The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

Quintet of Aged British Peers Refuses to be Oslerized

The Commander-in-Chief of Army, a Member of Cabinet, One of Richest of London's Ground Landlords. Most Hated of Irish Landowners and "Father" of House of Lords, Make Up the Lot

Special Correspondence.

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ONDON, July 20 .- England boasts a quintet of aged peers who, although they years ago passed the Osler limit, still are hale, robust and active, both in body and

mind. Two of them are octogenarians and the others have left the threescoreand-ten post behind. They are the Lord Privy Seal, one of the richest of London's ground landlords, the 'father" of the house of lords, the best hated of Irish landowners and the commander-in-chief of the British army.

The Marquis of Ripon, lord privy seal, by his retention in the Asquith cabinet adds still further to a remarkable record which he holds. The venerable lord, who shortly will celebrate his eighty-second birthday, has been a member of every Liberal cabinet, with a single exception, of the last 50 years. The only reason that can be assigned for the single exception is the very good one that during Gladstone's second administration Lord Ripon was in India governing the na

This peer might be said to have contracted the office habit. He has beome a fixture and nobody has the heart to turn him out. He is a brilliant ornament to his party, but nobody ever accused him of being much more. His present post is an unpaid one-the only one in all the cabinet which does not command a generous salary. But there is a fitness in the case of Lord Ripon, for his emolument is in proportion to his labors. The duties of the Lord Privy Seal keep him about as busy as an iceman in Greenland. Theoretically he is the custodian of the privy seal, and there was a time in the dim and distant past when the seal had to be attached to all royal grants or pa-tents before such documents could re-ceive the final authority of the great seal. But in the hurry and bustle of seal. But in the nurry and bustle of twentieth-century strenuousness, the middle step has been abandoned and documents go direct from sovereign to great chamberlain, keeper of the great seal. The office of lord privy seal sur-vives, however, like the appendix in the human body, with no known need for its existence for its existence.

MANY CABINET POSITIONS.

MANY CABINET POSITIONS. But there are few cabinet positions which Lord Ripon has not filled at some time in his career. He has been secretary of state for war on two oc-casions, secretary of state for the col-onles, twice, and in two administra-tions has been president of the coun-cil. In addition he has been secretary of state for India and first ford of the admiralty once. Lord Ripon is eminently fitted, so far as the exper-ience of office goes, to run the whole British empire all by himself. Just why this peer should have been retained in all the Liberal cabinets since Palmerston, nobody seems to know. He is hardly what one would call a brilliant man. One politician

call a brilliant man. One politician told me that the only reason he could was that Lord Ripon

the duchy of Cornwall. Incidentally, if the inside facts were known it un-doubtedly would be found that he put his hand into his own pocket more than once. However that may be, for distinguished services he was raised from baron to viscount in 1873. Lord Portman succeeded his father in 1888. He sai in the house of com-mons as a Whig from 1852 to 1886, and succedded his lather in 1888. He has a large family by his first wife, who was the Hon. Mary Solha Charlotte Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, a daugnter of the late Viscount Milton, and who died into years ago. His second and pres-ent wife was before her recent marri-age to the aged peer Mrs. Livingstone-Learmonth, a widow of 74.

NINETY AND STILL ACTIVE.

This third grand old English pee is the oldest of the lot-the Earl of Wemyss and March. He is in his ninetieth year, and still an active member of the house of lords. He frequently speaks, especially when the subject of the volunteers, of which he is one of the plunears is under disthe subject of the volunteers, of which he is one of the pioneers, is under dis-cussion. And what is more, he always is sure of full benches when his name appears on the lists as a possible speaker, a compliment paid to but few members of the British upper cham-ber. He is the father of the house, and by many years holds the record for length of parliamentary service. Sixty-four years ago he entered the house of commons as Lord Elcho. Lord Roseberry, Arthur Balfour and most of the men who now lead the political parties in England were then unborn, and the rest were in the nur-sery. sery.

MARRIED AT 82.

