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LORD MILNER ON UNIONISM.

Lord Milner is perhaps the most interesting figure in the Unionist camp. He came into it, as he himself declares, a stranger and almost a heretic. His views did not coincide with the views of the majority of his party, but while he has not changed his standpoint, the party has come round to see very nearly eye to eye with him on all general questions. This makes the position of Lord Milner important as well as interesting, and even if he disclaims the intention of leading the party his words must continue to carry an increasing influence. His speech at Rugby last Tuesday still conveys the impression of a detachment and a breadth of interest not to be associated with the party-man; but there is not any point, except perhaps Lord Milner's advocacy of universal compulsory service, which fails to confirm the pronouncement of Mr. Balfour at Birmingham. Like Mr. Balfour, Lord Milner repeats his conviction of the necessity of tariff reform; like Mr. Balfour he urges the vital importance of a constructive Imperial policy; like Mr. Balfour he sees the surest lever of progress in thorough social reforms calculated to remedy such evils as irregular employment and unhealthy conditions of life. This is an ample programme and on the lips of Lord Milner a not entirely new one; nor does it preclude a strong party bias. There is, however, something in the general reasoning by which it is supported, an aim more essentially national than controversial, and it is probably this element which gives to Lord Milner's position its anomalous, unclassified character.

There is, in his view, nothing monstrous or revolutionary in the proposals for changing the fiscal system; but though he was prepared to be tolerant he was not prepared to concede in the matter of principle, or to abandon a policy which was the only effective defence of the Union. He had never advocated tariff reform as a panacea for the defects of the social system and as a sufficient bond of Empire; but without it the British nation could not defend itself against illegitimate foreign competition, enter into advantageous trade arrangements with the Colonies, or obtain the revenue required for progressive social reform. He was not afraid of the "noisy preaching of subversive doctrines", and did not entertain much hesitation as to the ability of the nation to guard its domestic interests, since then it had its own commonsense and experience to guide it and would immediately feel the recoil of a false movement. But with regard to Imperial questions there was not the same knowledge and experience, nor did the effect of a mistaken policy recoil so directly upon the mother country. He warned his audience against theorists and phrase-makers, and against idealists who would weaken the connection, none too strong at present, between the mother country and the Colonies by an economy certain to be ruinous in the long run.

This, we venture to think, is the true Imperialism outlined by a man whose experience of government within the Empire and whose intimate knowledge of Colonial feeling, as well as whose sympathy with Colonial ideals, entitle him to the most attentive hearing. Lord Milner has himself put into practice in South Africa the tariff he advocates for the Empire, while he has had financial experience under Lord Cromer and Lord Goschen. Moreover he has always urged his opinions, diffidently perhaps but no less honestly on that account, in the face of party disagreement and at the cost of losing party status. It is the good fortune of Lord Milner that, unlike most other men, it is his lot to be overtaken by events rather than to overtake them; it is also the good fortune of the Unionist party that now more than at any

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time Unionists are able to claim a purely national impulse for the large bulk of their policy.

The Radical party is hampered by an unpractical conception of reform and by the disunion of its members. When social reform means the adjustment of innumerable petty interests, the nation soon tires, as it is tiring already, of a Government whose domestic policy is limited by petty interests. The Unionist programme in its home, foreign and colonial aspects is interdependent; but however loudly the Government may call itself Imperial it has never claimed that home and colonial affairs are so closely related that they must be regarded in intimate conjunction. But precisely this is the essential point of the Unionist argument; social reform is only possible through fiscal reconstruction. Lord Milner has not only stated the fact often enough, but he has also repeatedly dealt with the broad and ultimate results of Unionist policy. This is a privilege not often bestowed by other speakers on their audiences, no doubt through fear of sacrificing party colour, but now that the party and national aspect approximate so closely we expect that Lord Milner's lead will find a good following.

ENGLISH ENTERPRISE IN FRANCE.

The police of Paris are looking for an Englishman who has been passing forged five-pound notes at restaurants. It is stated that, to secure his object, he dined and lunched a dozen times in a day. If this is true, why not let the poor devil off? He has had his punishment.

"The man," says the report, "is believed to have returned to London." If the crossing was at all choppy, and the luncher a bad sailor, there must have been some exciting scenes in mid-Channel. He had plenty of assets.



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THE EMPEROR AT HIGHCLIFFE.

It is reported from Highcliffe that on Saturday afternoon the Kaiser took a drive and then worked alone. After dinner *Von Jena bis Preussisch-Eylau*, by General Freiherr von der Goltz, was read aloud. The weather was beautiful on Sunday and his Majesty, accompanied by all the gentlemen of his suite, attended service in the church of Highcliffe. The public, which had gathered around the entrance to the castle, greeted the Kaiser with deference. After service His Majesty spoke with the members of the families of Colonel Stuart Wortley and Sir Alfred Cooper. The commander of the "Hohenzollern", Rear-Admiral Ingenohl, and the commanders of the "Königsberg" and "Sleipner", were invited to lunch. In the afternoon his Majesty took a drive.

ROYAL DRAGOONS AND THE EMPEROR.

The *Morning Post* states that at the commencement of the Royal Dragoon Regiment's annual banquet on Saturday, a telegram was despatched to His Majesty the Emperor in which those assembled expressed their homage to His Majesty, who is honorary colonel of the regiment. The Emperor acknowledged the message by telegraph thanking the regiment and wishing it every success.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO MAJOR-GENERAL COLVILLE.

A London telegram states that Major-General Colville has died in hospital from injuries sustained in a collision between his motor-cycle and the automobile of General Rawlinson.

(Maj.-Gen. Sir H. E. Colville, K. C. M. G., C. B. retired from the Army in 1898.)

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

WAR BALLOON'S VOYAGE.

The dirigible military balloon "Patrie" arrived over the town of Verdun at twenty minutes after three on Saturday afternoon, after having passed St. Menebould at ten minutes past two at an average speed of 38 km. Before landing different evolutions were performed.

THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

Two companies of Tirailleurs, two companies of Zuaves, one company of the Foreign Legion, one squadron of Spahis, half a battery of Field Artillery and half a section of Mountain Artillery marched, under the command of Colonel Felineau, into Beni Suassen's country. The thunder of guns has been heard since seven in the morning, coming from the direction of the hill of Derbuch.

The expedition is for the purpose of compelling the Beni Suassen tribe to pay the indemnity of 5,000 francs which they agreed to furnish in consequence of their hostile attack.

SPANISH NAVAL FORCES IN MOROCCO.

A report from Madrid states that the Minister of Marine has ordered the cruiser "Estramadura" to sail for Rabat, to replace the cruiser "Pelayo" which is to return from Tangier.

GENERAL DRUDE ENTRENCHING HIMSELF.

A report from Casablanca, dated November 21 states that General Drude on Wednesday last made an inspection of the defences of Casablanca, which is being further fortified. The forts are to form a complete ring around the town and the camp, and so constitute a protection against the enemy's sharpshooters. The Spanish troops have commenced to erect winter barracks. The Spanish cavalry has been entirely withdrawn, there remaining only a division of the 69th Infantry Regiment, and some military engineers.

The Finest Habana Cigars, English cigarettes and tobacco. L. Wolf, Prager Str. 48.