

## Wear of War on Joseph Chamberlain

LONDON, March 15.—In one sense Joe Chamberlain of Birmingham is the most significant figure in England today. If he had not been secretary of state for the colonies the chances are ten to one that England would not have gone to war with the Boers. By general consent this war, which already has cost England more than 8,000 men, and twice as much money as the Spanish war cost the United States, is Mr. Chamberlain's war.

Because of this fact, and because he is not schooled in traditions; because he has the gift of getting ideas and putting them into execution without much regard for the wisdom of the forefathers; because he represents modern business methods rather than the cherished customs—some useful and some outworn—of diplomacy, he is the best hated man in England at this moment, and yet his chances were never better for becoming premier, the highest office within the gift of the English people, the place most nearly corresponding to that of president of the United States.

I say the "best hated," but that doesn't mean the most unpopular, by any means. Mr. Chamberlain's antithesis, Lord Lansdowne, the urbane, haughty and tradition-loving secretary of state for war, holds that unlucky distinction, or at least did hold it till Cronje surrendered. To be futile in time of need is to be unpopular, but to be power-

premier, and so far as known, he always gets what he goes for.

### How Chamberlain Became Rich.

The first big thing he got was a fortune, and, like most other things he has got, it by shrewd planning, not by saving his pennies or inheriting pennies his father had saved. After finishing his education at the London University school, he went to Birmingham, at the age of 18, and after a while became junior partner in the firm of Nettleford & Chamberlain, screw manufacturers. Then things began to get lively in the screw business. Thanks, it is said, to the Chamberlain shrewdness, the firm got hold of an American patent for making wood screws that soon put them at the head of the business. What happened then is a matter of much discussion and criticism. So, instead of trying to state the case on hearsay, I applied to a close friend and associate of Mr. Chamberlain's for a first-hand version of the story. Here are his exact words:

"There has been much speculation as to the way in which his wealth was made. Many stories are told, some partly true and some altogether false. His position as a junior partner in the screw business of Nettleford & Chamberlain no doubt gave him many opportunities for the exercise of those business qualities which were afterward so marked during his municipal career. The charge which his opponents were not slow

and night. They had no half-way measures, either, nor spared the rod, and a boy was as likely to be thrashed for not knowing who was the wisest man as for insisting that six and two made nine. So, although Mr. Chamberlain's class was nominally for scripture study, the teacher was in the habit of giving his pupils a smattering of science, literature and history as well.

He wore a light beard in those days, but dressed much as he does now, with silk hat, frock and eyeglass—like in all respects, in fact, save for lack of the orchid that is now usually a part of his toilet. The only time that he ever was known really to neglect his personal appearance was just after the death of his first wife, whom he adored, and in that sad time the neatness which is a part of him was almost totally forgotten.

He used to keep his hat on while teaching the boys, and paced about the room, umbrella in hand, shooting out questions, not disdaining to tell good stories and pouncing on delinquents with satire and mock politeness. The boys worked like beavers all week, and sometimes on summer days balmy sleep claimed one of them for its own before he knew it. Such a boy was likely to be awakened with a vigorous prod of the umbrella and to hear Chamberlain say, "Good night, Jones. No objection to your going to sleep, only please don't snore." He taught the boys for over two years, managing to keep the rather tough young propositions in first rate order, yet never resorting to the harsh measures which he had authority to use. Those who remember him at that time say he was a model teacher.

There are a good many who remember Chamberlain the teacher. His former pupils are continually turning up in London and recalling old times to him, and when he went to America as British commissioner in the fisheries discussion a couple of prosperous merchants called and introduced themselves as two of his old "boys."

When he ceased to teach in the Sunday school he became one of the trustees of the Birmingham church, in which he is still interested and to the support of which he contributes liberally.

### How He Learned to Speak.

Perhaps his zeal in church work was not altogether free from political ambition. Chamberlain was not a fluent speaker in his early youth. The right word didn't always come in the right place, as those who knew him then were reminded only a few weeks ago when in the midst of a great public speech, he got stuck for a word, hemmed and hawed and twisted in vain, and finally turned to Mrs. Chamberlain, who was sitting on the platform, and asked her what word it was he wanted. She told him and he went on without any further trouble.

