A "BACK BENCH" PREMIER

A Premier Who Never Sought Prominence, Stanley Baldwin Calls Himself "Just an Englishman." But in Reality the Helmsman of the British Ship of State Is a Poetic-Minded Booklover as Well as an Accomplished Statesman

Without themselves knowing it, and surely without his suspecting it himself, the British have succeeded in making a poet into a Premier.

Yet if the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, Esq., of Bewdley in Worcestershire, has been (what he certainly is not) a self-effacing person, creating a facade [illegible] to the compromise of the country man and the city man—to the [illegible] beef and gravy of his fellow [illegible]—he could not have succeeded [illegible].

They see his sturdy figure of medium [illegible] in its suit of tweed, as he tramps [illegible] pipe in hand, across the plowed fields of that beautiful English countryside he so loves. They look at his clear, ruddy skin, the slightly crumpled light brown hair, the face, and they see in it neither the traditionally aloof statesman-look of a Grey, the Oxford, a Balfour, nor the easily caricatured figures of a Cecil or a Churchill, nor the classic beauty of a Rupert Brooke.

They see him again walking into that inconspicuous doorway in a smoky brick house in a row of smoky houses in Downing Street—that door whose worn brass plate has three holes to the right of it and the nearly effaced inscription "First Lord of the Treasury"—that inconspicuous door which leads to a power second to none in the whole world—they see him walking up into that little doorway, I say, and they see what he has managed to make them see, and what he himself thinks he sees when he looks into the mirror (as he seldom does)—"just an Englishman."

Now he has left his tweeds behind. He has put on some sort of town apparel of a kind which once made a leading tailor trade journal moan with pain. He has left the conventional to Sir Austen Chamberlain, just as he has left the eccentric to Mr. Churchill.

Still, in No. 10 Downing Street, in their eyes, he carries with him the walk of the plowed field, the tan of the open air, the glow of the country side.

It is a knowledge of Mr. Baldwin which may have begun in the field and may have continued on the floor, but it ends at the door. He carries this look, it is true, but he carries more. Thither he takes a tender sympathy, a great sense of beauty, a delicate respect for words, an amazing personal humility, a love of justice, a store of memories of the writings of the greatest teachers of mankind and the vision of a poet.

Not for nothing is he the child of one of that galaxy of sisters whose amazing marriages are so often remembered: one the wife of the painter Poynter, another the wife of Burne-Jones, and the third the wife of Lockwood Kipling. On the wall of his study in 10 Downing Street you will see Burne-Jones's first proof of illumination, its little central square, destined for a complete picture, still left blankly unfinished. Here it is neither a sort of sublimated yokel nor a translated business man who sits at the modest desk in that simple room where the Cabinet confers, that room whose beautiful eighteenth century proportions, in all its beauty, except for the haunting sense of England's great past of Walpole, Pitt, Disraeli, Gladstone, Palmerston, Salisbury and the rest.

This is the Stanley Baldwin who calls himself "just a plain Englishman." If it be unassuming is to be plain, it is a true statement. He likes simple pleasures. He likes to walk in the country or to watch a rowing match. When a cart gets overturned in a ditch he gets out and helps to get it right with his own hands. "I am," he said in addressing a crowd in Worcestershire, "just one of yourselves, who has been called to special work for the country at this time."

No public man with whose words I am familiar has uttered passages of greater poetic feeling. For example:

"The sounds of England, the tinkle of the hammer on the anvil in the country smithy, the corncake on a dewy morning, the sound of the scythe against the whetstone, and the slant of a plow team coming over the brow of a hill; the sight that has been seen in England since England was a land, and may be seen in England long after the empire has perished and every works in England has ceased to function, for centuries the eternal sight of England. The wild anemones in the woods in April, the last load at night of hay being drawn upon a lane as the twilight comes on, when you can scarcely distinguish the figures of the horses as they take it home to the farm, and, above all, most subtle, most penetrating and most moving, the smell of wood smoke coming up in an autumn evening, or the smell of the scutch fires, that wood smoke that our ancestors, tens of thousands of years ago, must have caught on the air when they were coming home with the result of the day's forage, when they were still roaming the forest and the plains of the continent of Europe.

