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NOTICE TO READERS.

THE ANGLO-SAXON goes regularly to Sons of England lodges and branches of the St. George's Society in all parts of Manitoba, the British Northwest Territories of Canada, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; to branch societies of the Sons of St. George in all parts of the United States, to Clubs, Reading Rooms, Emigration Societies and similar institutions in Great Britain and Ireland, and to British citizens generally throughout Canada, the States, Great Britain and the Empire.

THE LESSON OF THE HOUR.

When a great man dies his example and his work are immediately utilized "to point a moral and adorn a tale" by different sections of his countrymen in various ways, according to their various leanings. There is, therefore, no reason why the Sons of England, the friends of a United Empire, and loyal Canadians generally should not notice some of the circumstances attending the death of Sir John Thompson, with the view of deriving from them a lesson of encouragement and for guidance in the future.

The last public utterances of the late Premier of Canada were heard at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, where a paper on the "national significance of the Ottawa Conference" was read by Sir Henry Wrixon. Sir John concluded his remarks on the paper with these words: "The day has come not only when the colonies should be united more closely together, but when they should be more practically useful in connection with the heart of the Empire itself." It is not so long since people were content to be satisfied merely with the maintenance of British connection. But now, a stronger sentiment has been voiced by Sir John Thompson; the bands which unite us with the Empire are not only to be maintained but made permanent and strengthened. That was the principle which Sir John Thompson followed in many of his public acts, and it has become the policy of the present government of Canada and of the Conservative party.

Here, then, is progress for which we have great cause to feel encouraged. Not only so, but a stronger feeling of kinship and regard for the peoples of the outer Empire than ever existed before seems to animate the English people and government. It is plain also that these feelings are shared by Her Majesty the Queen. The Royal Lady has a kind word for her loyal and courageous Canadian subjects, and when she embraced the daughter of the dead premier, it seemed as if the act included the whole Dominion. Further, the English government becomes truly Imperial in its character by causing the highest honours to be paid to the remains of Sir John Thompson all the way from Windsor Castle to the place of interment in Nova Scotia. There was also admirable discernment of the fitness of things on their part in causing the *Blenheim* to assist at his funeral, for he was one of those British statesmen who successfully did their best to prevent the occasions from arising which require the intervention of such magnificent engines of war.

The tragic death of the great statesman created a sensation which cannot fitly be described by any words of ours. But the following words, written by Disraeli, regarding the death of Lord George Bentinck, nearly fifty years ago, seem very appropriate now: "Then it was that, the memory of the past and the hope of the future blending together, all men seemed to mourn over this untimely end, and there was that pang in the public heart which accompanies the unexpected disappearance of a strong character." It is worthy of remark that both statesmen died suddenly, both were conservatives and protectionists and both were leaders in the great fight of patriotism against cosmopolitanism which is still

going on. But while Lord George died contending against the overwhelming force of the enemy who were favoured by time-servers and flushed with victory, Sir John ended his career, at its culmination, immediately after receiving the reward of his efforts at the hands of his Sovereign, and when to all appearance the Unionist forces are gaining the upper hand and vanquishing the influences which make for the disintegration of the Empire.

We who have our stations in the rank and file of the Unionist army may well take courage in view of these events, and also in looking back at others which have transpired during the past year. It is for us to watch and guard against all tendencies towards separatism or secession. The humblest subject of Her Majesty has some influence, which, if rightly directed, may produce abundant fruit. We cannot do better than take to heart the example of him whose voice will no more be heard in the midst of our legislators. Let us like him strive to do our duty, remembering the words of Tennyson:—

Not once or twice in our fair island story,
The path of duty was the way to glory:
He, that ever following her commands,
On with toil of heart and knees and hands,
Through the long gorge to the far light has won
His path upward, and prevail'd,
Shall find the tottering crags of Duty
Are close upon the shining table lands
To which our God himself is moon and sun.

ROSEBERY'S DILEMMA.

