

Mr. Lowther's Farewell To British Commons

Hand-shake for All as Noted Speaker Says Good-bye—A Word for the O. B. E.—Stories of the Navy—The Coster's Tribute at the Cenotaph.

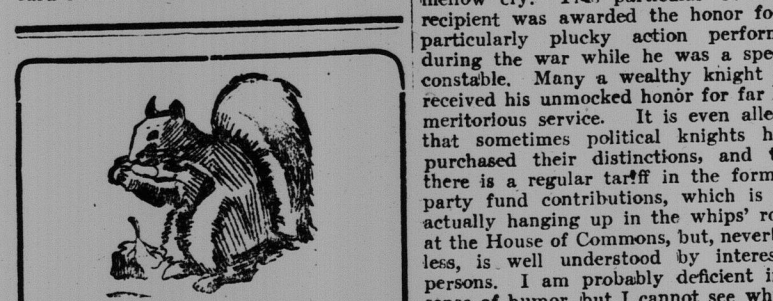


Former speaker of the British House of Commons, Rt. Hon. J. W. Lowther, is seen taking a farewell look at the Thames from the terrace of the house. There were many touching scenes when he made his decision to resign, having been speaker since 1905.

(From Our Own Correspondent)
London, April 26.—Mr. Lowther, who comes first commoner in succession to hat severe martinet, James Lowther, is the first Nonconformist to sit in the speaker's chair. Mr. Lowther is a rather austere man and it remains to be seen whether he will grow more mellow on attaining the great position of influence which has stood for many years as the goal of his ambitions. It is expected that one of his two daughters will fulfill the duties of hostess at the Speaker's house. Mrs. Lowther has long ceased to enact the role of a society hostess, reasons of health having induced her to live a life of almost complete retirement.

A Sporting Chancellor.
Lord Birkenhead, the Speaker's clerk, if I may so call him—the two men can see each other seated respectively in the Chair and on the Woolpack when the doors of the House of Commons are flung open—is determined to justify his election as a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron. More fortunate than Sir Thomas Lipton, he was elected to this august and exclusive body at the first time of asking. Nominally, membership of the club is supposed to argue possession of a real floating yacht. In practice it argues nothing more, I believe, than the possession of a pair of spotless white ducks in which you can perambulate the front at Cowes. For qualification purposes, it has even been suggested that yachts are hired out to prospective candidates.

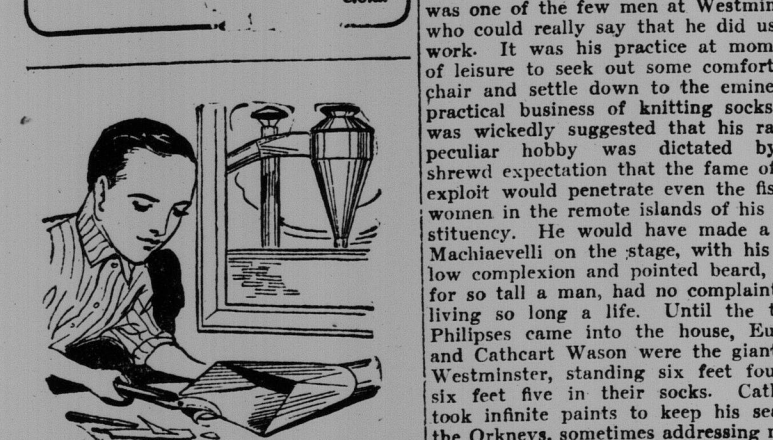
Lord Birkenhead, however, is determined to have a yacht of his very own and is ambitious of entering her for some of the big races. The Lord Chancellor has always been a keen sportsman. As a youngster he was captain of his school and when advancing years compelled him to give up Rugby he developed into quite a decent player of lawn tennis. Before he became Lord Chancellor he was also a desperately keen bridge player. At the club which he most frequents he had the reputation of having lost more money at the game than any other man who frequented the card room. At cards, as in politics, "P."



