

Mentioned in Despatches :: :: ::

GEN. A. R. HOSKINS is now in command of the British forces operating in German East Africa, succeeding to the post when Gen. Smuts was recalled to London. Like the majority of the British generals, Hoskins has had a lengthy army career and experiences in the Indian field. He was born in 1871 and entered the army twenty years later. He saw service in the Dongola expedition, in the Nile Expedition, throughout the South African War, and then spent two years in East Africa, where he acquired an intimate knowledge of the country over which he is now fighting. Gen. Smuts stated in a recent interview that the entire collapse of the German forces in East Africa might be expected before July.

LESLIE H. BOYD, K.C., who has just been appointed Chairman of the Grain Commission of Canada as successor to Professor Magill, is one of Montreal's city fathers. Alderman Boyd was born in Montreal, in 1873, and educated at McGill and practices law in the city. He has been in the City Council for the past seven years, was at one time an unsuccessful candidate for the Quebec Legislature, and is today president of the Conservative Association. In addition to taking a keen interest in municipal matters and politics, Alderman Boyd finds time to devote a good deal of attention to athletics of all sorts, being an ex-president of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, and an ex-member of the Canadian Olympic Committee, in London, in 1908.

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON has crossed the Rubicon. The Schoolmaster has shown infinite patience with the Wayward William of Berlin, but now his patience has been exhausted and he is going to apply the birch rod. Singularly enough, President Wilson is a man of peace who honestly tried to keep his country out of war, now that he has been thoroughly aroused is going wholeheartedly into the task of crushing Prussian militarism. The President, who is in his sixty-first year, is a son of a Presbyterian minister. Wilson after receiving a thorough education, taught school and then received a position on the staff of Princeton University, eventually becoming president of that well known educational institution. Later he was elected Governor of New Jersey, where his courageous reforms made him a national figure and groomed him for the Democratic nomination for President. In that fight in 1912 he defeated Taft and Roosevelt in a three cornered fight, and was re-elected last fall over Charles E. Hughes. Wilson has shown himself to be a forceful man in regard to domestic legislation, his tariff measures, his Federal Reserve Act, and labour enactments being of a particularly constructive nature. The President has been severely criticized on account of his vacillating policy in regard to Mexico and Germany, but it is everywhere admitted that he had a delicate task in lining up the big foreign born population. Now that he has his country committed to war his former indecision will be forgotten.

GEORGE H. PUTNAM, the well known American publisher, addressed the Montreal Canadian Club a few days ago and received a most enthusiastic welcome. George H. Putnam has done more to direct the American nation into war with Germany than any other man in the neighbouring republic. When the Lusitania was torpedoed nearly two years ago he formed the American Rights League, and since that time he and other members of it have been going up and down the country advocating American participation in the war as the only way by which the United States could secure her rights as a self respecting nation. He is now naturally very much elated that his two years of work have resulted in action on the part of his country. Putnam is seventy-three years of age, but is as active mentally and physically as most men of half that age, and this despite the fact that he fought through the American Civil War and has led an extremely active life. He was born in London, England, and educated in the United States, France and in Germany, making his home since childhood in the United States. One of his greatest achievements was the organization of the American Copyright League, which did much to remove the disadvantages under which publishers on this side of the Atlantic worked. He is the author of nearly a score of books, but is probably best known as head of the big publishing house of G. P. Putnam & Sons.

ALEXANDRE RIBOT heads the fourth French Government established since the outbreak of hostilities. Ribot is now far past the allotted three score and ten of the Psalmist, and has long been a big factor in the economic and political life of the French Republic. A quarter of a century ago he was the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and since that time has been a member of a great many governments. Not only is he an eminent financier, but is equally well known as a writer not only in French, but in English. Among the books he has to his credit in English is a biography of Lord Erskine. In the new administration Ribot is premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

CHARLES H. EASSON.—Another Down Easterner has climbed to the head of one of our banks. Charles H. Easson, who has been made general manager of the Standard Bank, was born at Bridgetown, N. S., in 1871, but obtained the greater part of his banking experience in New Brunswick, where he was general manager of the Bank of New Brunswick until that institution was absorbed by the Bank of Nova Scotia. Following the amalgamation of the two banks in 1913, Mr. Easson became Toronto manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia. He left last year to become associated with a manufacturing establishment in the Queen City. He now returns to his first love, and hereafter will preside over the destinies of the Standard Bank of Canada.

THE DUKE OF ABRUZZI, a member of the Italian Royal Family, and often known as Prince Luigi, has been forced through ill-health to relinquish his position as head of the Italian Navy. The Duke has been kept very busy owing to the activities of the German and Austrian submarines in the Mediterranean, and previous to that was kept busy during the war in Tripoli, which took place some six years ago. In many respects the Duke is the idol of the Italian people, being one of the most romantic and picturesque figures in Italy. He is wealthy handsome, fond of adventure and has made a big name for himself as an explorer and big game hunter. Among his achievements are the climbing of Mount St. Elias in the Yukon and some of the highest peaks in the Himalayas, and the conducting of an expedition through the wilds of Central Africa.

