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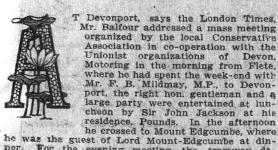
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Mr. Balfour at Great Unionist Rally at Devonport



he was the guest of Lord Mount-Edgcumbe, where he was the guest of Lord Mount-Edgcumbe at dinner. For the evening meeting the tramway depot, the largest available building in the town, was fitted up as a hall at considerable cost. It was lavishly decorated with flags, mottos, and the names of the party leaders in large letters, the real character of the building being completely disguised. Some 7.000 people were crowded into the hall, and the audience was a thoroughly representative one, drawn from all parts of Devon and Cornwall. On entering, Mr. Balfour was given an enthusiastic welcome. Lord Mount-Edgcumbe presided, and was supported on the platform by Lord Clinton, Lord Seaton, Lord Desborough, Lady Ernestine Edgcumbe, Mr. F. B. Mildmay, M.P.; Sir John Kennaway, M.P.; Sir John Jackson, Lady Mount-Edgcumbe, Sir A. Acland-Hood, M.P.; Sir R. Newman, the Hon. Lionel Walrond, M.P.; Lord Clifford, Sir Joseph Bellamy, Sir E. Durnig-Lawrence, Lord Morley, Sir John Shelley, Lord Eliot, and Sir R. White-Thomson.

The chairman, in his introductory remarks, said the

The chairman, in his introductory remarks, said the object of the gathering was to rally the Unionists of the two counties round the flag of their party, which, they believed, represented the cause of true patriotism.

Mr. Balfour, who was received with loud cheers, said:—Lord Mount-Edgcumbe, my Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—Surely no man who witnessed the greeting which you have given me and saw the vast sea of faces, all animated by one belief, all determined to further one great cause, could suppose that the Unionist party is now a divided party. ("No.") Nor do I believe that, as a matter of fact, that charge can any longer be brought against us. (Cheers.) If I further one great cause, could suppose that the Unionist party is now a divided party. ("No.") Nor do I believe that, as a matter of fact, that charge can any longer be brought against us. (Cheers.) If I read aright the signs of the times, there is not merely a growing conviction, but a conviction which has already grown, on the subject of fiscal reform (cheers, which is no longer, or in a few months will no longer be, as I am well convinced, a subject of division in any section of the party, but will rather be an animating motive, a deep-rooted, patriotic, and national conviction which, inspiring alike leaders and followers, is predestined to make the Unionist administration memorable in the history of this country. (Cheers.) Now, I do not propose—I think it would be quite unfitting; for reasons which you will appreciate in a moment—I do not propose to go in detail over this ancient, but now closing, controversy on the fiscal question. I believe that more and more the thinking members of the community are coming to the surely not irrational conviction that a fiscal system 60 years old, brought into being at a time when the industrial relations of this country to other countries were wholly different from what they are now—a system brought into being before we had great industrial self-govenning colonies as co-equal members of one great empire—a system which took no account of the deliberate, settled, and most stable purpose of foreign governments to take every advantage, legitimate and illegitimate, which could further the commercial interests of their own countrymen, sometimes at the expense of our country (heet, hear)—a system brought into being under conditions so wholfy and utterly different from those which prevail now, is a system which, surely, in the mind of the least and the most sceptical critic—is one which in the year 1907 surely requires revision. (Cheers.) I believe we are all in this room unanimous on that point. (Cheers.) I do not mean to preach a doctrine of which, if I judge aright, the moral

The Art of Misgovernment I propose to deal with them faithfully (Laughter), and I should like to make two small studies in the art of misgovernment. (Laughter.) I think the Administration have escaped far too easily at present. (Hear.) They came in upon a rush of public reaction the value of which I do not propose to comment upon now, but, naturally enough, under that flood was temporarily submerged the critical faculty of a large por-tion of the community. I hope it has risen to the surface by this time (laughter), and that it likes the prospect of devastation which is presented to its view. (Laughter.) Let me first make a few observations upon one great department of Governmental admin-istration which touches, as you well know, very nearly the life, the ordinary domestic life, of a large section of the community of this country. (Hear, hear)—I mean the administration of the Education department. (Hear.) I am not going to discuss at this moment, the abortive Bill which was brought in by porarily submerged the critical faculty of a large pormoment the abortive Bill which was brought in by the present Government, which during its passage through the House of Commons received but scant through the House of Commons received but scant favor from critics even on the Government side of the House, which was amended in the Lords in the direction of liberty of conscience in a manner which did not meet with the favor of a Government which cares nothing for liberty of conscience (hear), which was thereupon thrown out by them in a fit of temper (cheers), in the utterly mistaken hope that an indignant country would shout as they shouted now nearly 80 years ago for "the Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill" (laughter), but who, as a matter of fact

