

Peers and Other Notables

*Little Cartoons on Some of the Men who have made
Interest in the Big Election Struggle*

THE House of Lords is the most-discussed body of legislators the world has ever seen. The triumvirate of Rome, the Wicked Ten and the Inquisition all combined have nothing to show for notoriety compared to the illustrious and conglomerate body which for the past two or three months has managed to keep Great Britain in an uproar and the rest of the world looking on. Among the peers there are all sorts and conditions



Lord Chas. Beresford



Lord Lonsdale

of men; chancellors and statesmen, scientists and star-gazers, poets and painters, journalists and philanthropists, educators and literary geniuses—and just plain lords. They are the wisest and most portentous public body in the world. And during the last few days of the general elections they managed to create such a furore in the counties that it seemed as if the old-fashioned feudal system just naturally and suddenly rose up out of the mediæval past and went on the war-path against the Liberals.

Of course there's Beresford; and he's a Unionist; tariff reformer and big gun of the navy; bluff, plain Charlie on the hustings and powerful on deck of a man-of-war; as democratic a lord as any, as popular as any commoner and a great deal more than most. He knows more about Canada than almost any ten other peers of the realm outside of Viscount Morley and Lord Northcliffe. He has



Lord Fisher



Lord Rothschild

been here. He patted us on the back and said we were a fine lot of untired, aggressive people, and naturally we feel tickled that "Charley" got in even though we may not feel quite so sure of his politics—provided we happen to be Free Traders, which perhaps we are not.

Lord Fisher is altogether different; another sort of lord but a peer of the realm; a sea-dog for sure and as grim as a bulldog. He believed one thing about the navy while Beresford believed another; which is the spice of life and the life of politics. He is a doer and a centraliser; a man of action and of some ideas. He is not a mere big-wig; has no patience with powder or flunkies and will never have the gout. Five years he has been first sea lord of the Admiralty and he has had a deal of rough weather—which he likes. He has carried out a lot of reforms in the navy—which it needed. He has had a lot of critics—whom he does not mind in the least. He will remain a member of the Imperial Defence Committee—which will need him.

Then there's Lord Morley—or Viscount to be more to the point; the only one of his kind in the country; a scholar and a writer of most chaste and elevated English; whose mind swings along on an airship plane above the average man; who hates to be interviewed and loves to wear bizarre clothes—as for instance, black trousers, navy blue coat and red tie. His face is very red and his manner is very politely formidable. He impresses and elevates. He is a thinker and a high-minded man who has had more constructive ideas about that restless part of the Empire known as India than any other man in England. He was in Canada a few years ago, a guest of Goldwin Smith who is an old friend of his. Lord Morley is one of the wisest and sanest and most constructive men who ever took a hand in politics. England and the Empire are the better off with him and would be sorry to lose him.

Different and yet similar is Lord Rosebery, who invented the "ominous hush." Here also is a high-minded and a serene satirical soul; too involved in Rosebery to bother much about elections; a prophet and a sort of poet; never satisfied with either party though he was once a Liberal of the Gladstone school; and once Prime Minister of England. He travels but little; has never seen Canada; enjoys his "lonely furrow" and only now and again leaves it to deliver an oration which is too broad to be partisan and is scarcely bounded even by the Empire



Sir Edward Grey



Lord Rosebery

on which the sun never sets. He is a world figure, is Rosebery, and we should much like to know him.

The Earl of Derby once entertained the King in state at Knowsley Hall, might have been a king himself if the house of Stanley had not, as Disraeli prophesied that they would, preferred Knowsley to the Parthenon, and Lancashire to the Attic plains. They chose to remain Earls of Derby rather than become Kings of Greece. Knowsley is a magnificent place, and the estate is the largest of all those possessed by this famous family.

There is no more popular sportsman in England than the Earl of Lonsdale, who is honoured by the friendship of King Edward, and has frequently entertained the German Emperor at his splendid seat, Lowther Castle. An all-round sportsman, if there is one thing that Lord Lonsdale loves better than another is it to drive a good horse, or a team of



The Duke of Norfolk



The Earl of Derby

them. He is one of the most noted members of the Four-in-Hand Club, and a magnificent whip.

One of the foremost opponents of the Budget has been Lord Rothschild, who, long before the Bill reached the House of Lords, threw into the scale against it the weight of his enormous influence. He denounced it at a meeting of city men, and was one of the advocates for its rejection by the Peers. Mr. Lloyd-George in a much criticised speech declared that the country was suffering from "too much Lord Rothschild."

Then you come along to the Duke of Norfolk, and what a fearsome giant you behold!—the premier duke and earl of England, of whom one has said that if he were caricatured aright he should be "the most monocled, most fatuous and most degenerate of the lot"—which of course he is not and nothing like it. As wealthy as Croesus, with nothing in the world to do but spend his money and go to sleep in the House of Lords when a debate was on, he decided once upon a time to run for the Mayoralty of Sheffield—which he got. Thereafter hungering



Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna



Lord Loreburn

for work, he became Postmaster-General, which meant a deal of labour and he liked it. Then when the Boer War came on the boards the Duke went to the front. He is a Catholic and a great public character and a conscientious man. May his kind live and multiply!

There are many men who find it easier even now to speak of "Bobby Reid" than of Lord Loreburn, though that distinguished lawyer has been a Peer for four years. There was no more popular member of the House of Commons for more than twenty years, and noble lords of every degree confess that no more genial Lord Chancellor ever wore full-bottomed wig. They listen to his speeches with respect, and vote—as they like.

Not to mention Lord Crewe, who has been described as "tall, handsome, self-possessed and representative of a good type of the British noble-



Viscount Morley



Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill

man." He is the Liberal leader in the House of Lords. When Campbell-Bannerman became Premier, the Earl of Crewe was made Lord President of the Council. Afterwards he was made Secretary for the Colonies. He mastered the intricacies of the Birrell Education Bill and of the South African Constitution—which is just by way of variety and eclecticism. He has written poetry—just for the love of it. He was once Lord Lieutenant for Ireland—when thirty-four years of age. His father, the first Baron Houghton, once visited Canada.

Though Parliament has been so much occupied during this Session with financial business, relations with foreign Powers have, as usual, given the Secretary for Foreign Affairs a full year of work. Sir Edward Grey learned his business under another famous foreign Minister—he was Lord Rosebery's Under-Secretary in the last Liberal Government. There is an air of mystery about him, the House regards him with awe, and his position is the stronger for it.