Lord Wemyss betters the perform-ance of Lord Portsman in that he was married for the second time at the ad-vanced age of \$2. But although his second wife is a comparatively young woman, she finds it hard work to fol-low the pace her octogenarian husband sets. He shoots, golfs, drives his oww motor, fishes, is a painter and a sculp-tor of ability, and does them all with the enclusiasm as a man in the spring. the enthusiasm as a man in the spring-time of youth. Furthermore, he is a writer and the author of a book on the war office

"APOSTLE OF LIBERTY."

The aged peer is known as the great The aged peer is known as the great apostle of the liberty of the individual. Some years ago he astonished every-body by his opposition to the habitual inebriates bill, but justified himself-to himself, at least-by declaring that every Englishman should have the right to get drunk if he chose. He also holds the distinction of being the only man who ever struck King Edward in pub-tic. The blow was entirely unintention-al and occurred in the house of lords while the latter was Prince of Wales The prince was sitting on the cross while the latter was Prince of Wales The prince was sitting on the cross benches directly in front of the aged lord, who was holding forth on his pet subject of personal liberty. In the heat of his ardor Lord Wemyss brought his flat down with crushing force on the shining high hat of his future king. When the latter recovered from his astonishment he moved to a safer seat and joined in the laughter of the house at the discomfiture of his assallant.

IS A PESSIMIST.

The veteran peer believes that the British nation is fast drifting toward the fate of Greater Rome. But as he has believed this pretty much all his Use his reaction.

England's Latest Sporting Mania Flying and Breeding "Fancy" Pigeons.

'Pigeonitis'' the Latest Craze in Sporting Circles-Great "Pigeon Derby" in Which 10,000 Birds Worth \$60,000 Take Part-King Edward and Prince of Wales Patronize the New Fad.



JUDGES DECIDING "POINTS" AT A PIGEON SHOW.

Immense Public Interest is Taken in These Shows in England. The Judges Are Great Experts. They Give Their Decisions by Numbers, Not Being Allowed to Know Names of Owners,

PLASTIC BIRDS,

Special Correspondence

and other purposes. The extent to which pigeon fancying is carried may be judged from the fact that no less than 10,500 carrier pigeons, worth \$60,-

00, were entered in the recent great 'Pigeon Derby." The birds were turnd loose at Nantes in the south of France and flew 450 miles to Lancashire, England, Prizes of more than \$5,000 were awarded. The extent and \$5,000 were awarded. The extent and importance of the new sport may be further judged from the fact that both the king and Prince of Wales entered birds. Special "pigeon trains" were run from the Midlands to the embark-ing ports on these occasions, and "pigeon staterooms" fitted up on the cross-channel steamers. The whole ar-rangements were carried out with the most elaborate care and quite regard. ost elaborate care and quite regardess of cost

FORTUNES FOR BREEDING.

In addition to the great bird-flying competitions, English fanciers are spending thousands of pounds each year in breeding all varieties of pig-cons; and various shows, for the express purpose of exhibiting "variation

has only been within recent years] which experts seem to think much It has only been within recent years
ONDON, July 30.—England's latest sporting mania is "pigeon-itis," or raising pigeons for fly-ing, breeding, message-carrying
other purposes. The extent to h pigeon fancying is carried may
addiged from the fact that no less udged from the fact that no less
addiged from the fact with high the less that here appearances, do not seem to be "up to much." called a "Turbit" always attracts an immense amount of attention and never fails to capture sev-1 prizes at pigeon shows. Turbits look rather perpigeon shows. Turpits look father per-plexid—as if they had not quite made up their minds whether they were real pigeons or half parrots. With the Tur-bit, fuss and feathers count very lit-

onsidered

tell.