80 years ago for "the Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill" (laughter), but who, as a matter of fact, received either in contented silence or with loud applause the action of the House of Lords, whose cup was to be filled up by this particular legislative performance of the present Administration. (Cheers.) I am not going into the merits of the defunct Bill (laughter), nor am I going to make any prophecies as to the Bill that we have been promised by the new Minister for Education (laughter); but I may, perhaps, be permitted to call attention to a slight discrepancy—shall I say of statement or tone?—which in offeed in some of his recent speeches. He made a I noticed in some of his recent speeches. He made a speech in July, for example, a truculent speech (laughter), in which he announced to an expectant country that he would make the House of Lords regret the course they had taken with regard to his predecessor's Education Bill, that the Government had brought forward a peacable solution, but that that solution had been rejected by the House of Lords, and that now he was going to bring a sword in order to deal with the recalcitrant Assembly. But I was not very much frightened at the time. (Laughter and there's J I are less than ever frightened and (laughter and cheers.) I am less than ever frightened now (laughter and cheers), because I observe that from a more recent utterance, an utterance delivered after the county and borough municipal elections (cheers), Mr. Mc-kenna said that it was certainly the desire of the Government to hold out the olive branch (laughter), and such would continue to be their desire. There was a remarkable change between July 1 and Nocember 28. (Laughter.) What particular mechanical operation had turned Mr. McKenna's sword into the pheration had turned Mr. McKenna's sword into the ploughshare I do not know. (Laughter.) I do not know what substituted the olive branch for the threats which only a few months ago he thought it wise and decorous to utter against one of the integral portions of the Constitution, but I conjecture that he has bether to see that the treatment by the Unionist party of the education question was not, and is not now, as has been grossly misrepresented, a sectarian treatment, but, on the other hand, a sincere and admittedly, as far as secular education was concerned, a suc-

ly, as far as secular education was concerned, a suc-cessful attempt to out national education on a good

and satisfactory basis. The attempt we made in 1902

to settle the inevitable religious difficulty was not wholly successful. We are not bigoted advocates of this or that denomination, but we thought then, and this or that denomination, but we thought then, and we think now, that the very basis of the education of the community, of a great community like ours, should be that, if the parents desire it (cheers), their children shall enjoy the greatest of all educational blessings, the blessing of religious education. (Cheers.) Now, with the character of the religious education it is not the province of the central Government or of the county council or of the borough council to deal (cheers,) but it is the affair of the parents themselves. (Cheers.) The Act of 1902 did not indeed give the complete advantages which I should desire to see given to every parent throughout the land, and why? Because that Act was built, and purposely built, ungiven to every parent throughout the land, and why? Because that Act was built, and purposely built, up; on the old foundation that we found existing. We used this foundation to the best of our ability, we improved the structure, we gradually added to the privileges which under the Act of 1870, the Radical Act of 1870, were given to Nonconformists by Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues and followers; we did our best to make that old, and in some respects, I quite admit, unsymmetrical and illogical, arrangement work to the best advantage, and I believe it is working and wherever it is allowed to work it will work. But of you mean to alter it—I do not object if you mean to alter it—in the matter of religious education there of you mean to alter it—I do not object if you mean to alter it—in the matter of religious education there is only one scheme and one principle which we can substitute for the old empirical method, and that principle, that scheme, is one by which the parent shall be allowed to decide what kind of religious education shall be given in the primary schools of this country shall be given in the primary schools of this country to his own children. (Cheers.)