These things strike down into the depths of our nature and touch chords that go back to the beginning of time and the human race, but they are chords that with every year of our life sound a deeper note in our innermost being."

It is a passage often quoted in England. But he has uttered many others as fine.

He was, what they call in Parliament a "back bencher" from his entrance until 1917, he became secretary to Bonar Law, who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As Prime Minister he carried into the Cabinet room that capacity for quiet observation which he had shown in Parliament. He is a conversationalist, not a controversialist. He is that rarity, an interesting listener. He must needs be to preside at a table at which sit down Chamberlain, Churchill and Birkenhead. It is said that at 10 Downing Street when it occurs that there are as many opinions as there are men present he will stroll off with his pipe and wait till men has calmed and opinion have clarified.

No man can of himself carry on under such difficulties as Mr. Baldwin's administration has been called to meet without finding strength in something outside the job itself. For the wells of ambition may bring satiety, but they cannot bring satisfaction. Mr. Baldwin finds at least a part of that refreshment both in a persistent interest in great literature and in his poetic memory of nature.

"Hardly a day goes by," he says, "whether I am in 10 Downing Street or in Parliament, when I cannot see a vision of the hills of Malvern and Abberley and the Teme Valley of the Shropshire Border."

But poet and man of letters though he be, Mr. Baldwin has behind him not only the tradition of the beloved countryside but also the experience of the manufacturer and the railroad director. He has, as well, the simplicity of the countryman and the regard for the given word of the enlightened business man. He uses the word "service" by an almost American definition, and he has a patriotism which is a part both of his poetry and of his practicality.

Under the lash of his political enemies very true he has rushed the country into settlement of the American debt, he could quietly reply he was struck by the honesty of view and purpose of the American debt funding commission."

Born in an atmosphere of Wesleyan puritanism he has carried into statesmanship a rare standard of honesty—a standard whose usual European approach is better represented by the query of Wickham Stead as to "the degree to which individual standards of right and wrong are invalid in statecraft."

Baldwin could demonstrate in the opinion, at any rate, of some people—the financial wisdom (after the event) of his conduct in the debt settlement. No one seems to question that if the fruit was in expediency, the root was in instinctive honor.

This quiet, observant man has been no dreaming Hamlet. His faith has not been without works. After thinking over England's financial difficulties for two years and waiting "to see whether some one else would take the lead," he suddenly wrote a letter to "The Times" calling for a voluntary capital levy, at the same time himself handing over one fifth of his own capital, £150,000, to the Exchequer. In that letter he said:

"How can the nation be made to realize the gravity of the financial situation? It is so easy to live on borrowed money. It ought to be possible to pay the Exchequer such a sum as would save the taxpayers £50,000,000 a year."

He did it "as a thank offering, for never again shall we have such a chance of giving our country that form of help which is so vital at the present time."

None of his advanced critics rushed to the Exchequer to follow his example.

The method of his doing it, his waiting and thinking it over, was quite as characteristically Baldwin's as the resolution itself. For this "back bencher," this "Conservative trooper," as some one called him, who had been lightly snubbed when he was an assistant secretary for writing a minute on a memorandum to Chamberlain (who had at that time succeeded Bonar Law as Chancellor of the Exchequer)—this was the man who suddenly became a leading force by his tactics and by his speech at that Parnassus of the Conservative party, the Carlton Club, in breaking up the coalition ministry of Lloyd George and the reintegrating of the Conservative party in power by the largest majority in recent history.

It was Baldwin who once said of Lloyd George:

"A dynamic force is a very terrible thing. It may crush you but it is not necessarily right."

When Lloyd George remarked of Bonar Law that he was "honest to the point of simplicity" Baldwin said:

"If these six words can be said of me when the general election takes place I shall be a proud man as an individual, and I shall have every confidence in the success of the party I am leading."

He is Prime Minister, and it looks as if he will continue to be Prime Minister for some time to come. The four great peaks of his administration so far have been Locarno, the debt settlement, the great strike, and the war in China, of which the first alone rises above the mists of recrimination and discord. After the strike, "The Spectator" could say he was the greatest Prime Minister since Pitt, and Mr. H. G. Wells could accuse him of humbuggery.

