

Mr. Welsford seconded the motion, which was carried.

A vote of thanks was also passed to Lord Ridley for presiding.

In the evening the vice-presidents of the council gave a complimentary dinner to Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P., Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., and Mr. Bonar Law, M.P., at the Hotel Cecil. The grand hall was filled to overflowing by a representative and enthusiastic company, over which Lord Ripley presided. The hall was decorated with British and colonial flags, the most conspicuous being a large Union Jack surrounded by smaller flags. The words "Union is Strength" were written in large letters. There were present many of those mentioned as attending the meeting and conference during the day, in addition to a large number of other supporters of the cause of tariff reform.

The chairman, in submitting the toast of "Our Guests," expressed regret at the absence of Lord Milner, whom they had hoped to have welcomed that evening, but whose absence abroad prevented him from keeping his engagement to be one of their guests on that occasion. He thought they had done their best to help the cause which Mr. Chamberlain started to set on fire the foul free-trade weeds among which it first fell. (Cheers.) They had done their best to keep it alive while calumny and ignorance had endeavored to damp it down by all the means in their power, and now that beacon was beginning to flash to beacon the true message of tariff reform they were more ready than ever to co-operate in the work. (Cheers.)

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who was received with loud cheers, was the first to respond. He said that they had taught the government that

there was a tariff reform movement, and that it was a growing movement. They had sounded the knell of their do-nothing attitude. They had even wrung some admissions from them. Who would say now that there was no colonial offer? Who would say that if there was an offer it was not worth accepting? ("Churchill!" and laughter.) They would confront him with the president of the Board of Trade, one of the most successful of the ministers of the present government. He hesitated to praise Mr. Lloyd-George lest a breath of suspicion should spread in Radical circles about his Cobdenite orthodoxy. (Laughter.) Yet if a tariff-reformer might offer a humble tribute, he was inclined to say that Mr. Lloyd-George, in practice if not in word, was far on the path to tariff reform (cheers), and might yet be banqueting by them as the first minister of commerce who placed our industries upon a satisfactory footing. (Cheers.) He had seen a report of an interview with Sir William Holland—a free-trader—who explained to the interviewer the benefits which had accrued from Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents Bill. Let them see how a free-trader praised it. He said: "I notice the matter as showing what a good president of the Board of Trade can do to promote British industries and urge on employment for British workmen." And then he proceeded to relate how various German firms of chemical manufacturers, who had practically driven out of the market natural indigo by synthetic indigo, which they had hitherto manufactured exclusively abroad, were now purchasing sites for works, and were going to erect works in this country. Altogether, he said, referring to this and other industries which were now to be transferred to this country, as a result of the Patents Bill, before this year was gone 10,000 men would find employment in this country.

(Cheers.) And what Mr. Lloyd-George had done for the manufacturer of patented articles they wanted to do, and would do, for trade as a whole. (Loud cheers.) But what a curious commentary in the pure milk of the free-trade gospel was the boasting about having transferred employment from foreign countries to British workmen. (Laughter and cheers.) They were forcing their opponents to change their position, were routing them out of the entrenchments which they had dug, and as they were routed they were showing in the results which were recorded the record of tariff reform progress and of the decay of its opponents. (Cheers.) They had a united party, and every member could accept the programme that Mr. Balfour laid down. Now was the time to press the movement home with a long pull and a strong pull, and a pull all together, to achieve a victory which could not be long delayed. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Wyndham, who was warmly received, in the course of his reply asked if the policy of tariff reform could help us to solve the problem of maintaining an all-powerful navy. His answer was that it could—by broadening the basis of taxation. No other policy could do so except by hindering the solution of another momentous problem—the welfare of the people. Try to have an all-powerful navy against a deliberate attempt to wrest from us the supremacy of the seas, and one of two things must follow—we must pile up direct taxation until more capital was diverted abroad, and left more labor in the lurch at home, or under the present fiscal system we must pile heavier burdens upon the means of subsistence of the working classes and grind them into the dust. (Cheers.) As the second element of Imperial defence he put a closer union between all the self-governing white people of His Majesty's

dominions, which, he said, demanded our close and anxious attention. Tariff reform alone could help towards the solution of that problem. As to the problem of the welfare of the people in the Motherland, what could call for more serious consideration than the fact that, in a period of trade expansion which was unparalleled in our history—when our exports figured at £608,000,000 and our imports at £460,000,000—the policy of free imports, by the test of unemployment, had absolutely broken down. (Cheers.) We found the figures of unemployment here were more alarming than the figures of unemployment in other countries which had a tariff designed to safeguard their home industries. Now that the trade "boom" showed signs of collapsing, we saw that the figure of unemployment in the most highly-organized trades was month by month and week by week assuming alarming dimensions. Except in accidentally favored trades, during the recent period of great trade activity wages had been lower and the cost of living higher. (Hear, hear.) So-called free trade had failed in the circumstances which its advocates had always described as most favorable. (Cheers.)