Mr. McKenna's Administration

I did not mean, I frankly admit, when I came into I did not mean, I frankly admit, when I came into this room to go at any length into the general principles on which we should act in legislation, because what I want to bring to your attention is not legislation, but administration, not the Bills which the Government have brought in, but the procedure of their own Education Minister. And let me remind you that it is one of the well-recognized principles of administration in this country that every denartment. you that it is one of the well-recognized principles of administration in this country that every department is given a discretion in administrative affairs on the decided understanding that discretion is to be used irrespective of party, that though the Minister is a party man he is not to wrest and twist the powers entrusted to him by the House of Commons to carry out a policy not embedded in the statute law, and if entrusted to him by the House of Commons to carry out a policy not embodied in the statute law, and if a Minister so misuses the administrative powers granted to him, he commits an offence, in my judgment, not merely with regard to particulars in which he misuses his power, but in regard to the whole scheme of Governmental administration in this country, of which, I would venture to say, that hitherto until the evil precedent set us by Mr. McKenna and his friends, the work has been carried on to the satisfaction of both parties in the State, no matter what party for the moment happened to be in power. (Cheers.) Mr. McKenna, the Minister of Education for the time being, has quasi-judicial powers with regard to the trust deeds of schools and training colleges. party for the moment happened to be in power. (Cheers.) Mr. McKenna, the Minister of Education for the time being, has quasi-judicial powers with regard to the time being, has quasi-judicial powers with regard to trust deeds of schools and training colleges of all kinds; he has powers to make regulations, powers given him in a rash moment by Parliament. The present holder of the office, I believe, is deliberately using these powers to destroy by administrative tyranny what he has been unable to destroy by legislative folly. (Cheers.) I do not believe he will succeed. (Cheers.) But I do believe that, although he will not succeed in destroying the voluntary schools of this country, he will do a great deal of perfectly unnecessary damage. He will cause much suffering and greatly injure the cause of education and lower the whole position of the administrative department over which he presides. He has issued regulations about training colleges which, as I believe, violate their trust deeds. He is using all his powers to throw conditions on voluntary schools so onerous that it is impossible that they should carry them out. You are all ratepayers—I dare say you regret it. (Laughter and "No.") I wish you to consider for a moment what the effect is going to be on the rates of that kind of procedure. I was accused, as one of the authors of the Act of 1902, of increasing the education rate. The accusation was an unjust one, because although it was perfectly true that the education rate rose, that was because more money was required for education; it was not because the Act of 1902 threw a greater burden upon the rates, but simply because the county councils and the borough councils, rightly on the whole, thought that education required more money. They pressed forward their schemes, and no doubt the rates sometimes rose to a point which. I think deplorable. But look what this Government want to do. They want to destroy the voluntary schools. For every voluntary school in its place. For every provided school the ratepayer vitation of the State great denominations—the English Church, the Wesleyans, the Roman Catholics, and others—came forward and out of their own pockets did that which, if they had not done it, the ratepayer would have had to do. Is it not folly that the Government are coming forward now to burke all this private enterprise, if I may so call it, and insist that the whole unalleviated burden of the primary education of this country should fall upon the unwilling shoulders of the ratepayers? I called it folly, but it is worse than folly. It is folly from the point of view of the ratepayer; but from the higher, the wider, the deeper point of view of those who desire to see religion remain, as it has always been, an integral and essential part of our children, is it not folly to say that there shall be in future no religious education at all, or that it shall be a kind of religious education which happens to please this or that Education Minister, this or that town or county counsel, but not the which happens to please this or that Education Minister, this or that town or county counsel, but not the religious education which the parents of the children desire for their offspring? I have a great deal to say to you (cheers), and if I am to say it I have not time to dwel leither upon Mr. McKenna's treatment of the training colleges or his treatment of the secondary schools, or, indeed, in any detail on his treatment of the primary schools. I content myself, so far as this half of my study is concerned, with calling your attention and, in so far as my voice will carry, the attention of the whole community, to the misuse with which I charge the present Minister of Education in the exercise of his Ministerial and semi-judicial functions with which Parliament and the country have tions with which Parliament and the country have entrusted him. (Cheers.)

