

large sections of the populace which would never have believed anything that might have been said by a Conservative ministry about danger to the country and the Empire. It is on record that Mr. Arthur Henderson himself was all for keeping England out of the war till he spent a certain Sunday in reading what Sir E. Grey had to say on the subject. And there are thousands who felt as he did at that time. The teaching and traditions of Liberalism, as represented by such a leader as the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, were all against intervention of any kind. It is interesting to recall the fact that Messrs. Asquith, Grey and Haldane, who were acting together at the time as Liberal Imperialists, needed a good deal of pressing before they would consent to join the Campbell-Bannerman government. Of these three Lord Haldane was the first to go. He did good work in connection with the Territorials and the Expeditionary Force, but in the end he was unable to stand up against the popular view that, with all the knowledge he is now shown to have had at his command in regard to the German peril, he ought to have supported Lord Roberts instead of criticising him. Mr. Asquith will go down to history, in spite of his genius for procrastination and compromise, as the leader who kept the nation together at a crisis of unprecedented gravity, and also for his undisputed personal ascendancy in the House of Commons. Of Viscount Grey one likes to think as the real author of the scheme for a League of the Nations, which is sometimes spoken of as an American plan. For it was he who, after vainly imploring Germany to press any button she liked in the interests of peace, if she could not see her way to such a conference as he had proposed, made this solemn declaration: "My own endeavour would be to promote some arrangement, to which Germany could be a party, by which she could be assured that no aggressive or hostile policy would be pursued against her or her allies by France, Russia and ourselves, jointly or separately." These were golden words, if Berlin had only cared to listen! They are of a piece with all that Lord Grey said and did before the outbreak of war, and with his whole policy as it was shortly after-