Mr. Bonar Law, M.P., who next responded, said that the tone of the gathering and also of the conference earlier in the day showed that they were in a jubilant mood, and not without cause. The movement had behind it now the momentum which was due to the discredit that had already fallen upon the government, and every month and every year which the present government lingered on that momentum would go on steadily and rapidly increasing. Even their opponents were realizing the great change which had taken place during the last few months. There was in the question of colonial preference something far more important than any question of trade advantages and disad-

vantages. Every country in the world except our own had adopted in trade, as in everything else, a national policy; we alone adhered to a policy which was not only cosmopolitan, but which was intensely anti-national.

Mr. Chaplin, M.P., who was the last to respond, was received with a loud outburst of cheering when he announced that they had won another tariff reform victory at Worcester. The company rose and enthusiastically waved their dinner napkins, and to a cry of "Are we downhearted," there was a loud reply of "No!" Apart from all considerations of this further indication of the progress of their cause the result of the election was a personal matter of gratification to him, because he had been intimately associated with Mr. Goulding for many years. There was nothing more remarkable than the progress which their cause had made. The three most crushing victories which they had recently had been won by a fearless, outspoken advocacy of tariff reform, which was not always so popular and so readily accepted as it had been since the time when their leader absolutely united, to all intents and purposes, practically the whole of his party by throwing himself heart and soul into the cause. The only bar that he was aware of to the final successful achievement of their aims was the existence of the present government. (Laughter.) The first thing, therefore, that they had to do was to get them out. It was difficult to upset the majority of 350 against them, but sooner or later, backed as they were by public opinion, they would do it. (Cheers.) Before resuming his seat, he proposed the health of the "Victor of Worcester," and the toast was drunk amid cheers.

The last toast was the health of the chairman, proposed by Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P.

Forty-Eight Hours With the Spooks

Things Seen and Unseen at Lilly Dale, by D. W. Higgins.

TOMPKINS and I resolved to remain another day at Lilly Dale, in the hope of solving the problem that has long baffled wiser heads than ours. What we had seen had but whetted our desire to see more, and we were determined, if possible, to find out all that we could before leaving.

The signs of the medium were numerous, and we had a variety of professional mediums from which to make selections. As we passed along we were accosted by a little man who asked if we were in search of a medium. If we were he felt sure that he could give satisfaction. This fellow, whose cuffs were frayed and not clean, had on a dirty collar and wore dusty boots. His general appearance was that of a man who was out-at-the-elbows, as Thackeray would say, and who would be the better for a bath.

"I will guarantee the utmost satisfaction," he urged, as he handed each a dirty card. "Secrecy is assured. I will produce your friends as they were in life, map out your career and tell you what is going to happen to you in the next ten years."

We managed to shake the man off by entering a small cottage, a sign on which informed us that a Mr. and Mrs. Ellery, writing mediums, renowned and skilful, held seances there.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellery, who were a presentable couple, sat on one side of a table, while Tompkins sat down on the other side. They handed him a dummy book, a pair of covers, but no leaves. Within the covers they placed a few blank sheets of notepaper and a long lead pencil. The trio then grasped the dummy and instantly there was heard a sound as if the lead pencil was being passed over the notepaper. After the lapse of two or three minutes the noise ceased and the covers were opened. The leaves were filled with messages purporting to be from Tompkins' friends. One of the messages was from his deceased wife. It informed him that she was intensely happy, that she was constantly near him, and did not want him to marry again. She added that all children in spirit life were well, and that all impatiently awaited his coming. The other messages were from dead friends of Tompkins, but as they were of a private nature they cannot be repeated here.

From Ellery's we went to the hotel and were shown several "spirit portraits" of deceased persons. The method by which these portraits were obtained was explained. A canvas stretched on a frame was hung on a wall. The medium sat in a darkened room with the person desiring the portrait. Presently a light was thrown upon the canvas and a red blotch appeared on the surface. This blotch expanded and what at first seemed to be a dab of paint with about as much expression as a dish of porridge, began to assume form. In an incredibly short time the portraits were finished and handed to the purchaser who, we were told, invariably expressed himself or herself pleased with the result. The portrait mediums were not at Lilly Dale when we were there, so I can only tell the story as it was told to us. We saw several portraits which, we were told, were executed by spirit hands. They were well done, but not better than portraits that were admittedly painted by human hands. I am strongly inclined to think that the spirit painting effect is produced by necromancy.