Misgovernment In Ireland

Well, I turn to the second head of my study in misgovernment. (Laughter.) I cross St. George's Channel (cheers), and I come to a country with whose Channel (cheers), and I come to a country with whose government I have at times been very closely connected. (Cheers.) I think it was on the 15th of May that the present Prime Minister announced that the condition of Ireland was satisfactory. (Laughter.) Does even the Prime Minister think it satisfactory at the present time? (Laughter.) Seven months have passed since he made that memorable announcement, and which the provided tractically matter. those seven months have been marked, tragically marked, by a rapid growth of lawlesness and of disorder, of outrages upon property, of injuries to those engaged in peaceful occupations. Parts of Ireland which even in the most disturbed times knew little of engaged in peacetul occupations. Parts of Ireland which even in the most disturbed times knew little of disorder, have become the very focus of lawlessness. (Hear, hear.) Twelve counties, I am informed, at least, are now involved in this growing spirit of lawlesness. It is spreading from day to day, and any of you who have studied the history of Ireland, indeed, who have studied the history of any community, know well that if you allow a spirit of lawlessness to grow unchecked, the consequences are almost incalculable. They reach issues which you suppose would never be touched by them, they affect interests which appeared to be remote from the original agitation. They touch the life of an organized and civilized community at every point, and at every point they do incalculable injury. (Cheers.) Now, I do not profess to understand what the general policy of the Government is with regard to Ireland. (Laughter.) We must all admit that Ireland is not a subject which it is easy to ignore. You must have an opinion on it. You cannot put it aside in a drawer and say, "This is a subject I will consider a year hence or two years hence." Ireland is with you always. (Laughter.) If has been with you, and is going to be with you (cheers), and whatever you do, whether you give

Home Rule, as I am convinced you never will, or whether you withhold Home Rule, as I am sure you will—whatever alternative you accept, do not suppose that the Irish question is one which in our generation is going to see its final solution, for it is not.

Well, but then, if that is so, and every responsible statesman knows that it is so, what, let me ask you, is the policy of his Majesty's Government upon this insistent and ever-pressing problem? I remember the Prime Minister was extremely angry with me at the time of the general election (laughter), because I suggested there was some kind of extraprepart between gested there was some kind of arrangement between him and the leader of the Irish party as to a policy which was, on the one hand, pursued by the Irish Nationalists in the House of Commons and, on the other, by the Government of which the Prime Minis-ter was the head. I do not know why he was angry. (Laughter) It was a very negative properties. ter was the head. I do not know why he was angry. (Laughter.) It was a very natural supposition, and I do not see that it was a discreditable one. I cannot for the life of me understand why they should not talk the matter over outside. However, the Prime Minister indignantly repudiated the suggestion, and I accept absolutely his disclaimer. Then there was no arrangement between those two gentlemen, but what did actually happen was that the Prime Minister said he would not give Home Rule in the course of the present Parliament, but that he would give them devolution. (Laughter.) That is what he said, and what Mr. Redmond said was that the Unionist Government had been an atrocious and a wicked Governmet, and he hoped that everybody would agree with him and would vote for Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. (Laughter.) Well, that is all right. (Laughter.) I make no complaint. (Laughter.) What probably would have been done after the conversation was apparently done without the conversation. (Laughter.) would have been done after the conversation was apparently done without the conversation. (Laughter.) Then came a time when this policy, which was not an arrangement, had to be carried out. Mr. Birrell brought in a Devolution Bill which was to be a step towards the larger policy. The Devolution Bill limped and tottered through its first reading. It never got to its second reading. (Laughter.) It was kicked out not by the efforts of the party to which we belong, though we did our best (cheers) to attain so excellent a consummation—it was kicked out by the indignant contempt of the Irish people for whose benefit it was brought in. (Laughter.) Very well, then, it may be taken now as settled that the policy of devolution as a step towards a larger hope is abandoned. They got a mandate, so they said (laughter), from the electors of this country to give the Irish devolution. They a mandate, so they said (laughter), from the electors of this country to give the Irish devolution. They brought in their Devolution bill. It never even was read a second time. So much for the mandate, (Laughter.) But then, where are they now? They are not going to give Home Rule, they are not going to give devolution. What are they going to give? Well, they are going to give, as far as I can make out, the only thing which the Irish want, which is a free hand to do exactly as they like with regard to law, order, property, the rights of individuals, and popular liberty in Ireland.