bit, fuss and feathers count very lit-tle. It is the face that wins. Experts will stand for hours before one of these birds examining its short thick neck, seeing if it has the proper curve or sweep, feeling its "bumps" to find out if its skull is properly formed, and chuckling it under the chin to watch its smile. Under the circumstances, the Twithin stends the ordeal year, well Fanciers, during the last few yearshave been strengously striving to pro-luce what they term "pigeon perfec-ion;" and it is for this reason that chuckling it under the chin to watch its smile. Under the circumstances, the Turbin stands the ordeal very well. As all its good points are on the Tur-bit's head and face, and hundreds of people are constantly gazing into its rather mild eyes, or running their thumbs thoughtfully over its back hair no worder the bird looks as if it had forgotten something. The sum of \$300 is not considered too much for an in-tellectual Turbit with a semi-detach-ed Roman proboscis of the proper curve. e price has risen so enormously. Some uly remarkable birds have, so to eak, been manufactured. Pigeons are truly remarkable birds have, so to speak, been manufactured. Pigeons are treated very much as flowers. By cul-tivating certain stocks and breeding for definite peculiarities, truly startling effects in bird individuality are ob-tained. For instance, bird fanciers, by proper cross breeding, can shorten the beaks, put more feathers in the talls, enlarge the wings, shorten the legs, ex-pand the crops, and even make the feathers train in certain directions. The birds seem absolutely plastic. It will be remembered that it was through pigeons that Darwin was able to percurve

CARRIERS ARE FAVORITES. pigeons that Darwin was able to per-form the remarkable experiments which contributed so largely to his driving home the evolution theory. An immense amount of interest is always taken in "carriers" of course. The chief characteristic of the carrier, to make it a valuable bird, must be length of neck and beak, and a curi-These various experiments have pro-

ous bulging sort of growth on each side of the latter. Just why this ugly look-ing "wattle," as it is called should be

Revival of Irish National Spirit Centers in Belfast

Orangemen as Nationalists-Old Religious Differences Dying O -Imperial Home Rule-Recognition by Northern Men Th Absolute Separation is Impossible - Acclimatized After 300 Year

Special Correspondence. UBLIN, July 30 .- I have just returned from a trip through the north of Ireland during which I visited the countles of An-

Down, Tyrone and Derry, formerly the strongholds of Orangeism and anti-nationalism, and I confess that I have been astonished by the change which has come over the people of the north. We in Dublin are accustomed to hear from time to time of the growth of nationalist sentiment in "Loyal Ulster" and while we have recognized that things were improving in the north in this respect, I doubt if any of us realized the revolution which has come over the position of the Scotch-

Irish of the north. I must apologize, however, for calling them Scotch-Irish. It is only done for the sake of identification. Today the descendants of the Scotch planters of Ulster are as Irish as the descendants of the O'Neils whom they displaced. A generation ago, or even 10 years ago, they prided themselves on the fact that they had nothing in common with the Irish. Today they are disposed to resent any title which would indicate that their Irish nationality is qualified in any way.

CHANGE IN BELFAST.

the union of the Cellic nations, it mu-not be forgotten that the people c Wales and Scotland are of the sam stock as the Irish and that their ideal and mental attitude are practical alike and equally antagonistic to the of the people of England. Perhap this in some measure explains th awakening of the Scottish Celts of th north of Ireland, who are at last r alizing their relationship to their fel lows of the rest of Ireland. The re awakening is pervading all classes found the traders of Belfast enthul astically Irish and I found the fam ers of Down and Tyrone just as Iris in their sentiment. Moreover, I foun among the Protestant farmers wh used to be the backbone of the is reconcilable Orange party, a profoun disgust and weathness with Englis methods of government. One ma whose family has occupied the sam 400 acres in county Tyrone for M years told me that he was done wit Unionism. This change of sentiment was particularly noticeable in Belfast. Formerly every Protestant in Belfast and most of the Roman Catholics who were above the laboring class, were ardent Unionists. Today I find that the lead in the National movement is being taken by young men and women whose names have been household words for generations among the Unionists and names have been household words for generations among the Unionists and Orangemen of the north of Ireland. Gaelle signs can be seen on some of the shops, and I have even heard the ancient Irish tongue spoken, and spok-en fluently, on the Belfast streets and in the Belfast drawing-rooms.

SPLIT IN ORANGE BODY.

Even the Orangemen-that body of Even the Orangemen-that body of sincere fanatics whose hatred of Irish nationality has only been equalled in the past by their hatred of the religion of the majority of their fellow coun-trymen-have fell the change. The Orange body is now split into two parts and the larger part is frankly in favor of a large measure of home rue for Ireland. The Democracy of the north of Ireland as represented in the Independent Orange organization has Independent Orange organization has abandoned all hope of any reform from the British parliament and is looking forward to the re-establishment of the Irish legislature.