Realizing, probably, that he must talk well on his feet if he was going to get along in politics, he joined, if not founded a debating society in the district of Birmingham in which he lived, and which still flourishes under the name of the Edgbaston Debating society, and from which have sprung many of Birmingham's most famous citizens. When he first undertook to speak there, he was often nervous and faltering, even to the point of breaking down entirely. He kept at it, however, and soon became a power in the society, especially strong in argument and active in the discussion of social questions from the political viewpoint. It was his work in the debating society that won for him his first political place as a member of the town council. Then he became mayor, and pushed through municipal gas and water and street improvement schemes that caused Birmingham to be regarded as one of the best governed cities in the world; was re-elected twice and then sent to Parliament.

It was the debating society scheme that got him into municipal politics, the municipal improvement scheme that got him into Parliament, the wood-screw monopoly scheme that made him a millionaire. Now for a scheme to place him in the ranks of the statesmen. But perhaps it is not fair to call the home rule split a scheme; let's call it an opportunity.

When Mr. Parnell delivered his famous declaration of independence for Ireland and Mr. Gladstone had allied himself to the Irish party, the turning point in Mr. Chamberlain's life came. He was a radical; the chairman of his parliamentary division, Mr. E. J. Smith, now famous as the inventor of the trades combination scheme, was a radical, and Mr. Chamberlain's workmen, numerous enough to be a strong political factor, were also radicals. It is due, perhaps, to Mr. Chamberlain's astuteness that no one knows exactly to this day whether these radical constituents induced Mr. Chamberlain to head the famous split, or whether Mr. Chamberlain was so powerful that he carried them with him. There was a momentous dinner at his house a few nights before he announced his policy and the question of following Mr. Gladstone or breaking with him was discussed by the local political potentates invited there by Mr. Chamberlain, who was apparently much in doubt as to what he had better do. Finally Chairman Smith got up and carried the day by a speech against home rule. Mr. Chamberlain said not a word, but a day or two afterward he made the step that carried him into the conservative party, at the head of the liberal unionists and brought him a place in the cabinet as a reward. And, by the way, this bit of inner history of the famous split has not been told before.