It is not my province to discuss his methods, but to observe his personality. As good a light as any may be thrown upon it by noting the contrast between his methods and those of Winston Churchill during those strike days which we would say tried men's souls, but which, the English will merely admit, stretched men's humor.

Whether Mr. Churchill actually wore a tin hat or not, I do not know. I only know that some people say he did. But many people saw his unnecessary tin-hatted soldiers, his unnecessary guarded armored lorries. Mr. Baldwin then found himself between the extreme right of the amateur Mussolinis outamateuring Mr. amateur Krassins out-Krassining Mr. Churchill, and the extreme left of the Clynes. He still frequently finds himself between the wishes of the Tory Die-hards and the imaginings of the Labor Irresponsibles. The vociferous, who call for "prescience" in a public state of mind such as this are demanding not statesmanship, but that men should be either gods or monkeys.

Mr. Baldwin remains a calm, balanced, sympathetic and hopeful man. His personality has helped to bring about a condition whereby English good sense shall again give itself a chance. The back-bencher" who could wait, the student of the classics and history who had a sense of time and could, therefore, wait; the poet who could keep his vision but, above all, the patriot who could still believe in England. And his belief was then justified.

RAIN

It's difficult
To be aloof
With raindrops tapping
On your roof.

"Let me come in,"
They seem to say.
(The raindrops have
A brazen way).

My room has charms
I can't explain
Without the rhythm
Of the rain.

I love the rain
Because it sings
Of strange and
Mystifying things.

Peradventure . . . . . .
God made the rain
To decorate
My window pane.

Kenneth Abrams Fowler.

It is stated that the varying tides in the Channel militate against the swimmer's success. In other words, the Channel swim largely depends on the Channel's whim.

Mixing Salvation and "Socks"

SAVING SOULS THROUGH HEALTHY BODIES

London's Athletic Parson, Rev. Tiverton Preedy, who has been appointed to the vacant prebendary stall of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, can still give a good account of himself when he puts on the gloves with his boys of All Saints' Mission of Pentonville.

Ford Acquires 3,700,000 Acres In Brazil For Rubber "Farm"

Commercial Report Indicates Concession Will Be Able to Supply American Market

New York.—Production of sufficient crude rubber to supply the manufacturing needs of the United States is conservatively estimated as the potential capacity of the new plantation development launched by Henry Ford in Brazil, according to information just received here.

Announcement of the acquisition of a large concession in the State of Para for rubber production purposes was made by Edsel Ford on Oct. 11. The area covered in the concession has never been accurately mapped and unofficial estimates of the territory ranged from 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 acres. Figures of the Brazilian Government, which have just reached here indicate the concession covers 3,700,000 acres. This is an acreage only slightly smaller than the combined area of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The entrance of Mr. Ford into the ranks of rubber producers is regarded in informed circles here as an important step in the movement among American manufacturers to produce their own crude rubber. The significance of the American situation, it is declared, lies in the fact that the United States consumes, roughly, 80 per cent. of the world's crude rubber but owns less than 4 per cent. of the producing plantations.

A number of years, however, will be required to capitalize the potentialities of the Ford concession.

According to the official map of the Ford concession, just published by the India Rubber World, the area lies on the Tapajos River, a tributary of the Amazon. The concession is, roughly, diamond shaped, the Tapajos River, between the cities of Aveiros and Itaituba, forming its western boundary. The Tapacura River forms the southwestern boundary and the Cupary River, which flows into the Tapajos near Aveiros, forms the eastern boundary. By water Aveiros is approximately 675 miles from the port of Para.

This territory was the subject of an extensive survey made by a United States Government commission in 1923, which declared the area one of the best natural locations for rubber production. The fact the Tapajos River is navigable to ocean-going vessels for a considerable distance is emphasized in the report of the government commission. Another fact favoring the development program which was cited is the large supply of labor.

Reports on the research made throughout the Ford concession, it was declared, indicate practically the entire acreage is suitable for production development. Based, however, on the planting of only half of the area, with a yield of 500 pounds to the acre it is estimated the annual production would be between 350,000 and 400,000 long tons of rubber. The consumption of manufacturers in the United States in 1925 totaled 354,461 long tons.