RT. HON. ARTHUR J. BALFOUR.—Next to Lloyd George, who is perhaps the greatest driving force in the war, the most outstanding figure is probably the Rt.-Hon. Arthur J. Balfour who has held many pots since the outbreak of hostilities. It is somewhat of a curious coincidence that Balfour and another of the Cecils, Lord Robert, are in a measure the mouthpieces for the British Government. Balfour, who is a master of the forensic art and is an expert juggler of words, was chosen to outline the Allies' position to the United States after Germany proposed peace. His summary of the situation at that time was a masterpiece. Lord Robert Cecil has often been called upon to explain Britain's position in regard to the blockade and other matters. Balfour is probably the strangest figure in public life today. He is a poet, a philosopher and a dreamer rather than a man of action. He much prefers discussing philosophical matters or religious topics to Parliamentary debates, and would rather play a good game of golf than be premier of England. Despite this disinclination, which almost amounts to a dislike of public life, he is one of the most astute politicians, the most adroit debaters, and one of the clearest thinkers in public life. Balfour was born in Scotland in 1848 and educated at Eton and Cambridge. He was first elected to Parliament as a young man of twenty-six, and has been on the job ever since, holding many cabinet positions, being premier for a while and then leader of the Opposition. He has had an exceptionally valuable training for public life, being for some years private secretary to his uncle, the late Lord Salisbury, when the latter was Minister of Foreign Affairs, and accompanying him to the International Congress held in Berlin in 1878, a conference called to settle the problems which had arisen in connection with the Turko-Russian War of the previous year. Later Balfour himself held the position of Foreign Minister.

MR. T. H. RIEDER, who has just been elected to the presidency of the Canadian Consolidated Rubber Company, is one of the youngest captains of industry in the Dominion. Born on a farm near Kitchener, Ont., about forty years ago, he moved to Kitchener as a young lad and became identified with a rubber company, and made such a success of it that a few years ago he was taken to Montreal and made general manager of the big rubber merger. He now becomes president and managing director.

DR. MEHRING.—The election by the people of Potsdam of Dr. Mehring, a pronounced Socialist, may be interpreted as a forerunner of what will happen when the German people have a chance to pronounce on the Hohenzollern dynasty and Prussian militarism. Potsdam is the home of the Kaiser, so that the election of Dr. Mehring is doubly significant. Mehring is a warm friend and associate of Liebknecht, who was put in prison some months ago for his anti-war speeches. The new member of the Prussian Legislature is a Socialist of the most advanced type, holding decidedly anti-militaristic views, and is an out-and-out foe of the Hohenzollern dynasty.

R. R. GAMEY, for the past fifteen years member of the Ontario Legislature for the Island of Manitoulin, has just died. Mr. Gamey is the man who is primarily responsible for the defeat of the Ross Government some dozen years ago. Shortly after he was elected to the Legislature he made charges on the floor of the House that he had been bribed by Government supporters in an effort to have him change his allegiance. In the subsequent investigation made before judges Gamey's evidence was discredited, but the charges he made created such an unfavourable impression throughout the province that at the next election the Ross Government was overwhelmingly defeated. The late Mr. Gamey was fifty-two years of age.

LORD CARMICHAEL.—The part play by India in the advance in Mesopotamia and now the agitation for a duty on Indian cotton, calls fresh attention to the part India is playing, and likely to play in the future of the Empire. A very interesting pro-consul, Lord Carmichael, has just returned to England from the governorship of Bengal where his knowledge of Indian affairs is proving of the utmost value to the Government. Carmichael was a most unconventional Governor, and nothing pleased him more than to wander around the native quarters of Bombay, Calcutta, and other large cities, travel in third-class railway carriages disguised as a native, and in other ways keep in touch with the common people. In this way he was able to learn an immense amount about the under-current of Indian political and economic questions. Carmichael also served as Governor at different times of Victoria and Australia. He was raised to the peerage a few years ago as a result of the good work he did in Egypt, Australia, and in India. It is, however, as a Governor of India that he is best known.

SIR ARCHIBALD MURRAY.—It looks as if one of the chosen race was to take possession of Jerusalem, in other words, that Sir Archibald Murray, a Scotchman, would shortly occupy the Holy City. In view of the spectacular work being performed in Mesopotamia and on the Western front very little attention has been given to the steady advance being made by Gen. Murray from the Suez Canal, and east and north through Asia Minor. The British force from Egypt is now within a few miles of Jerusalem, and the fall of that city may be expected any day. Murray has already made a big name for himself in the present conflict and added to the enviable reputation he had achieved in the Zulu War and in the Boer War. Murray was with the British in the Retreat from Mons, was twice mentioned in despatches and singled out for warm praise by Gen. French. Later he was appointed Chief of the General Staff, going from there to Egypt, where he defeated the Turks at the Suez Canal, and has been keeping them on the run ever since. Murray is fifty-seven years of age, saw service in Zululand and in the South African War, where he was dangerously wounded and won the D. S. O. Before the outbreak of hostilities he was Chief of the General Staff.