NOT A SEPARATIST.

To all this intense wave of nationality which has spring up over the north there is a practical side. The northern nationalist is not a separatist. He feels that ireland could not stand alone from a military point of view, and he recog-nizes the importance of federation with the British empire. But he insists that the foderation shall be so loose that Ireland shall have a free hand in managing all her internal affairs, and that only truly imperial matters like national defense, forengn relations and international trade, shall be left to the

WON BY HARD FIGHTING. "What have we ever got from th Unionists?" he said. "Every refor that the Irish farmer has gained in m lifetime has been won by the har fighting of the Nationalist party who members we Presbyterian farmer have despised as "heather' and de nounced as 'Irish." What are we if w are not Irish? We have been her 300 years and we ought to be acdim atized by this time. What does ou religion or the religion of our fel low countrymen matter? I am Trank ly sick of this division for the benef of politicians in a foreign country wh do no more for their 'loyal' supporten in Ulster than they do for the rebell of the south, and I intend to becom a rebel, too. We cannot cut loos from England 'altogether, and it f unthinkable that England could affor

WON BY HARD FIGHTING

practical thing rather than by straining after the unattainable ideal. A ready some of the leaders of the north

ern movement have established

ern movement have established fr ly relations with leading men in i lend and Wales and a demand is g ing in these countries for home all round. It is not at all imposi-that the Unionist party itself m be induced by its friends to bring measure which would grant the va-countries local self-government to out weakening the empire.

MOVEMENT FOR UNION

Another extremely practical ste

which has had its origin in the nort is the foundation of a movement for the union of the Celtic nations. It mus not be forgotten that the people of

anothin England rangether, and it i unthinkable that England could affor to let us go, but she must let us man age our own affairs." Another northern farmer reminde me that the Ulster Presbyterians wer only returning to the position in which they stond in 1288 when the Use they stood in 1798, when the Iris volunteers were composed almost en clusively of Presbyterian farmers,

PROUD OF NATIONALITY

PROUD OF NATIONALITY "Our great-grandfathers were Irish," said this man, "and surely then we and Irish, too. Henry Joy McCrackei who fell at the battle of Antrim U 1798 did not call himself a Soutch Irish man or any other kind of qualifis Irishman. He was proud of his Irish nationality, and he fell fighting agains the English soldiers. We do not ness to fight in these days but we can unit with our brother Irishmen and foro England by peaceable means to allow us to manage our own affairs." It is a historical fact that the nord has led every great Irish nations

it impossible to quarrel with him or offend him." Another toid me that "breaking with the old marquis would be like breaking with the venerable past," and British politicians are much too conservative to do anything

LORD RIPON'S RECORD.

Lord Ripon has done two things for which he will be remembered. He presided over the joint committee which drew up the Treaty of Wash-ington and which settled the Alabama claims with the United States; and he owned the committee of memory Fing claims with the United States; and he earned the exceration of many Eng-lishmen by the manner in which he ruled India during his term as viceroy. For the former service he received his marquisate from Queen Victoria; for his latter conduct he aiways will be known, in the words of Kipling, as "the weakest of all the viceroys." The objections against his manner of The objections against his manner of running the British dependency seem to be that he preferred the olive branch to the iron hand. He treated the natives as equals, frequently bowed to them in the streets of Bom-bay and made himself generally pop-ular with the Indians but terribly unconder smears his own countryunpopular among his own country-men. He is reported to have said once that the only European who approved of his policy was his Scotch gardener.

CREATED SENSATION.

The aged peer was converted to Roman Catholicism in 1874, and there-by created a sensation in Church of England circles. At his country seat, England circles. At his country seat, Studley Royal, he runs a modern dairy, and his milk certs, bearing the sigm "The Most Noble the Marques of Ripon," carry his produce all over the neighboring country. His butter has become famous for its purity. Among his other products is Earl de Grey, his only son, and the finest game shot in the country of not in the whole world. Lord Ripon owns 21,800 acres and is supposed to be possessed of consider-able wealth. able wealth.

