

SECRETARY FOR WAR

A BRILLIANT PERSONAL PEN SKETCH
OF MR. ST. JOHN BRODRICK.The Man Who Has an Army Reform
Scheme for Britain—Serious, But With
a Laugh That Is Good to Hear—His
Wonderful Career from the Age of
Thirty to Forty-five.Mr. A. M. Brice in The London
Daily Mail writes the following
interesting sketch of Mr. St. John
Brodrick, the War Secretary in Lord
Salisbury's Cabinet:

Financial Secretary to the War Office at thirty, a Privy Councillor at forty, and Secretary of State for War before he was forty-five, Mr. St. John Brodrick is not an object for pity. He himself has said it. "Do not condole with me," he exclaimed recently to some friends, "when at my age I have reached so high an office with every one wishing me well in it." The War Secretary is every inch a Brodrick. A first glance shows him tall, slight, pale, intent, and serious even to stolidity. A phrenologist, studying his features, has declared him determined and habitually industrious—and he is; while you have only to speak to him to realize his pleasant voice and the frank charm of his manner. He may wear a look of intense earnestness, but it is a mask or a mood, and he can throw it off without a moment's notice. And when he laughs it does you good to hear him, for he has the laugh and untimely merriment of a boy. A natural bias to truth is chief among his virtues; candor and persistent industry dominate his habits. Indeed, they have been his characteristics since the beginning of his Parliamentary career, and they won for his maiden speech a high compliment from Mr. Gladstone. That old Parliamentary hand, master of the courtesies of debate, acknowledged the attack which Mr. Brodrick—then only twenty-four years of age—made on the Irish land bill, by declaring that he had spoken not only with an ability which promised much for his future, but with "an evident love of candor and truth, which is rarer in this House than ability." And Mr. Brodrick gained yet another compliment from the greatest of Parliamentarians—this time to his industry. Mr. Gladstone declared that he was one of the very few members who had mastered the technicalities of the Irish land bill.

Born forty-five years ago, he followed his father, Lord Middleton, and his uncle, the Hon. Geo. Brodrick, the well-known Warden of Merton, to Eton. Here, indeed, the boy proved father to the man. For in the first place he became the leader of the Conservative party at "Pop," and indulged that affection for the dialectics of debate which some do not hesitate to suggest is his weak point to-day. And, in the second place, he developed into an enthusiastic volunteer. When he was appointed Minister of War, Mr. Brodrick declared that he had at least one qualification. "I love the army," he said, "and I have always loved the army." That early love may be presumed in the pride he did not trouble to conceal when at Eton he won the stripes of a Sergeant-Major. Going up to Oxford—succeeded in his place at "Pop" by his life-long friend, George Curzon—he entered at Balliol; and atoned to that illustrious college for his second-class in the final schools by being elected President of the Union. His success was the more marked as his election was contested, his rival being none other than Mr. E. T. Cook, the late editor of The Daily News. And there were giants in those days at the Union—when H. H. Asquith and Alfred Milner and R. F. Horton were not the least among the Paladins.

He achieved politics without an effort. His uncle, the distinguished Warden of Merton College, has confessed that the one ambition of his own life was to be a politician, but three successive failures at the poll finally closed his course. The nephew, on the other hand, has never known a check. He has uninterruptedly represented the Guildford Division of Surrey since 1880—which was also the year of his marriage to Lady Hilda Charteris, the daughter of Lord Wemyss, and herself his best political ally. Nor did he enter public life with unnecessary illusions. The people's memory is short. "I know," he said on one occasion, "that every one who goes to Canada or India as Viceroy is magnificently acclaimed, but however splendid his career, I also know that he invariably returns to his home in London in a hansom cab."