From the portrait gallery we entered a cottage, the sign on which informed us that Honorable Lord Drake, a clairvoyant with a world-wide reputation, sojourned. The in-

stant Tompkins and I entered the room, the occupant, a well-proportioned, handsome old lady, exclaimed, "Here comes W. H. Tompkins, of Toronto, and a man who signs himself 'D.W.H.' of British Columbia. They want a setting."

"Good gracious," I exclaimed, "how do you know our names? Have you been telephoning to Mr. Keeler?"

"No, sir," she replied severely. "I have no telephone, and your names were given me by a spirit, who says that she is Mr. Tompkins' wife Gergetta, and that you want a setting. She is a sweet, pretty woman, and she has her arms about Mr. Tompkins' neck and is kissing him."

Tompkins, who is a rather nervous person, clutched at the air behind him, after the manner of a man who is trying to catch a butterfly, but his hands returned empty to his side.

"Oh, you may clutch and you may clutch," quoth the woman; "but you can't grasp the spirits. I see them and I hear them too, for I'm both clairvoyant and clairaudient. But you (with scorn and contempt in her tone) you can do nothing. Having eyes ye see not, ears and ye hear not. I can tell you your in-

most thoughts, give you messages from the dead, and foretell your future."

She then proceeded to give us both a "setting" in spiritualism, interspersed with prophecies as to our future, not an atom of which has come true during the past four years.

Turning to me she continued: "There's a dark man of medium size who says that he's T. D. (mentioning the name of a deceased judge.) He says that he was a big man in your country when he died; but that all distinctions are leveled where he now is and he is no more than any one else there. Kings and Queens and Emperors and Presidents are no more than any one else in spirit land. They leave their honors, like their clothing, behind them, and go out as naked as when they came into the world."

The medium then gave the names of several friends and relatives who had passed on and who said they were happy and sent their love to "D.W.H." and Tompkins. I should say that "D.W.H." were the initials now and then placed at the foot of my contributions to the press—and the fact that they should rise up against me in judgment at a place 3,000 miles from my home town was a cause of astonishment to me, and ever will be.

Some Ideals In Foreign Policy

THE Nation is impatient with Sir Edward Grey's administration of our foreign affairs. "Let us hope," it says, "that in the future Sir Edward Grey may offer us some development of the pacific side of Liberal policy. For its more active humanitarian side we have waited thus far in vain. On the Congo question we have received the valuable advice to exercise patience. In Macedonia we have seen a sensible relaxation of the vigor infused into our action by Lord Lansdowne. In the case of Persia we find small consideration of the effect of our action on Persian freedom. Do Liberals quite realize the full loss to the party of the submergence of their ideals? Do they not forget sometimes that faith and enthusiasm are, even in a faithless generation, the sole trustworthy sources of vitality in a party which has permanently against it the great forces of inertia, as well as the ill-will of a society whose timidity grows with its ever-growing wealth?"

"Gladstone would not have said, 'We are not the whole conscience of Europe'; he would have roused the conscience of Europe," continues the Nation. "From the moment that the other powers realized that the present government regarded the fate of Macedonia as a capital question, the whole problem would assume another aspect. We have elements of public opinion on our side—the democracies of France, Italy, and Russia, the Slavs of Austria, the Socialists everywhere. Above all, we have in our hands the elements for a bargain. Our diplomacy and our capital can immensely assist the building of the railways on which Austria, Russia, and especially Germany, are intent. Let us offer to assist these schemes, if only these three powers will withdraw their opposition to reform. Bargaining is the essence of the situation, but the one bargain which would cover us with infamy would be a transaction that sacrificed our clients in Macedonia to the appetites of two illiberal empires."

"Sweden has been greatly, and," adds the

Nation, "justly alarmed at Russia's proposal to cancel the convention concerning the Aland Islands between France, Great Britain, and Russia, which formed part of the Treaty of Paris. This convention bound Russia not to fortify these Baltic islands or to maintain any military establishment on them. They command Stockholm, and if fortified might bottle up the Gulf of Bothnia, and go far to make the Baltic a closed sea. Russia cannot disturb the status quo without the leave of France and Great Britain, and we strongly hope that we shall firmly refuse permission, for we have a national, an historic, and a naval interest in the question. It was, for instance, keenly debated in the 'thirties. Russia declares that she does not want to fortify Aland; if so, she need not disturb a treaty to which she has submitted for more than half a century. Even if she does not at once fortify, and the convention is torn up, Sweden will be compelled to fortify Stockholm, to cut a canal from the capital to the northern coast, and to maintain a naval station and force there. England cannot lay so heavy a burden on a small and thoroughly peaceful and progressive community."

