



Lord Rosebery the Humorous Hamlet of British politics is the most mysterious character in public life



Rt. Hon. Alexander Ure, the Lord Advocate for Scotland is most irritating to the Unionists



Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour concentrates his mind equally upon a golf ball, a debate or an article on esthetics



Rt. Hon. John Burns, Labourite

INTELLECT IN POLITICS

WHATEVER poverty there may be in the Old Land, poverty of brains is not a condition. Where else in the world could be found so dazzling a diversity of intellects as in the political battle now going on in Great Britain? Time was when men thought that with the passing of Gladstone and Disraeli went out the great lights of the firmament: but the sky is spangled yet with brilliant intellects among whom may almost be summed up the wit and the wisdom of the world. In the characters represented on this page are four men who may be classed as philosophers; of whom Lord Rosebery is the chief; the inexplicable figure who sums up pure intellect, a peerage, great wealth, statesmanship and oratory; the man who once saw life before him as a dream of achievement and before he had passed middle life realised the dream; the follower of Gladstone, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, at Gladstone's death Premier but still a Peer; brilliant, profound and meteoric. Intellectually similar is Mr. Balfour, who as leader of the Unionist party has as much distinction as a subtle thinker and a debater; without passion and without particular convictions; something of an esthetic, little of a pure fighter but a master of invective. How different is that other even more literary light, Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell, Secretary for Ireland, the humorist and the wit, the man with the Irish temper and the English birth, author of *Obiter Dicta*, eminent authority on Education. Contrast with him Hon. Mr. Haldane, Secretary of War; the pure philosopher who illuminated Schopenhauer and being called by Hon. "C. B." to the headship of the War Department, bent himself to the herculean task of reorganising that very practical thing, the Army. Again, behold John Burns, member for Battersea; cradled in poverty; imprisoned for inflammatory labour speeches on Trafalgar Square; elbowing his huge shoulders at the last into the Liberal Cabinet.



Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell



Hon. Alfred Lyttleton, one of the leading Unionists



Mr. Walter Long, able lieutenant of Mr. Balfour



Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane who reorganised the Army