The Government and Disorder Mr. Birrell, the Irish Secretary, was extremely indignant the other day in a speech which he made, I think it was three weeks ago, at Southampton, in which he said that the Government were most falsely accused of not doing their best to repress outrages, and he repudiated with vehemence the suggestion that they had not done their best to throw the whole Governmental weight into the scale of law and order. I have the honor of Mr. Bitrell's acquaintance, and I know perfectly well that he is an English gentleman who probably loathes disorder. I do not for a moment doubt that he has the utmost disgust and horror of the kind of things which he is at this moment permitting to go on in Ireland; but when he accuses others of falsely accusing him he really ought to remember that he has given occasion such as has never yet been given, so far as I know, by any Minister of the Crown for precisely this kind of accusation. This cattle-raiding—you know what cattle-raiding is. It is a deliberate attempt on the part of persons in no wav concerned personally with the controversy to prevent men carrying on a business which is not only lawful and profitiable in itself, but most useful for the country in which they live; and they are prevented from carrying on that business of grazing by seeing the cattle driven off, exhausted, sometimes worse than exhausted, by the treatment they receive, and their business made an impossible business, as everybody who knows anything of agriculture can at once perceive. How was this offence treated by the Government responsible for the time being for the preservation of every one of his Majesty's subjects in the ordinary rights and securities which in every country in the world its citizens possess? (Cheers.) What was the language they used? The representative of the Iris) Office in the House of Lords said: "We"—he did not speak for himself, but the Government of whom he was the mouthpiece—"we consider cattle-driving to be comparatively harmless" (Laughter). Mr. Birrell, the Irish Secretary, was extremely inlanguage they used? The representative of the Irisi Office in the House of Lords said: "We"—he did not speak for himself, but the Government of whom he was the mouthpiece—"we consider cattle-driving to be comparatively harmless." (Laughter.) The Irish Secretary himself made a speech in the House of Commons—I think he gave an answer to a question, I am not quite sure which—in which he said that undoubtedly cattle-driving was illegal, but it was not nearly so bad as cattle-lifting (laughter), which took place some centuries ago (renewed laughter) on the border country between England and Scotland. Another member of the Government spoke in Ireland and told his audience that cattle-driving was not very serious and that it was not nearly so bad as a great many other things. (Laughter.) I ask any man of common sense in this room whether that is the way in which those responsible for law and order in any country, and most of all in Ireland, ought to speak of these combined conspiracies to injure individuals and to defeat the law? Supposing there was an outbreak of burglary in this town, and I was to come down and say, "Burglary is no doubt an offence against the law, but let us rejoice it is not burglary with violence." It is quite true that burglary without violence is not so bad as burglary with violence (laughter), and if I was drawing a criminal code that would, no doubt, appear on the face of the code; but if you preach in public, in Ireland or in this country in a way that will reach Ireland, and, instead of spending your time in showing that the crime committed is a crime in consistent with civilized society, you say, "This is a crime, no doubt, but it might be worse." Do not you think that in the guise of condemning it you do, no doubt unintentionally, but still most surely increase the very offence against which, in appearance and in words, you are making a protest? So it is with these people. The very events that have recently occurred in Ireland prove that it is so. people. The very events that have recently occurred in Ireland prove that it is so.

The Abortive Prosecutions

You have had countless trials, all of them abortive, and what has been said, either by the magistrates on the Bench who, according to the Irish Secretary's own admission, are not doing their duty, or by the counsel for the accused, who, I trust, according to their lights, are doing their duty? What did they say? They quoted the Government. They quoted the very words to which I have called attention, and they told the jury before whom they were speaking that in the words to which I have called attention, and they told the jury before whom they were speaking that, in the opinion of the Government, obviously these were not very serious crimes. Who is to blame for that? I do not believe Mr. Birrell approves of cattle-driving. I do not believe Mr. T. W. Russell approves of cattle-driving. But what I do believe is that in the fear of offending their Nationalist supporters in and out of the House of Commons (loud cheers), they have at the initial stage of this movement so qualified and watered down their condemnations that they were taken to be approvals by the very people whom they watered down their condemnations that they were taken to be approvals by the very people whom they desired to condemn. (Laughter.) Now, what is the course which any Government, any self-respecting Government (laughter), any Government conscious of the fact that, whatever might be its mission in legislation, its primary duty was to see that the lives, the liberty, and the property of those subjects committed to its charge were secured—what would be the course they would have taken? They would have taken advantage of every instrument that the statute law of the country puts into their hands and they would have seen to it that justice was done. (Hear.) The Government have not done that. They have not even tried to do it with regard to the leaders. (Hear, hear.) And why have they not tried to do it with re-

