

# MEN OF TO-DAY

## LORD ROSEBERY'S POLITICAL SON

**N**EXT to the two Chamberlains, the most conspicuous case of father and son in British politics is presented by Lord Rosebery and his son, Neil Primrose, M.P. for Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. It is not often that politics follows the hereditary principle closely enough to make father and son equally distinguished. Usually the young man sees as much of politics in his father's business as the average minister's son sees of religion—with the result that we have few examples of either portfolios or pulpits handed down to succeeding generations. The same is true of actors—though we have the well-known cases of Sir Henry Irving and his already distinguished if not famous son Laurence; the elder and the younger Salvini—and a few others. Poets are said to be born, not made—but there are few examples of poets whose fathers ever wrote poetry; indeed the average poet's father inclines to be either a mediocrity or a dub, which is something of a natural law in the spiritual world. Painters also seem generally powerless to transmit genius to their offspring. Musicians are no better; though there are many instances of eminent musicians who had musical ancestors—and Siegfried Wagner is doing his best to follow after his mighty father Richard, though he is under a most awful handicap.

Lord Rosebery's son is quite as unusual a case in politics; though he has contemporaries in the younger Chamberlain and the younger Gladstone; not to mention the two more or less incidental cases in Canada of Sir Charles Herbert Tupper and Hugh John Macdonald. Neil Primrose is said to resemble his eminent father both in politics and physique. He certainly looks like Rosebery used to be before he got into the "lonely furrow." The young man is but twenty-three. His mother, it will be remembered, was an heiress of the Rothschild family—which was one instance of the triune ambition of the elder Rosebery to marry the richest woman in England, to be Premier of Great Britain and to win the English Derby, all of which he carried out in true Warren Hastings style in the days when he was seized of ambition and glorious youth. Then came the "furrow" and the later Rosebery; somewhat of a sullen, ominous figure on the horizon; whose half-sinister pessimism tinged with genius and coloured by a great career was not able to discourage young Neil from going into politics. Besides, young Neil had another discouraging example in his elder brother, Lord Dalmeny, who sat in the last Parliament but retired because he didn't like politics.

There seems, however, to have been a woman in this case also. Neil Primrose has an aunt who is both wealthy and ambitious—for his sake. Miss Lucy Cohen, having no children of her own, kept a shrewd watch over the sons of Lord Rosebery. She saw that young Neil Primrose had a good deal of political aptitude. Wherefore she bequeathed him a "large fortune"—about \$750,000—and a house in Great Stanhope Street, on condition that he go into politics. Well, he has done it. The member for Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, has gratified both his aunt Lucy and the deepest desire of his distinguished father. It now remains to be seen how far he will get before he strikes either a snag or a "lonely furrow."

## CHIEF LIBERAL WHIP

**M**R. F. F. PARDEE, the chief Liberal Whip in the House of Commons, is a very energetic, progressive young man—though he is grey enough to be half as old again as he is. One night recently the House had good cause to remember Mr. Pardee because there was an all-night session "and then some," all on account of a private bill which the Chief Whip was sponsor for in the House. That was the St. Lawrence Power Company bill which aims to dam and utilise that part of the Long

Sault rapids at present running riot near the town of Cornwall and not far from Brockville and Prescott. There has been more wordy warfare over this bill than there was over the bill which James Conmee thrust in not long ago, desiring blandly to build a canal from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg. So far the House, aided by some of Mr. Conmee's political friends, has succeeded in bowling out the Conmee scheme. But the St. Lawrence Power Co. bill is still pending, though the net result of the recent all-night tussle was to force the Government to lay on the table the plans and specifications of the company, so that members might know whether the St. Lawrence was to be unduly muzzled, whether power was to be deported and if so—would the New York Central take most of it for their electrified lines? Which latter was a rumour merely.

Mr. Pardee, however, had the time of his life that night. It's not often that a Chief Whip has to round up members to fight out a bill of his own projection; and this one proved such a hard nut to crack that it's quite certain Mr. Pardee wasn't much in his little room next the Secretary of State at the east end of the building most of that night. He is a born hustler by nature and he knows how to go through No. 16, just opposite the Speaker's entrance, quite as well as ever did Mr. Calvert, his predecessor. He is an example of a young man born to politics; being the son of the late well-known Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Mowat Government of Ontario. One term he sat in the Provincial House. This is his first term at Ottawa and he is coming along strong. A genial, quick-moving, good-looking member is Mr. Pardee, and he is deservedly popular because he is highly effective as Chief Liberal Whip—for he was tried out as Ontario whip last session and proved that he was enough of an organiser to take charge of all

the lobbies; much of a contrast in character and manner to his more conservative rival, Mr. George Taylor, who is a much older man and has been so long at the game of Whip that nobody of Pardee's age round the House of Commons remembers when he began.

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## LORD LANSDOWNE, THE BUDGET-KILLER

**N**OW that Premier Asquith has given notice of three resolutions to restrict the veto powers of the House of Lords, it is of interest to recall Lord Lansdowne, sometimes known as "the budget-killer." One of these Asquith wing-clippers intimates that the Lords shall have no more power of veto over money measures; another that on non-money bills the Lords shall be disabled from killing a bill passed in three successive sessions by the Commons and thrown out as often by the Lords. What does Lord Lansdowne think of these two disablers? Recently the leader of the Lords Opposition expressed himself very incisively in the Chamber when he poohpooed the idea of Colonial peers. Having

himself been a Colonial peer in Canada when he was Governor-General from 1883 to 1888, Lord Lansdowne knows whereof he speaks. So far as knowledge of one self-governing colony is concerned, Lord Lansdowne and all the other retired Governors-General who live in England—though sometimes they go to India—represent pretty clearly the sentiments of Canada. When Earl Grey goes back to the House of Lords, for instance, he will be buttonholed by "Fighting Joe" Martin of St. Pancras, who in the British Commons the other day said that Earl Grey had been talking far too much; that a Governor-General in Canada has no right to opinions on the navy and other matters which might become party affairs, though at that time Mr. Martin was not informed on what Earl Grey said about the tariff at Albany week before last.

In any event, the Governors of Canada as represented by Lord Lansdowne and Earl Grey will never be accused of being dead ones. It is understood that Canada requires live Governors—even though Capt. Hamilton thinks the Governor of Canada should be a prince of the blood royal.

One of the most silent Governors Canada ever had was Lord Minto, who, however, made up for his lack of oratory by a great deal of quiet and useful manoeuvring behind the curtain. The most loquacious of all was Lord Dufferin, who never missed an opportunity to talk in public on any subject from the geysers of Iceland to the history of colonial self-government.



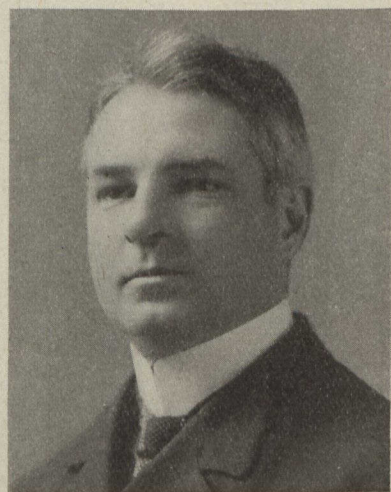
The Hon. Neil Primrose,  
Member for Wisbech.



Lord Rosebery,  
Going to the House of Lords.



Lord Lansdowne  
Who does not believe in Colonial Peers.



Frederick F. Pardee, M.P.,  
Chief Liberal Whip.