BOUGHT FARM CHEAP.

To the fact that his great-grand-mother desired a diet of assas' milk the present Viscount Portman, who has just been married in his 79th year, has just been married in his 75th year, owes his income of more than \$1,000.-000 a year. The old lady was in bad mealth and the doctors recommended the milk for her, whereupon her hus-band bought a farm covering the ground around what is now known as Bryanston square for about \$10,000, and stocked it with a drove of don-keys. Today, although it is not for sale at any price, a conservative estimate of its value would be not under \$50,-000,000, and its aged owner disputs the title of richest of London hand-owners with the Duke of Westminster and Lord Howard de Walden. ENTHUSIASTIC HUNTER.

ENTHUSIASTIC HUNTER.

ENTROSIANTIC HUNTER. Bosidos Lord Portman's many other filies he holds the unofficial one of "Lord of Baker Street," which arises out of his 270 acres in the West End of London ebuilting on Eaker street. Portman, Bryanston and Montaque squares, He also is referred to fre-quently as the "Titan of the hunt-ing fields," because of the fact that for more than 50 years he has been master of the Portman Hunt, and today, de-spite his advanced years, rides just as enthusiasticnily as ever to hounds. BOUGHT HIS TITLE

BOUGHT HIS TITLE.

The present viscouni is the second to hold the title. His father won it by his financial talents, for he gave the late prince consort valuable assist-ance in restoring and placing on a sound financial basis the properties of

pessimism does not anybody very strongly. In personal ap-pearance he is a dandy. No one wears his high hat at a more rakish angle than Lord Wemyss; his clothes always are of the latest mode, and with his clean-cut features and flowing white half he is one of the most interesting flowing is the fatter. figures in the British hereditary cham

ber. The Marquis of Clanicarde cannot boast of being an octogenarian, but it was more than 75 years ago when he was born to a title. During those years he has earned for himself an unenvi-able record. Today, although he is a descendant of the Irish kings, and the head of the greatest of all Irish fam-tiles, the Burkes, yet he is the best hated man in the Emerald Isie. In 40 years he has visited his enormous estates of 57,000 acres only once, and that was to attend the funeral of his father. It is no exaggeration to say that was to attend the funeral of his father. It is no exaggeration to say that his life would not be worth two plus should he again venture among his tenantry. He has evicted almost 400 families for non-payment of rent, and some time ago an Irish member of parliament brought in a bill providing for the expropriation of the estates of the unpopular peer the unpopular peer,

CONFIRMED BACHELOR.

The marquis is a confirmed bachelor. He lives in the famous Albany, just off Plecadilly, where Byron, Thackeray and dozens of other great Englishmen have had rooms. He has for many years been a stranger to the house of lords, and few of its members know him by sight. He has two hobbies, skating and art. He frequently is to be seen in Prince's rink, where he makes it a rule never to speak to any one, and he is a recognized connoisseur, especially on the subject of French painting. the subject of French painting.

ENERGETIC "BOBS."

The fifth member of this interesting quintet is Earl Roberts, commander-inchief of the British army. Althoug "Bobs," as he is called affectionated by the rank and file of the army, wi Although by the rank and file of the army, will collabrate his seventy-sixth birthday soon, he still is an energetic, bustling little man, who enters enthushastically into the discussion of military matters, is impressing constantly upon the youth of England the importance of rifle practise and who appears fre-quently in the guise of a lecturer to the country at large on the subject of un-preparedness for war. preparedness for war.

DECORATIONS GALORE.