The plantation development, according to the India Rubber World, is known as the Companhia Ford Industrial do Brazil, or the Ford Industrial Company of Brazil, with headquarters at Belem, capital of the State of Para. It is capitalized at approximately $1,000,000.

Under the terms of the concession, it is understood, work is to be begun on the development of the plantation at once. The concession is rich in natural resources, such as hardwoods and Brazil nuts. These are expected to be handled in commercial quantities.

HOW HE GOT 'EM

"How do you suppose Charlie got all those little bumps on his head?" "Every time he collides with a thought it leaves a bump."

"They say Matilda Simpkins is married." "Who's the happy man?" "Her father."

"Lets All Scrap Our Arms"

WE'LL KEEP ON TRAINING OURS THOUGH

"Is Russia Sincere?" is the question puzzling European statesmen. She proposes disarmament while keeping up the mightiest army in the world and outfitting it with every modern appliance. Officers of the Red army in their new uniforms.

Queensland Settlers Vis[illegible] by Governor

Executive Covers 3000 Miles to S[illegible] Capital Loud in Their Prais[illegible] in All Previous Sta[illegible]

Brisbane.—"The indomitable spirit of the settlers in the far-out-back of Queensland is magnificent. Their patience and hopefulness are sublime. Past experience has inculcated in them a wonderful faith in the recuperative powers of their land. As to the women outback, I was thrilled by their courage."

The Governor of Queensland, Sir John Goodwin, thus expressed himself on his return from his first tour of the West. He journeyed to the outback to learn, at first hand, the conditions under which the settlers live in that vast area of the State, in order to be able to impart the information to the Secretary of State for the Dominions, L. C. M. S. Amery, on that gentleman's arrival in Queensland.

Referring again to the women of the West, Sir John quoted the lines of Queensland's poet, George Essex Evans:

For them no trumpet sounds the call,
no poet pipes his arts;
They only hear the beating of their
gallant, loving hearts
But they have sung with silent lives,
the song, all songs above:
The holiness of sacrifice, the dignity
of love.

"Since we left Brisbane," said Sir John, "we have traveled approximately 3000 miles—about 1500 miles by train, and an equal distance by motor [illegible]

The Kitchen Win[illegible]

A few plants growing in a sunny window of the kitchen will not only add charm to this workaday room, but will furnish flavors and garnishes for many delectable dishes.

By all means have a pot or two of rose geranium. The blossoms will brighten the room while the leaves may be used to impart a delightful flavor to a glass of jelly. One housewife, who specializes in apple and grape jellies always adds a leaf of rose geranium to each glass as she fills it. A leaf added to punch gives a distinctive touch that is nice for parties. As a garnish for sliced pineon or orange, rose geranium leaves are very effective.

Mint is easily grown in a kitchen window in winter and will furnish mint for the appetizing sauce served with all lamb dishes, flavor for jellies and for punch.

Parsley is a biennial plant. Seeds [illegible]

Relics of 1400 B.C. Sc[illegible]

Discoveries of University of Pennsylvania Museum Expedition Throw Light on Early Religions of Holy Land and on Old Testament

Philadelphia.—Discoveries made at Beisan, in Palestine, which throw more light on the early religions of Palestine and, incidentally, upon certain passages in the Old Testament, were revealed in a report received by the University of Pennsylvania Museum from Alan Rowe, director of its expedition engaged in excavating the site of the Biblical Bethshan.

Among the discoveries reported were a brick altar, reminiscent of rites described in the Book of Samuel, and more than 100 objects of mud, believed to represent small rolls of bread and cakes similar to those referred to in the seventh chapter of Jeremiah.

In addition, the report says, the excavators uncovered a number of fine scarabs and jewelry of goldstone, a beautifully made bronze top of a military standard, representing the head of Hathor, and suggesting the presence of a "Hathor" regiment of the Egyptian Army at Beisan in 1400 B.C., and a number of stone weights, fine fragments of painted pottery, and other objects.

Of peculiar interest among the pottery found was a bowl bearing the figure of a serpent in high relief. The bowl, which is the oldest example of a cult object thus far found at Beisan, is considered of unusual importance, as it reveals that ophiolatry, or the worship of serpents, which was prevalent in the town during the reigns of Amenophis III, Seti I and Ramses II, was already practiced there in the time of Thothmes III.