gard to the leaders? "Oh," says the Chief Secretary. "if we were to prosecute Mr. Ginnell, and I am itching to prosecute him—(laughter)—I did not prosecute Mr. Ginnell because if he had been in gaol four months or so, when he came out he would he a hero. He would have greater powers than he ever had before, and that is what he wants." I am not at all sure that Mr. Ginnell does want to go to prison for four months (laughter); but putting that point aside, I should like to ask you what is the Chief Secretary doing in the way of creating heroes? He is producing them by the score. He told us himself that he had prosecuted 400 people. It is quite true that 400 gloried in their crimes, but it also true that not one of the 400 received any punishment whatever. (Laughter.) There you crimes, but it also true that not one of the 400 received any punishment whatever. (Laughter.) There you have 400 village Hampdens sent back to their respective abodes with the enormous satisfaction of having flouted the law, of having made the government of Ireland ridiculous, of having destroyed the living of a great may respectable farmers, and of having suffered no penalty whatever, and of having attained the summit, having worked for their country's freedom at absolutely no cost or inconvenience to themselves, not even the cost of that four months' imprisonment of which Mr. Birrell speaks with such airy lightness. I, therefore, do not think much of this arrangement that you ought not to prosecute for an offence because you turn the man you prosecute into a hero. At all that you ought not to prosecute for an offence because you turn the man you prosecute into a hero. At all events, if you are going to prosecute and if you are afraid of turning people into heroes, you had better take care your prosecution is successful, at all events so that the laugh shall not be wholly on the side of the gentlemen you prosecute. Well, why are not their prosecutions successful? Everybody knows, there is no secret about it. It is because the Government refuse to put into force the Crimes Act. (Cheers.) It was devised by Parliament and placed on the Statute-books exactly to meet these outbreaks of agrarian crime to which from time to time, unfortunately for herself, Ireland has for generations been subjected. (Cheers.) And why do you think the Crimes Act is not put into force? (A voice, "They are afraid to.") Well, what are they afraid of? I think I can tell you. They are not afraid of English indignation or Scottish indignation, and I do not think they are afraid of Irish indignation. They are afraid of their own speeches and they admit it. Mr. Birrell says almost pathetically, "Are we really to put the Crimes Act in force? Consider how we spoke against it, how we voted against it?" Is it then come to this? The law is openly flouted. Are you going to make it respected? No, we make speeches. (Laughter.) Throughout whole counties there is no grazing farmer who is not afraid of seeing himself from day to day ruined by the outrages directed against him, not on account of anything he has done, but simply on account of the fact that he is carrying on a legitimate business in a legitimate way. (Cheers.) Are you going to do nothing to protect him? No, we value speeches. Men are brought up before magistrates in the county and before judges in Dublin, their offences proved up to the hilt; it is not denied even by the defending counsel; it is a matter of universal notoriety. Those men are acquitted. They go you turn the man you prosecute into a hero. At all their offences proved up to the hilt; it is not denied even by the defending counsel; it is a matter of universal notoriety. Those men are acquitted. They go back triumphantly popular heroes to their own villages. Are you going to do nothing to preserve august traditions of the law and the privileges and the rights which I had supposed were the common heritage of every subject of the king? (Cheers.) We are going to do nothing. We make speeches. (Laughter.) It is bad enough, ladies and gentlemen, to be governed by a Radical administration (laughter), but when the members of that administration are themselves in a perpetual bondage of their own foolish deeds and their own rash speeches, it seems to me that our condition is doubly bad, that the tender mercles of these gentlemen might indeed be tolerable if they had only been a little more careful and a little more scrupulous in their use of the weapons of political of the condition of the conditio der mercies of these gentlemen might indeed be tolerable if they had only been a little more careful and a
little more scrupulous in their use of the weapons
of political, of party warfare. The shadow of their
own rash and unscrupulous statements lies over
every department of their public policy. (Cheers and
a voice, "Rub it in," and laughter.) The placards
about Chinese labor have long rubbed from your
walls, they have been condemned as inaccurate by the
government themselves (hear, hear), they have been
stigmatized as mendacious by everybody else; but
these inaccurate or mendacious statements—choose
your epithet yourselves—have bound and hampered
the whole administration of the colonial office in regard to South Africa ever since, and have done incalculable harm to our great colony, in addition to
the harm which no doubt they did to our party when
the lies were first started. It is a small matter relatively that we should transfer from one party to another the administration of the country so long as
the administrators are able and honest at heart and
accept those broad principles which are common to
every civilized government. But it is another matter
when the government go in by means of placards like
those to which I have politicly referred and then find accept these broad principles which are common to every civilized government. But it is another matter when the government go in by means of placards like those to which I have politely referred and then find themselves bound by those placards. Radical government would be quite tolerable if the Radical government would be in the first session, which continued into the Education Act of 1902 got them into a hopeless muddle in their first session, which continued into the second, and, if my powers of prophecy are not wholly at fault, is going to get them into a worse muddle in the course of their third. (Laughter.) Is that because they are incapable of dealing fairly if left to themselves with the education problem? Not a bit, I am sure that if you got Mr. Birrell or Mr. McKenna or the prime minister into a room and quietly talked to them over the education difficulties you would find them the most reasonable men; but they have their speeches and their votes behind them, and their placards behind them, and they are going to get themselves and us into a hopeless mess over this very difficult and delicate question. What is true of South Africa and education is true, and doubly true, by their own admission, of Ireland: Nothing stands between them and the administration of the law as it ought to be administered but those votes and those speeches to which Mr. Birrell so pathetically and so helplessly made reference the other day. Is it too much to ask that they should, for a moment at all events, put aside this inconvenient memory—that they should allow speeches which nobody wishes to read to sleep comfortably obscure, unhonored but harmless, in the pages of "Hansard"—is it too much to ask them to forget the votes and wild statements on platforms and the shameless placards and devote themselves to that which, now they farmer of Ireland, carrying on what is the farmer of Ireland, carrying on what is the greatest industry of the country carrying it on peaceably, according to law, with the approval of his neighbors, should not be allowed to be disturbed by irresponsible bands of ruffians, coming from afar, who are flaunting the law which it is the business of the chief secretary to administer—a business to which, I regret to say, he has not as yet given much of his mind or his attention