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POTATO SURPLUS MILLION BUSHELS

Ottawa, May 18.—In the senate today, Senator Prowse called attention to high freight rates in Prince Edward Island. A surplus of a million bushels of potatoes could not be marketed on account of them, he said. He urged that the government railway needed a manager familiar with local conditions. Potatoes were selling for seventeen cents per bushel, while freight rates were forty-three cents per hundred pounds. The senate adjourned until Tuesday.

The Coster's Tribute.
Until a few days ago the authorities responsible for due supervision of arrangements at the Cenotaph, where day and night there are never wanting groups of pilgrims and fresh tributes of fair English flowers, were puzzled by the frequent discovery of a choice head of cauliflower or a cabbage among the wreaths of the base. But yesterday an observant policeman on duty there saw, in the very early hours of the morning, a coster pushing his barrow along Parliament street, with vegetables from Covent Garden. When he reached the Cenotaph the man halted, removed his cap, and, holding a fine cauliflower from his barrow, he quietly amongst the mass of beautiful flowers.

The constable interpreted the man, and asked him what he meant by it, because the police, almost all ex-service men, chase the public sentiment about the Cenotaph to the full. But there was not the least suspicion of ribaldry or insult in the coster's thoughts. He told the police officer that his coster chum and partner before the war had been killed at his side in one of the Somme attacks, and periodically he places some tribute on the Cenotaph in memory of him. He was too poor to afford flowers, so he gave as his tribute the best of his vegetables from Covent Garden, and was sure his chum would "understand and appreciate". That policeman promptly turned away without another word. But I think he would have been the whitest of white men if that coster's barrow even at midday in future.

ATTEMPT TO FLOAT STEAMER FAILED
The Yarmouth Herald of Tuesday says: The attempt a day or so ago to refloat the large freighter City of Columbia, ashore on the Digby Neck shore, did not prove successful and it had to be abandoned for a few days until further cement work was done. Word received yesterday stated that that would be completed about the end of this week, when another effort will be made to haul the ship from her rocky berth.

More Fisher Stories.
There are some characteristic anecdotes of the late Lord Fisher in Filson Young's book "The Battle Cruiser", which is published today. One of the best concerns a scene at the Admiralty, when the then first Lord, Winston Churchill, proposed to employ the author as a naval "eyewitness", after the style of General Swinton with the army, and asked Lord Fisher what he thought of the idea. Although Mr. Young did not know at the time that the breach over the Dardanelles gamble had already occurred, it was apparent that there was trouble in the air, and the hot-tempered old seaman contradicted Mr. Churchill at once. A violent outburst followed, Lord Fisher delivering a great tirade on the navy, and the minister being "gentle" to his hostile colleague. The climax was reached by Lord Fisher roundly abusing the unfortunate author, and then suddenly putting his hand on his shoulder and saying: "I didn't mean any thing personal against you—and don't mind what I said just now. I am always violent! I was born violent! I wouldn't be wended." Altogether Mr. Young gives very humorous sympathetic picture of the great man.

Beatty's "Cats"
But the hero of this fascinating volume is Admiral Beatty, with his battle cruisers Lion, Queen Mary, Princess Royal, and Tiger, known to the fleet as the four "cats", and the older invincible class ships. The period during which Mr. Young served on Beatty's staff covered the Battle of the Dogger Bank, the first fight in history between modern capital ships, and he has a most stirring account of that tremendous experience. What about this as an example of the naval mind? The officer in charge of the fortensmoothing station, (a sort of telephone exchange in the bowels of the ship) after the explosion of a shell in

Man Thrown Over Niagara?

Niagara Falls, May 13.—Ralph Holcomb, a business man of Albion, N. Y., is believed by the authorities here to have been attacked, robbed, thrown into the rapids and carried to death over the American falls. A coat ripped across the back, and a hat were found on the shore near Goat Island bridge. The state reservation police found insurance papers and other documents in the coat pockets bearing Holcomb's name and address.

Mrs. Holcomb, to whom the facts were wired, replied that her husband left home on Thursday with considerable money.

A Revel newspaper prints a report from the Russo-Finnish border to the effect that Leon Trotsky, Soviet war minister, is seriously ill with cancer.

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