

Britain's Premier.



LORD SALISBURY.

There is no reason why anyone should seek to be Premier of Britain, unless it be pure patriotism or love of distinction. The position is not very well paid, and is full of difficulty and hard labor. A brief review of Lord

Salisbury's daily programme, as given by "Success," is interesting:—



Lord Salisbury begins work before breakfast, and it frequently happens that the only relaxation he has from morning till night is that which is said to be in a change of work.

The annual number of despatches that reach the Foreign Office—presided over by Lord Salisbury—is estimated at 100,000, equivalent to more than three hundred for every working day. As many as possible are answered by lesser officials, and are not seen by the chief; but a very large percentage require his personal attention. Many of them demand serious study on his part, while the drafts of nearly all the despatches to foreign ambassadors are written by him personally.



But this is only a portion of Lord Salisbury's labors. One afternoon a week he has to receive the foreign ambassadors, and when there is a crisis in foreign politics, various representatives of other powers seek audiences at all times.

As the head of the administration, he must be consulted by his colleagues on any important step which they may think of taking in connection with their respective departments. He must be present at the general deliberations known as the Cabinet councils, and must make himself acquainted with all legislative proposals.

One important part of his duties is to keep the Queen posted in matters pertaining to the administration of affairs in the country,

and this occupies no inconsiderable amount of time. The Prime Minister has not only to submit all important matters to Her Majesty, but he has also to explain them when necessary, and reply to the questions which Her Majesty's knowledge and experience of politics enable her to ask. At times a drafted reply has to be rewritten at her suggestion.



Attendance at the House of Lords during the session and participation in debates is another weighty item. And the public expects him to take part in certain social functions, such as the Lord Mayor's banquet, and make a speech which will be telegraphed, wholly or in part, to all quarters of the globe. Of course, he is expected to appear on public platforms, at frequent intervals, with a carefully considered speech. There are court functions to be attended, and there are certain private or semi-public duties which it is incumbent on him to perform.

In addition to all this, he has large private interests to administer, and he regards it as a duty not to neglect them. He writes to all his friends with his own hand, and with that old-fashioned courtesy so characteristic of many great men. So, all in all, the position of Prime Minister is no sinecure.



Canada to the Empire.

The enthusiasm with which Britain's colonial possessions offered their help in the South African trouble is an object lesson to the world, that Britain has a large family of affectionate sons. Canada's contribution of one thousand of her choicest men is evidence that she is not behind the other members of the family; and should it ever be necessary for Canada to send an army of ten thousand for the defence of the Empire, we feel sure that she would do it. In this number we are pleased to give a photograph of the embarkation of the Canadian Contingent on the S.S. Sardinian, at Quebec, on October 30th.