The Beginning of a Great Awakening

The Beginning of a Great Awakening

When I got up I promised that, as regards two departments, at all events, of misgovernment, I would deal faithfully with his majesty's present advisers. I hope you will deem that that promise has been adequately performed. (Cheers.) It is time for the party to which we belong, now that we are of one mind (cheers) with regard to the great constructive policy which lies before us—it behoves us to turn our eyes away from these things and to devote ourselves heart and soul to seeing that this government, so long as it retains its majority in the House of Commons, shall be prevented from misgoverning the country committed to its charge, and that as soon as possible we should remove from them all temptation to misuse their powers by taking their powers away from them. (Cheers.) I believe we are at the beginning of a great awakening. (Cheers.) I think a meeting of this kind is a conclusive proof of the enthusiasm which now animates our common party, and depend upon it, if we are unanimous and if we are enthusiastic, the term of power of the present holders of office will be as short as it is likely to be inglorious. (Loud cheers.)

Sir Robert Newman moved a resolution thanking Mr. Balfour for his speech, assuring him of unabated confidence in his leadership, and placing on record

high appreciation of the valuable services he had rendered to his country and party. Mr. J. E. Williams seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. F. B. Mildmay, M. P., and Captain Morrison Bell, and carried with a great demonstration of enthusiasm.

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Mr. Balfour, in replying, said:—I cannot allow the resolution which has just been passed nor the speeches by which that resolution has been commended to your notice to go by without one word of warm thanks from myseif. I think it is just over a quarter of a century since I addressed a great political audience in this part of the country. In the years that have passed much has happened. Our party fortunes have gone up, and they have gone down. They have risen again. They have fallen again. They are about to rise again. (Cheers.) But through all those years with their changing fortunes you, gentlemen, represent a party which in their stanch kindness, in their tolerance of the defects of those who are for the time being placed in a position of responsibility, never can be exceeded. On behalf of myself and on behalf of my colleagues, to whom I feel that the motion that you have just carried was addressed as much as it was to me, I beg to thank you for the support you have given to our great cause—the great cause which is the cause of all of us—in the past; and, if I may hazard a prophecy, it is to say that, while your support is going to suffer no diminution in unanimity or in enthusiasm in the future, it is to be crowned at no very distant date with a very different measure of success than that which attended your efforts at the last election. (Cheers.) That, at all events, in the interest of the party and the country to which we all belong, is my earnest hope as well as my firm belief. (Cheers.) I most heartlly thank you for this, the second great reception which you have given me in the west country. I hope it will not be the last, although I am sure that, whatever the future may have in store, you never can exceed the kindness and the enthusiasm which you have shown on the present occasion. (Cheers.)