It cannot be said that the Decentralization commission, which has now resumed its sittings in Calcutta, is making a favorable impression on the official classes or on Indian leading men," says the Calcutta correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, under date January 30. "Some prominent members show a tendency to dogmatize on the strength of their very brief stay in the country, while others do not disguise their complete ignorance of Indian conditions."

"Very striking evidence has been given by Mr. Bhupendra Nath Bose, one of the most trusted and respected of the Indian leaders in Calcutta and, indeed, in Bengal. Speaking of the relations between officials and people, he said that close personal relations seldom existed between the executive head of a district and any class of the community. When the district magistrate was out on tour he was so hemmed

in by the police that ordinary people did not dare to come to him freely. His insufficient acquaintance with the language was another obstacle. The young civilian came out to India with all the feelings of a ruling race and, what was worse, a ruling caste. His head was turned by his being placed in a vicious atmosphere, the servile surroundings of the criminal courts. Hence he formed an extravagant idea of his own importance and thought that his prestige would be diminished by free intercourse with the people. Mr. Bhupendra Nath Bose's statements can be amply confirmed, and they go to the root of much of the existing unrest."

Signor Nasi, a member of the Italian senate, has been sentenced to eleven months' imprisonment for peculation of national money, and he is to be excluded from public office for four and a half years. He has been in prison for seven months, and has therefore only four to serve.

"The harm done by the Nasi affair has been very great," says the correspondent of the Morning Post. "It has led to vehement polemics, which have embittered the relations between Sicily and the North of Italy; it has increased the normal cynicism of the poorer classes, although, as a matter of history, no minister has previously been impeached for peculation since 1848, and it has proved that there has been, and probably still is, a culpable lack of control over the expenditure in the public offices. Public opinion in Italy would welcome a thorough and searching inquiry into the working of the government departments. If it should lead to this result, the Nasi case will not have been in vain."

At a meeting of the Finance committee of the Belfast Corporation the city accountant stated that defalcations in the rates amounted to £6,800. Soon after the defalcations were known a warrant was issued for the arrest of the defaulting collector, who was traced to Boulogne.

"I'm A." (the name of a lawyer who had but recently deceased).

"How are you getting on?"

"Oh, I'm supremely happy. This is a land of sunshine, progress and happiness; no worry about getting a living and nothing to do but study for a higher plane of spiritual life."

"Are there any rich men with you?" I asked.

"Oh, lots, and they are coming every day," and the spirit ran over the names of many men and women who had crossed the border and whom we had both associated with when they were on earth.

To prevent a chance of collusion with other mediums, I had introduced my companion as "Mr. Wilson"; but when the trumpet was next raised my friend was addressed as Tompkins, the nom de plume being disregarded. The spirit represented himself to be a school fellow of Tompkins and narrated many pranks of their boyhood days which Tompkins declared were true.

Asked how he knew that Wilson was not the proper name, the spirit answered "there's no use trying to fool us."

From that on the seance was a series of surprises. Men and women came to the trumpet in rapid succession and gave information that was considered of more or less value to those to whom the messages were addressed.

One young man who was worried about some deeds that were missing, called up his father and queried himself by asking a leading question.

"Father," said he, "are you there?"

"Yes, my son."

"Are you happy?"

"Yes, my son."

"Is it warm down there, where you are?"

The trumpet was flung to the floor with great clatter and bang, and the old gentleman declined to appear again to answer more questions.

Most of the questions and answers were of a pleasant character. What impressed me most was the earnestness of those who had espoused the faith and the simple manner with which they accepted the messages and promised to obey the directions given. If there was no necromancy about the demonstrations, it was indeed wonderful. I have wondered ever since and I still wonder.

The next day, the last of our stay, we visited a Mr. McKinley, who was represented as a high class medium. He drew a trumpet from a velvet sheath and set it on the floor. Next he darkened the windows and transom and took a seat in a corner. The lights were then turned off and the trumpet was presently raised and tapped me gently on the head, as before.

"Someone wants to speak to you," the medium said.

"What do you want to say?" I asked.

The voice was T. D.'s again.

"I want to tell you that there's no sectarianism here. There are no sects, no Protestants, no Catholics, no Spiritualists. All are one grand religion of truth and love. We are very happy and are all studying hard to reach a higher sphere. All your Victoria friends are well. When you go back to Victoria tell them how I came to you at Lilly Dale. I want to be of use to you and shall be if we can only be more in rapport."

And so the seance went on, the strangest part of all being the knowledge the mediums possessed as to names and events. We could not possibly have been known to them through human agency. At least it appeared so to me. I went to Lilly Dale to solve a mystery, and I came away more mystified than when I went.