchandise to financing his scheme for social betterment.

## THE CHANGE IN JAPAN.

Ever since the Russo-Japanese war the Flowery Kingdom has been an object of apprehension more particularly in the Australian Commonwealth, and in a lesser degree on the Pacific slope of the American Continent. This attitude has possibly resulted in part from a degree of ignorance of Japan and its internal affairs, for those who reside there indicate in such letters as they send home that Japan faces problems of her own which are serious enough to tax her resources and that events since the war have rendered it unlikely that she will for some years attempt a policy of expansion which would bring her into conflict with first-rate powers.

The resignation of the Katsura Ministry is in part a result of these altered conditions. An English-speaking resident in Tokyo has written to the New York "Outlook" a letter in which he clearly sets out the significance of the latest political change. Since the establishment of constitutional government in Japan in 1885, that country has had no less than sixteen administrations. Notwithstanding this there seems to have been little break in national policy, because back of all these short local governments stood the Genro, or Elder Statesmen, who are supposed to dictate the policy of whatever government is in office. Hence the passing of a ministry lost all the significance usually attached to it in Occidental lands which enjoy responsible government, for frequently changes of a whole government were made much as there has recently been a shuffling of portfolios in the Asquith Ministry, simply to relieve a minister of a portfolio in which he would have to answer awkward questions because of having followed an unpopular course.

This seems to have been the case in connection with the resignation of both the first and second Katsura Cabinets. The first, which held the reins of power longer than any other, went out in 1905, because of the unpopularity of the Portsmouth Treaty, under which the terms of peace with Russia were secured, and because of its inability or indisposition to discontinue the heavy war tax. Their successors seem to have continued a necessary national policy while not being loaded with the odium of an unpopular treaty of peace.

The second Katsura Cabinet, which has just resigned, has devoted itself to rehabilitating the national finance, while at the same time nationalizing the railways, maintaining its armaments and reconstructing its public works. These in themselves cost the government some popularity. But greater still seems to have been the growing popular discontent with the irresponsible rule of the Elder Statesmen, noticeable in matters such as the Government's unbending attitude to Socialism.

The new Cabinet for the first time in Japan's experience of constitutional government, has been formed without reference to Elder Statesmen. It is formed on party lines and in its formation some radical departures have been made. A bank president became Minister of Finance. The Minister of Education is a Liberal who stands for many reforms long sought by the people. Both the personnel of the new Cabinet and the method of its formation foreshadow a domestic reform Government rather than one concerned with militarism and aggression.

## Current Comment

(Portland Oregonian.)

Nothing convinces like experience. The doctors have been telling us for years that public drinking cups were disseminators of disease and the city assented indifferently. It might be so or it might not. Now comes Walla Walla with the report that contagious diseases have disappeared from the schools since the common cup was eliminated and no doubt parents will take a livelier interest in the subject.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

It is twenty-six years since the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed, and it is one of the few great works in this country that were finished ahead of time. Perhaps there are many readers who once considered the opportunity of buying the stock at \$36 a share, but decided against the investment. A glance at the financial column will show them what they missed.

(Los Angeles Times.)

St. Louis now offers to the admiration of the world a spiked soup plate, finger-proof. Around the edge, but set back an inch, runs a row of sharpened spikes. The waiter's clasp thumb may protrude thus far only and no further, save on penalty of a perforation. This is the soup protected in its passage from the kettle to the consumer.

(United Presbyterian.)

She had a voice like a siren, and when she said "Mild play sure, and palaces, the beam a room. Be it averse oh woman bull there, snow play sly comb," and so on to the conclusion, there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

## GERMAN ALLEGORY ON ADULTERATION

Fly a Text for Pure Food -- Dr. Wiley Brings Home German Story on Poisonous Impurities.

New York, N. Y., Nov. 9.—On a recent trip to Germany, Dr. Harvey Wiley, the government's pure food expert, heard an allegory with reference to the subject of food adulteration which he contends should cause Americans to congratulate themselves that things are so well ordered in that respect in the United States.

The German allegory was substantially as follows, according to the November Lippincott's:

Four flies which had made their way into a certain pantry, determined to have a feast. One flew to the sugar and ate heartily, but soon died, for the sugar was full of white lead.

The second chose the flour as his diet, but he fared no better, for the flour was loaded with plaster of Paris.

The third sampled the syrup, but his six legs were presently raised in the air, for the syrup was colored with aniline dyes.

The fourth fly seeing all his friends dead, determined to end his life also, and drank deeply of the fly poison which he found in a convenient saucer.

He is still alive and in good health. That too, was adulterated.

Washington, Nov. 9.—That a man cannot get a new position after he is 40 years old was asserted before the Employers' Liability and Workers' Compensation Committee today by Arthur E. Holder of the American Federation of Labor.

He was speaking of the satisfactory act of 1906, which recently he had investigated, when a question was asked as to its effect on the employment of men of advanced years.

