

The ability of Great Britain to make friends with and secure the confidence of semi-civilized rulers has been strikingly illustrated since the war began. A few days ago Lig Yasu, Emperor of Abyssinia, offered to send 200,000 men to aid the Allies in crushing the Teutons and Turks. It is not many years ago since Menelik, Emperor of Abyssinia, was fighting the Italian. Since that time, however, Great Britain, France and Italy have guaranteed the integrity of his country, and he is now showing his gratitude to his protectors by offering to place at their disposal his entire army. The ruler of Abyssinia claims to be descended from the Queen of Sheba, who made the memorable visit to Solomon.

Lieut. T. Irving Findley, who has just reached England in command of a draft of artillerymen from the West, is a good example of the type of men going overseas from Canada. Young Findley, who is a son of Thomas Findley, vice-president of the Massey Harris Company of Toronto, is a St. Andrew's College boy, and had just completed his first year at the University of Toronto when the call came. He enlisted last March as a private in the 26th Battery, but after two months' service he was given a commission and has now gone overseas.

There are three members of the English peerage doing their "bit" in the trenches at the Dardanelles, the three being Earl Granard, Lord Powerscourt and the Marquis of Tullibardine. The first of the three was lord-in-waiting to the late King Edward, and is master of the horse to King George. He obtained considerable military experience in the South African War. Lord Granard was one of the few Englishmen whom the Kaiser seemed to care for and gave him a statue of himself on the occasion of his last visit to London. The Earl owns some 31,000 acres in Ireland and added to his wealth a half dozen years ago by marrying Miss Beatrice Ogden Mills, a wealthy New York heiress. Lord Powerscourt is a physical giant, standing 6 ft. 4 ins., and is a soldier with a lengthy and creditable career, having seen service in the Irish Guards. The Marquis of Tullibardine is known as the "Fighting Marquis," because of the many wars and engagements in which he has taken part. He joined the Army when nineteen and saw much service in Egypt, where he distinguished himself at the battles of Atbara and Omdurman, winning two medals and the D.S.O.

Sir Edwin Pears, the well known British author, has just published what is regarded as his greatest work, "Forty Years in Constantinople." The publication is unusually timely as the Eastern question is one of the live issues of the day. Pears has lived for forty-two years in Constantinople, has witnessed three revolutions, seen three sultans deposed and the Young Turk party established. He is also thoroughly familiar with the various diplomats and ambassadors who have been stationed in Constantinople, during the period he lived there. Pears was born in York, England in 1835, studied Law but devoted most of his time to prison reform work, social service, and writing. As Constantinople correspondent of the London Daily News, he was the real cause of the popular outburst against the Bulgarian atrocities. He has written a number of books, some of which are "The Fall of Constantinople," "The Destruction of the Greek Empire," and "Turkey and its People."

Sir Edmund Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, whose annual report for the year has just been issued, is a banker with not only a national but an international reputation. Sir Edmund was born in Haldimand County, Ont., in 1848, and educated in the public schools of the County. To-day he is an honorary graduate of a half dozen universities, one of the foremost art critics on the continent, an authority on international finance, chairman of the Board of Governors, University of Toronto, and in brief, one of the best informed men in the Dominion. He gained his first banking experience in a private bank of his uncle in Hamilton, joining the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1868. He saw service in all departments of the Bank, becoming general manager in 1886 and president in 1907. Sir Edmund is the author of a half score articles on banking and international finance and has lectured before banking associations in the United States and Great Britain, where he is recognized as an authority on Canadian affairs. The president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce is one of the most democratic of men and anyone who has even conversed with him cannot fail to be impressed with his profound knowledge of every subject under discussion.

Stephen Phillips, the well known English poet and dramatist, has just died after an extended illness. He was born near Oxford in 1868 and as a young man went on the stage, later adopting literature as a profession. He was editor of the Poetry Review. His best known poem is "Marpessa," which was published in 1890.

Dr. D. V. K. Wellington Koo, the new Chinese Minister to the United States, is only thirty years of age and is said to be the youngest minister ever stationed at Washington. The new minister obtained his first diplomatic experience in Mexico, being transferred from that troublesome sphere to Washington. He was educated in American universities and is thoroughly conversant with Occidental civilization.

It is rumored that the Rt. Hon. Lewis Harcourt, son of the late Rt. Hon. Sir William Vernon Harcourt, will shortly be appointed Viceroy of India. Mr. Harcourt was formerly Secretary of State for the Colonies, but in the Coalition Cabinet was first Commissioner of Works. He was born in England in 1863 and educated at Eton, but instead of following the traditional custom of going to either Oxford or Cambridge, he became his father's private secretary, a post he held for a great many years, thereby acquiring a wonderful insight into political affairs of Europe. Mr. Harcourt is married to an American lady, and it is said that she has provided the "pep" and ambition which should accompany a man of his marked ability. He is said to be one of the most charming men in Great Britain.

Hon. G. A. Simard, who has been appointed Chairman of the Province of Quebec Commission which has charge of the task of finding employment for returned soldiers, is one of the best known business men in Canada's commercial metropolis. Mr. Simard is a member of the Legislative Council of Quebec, and in business life is general manager of the St. Lawrence Drug Company. He also organized the Franco-American Chemical Company. He is particularly interested in the good roads movement, being one of the first men in the Province of Quebec to take up this worthy project, and he is also a firm believer in the value of technical education, and hopes by means of it to do much towards securing employment for returned soldiers. Mr. Simard is forty-five years of age.