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On the invitation of Sir J. Jackson, seconded by Dr. May, a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman. After the meeting Mr. Balfour crossed to Mount-Edgcumbe as the guest of Lord Mount-Edg-

THE NEW NAVAL BASE

Lord Tweedmouth, speaking at Duns, said that they were now about issuing tenders for a new great naval base in the Forth, says the London Times. There had been a long exploration of the Forth, and deep borings had been sunk to find out what the soil at the bottom of the Forth was like and to see how far they would have to bore before they got a sound foundation. The naval basin would cover 56 acres, and would have a depth of 36 feet at all tides. They would have accommodation at the quays for 22 warships, and that number could be doubled by banking them two and two if it became necessary. Besides there would be a big dock that would take in the largest battleship of modern days. Of course, this was going to cost a good deal of money, and it would be a most useful addition to the naval equipment of the country. It would be an absolutely necessary addition to their naval establishment. They had had it more or less forced upon them, the necessity of building these enormous ships, and there was not at present on the east seaboard of this country a dock sufficient to admit them. And even from Portsmouth right round the horth of Sectland they had got no dock that would hold one of the big modern battleships until they reached the Clyde. In the Clyde, Severn, Mersey, and at Belfast there were docks, private docks, that could take them in. All along the east coast, however, there were none. At Portsmouth and Devonport they had docks that would take them in, but along this most attachable coast they had not at the present moment either a private or a government dock that would take in one of these large battleships. He thought the base they had chosen was the right place. In his humble judgment the Forth had not only a splendid railway communication and good water supply, but it was close to the great shipbuilding firms at Leith and Granton, and, of course, in case of emergency, their best shipwights and engineers could be got from the Clyde in a very short time. All these considerations had led them to the final declsion to carry out this work, and he was very hopeful indeed that it would be a great addition for securing the safety of the nation. There had been a long exploration of the Forth, and deep borings had been sunk to find out what the soil

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

According to the Berne correspondent of the Echo stration have been conducting experiments with Marconi wireless telegraphy instruments, which once more demonstrated that such despatches cannot be kept secret, as a receiver registers messages sent by other instruments with which it has no direct communication, says the London Times. An endeavor was made to establish communication between a fixed Marconi instrument on the Righi and a movable one placed in a small valley of the Canton de Valais, almost completely surrounded by high mountains and situated at the foot of the Dent de Morcles. Aithough no messages reached this station from the Righi, it received numerous other despatches in German, French, English, and even Russian, the origin of which was unknown to it. These comprised reports on the health of the Emperor William, the Duma, and the departure and arrival of ships. The intercepted messages, which were very distinct, are believed to have come from the large station in the south of England, and perhaps from Paris. In this particular instance the electric wire of the receiver, instead of being stretched between two tall poles, was fastened to two rocks in such a manner that it faced the Righi.

At a meeting of the Commonwealth cabinet on that such despatches cannot be kept secret, as a re-

ner that it faced the Right.

At a meeting of the Commonwealth cabinet on Monday the postmaster-general announced his decision to call for tenders for wireless telegraphy installations at some half-dozen places round Australia, including King Island, Tasmania, Rottnest Island, some convenient centre on the northern coast, Port Moresby, and Yorke Peninsula. Tenderers are to sell their Australian rights to the Commonwealth. Parliament has decided not to allow directly or indirectly the establishment of a private monopoly. The installations will be capable of receiving messages from passing steamers equipped with any of the recognized systems.

According to Reuter's agent at Georgetown, British Guiana, the government of British Guiana has accepted the offer of the West India and Panama Telegraph company to instal a system of wireless telegraphy between Georgetown, British Guiana, and Port of Spain, Trinidad, as a supplementary service to the present cable system; which is rendered very untrustworthy owing to the unsuitable nature of the sea-bed for submarine cables between Trinidad and British Guiana. The undertaking is an experiment on the part of the West India and Panama Telegraph company, and will be undertaken without extra cost to the government beyond the giving of a guarantee to continue to pay the present subsidy of £3,000 a

NOT QUITE THE SAME

A country clergyman in England, says the Tatler, vouches for the truth of this story. Having arrived at that point in the baptismal service where the Infant's name is conferred, he said: "Name this child." "Original Story," said the sponsor nurse. "What do you say?" he asked in surprise. "Original Story," she repeated in clear, deliberate tones.

"It's a very odd name, isn't it Are you sure you want him called by the name of Original Story."
"Original Story—that's right."
"Is it a family name?" the minister persisted.
"Named after his uncle, sir," exclaimed the nurse. And so as Original Story the little fellow was christened. Some weeks after this event the minister made the acquaintance of the said uncle—a farm laborer in another village—whose name was Reginald Story.