In reply Mr. Holder said that regardless of this law there was a marked discrimination against the aged in Great Britain only, but through out the industrial world.

"The man who is over 40 and who has a few gray hairs cannot get back when once he loses his job, but he can hold on if he has a place," he said. "It is the same here that it is in England, and it is the same in Germany and throughout the continent."

This condition was not due, said Mr. Holder, to any legislation, but was the result of economic conditions and came of the determination to get the greatest product out of the human mind employed by the business world.

With reference to the extent of the compensation for death or injuries, Mr. Holder said he thought the law was a moderate one, but that the traffic will bear. He declared no death benefits should be less than \$500 and that no injury award less than a dollar a week, regardless of the ordinary compensation of the injured employee.

Robert J. Cary, an attorney of the New York Central, made an appeal for a greater aggregate insurance fund than now is provided by the railroads.

Brooklyn, Nov. 9.—Mrs. Elizabeth P. Gibney, of 23 East Market street, was granted a divorce recently from Matthew P. Gibney whom she married in 1874, 34 years ago, because her husband she told Judge Brown, of superior court, insisted in having target practice with the kitchen stove.

The second Mrs. Gibney said, with cock fights and dog fights, Sylvanus N. Thrasher told Judge Brown that he did not mind when his wife, Mary L. Thrasher of Wareham, threw stones and sticks at him, because they did not hurt much, but he did object when she tossed two flatirons at him and in dodging one the other caught him in the small of the back. Judgment was withheld.

Mrs. Dora Cicciello married Antonio Cicciello in Middleboro about three years ago, but the town was too slow for her, she told her husband, and she left him four days after the wedding. He has not seen her since. Cicciello was granted a decree.

Fred B. Clark, an officer at the state farm at Bridgewater for ten years, was granted a divorce from Laura J. Clark on the grounds of desertion. Mrs. Carrie N. Packer of this city was granted a divorce from John E. Packer, who resigned from the police force two years ago while under charges. William S. Wilson, a patrolman, testified to taking Packer home from his beat in no condition to work.

Tom Jones, manager of Ad Volgaist, offers \$1,000 (vocal money) to any one who will get Nelson into the ring with Volgaist and not have him dictate the terms. Don't know as any one ever heard of Nelson N.O. wanting to fight.

## ARRANGE SUICIDE PACT BY TELEPHONE

Despondent Couple's Exchange of Messages Reveals Double Tragedy -- Unanswered Call is Husband's Last Signal.

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 10.—Apparently timing his suicide with that of his wife by use of the telephone, H. L. Westernman, of Marietta, ended his life at noon today in a room at the Hawley House by swallowing cyanide of potassium. Mrs. Westernman died of the same poison several blocks away, at the Kenard House.

Westernman was a machinist employed by the International Harvester Company at Marietta, and was twenty-five years old. Mrs. Westernman was three years his junior. The couple had no friends here, so far as the police could ascertain, evidently came to Cleveland for the purpose of ending their lives.

Mrs. Westernman went to the Kenard House early in the day and after obtaining a room bade her husband goodby and went upstairs. She had only light baggage, and was not seen again until her body was found, a few minutes after twelve o'clock. She had sat on the side of the bed and taken the poison, falling across the spread as death came almost immediately.

Her suicide was discovered through the repeated calls by Westernman to her by her husband, which are in the basis of the police theory of a suicide pact. Westernman had not been away from his Kenard House half an hour when he called over the telephone and asked for his wife. She responded to the ring in her room promptly, the telephone operator says, and the couple talked a moment.

Half an hour later came another call for the young woman, and she responded. The conversation was much briefer than before, the operator declares. Then about an hour and twelve o'clock Westernman rang again. This time there was no response from the room of Mrs. Westernman, and Westernman, at the police station, declared that he believed the operator to make certain that there was no one within.

The clerk, overhearing the operator's assurance that Mrs. Westernman was not in her room, and being sure that the young woman had not gone out through the foyer, sent a bell boy upstairs to investigate. He heard groans, summoned aid and broke in the door. Mrs. Westernman died when the house physician came, and over the wire Westernman declared that he was not alone. Without a word he hung up the receiver. Soon afterward the police were summoned to the Hawley House and found the man dead. Mrs. Westernman left a note saying her husband was in financial difficulties.

## TELLS OF FIFTEEN ATTACKS ON WOMEN

JOY RIDERS HELD CHIEF DANGER

New York, Nov. 9.—Following a brutal assault on a seventeen-year-old girl in Passaic, N. J., early yesterday morning, the police of that city arrested Albert Slicker, an athletic young man, and will confront him tomorrow with a dozen or more young women who have been the victims of vicious attacks within the last year.