The political cauldron in England is beginning to seethe and broil, and the process will probably increase in energy as the opening of parliament (which takes place on the 5th Feb.) approaches. Party zeal provides the fuel and party leaders surround the cauldron, like the witches in *Macbeth*, mumbling their incantations, and contributing each their selected pieces of material to improve the broth of the coming session. Irish home rule, Scotch and Welsh disestablishment, local veto, evicted tenants, social measures, the upper chamber, and no chamber at all have all their advocates, who so darkly counsel by their speech as to make it next to impossible to ascertain what is likely to be the policy of the Government. Lord Rosebery contributes very materially to this controversial stew, for every speech of his provokes other speeches or essays, furnishing different interpretations of the Premier's meaning. So obscure is the latter with regard to his proposals concerning the House of Lords that Mr. G. W. Smalley, the London correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune*, closes his discussion of Lord Rosebery's intentions with these words: "Such is the inextricable maze of self-contradiction in which the Prime Minister has entangled himself."

We reproduce in this issue an article from the *London Times* in which this matter of reforming the Upper House is discussed from a conservative standpoint, and which no doubt represents the ideas of a considerable class of thinking people in the United Kingdom. It is well worth study and is remarkable for its candour, fairness and completeness. It proposes the abolition of hereditary seats in the Upper House, and the election of about two hundred peers to represent the whole nobility of the United Kingdom. It further advocates the selection, by the ministry of the day, of members to represent the cultivation and intelligence of the country. Strangely enough, there is in this article no direct reference to an idea which in these days is present to many minds, namely, that provision should be made for the representation of the outer Empire in the councils of the nation.

The scheme which Lord Rosebery proposed for the reform of the House of Lords in 1888 comprised the changes indicated in the *Times*' article, and also colonial representation. The reformed Upper House was to consist of (1) a delegation chosen from and by the existing peers, (2) persons elected by the county and municipal councils, (3) colonists of position, and (4) certain persons nominated by the ministry as their representatives.

In his Glasgow speech, which was delivered two weeks later than the date of the *Times*' article, he takes his stand against "ending" the House of Lords in these words: "I could have no part or parcel in leaving this country to the sole disposition of a single chamber." He also makes the following declaration as regards his method of "mending" it: "The power of any reformed second chamber would de-

pend not so much on the way in which it is constituted, as on the attributes which you assign to it. I can imagine (but that is far off yet) a second chamber on a popular basis, with power perhaps rather indirect than direct, perhaps in itself rather consultative than legislative, but which, at any rate, would remain as a High Court of Justice for the Empire, and which might act as a council, in which might be represented those interests of the Empire which are at present unrepresented in parliament." In this quotation the Empire is mentioned twice, and its whole tenor strengthens the impression that, if Lord Rosebery had full power, the House of Lords would not remain merely the Upper House of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, but would become an uppermost Imperial Chamber.

These utterances of the Premier of England are very satisfactory and, to Imperial Federationists, they seem to open out very brilliant prospects. But all our sanguine anticipations are clouded over by his speech at Devonport delivered on the 12th December. Although he declares the purpose of this speech to be to make the ministerial position with regard to the House of Lords as clear as any words of his can make it, the result of his statements has only been to call forth such remarks as those of Mr. Smalley above quoted. In his Glasgow speech Lord Rosebery mentions his attempts at reforming the House of Lords in 1884 and 1888, and at Devonport he claims to have made this question the study of his life. Nevertheless his last speech contains the following passages:—"I say then therefore—I say it confidently for every member of the Cabinet—that no such act of insanity as our proposing a reform of the House of Lords has ever for an instant occurred to us."

"We have nothing to do with the present constitution of the House of Lords. We cannot touch it without the consent of the House of Lords." "It has never entered our heads to touch the constitution of the House of Lords." "Our object is a perfectly direct one and a perfectly simple one—it is to secure the pre-dominance of the elected House over the hereditary House." "In our opinion the time has come when the right of the House of Lords to oppose an absolute veto to the legislation of the House of Commons should forever cease." How this right is to cease without touching the constitution of the House of Lords is a conundrum which may involve a play of words, but does not merit the consideration of sensible people.