Thomas Mott Osborne, the warden of Sing Sing, who has been up before the Courts for certain misdemeanors and the mismanagement of the prison, is one of the most unique characters in the United States. Osborne was a millionaire manufacturer at Auburn, when he first became interested in a prison located near his factory. He made a study of crime and prison management and voluntarily entered a prison to see what conditions were like inside. As a result of his tireless efforts in connection with prison reform he was appointed warden of Sing Sing about a year ago. On taking over his new job he said, "There is not a single thing in connection with the institution that is right." Apparently his golden rule methods have not been satisfactory to the authorities as he is now being brought to task. Mr. Osborne is a prominent Democrat and was a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor of New York State a number of years ago.

The Hon. William M. Hughes, who recently succeeded to the premiership of the Australian Commonwealth, was formerly Attorney-General in the Fisher Cabinet. While occupying that position he conducted an investigation which has brought to light some more of Germany's far-reaching schemes and the minute preparations she made for the struggle which she knew was coming. Hughes found that the Great Broken Hill Mines in Australia, supposed to be controlled by the Richard Merton Company of London, were in reality controlled by the Metallgesellschaft of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, one of the greatest metal houses in the world. The Kaiser owned a large interest in this concern and just prior to the outbreak of the war they cornered the world's supply of spelter. Richard Merton & Co. were official metal workers to the British Government, the home authorities not aware of the fact that the company was controlled by the Kaiser and his associates until Hughes brought the matter to light. The new premier of Australia went to that country as a young man of twenty and for a time made a living as a travelling umbrella mender. He then studied and entered Parliament, eventually becoming Attorney General in Fisher's Cabinet, and now succeeds him as premier of the Commonwealth.

Col. E. M. House, President Wilson's particular friend, has just gone to Europe to secure first hand information regarding the war, which he is to transmit to his friend and chief. Col. House was born in Texas in 1858 and educated at Cornell. He has always been an active figure in the Democratic party, but is most widely known through his intimate relations with the president, being the executive head's closest friend. Col. House states that his trip has nothing to do with peace proposals.

Mr. Robert Archer, a veteran business man of Montreal, has just died in his eightieth year. He was born in Quebec and as a young man entered the grain business. The late Mr. Archer was a former president of the Montreal Board of Trade, vice-president of the Montreal Trust Company, a director of the Montreal City and District Savings Bank, and of a number of other corporations. As a young man he took an active part in the militia.

Prince Danilo of Montenegro, has just recently been appointed to the staff of Gen. Joffre. The heir to the throne of Montenegro is a brother of the Queen of Italy, and it is said that it was her influence which secured him the appointment. Although only a young man he has seen a good deal of fighting and was severely wounded at Scutari in 1912. His wife is related to the English Royal Family, being a granddaughter of the sister of the late Duke of Cambridge and the late Duke of Teck.

Guglielmo Marconi, the famous inventor of wireless telegraphy, is of the opinion that the war will last another year. Marconi is now serving in the Italian Army. He was born at Bologna, Italy, in 1874, his father being Italian and his mother Irish. He was educated as an electrical engineer and his subsequent success with electrical devices shows that his training was not in vain. It is interesting to know that the Canadian Government was the first to officially recognize the importance of Marconi's system of wireless, and was also the first country to invite the inventor to establish a station within its confines.

Albert Ballin, head of the Hamburg-American Line, who is known as one of the Kaiser's closest friends, has just contributed an article in the Berlin and ~~other papers~~ in which he speaks of the war as "cruel and idiotic." Ballin is not only head of the greatest German steamship line, but is one of the leaders in the German struggle for a "place in the sun." Since the outbreak of the war Ballin has had his numerous ships tied up to their docks in Hamburg and in various neutral ports, while the huge carrying trade which brought profit to his company is now a thing of the past. Ballin was born in Hamburg in 1857 and educated in his own country and in England, where he went to study British shipping methods. Since the outbreak of war he has been in charge of the German railway system, a position he assumed at the special request of the Kaiser.

The Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, president of the Board of Education in the Coalition Cabinet, has a grave responsibility resting upon him, as he represents the Labor element in the Cabinet, and it is upon their attitude that conscription is made possible or fails of realization. Henderson has represented the labor interest in Parliament since 1903. He was in Glasgow in 1863 and as a boy was apprenticed to an iron moulder. He worked at his trade until elected by his fellow workmen to Parliament. Henderson is the first man without a university education to be given charge of the portfolio of Education. The Labor representative in the Cabinet is a man of marked ability, absolutely devoid of side, is a total abstainer and a prominent church worker. He enjoys to an unusual extent the confidence of the Labor element in Great Britain. Mr. Henderson has two sons at the front.

Mr. Richard Grigg, who died suddenly at Ottawa a day or two ago, was Canadian Commissioner of Commerce. Before going to Ottawa four years ago Mr. Grigg was Trade Commissioner for Great Britain, with offices in Montreal. He was born at Plymouth, England, in 1847, and educated in the United States, after which he returned to England and entered business. He came to Canada in 1872, later being appointed British Trade Commissioner. The late Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce was a great traveller, as well as a tireless investigator of trade conditions, and was exceptionally well informed on Canadian trade and business matters. He was the author of "Conditions and Prospects of British Trade in Canada," and a number of other books and pamphlets dealing with trade conditions.