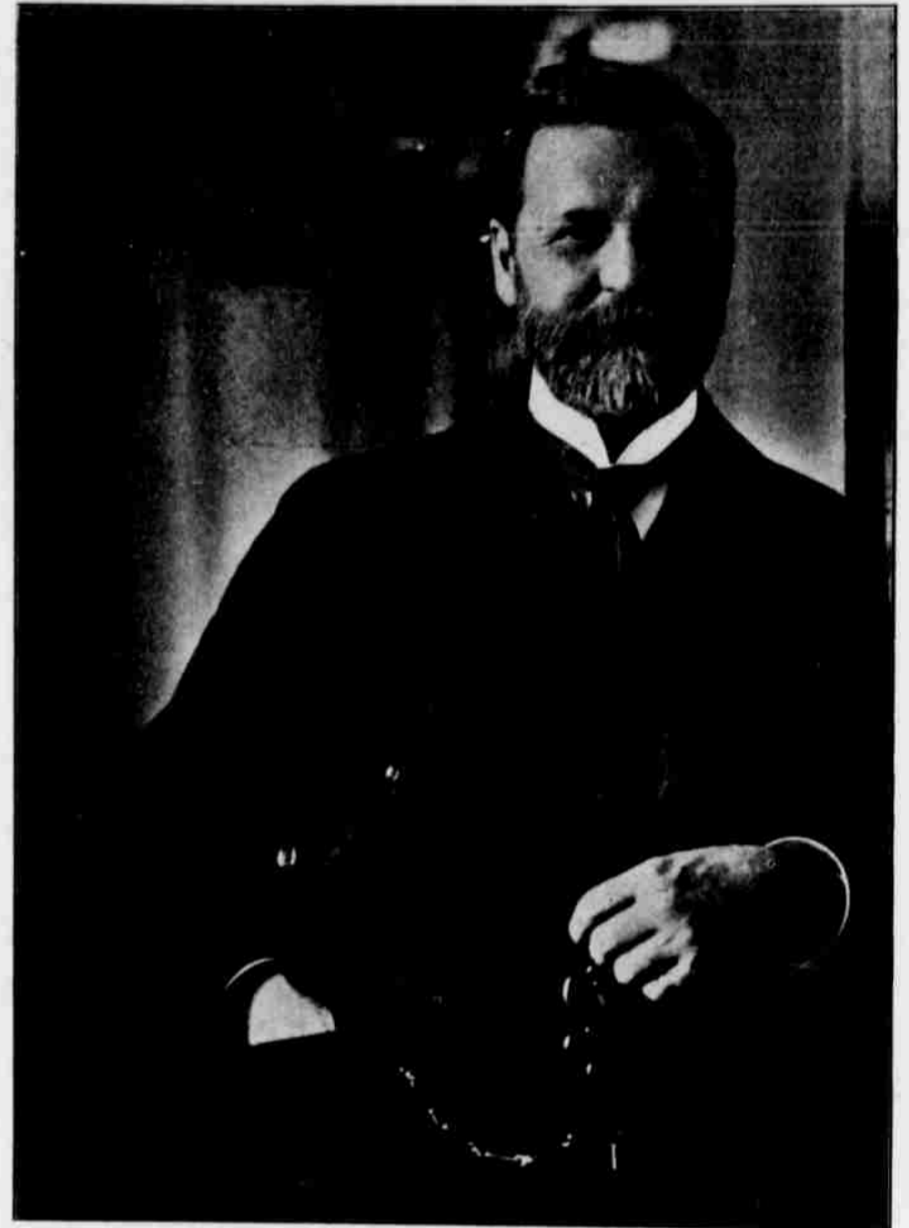
**Tide Turning for Chamberlain.** When Parliament opened a few weeks ago things looked bad for Mr. Chamberlain. Sir Wilfred Lawson said in a public speech that Mr. Chamberlain deserved to be put in jail quite as much as Dr. Jameson had for making a raid on the Transvaal on a smaller scale.

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## Mr. Hull of Iowa, His Work and Ways

Representative Hull of Iowa enjoys legislative work. He is a good parliamentarian and can preside over the house without embarrassment. On the floor he is different from most members. He never tries to force a measure—he carries it through. A colleague has said that Hull can get bills through the house with less friction than any other man on the floor. When objection is made, he explains, and when some other man might smart under a taunt and show resentment, Hull will good-naturedly seek to satisfy the objector with argument rather than fight him down. He

in New York or on Connecticut avenue in Washington he might be called a "dandy." The expression of his face is full of business, yet it is by no means lacking in intellectuality. In his autobiography published in the Congressional Directory he says he is "engaged in farming and banking." This is particularly true as to the farming. In summer he spends part of his time looking after his favorite farm and enjoys the life as much as do any horny-handed members of his constituency. If he should lose his job as congressman he would be as likely to take up with farm-



MR. HULL OF IOWA—Photo by Frances Johnston.

makes a good speech, but diplomacy, not oratory, is his long suit. His methods have made him popular with his fellow-members and a good many of them know him as "John." Those who do not know him so well salute him as "Captain." This title dates back to his civil war service. His admirers from Iowa call him "governor" because of his two terms as lieutenant governor of the state.