Lord Roberts is one of the most decorated men in the country. He has received the thanks of two sove-reigns, of the government of India on three different occasions and of the houses of parliament twice. In ad-dition to being an earl, he is a Knight of the Garter, a Knight of St. Patrick, Knight Grand Cross of the Eath, Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India, Knight Grand Com-mander of the Indian empire, a holder of the order of the Black Eagle, the Victoria Cross, is a privy councilor, of the order of the Black Lagle. (Victoria Cross, is a privy council an LL. D. of several universities a the holder of the freedom of ma-cities than any other individual England, not even excepting the ki or the Prince of Wales. Upon his r turn from the South African war was given an earldon, made con-mander-in-chief and granted a pre-ent of \$500,000 all is a bure.

ent of \$500,000 all in a It is now 56 years sin erts was gazetted a seco in the British army. F Lord Rol d Heutonan He has taken campaigns. Just after the campaigns. Just after the loknow he won the Vic---the most coveted decorapart in almost 6 tion in the British army ERNEST L. HEITKAMP,

parts of the country. Some of the birds exhibited are worth more than \$500 aplece. There are five big pigeon clubs in England and no end of people are going in for raising these birds as a hobby.

Even the ordinary "man in the street" in London shows his pigeon fancying proclivities by feeding and watching the flocks of birds which have watching the flocks of birds which have taken up their abode in the great pub-lic buildings, such as St. Paul's ca-thedral, Westminster abbey, the Brit-lsh museum and elsewhere. It is A rather singular thing that certain fam-ilies of pigeons attach themselves to each of the great public buildings, and some fanciers say they can tell whether a bird is a diffuen of the British mua bird is a citizen of the British mu-seum or of St. Paul's. Doubtless the latter are of a more religious turn of mind, while probably the British mu-seum variety would know more about Egyptology than their clerical con-

LONDON'S GREAT SHOW.

LONDON'S GREAT SHOW. When a pigeon show is on in London, thousands of people flock to see it. Judges of fine birds are appointed with as much care as would be a judge of the supreme court. Nor is the pigeon judge a whit happler than the man of law. He runs a chance of making mor-tal enemies every time he renders a da-cision. As a consequence, pigeon judges have taken refuge in a numerical sys-tem for all birds so that they cannot be accused of partiality which they might be suspected of if they knew the owners' names. owners' names,

ALL DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF

duced some veritable "freaks" in pig-eon building. A curious bird recently exhibited at a West End show was a pouter which won the first prize. It was a large "black-pied" bird. The winning features of this bird consisted in its erect manner of carriage, slender body, long legs—with feathers on its toes—and large gobular crop. This bird, with its crop full, did the cake-walk and seemed so pleased with itself, swelling out its crop to such huge pro-portions, that it won the prize—pos-sibly by sheer force of self-advertise-ment. The owner of this bird—A. K. Marr—refused \$500 for it, and no one at the show seemed staggered at his in pig-

some veritable

DID THE CAKE WALK.

'freaks'

at the show seemed staggered at his unwillingness to "part."

BIRD WITH A COWL.

DIARRHO

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BIRD WITH A COWL. Another bird which commanded a very high figure—\$300—at the same show, was described as a "Jacobin," which means that it has inverted feathers growing about its neck. form-ing a species of ruff. resembling the cowl of a Jacobean monic. Not many people, perhaps, may have seen such a cowl, so the pigeon fancier's word has to be taken for the fact that the bird's ruff looks like the monk's neck-pice. However this may be, the par-ticular bird in question was an ugly af-fair, with its heag and neck burried in the hood. The great moint about this \$300 bird consisted in the fact that its hood was smooth and close. The thick-er and closer the hood, it seems, the more valuable the bird. The Jacobin pigeon has a "mane" at the back and a "chain" in front, both these terms im-plying slight ridges in the feathers, of variation Variation. Of fantalls, their number is legion— but, strange to say, such really beau-tiful birds attract very little attention. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that, as yet, none of this variety has been bred with more than one tail. Possibly future shows will exhibit fan-talls with two or more tails and then Possibly future shows will exhibit fail-iails with two or more tails, and then more prizes will be won by this class. But what chance does a fantail with only one caudal appendage, no matter how floral the effect may be, stand be-side a dish-faced Turbit or a carrier with a nose like a night blooming ereus? ercus?

and Diarrhoea Remedy

MAYNARD EVANS.



It is likely, too, that the northern nationalist will add great strength to the national movement by going for the good point it is hard to tell. Doubtless fanciers have some profound reason which they only di vulge when in secret among them selves, with doors closed and lights