It has been said that silence is golden and speech is silver, but Lord Rosebery's eloquence seems to be only "as sounding brass." There have been sphinx-like statesmen whose reticence has been taken for wisdom, but Lord Rosebery would appear to be a walking and a talking sphinx. Already there are indications that some of the London papers are ceasing to take his utterances seriously. A French writer calls him "a multiple personality." One of the reviews has an article on "The Seven Lord Roseberys" and Mr. Chamberlain declines to regard the Premier as a man but defines him to be a "Political Joint Stock Company, Limited."

This last word contains perhaps the explanation of the equivocal nature of Lord Rosebery's speeches. He is "limited," in fact hand-cuffed, by his colleagues and party. Although he has spoken at Sheffield, Bradford, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Devonport and Stratford, the leader of the House of Commons, Sir William Harcourt, remains "ostentatiously silent." Mr. Asquith and Mr. Bryce, although they have made speeches, do not disclose the Government's future policy regarding the House of Lords. The Cabinet is probably not united as regards this, and most likely have no plan to divulge. It is melancholy that Lord Rosebery should thus be forced to lose the great opportunity of his life. Let us hope that he will yet take a decided and manly stand for Upper House reform and the representation of the outer Empire, even although he should be deserted by his cabinet and wreck his party. These would be altogether minor calamities, for sooner or later the nations of the Empire would rally round him as an earnest reformer and a progressive statesman.

WELL CHOSEN.

By request of a prominent publishing firm, it is understood that Bro. J. Castell Hopkins is preparing a volume upon the "Life and Work of the Right Hon. Sir John Thompson." Mr. Hopkins is an admirable writer, and has a mass of material at his command. The work may therefore be expected to be interesting and valuable.

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

The *Western World* of Winnipeg, in a recent issue has the following reference to the Hon. T. M. Daly:

"The Minister of the Interior, following up the plan he adopted last year, has again visited Manitoba and the Northwest Territories this year during recess, spending over a month in going through the various districts, meeting the people and transacting a large amount of departmental business. Unfortunately, owing to want of time, he was unable to visit British Columbia, or the Saskatchewan country, but as he went thoroughly through those districts last year, he has personal knowledge of them. The advantage of having a western man at the head of the Interior Department, nine-tenths of the business of which lies west of Lake Superior, is so apparent that when the time comes for a change of ministers, it must be recognised that the west is entitled to this portfolio in perpetuity. At the time of Mr. Daly's appointment a strong effort was made to put an eastern man in, one of the arguments being that in the administration of land matters, such for instance as disputed claims, a western minister would be hampered by local associations and obligations. The fallacy of this contention has been very clearly proved and the advantage of local knowledge has been clearly exhibited by Mr. Daly, who has shown a promptness in dealing with departmental matters, that none of his predecessors, from either side of the house, ever exhibited to anything like the same extent. As one of the pioneers of settlement in western Manitoba, living in the centre of an important agricultural district, he had a thorough knowledge of the situation in the prairie province, and he has added to his equipment in this respect by careful enquiry throughout the Territories and British Columbia."

SHOULD BE BETTER ACQUAINTED.

At this season of the year it is customary among the lodges to make visits of a fraternal nature, it is also done to a larger extent than at any other season by individual members. If the president will only use his position as presiding officer wisely, he will make all visitors at once feel that they are at home.

In city lodges it is almost universally the case that not more than one-tenth of the members are personally acquainted, and, although in the rural lodges, where every one is supposed to know the others yet it often happens that a newly affiliated brother will be compelled to sit through a whole evening without a single introduction to any of the other members. This is a shame and a disgrace. There is not a meeting at which the lodge may not be called from labor for ten or fifteen minutes in order to allow a general introduction of all who are strangers to each other. To merely come together and look at each other like a lot of stoical Indians is little less than barbarism itself. Let us put a stop to it. Let us have in the lodge a lot of jolly good friends, and if we admit a visitor let us make him one of the same sort, and if presiding officers will only learn their duty and get through in decent time, there will be no excuse for want of time to do all this. This is an age when lodges must be made attractive, and this is the way to do it. Make them lively.

WHAT IS NECESSARY.