Two other assaults on young women have been placed on the police records of Passaic within the last year. Those of the police are, however, redoubled their vigilance and kept constant surveillance over suspected persons, they were unable to make an arrest or check the series of crimes against women that had the entire residential section of Passaic terrorized.

Slicker has never been under suspicion and the police were dumbfounded when after arrest, he coolly gave them dates and details of fifteen cases of attacks on women and minutely described the victims. After they had verified Slicker's statements by the records of the police, they had him held without bail for the Grand Jury yesterday on two charges of felonious assault and one charge of kidnapping. They also say charges may follow after Slicker is confronted by an array of assault victims today.

Slicker's capture was due to the pluck of two women, Mrs. Jacob Silbertstein of No. 280 Madison street, Passaic, and her daughter, Rose, who is 17 years old. They were returning to their home from the theatre soon after midnight yesterday morning. Without a word the police officer, Silbertstein started ahead to open the front door. She had not taken a dozen steps when a man stepped from behind a tree, pointed a pistol at her and bore her to the ground. The man was beating her about the face when Mrs. Silbertstein ran up and belabored him over the head with an umbrella.

The screams of the two women brought Harry Silbertstein a brother of the girl, from the house. The strange man saw him coming, jumped to his feet and ran away, but not before Silbertstein got a good look at him. Ten minutes later Silbertstein, accompanied by Policemen Turner and Eel-man, began a search of Passaic for the man, a check the series of crimes they ran across Slicker. Silbertstein was sure he recognized him, but Slicker was so vehement in his denials, the policemen were doubtful about arresting him.

As Silbertstein insisted, they took him to the station house, where he was put through a severe examination. He finally broke down. Then with remarkable calmness he proceeded to volunteer information concerning fifteen other similar crimes.

He told the police of an attack on Eliza Hudson, 18 years old, of No. 221 Hammond street, in September last. Miss Hudson was returning home when she was struck between the eyes with a club. Her assailant then dragged her into a patch of woods near her home. Two hours later she was found unconscious in the roadway. She was taken to her home, where her assailant was confined to her bed for two months.

Slicker, the police say, also told them of the assault on theabelle E. Gagon, daughter of George F. Gagon, an official of the Erie railroad, who lives at No. 321 Avering ave. Miss Gagon was attacked in much the same manner as Miss Hudson and

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similarly mistreated while unconscious. Other crimes which the police say Slicker discussed with them, were the assaults on Miss Elizabeth M. Wynne, sister of John F. Wynne, a prominent Hudson county Democrat, and Miss Jennie Smith, a school teacher, who lives at No. 327 Paulson ave. Chief of Police Hendry says that Slicker declares that in several instances the victims of these attacks were knocked down with a club, because they were big, strong women. In most cases, he said, the women were grabbed by the throat and choked until they were unconscious. When Slicker was arraigned in the Passaic police court yesterday, a complaint of plain assault was made by Miss Silbertstein, and charges of felonious assault were sworn to by Miss Hudson and Miss Smith. Miss Wynne and Miss Smith will confront the prisoner today and will add their complaints to the others.

The Passaic police were amazed at Slicker's statements. A dozen young men have been under surveillance since the crimes began, and some of them were followed night after night for weeks. Slicker, however, was never suspected. He is well known in Passaic, and was regarded as harmless, as he had never been known to display vicious tendencies.

New York, Nov. 9.—Responsibility for the killing of 89 persons and the serious injury of 855 others in automobile and cab accidents in the streets of New York since Jan. 1 was attributed today by Col. Edward S. Cornell, secretary of the National Highway Protective Society, to "joy riding drunken chauffeurs ignorant owners of cars and irresponsible and reckless night hawk cabmen."

"The joy riders and the night hawk cabmen," said Col. Cornell, "are the most dangerous factors to life and limb in this city, and they often get away with it because many of the accidents happen at night. In 13 cases during October the operators of motor cars causing serious accidents died, thus violating the law in another way. I have written a letter to Dist. Atty. Whitman requesting him to single out and make an example of such offenders whenever they are caught."

The National Highway Protective Society finds that not more than one-third of the accidents are due to taxicabs owned by the large taxicab companies, which are gradually weeding out the undesirable chauffeurs and substituting experienced and careful men.

"We find that many persons are operating their own cars without experience as chauffeurs," said Col. Cornell. "An East Side butcher, for instance, buys a second hand car and overloads it with seven or eight of his friends, and with only the slightest knowledge of how to run a car, starts out for a joy ride, to the great danger of the public. There are many types of this kind of man-killers on the public streets."

Hospital ambulances fear through the streets at a speed far too high for safety, as for example last week, when an ambulance going to a simple injury case killed a man before reaching the patient, who scarcely needed attention."

Figures compiled by Col. Cornell show that of the automobile and one death and five injured to the motorcycle. Trolley cars killed three and injured 23, wagons killed two and injured seven. Runaway horses caused one death and two injured. Railway grade crossings added four deaths.

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