All the new discoveries described by Mr. Rowe in his report were made during the excavation of two temples belonging to the reign of Thothmes III., who ruled about 1580 B.C., and whose tomb, adorned with the figure of a bull and bearing the name of the King, was found on the floor of a room adjoining one of the temples.

American tourists are still to be very eager to visit the Mines. They have every reason for [illegible] the workmen to prepare [illegible] London Opinion.

[illegible] Garden

[illegible] or plants purchased [illegible] house. The curled varie[illegible] decorative and adds charm [illegible] as a garnish. It is es[illegible] with baked fish. Parsley [illegible] ded to soups, broths and [illegible] piquancy, while a spoon[illegible] parsley added to drawn [illegible] a fine sauce for pota[illegible] parsley added to buf[illegible] is not only adds flavor but [illegible] of color that is pleasing. [illegible] keeps a pot of growing [illegible] plants in her kitchen and [illegible] is needed for salad or for [illegible] pinches off the new [illegible] which gives a more spring[illegible] than dry onion.

In these pots should be [illegible] gently and kept loose, the [illegible] pod every few days and [illegible] put in the open whenever [illegible] sunshine will permit [illegible] placed in the fresh air [illegible] chood of being nipped.

[illegible]ping of [illegible]solete Ship

[illegible]fgren in Circular [illegible]s How He Would Effect This

[illegible] That the wholesale scrap[illegible]plete and superfluous ton[illegible] eventually benefit the [illegible] shipbuilding interests [illegible] has for long been the [illegible]pany experts, but how to [illegible]out is the difficulty. Emil [illegible] Stockholm puts forward [illegible] scheme in the monthly [illegible] the Baltic and International [illegible]time Conference. The [illegible]ers out that, while not [illegible] optimistic about the plan, [illegible]y a sign of the struggle [illegible] which is being exper[illegible] smaller ships.

[illegible]n holds that as the pres[illegible] of tonnage has arisen [illegible]e various extraordinary [illegible]s caused by the war, [illegible] extraordinary measures [illegible]aken to put things on a [illegible]ar again. As cargo availa[illegible]sport in Europe is now [illegible] less than in 1913, he [illegible] all European owners [illegible]ally agree to scrap 10 per [illegible]h country's old and un[illegible]steamers which are clog[illegible]e freight market.

[illegible]gren then takes four typi[illegible]ean freight routes and [illegible] his 10 per cent. would [illegible]pping of 2,350 vessels of [illegible]ns, with a total carrying [illegible],000 tons. He calcu[illegible] an average conservative [illegible]ips would carry 125, [illegible] goods, and that if they [illegible] these goods could be [illegible]ong the remaining ton[illegible]

[illegible] that each country should [illegible]bing fund. At a price [illegible] ton for old ships in [illegible]ber of 2,350 would fetch [illegible] which by the sale of scrap [illegible]er ton would reduce the [illegible]250,000 which would have [illegible]n up among the European [illegible]lowing 66,000,000 tons as [illegible] the Eastern boat, the [illegible]fund" would amount to 15 [illegible] freight, would only have [illegible] ton to meet this amount [illegible] repaid. In order that [illegible] should not be defeated by [illegible]ers ordering new vessels, [illegible] suggests that [illegible] old vessels should [illegible] de[illegible] a fund at only [illegible] and [illegible] per ton.

British Monoplanes

[illegible] is [illegible] constructed, a cabin [illegible] of metal, as now [illegible] at the Marlesham [illegible] station.

[illegible], which has been built [illegible] factory by Messrs. Wil[illegible]ore and Co., Limited, [illegible], and is driven by three [illegible] motors, developing a [illegible] horsepower. Its biplane [illegible] has a span [illegible] of more than 110 ft., [illegible] of its pneumatic-tired [illegible]s is 5 ft. in diameter.

[illegible] accommodation for 30 [illegible] the big saloon, which [illegible]ore space for moving [illegible] has been the case with [illegible]s aeroplane cabin.

It Might Be Good For Two

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Minard's Liniment for C[illegible]