Every Brother should be interested in the election of officers. Too much care cannot be taken in the selection of President and Secretary. Upon the latter officers depends largely the prosperity of the lodge. If you have a Secretary or Guide who has not worked to the interest of the Order, see that you get one. If they say, "once a month is often enough to meet; it makes me too much work to meet oftener," better give these men a rest. If you have a secretary who refuses to take a brother's assessments and sign his individual receipt book because he is not in the lodge-room, or at some particular place better let that officer have a vacation.

Lodges, to make them successful and prosperous, depends solely upon the high standing of its executive officers, and all details of each officer's work must be attended to at all times—the same as a private business. A good word, and a willingness to meet all demands, made upon responsible officers and members is what is required. The non-responsible member will then take a deeper and more wider interest in his lodge, and will be the making of a reliable and energetic officer.

ENGLISHMEN
SHOULD EMIGRATE.

MR. LEONARD COURTNEY'S
VICE TO BRITISH FARMERS
AND LABOURERS.

The World is Wide, and Englishmen
Should take Advantage of it—
Canada as a New Home for Britons—
An Interesting Address.

Mr. Leonard Courtney, who is one of the dozen of England's politicians, and the foremost of her debaters on the Conservative side, delivered an interesting speech in Cornwall a few weeks ago to a large audience of farmers and farm labourers. Everyone who knows anything of Mr. Courtney's political career, his wonderful powers of argument, his clear enunciation of difficult problems, and his wide knowledge of the world and generosity of opinion, cannot doubt that what he says is said only on the best and surest foundations, and with a strong conviction of its absolute truth. Mr. Courtney's knowledge of the British farmer is not limited, her having successfully represented East Cornwall division for many years successively. And what Mr. Courtney says to the English farmer is invariably received with enthusiasm and taken for granted.

The hon. gentleman was speaking at an agricultural competition of farm labourers, in various branches of their industry, and his address was consequently tinged with farming topics.

GOOD WORKMEN.

Whatever might be the ill fortunes of agriculture just now, said Mr. Courtney, and nobody recognized and regretted it more than he did—this much at least they knew, that whether agriculture was in bad or good condition, it would be worse if the agricultural labourer was not a good workman. Whatever the skill of the farmer, whatever his enterprise, however quick he might be to introduce improved methods of husbandry, unless he had men and boys ready to catch up and follow out his ideas and give honest work, his plans must fall. At the base of society in the rural world stood the agricultural labourer, and the education of the labourer was the first condition of agricultural success.

COMPETITIONS RESULT IN GOOD WORK.

All these competitions continued Mr. Courtney, must have a great effect in stimulating the new generation of agricultural labourers to do that which some people said they had hitherto failed to do, namely, to equal the skill, the industry, the pertinacity of their predecessors. Some people were fond of saying that things were going to the bad, and that the old class of efficient labourers would soon be extinct. But he did not believe that at all. In his belief the new generation of agricultural labourers would be as good as their predecessors, and these competitions must tend to make them better—(hear, hear). After all, it was a matter of education. Men came there, saw in what points their work was excelled by others, and if they had any pluck and virtue in them, were able to profit by the comparison—(applause). He was glad to see that a great scheme of agricultural education was being developed throughout the country.

They were now being tried in competition with all the countries of the world. It was their skill against other men's skill, their labour against other men's labour, their honesty against other men's honesty, and if they were to keep the grand place which England had occupied in the past, they must be very careful not to be outstripped in any of these qualities.

LABOURERS MUST RISE.

But, after all, what was to become of the agricultural labourer? Some said he must always remain a labourer; there was no position to which he could rise. He did not believe that doctrine—(hear, hear). Even up to the present they had known of labourers who had risen to occupy small holdings and become successful farmers, and if there were to be greater facilities for the acquisition of allotments and land, they would see more examples of that in the future. But he should like to hold out to them a wider and nobler example still. Cornwall, after all, was but a small part of England, and England was but a small part of the vast agricultural world that the Queen governed; and just as Cornishmen had gone to Essex and other counties and were making some profit out of farms that others had not been able to cultivate with success, why should they not rise to the notion that the whole world was their farm, and that wherever the Queen's authority ruled, there they might go.