Outside of serious politics, Mr. Brodrick made his name familiar in the world by his memorable protest—in 1896—on the disabilities of a peer. He objected to the heir to a peerage being shorn of his career in the Commons by mere succession to the title. And, together with Geo. Curzon and Viscount Wolmer—all three being heirs to peerages—he introduced a bill to relieve them, and their like of the gilded chamber. To-day Lord Wolmer sits in the Lords as Earl of Selborne; but Lord Curzon, condemned to high rank by his office in India, has put off the evil day for a while by accepting an Irish peerage. Mr. Labouchere, if I remember rightly, objected to peers who could "pop out of one House and into the other whenever it suits them." But Mr. Brodrick's point was that, on succession to the title, a member of the House of Commons

should retain his right to his seat and his right to stand again for election as long as, but only as long as, he did not claim or take his seat in the Lords. "But now," exclaimed the future War Secretary, with at least a touch of whimsical humor, "there exists the disability, which consigned the present Lord Salisbury, twenty-six years ago, to the life-long retreat of the upper chamber. The world supposes the oldest son of a peer to be the fortunate heir of what is called the accident of birth; he is in reality the hapless victim of the accident of death. He has become a peer. From this lot there is no escape."

Sir George Turner.

Sir George Turner, the Treasurer of the Australian Federal Ministry, is a native of Melbourne. He is a lawyer, having practised his profession until 1889, when he first entered the Victorian Legislative Assembly. His political career is thus shorter than that of any other member of the Cabinet. Since 1894 he has been Premier of the colony, in jubilee year he was made a Knight and a Privy Councillor, taking part with the other visiting Premiers in the great pageant. As a Federationist he has an excellent record. He has been President of the Federal Council and was returned at the head of the poll as one of the delegates to the National Australasian Convention, whose deliberations resulted in the framework of the present Commonwealth bill. As Premier of Victoria and senior delegate of the colony, he presided over the sittings of the Melbourne Convention of 1898 and of the Premier's Conference of 1899, which considered the amendments suggested by New South Wales, and directed the answer to the question of the capital of the new Commonwealth very much in favor of Victoria. It was owing to the record and Mr. Holder that Sir William presentations of Sir George Turner Lyne abandoned the task of forming a Federal Ministry, and suggested to Lord Hopetoun the name of Mr. Barton. The man who evolved order out of Victorian finances in 1894, is not likely, says a recent article, to fail in the wider field of the Commonwealth, and in appointing him Mr. Barton, no doubt, remembered that the great problem of the immediate future is finance.

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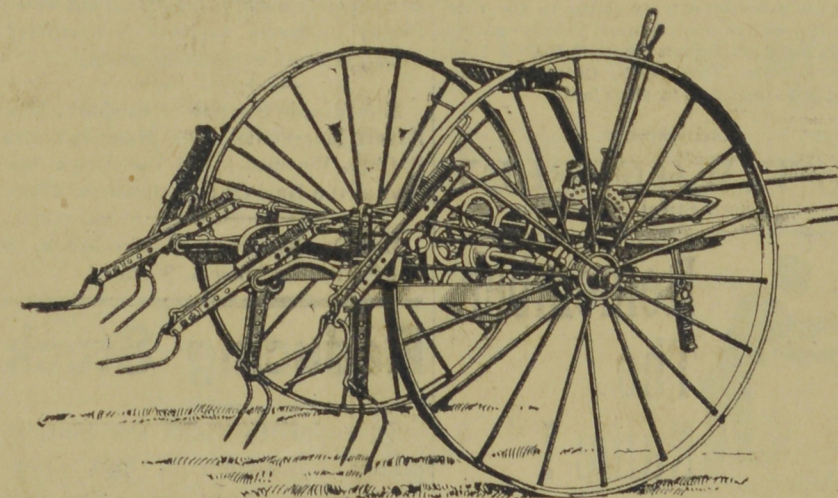
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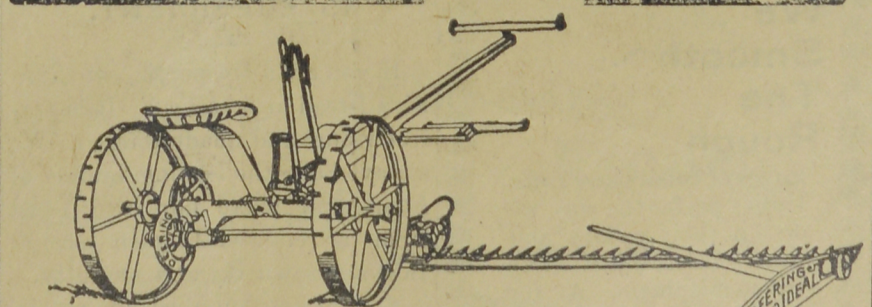
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