Hull is best known as chairman of the house committee on military affairs. Before the war with Spain this chairmanship might have been called a "genteel" position, just as the chairmanship of appropriations was "powerful," the chairmanship of pensions "laborious," the chairmanship of judiciary "dignified," and so on. But nowadays the military chairmanship is one of great importance and Chairman Hull had power, labor and dignity showered upon him because of events following the battleship Maine's misfortune. He has been chairman of the committee since the Fifty-fourth congress. When Speaker Reed made up his committees at the opening of that congress more chairmanships were given to Iowa than any other state in the union in proportion to the size of her delegation. Henderson was chairman of judiciary and first man next to the speaker on rules; Hull headed military affairs, Hepburn interstate and foreign commerce, Lacey public lands, and there were two other Iowa chairmen. Six of Iowa's eleven members received chairmanships and the others were well taken care of. This has nothing to do with Hull, except to show that an Iowa member has a hard time to be specially conspicuous. Hull is not the biggest man of the delegation, even excepting the speaker, but he is one of a collection of big fellows.

**Military Expert.** As an expert on military affairs, Hull is now pointed out in the same way that Payne is as a "tariff expert," or as "Uncle Joe" Cannon is referred to as an "authority on appropriations." During the war legislation of 1898 Hull was one of the best friends the administration had in the capitol building. His mission was to co-operate with the War department and he did so without causing excitement or friction. He was cool, deliberate and wise. He had helpful suggestions to make to the War department officials. When plans were formed he put them into execution in the house. He worked hard on the bill for the army and it was a bitter disappointment to him that the increase was not for 100,000 regulars, instead of 65,000 regulars and 35,000 volunteers.

Hull is good looking. He appears to advantage in a dress suit. In Fifth avenue

ing as he would be to take the management of one of the banks in Des Moines in which he is interested.

### Hard Worker.

As a representative Hull is tireless. He is always at it; in fact, he wastes labor occasionally because some of it does not show and brings no fruit or reward, except satisfaction to him. He has both determination and perseverance. A congress or two back he had a bill granting a pension of \$72 a month to a Des Moines veteran of the civil war. After he had argued for it before the committee it was reported favorably, but with the amount cut down to \$50. It came up in its turn at one of the Friday night sessions devoted to pensions. He was on hand, as was his Iowa colleague, Lacey, who had written the report. Hull made a long statement, explaining the merits of the bill. Lacey also spoke in favor of it. Some one called for the reading of the report. This took time and indicated that all would not be smooth sailing. Hull made another statement in his graceful manner. Then the reading of the minority report was demanded. This was another bad omen. A speech was made against the bill and then Hull had to make another appeal. He seemed to satisfy the objectors and the vote was next in order.

As the roll call proceeded it could be observed that two were voting for the bill to every one against it. All was happiness for Hull. "Thirty-two ayes to fourteen noes," announced the chairman, and he was about to add, "And the bill is laid aside with a favorable recommendation," when out rang the words, "No quorum." A quorum could not be mustered and the next thing the house did was to adjourn. This would have discouraged a good many men, but Hull brought that bill up on another occasion and it was passed. Still the opposition was not satisfied and still later Hull succeeded in having the house reconsider its action and recall the bill from the senate. Then, in spite of the house having reversed itself, Hull got the bill up again and secured its passage. It went through the senate, received the president's signature and the Des Moines veteran drew his pension. There had been a lot of opposition to that bill but there was no opposition to Hull.

Hull's devotion to details and his love of work give value to his service as a representative. He does lots of work in committee and would rather dictate letters than eat. Less than fifty-nine years of age and enjoying fine health, he is good for some years yet. And, with much army legislation to come, no matter what develops in the present war, he ought to grow.



JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN—From his late photograph.

ful and vigorous and ambitious and bold is to be both hated and admired.

This keen, resourceful Mr. Chamberlain, who has made such a mark in English history and is likely to add to that mark, is 64 years old, but until his war began to go against him he did not look a day over 50. Even now he steps as jauntily as ever out of his hansom at the private entrance to the House of Commons, orchid in buttonhole, monocle at eye, smartly dressed, high instep and with a confident smile; but after a long session in the depressing atmosphere of the house you can discern even from the visitors' gallery heavy lines running from the inner corner of his eyes diagonally across his face; he sinks down wearily on the leather-covered bench and his sharp eyes close, while some orator on the opposition side of the house is politely calling him names and telling the press gallery and the country at large that the right honorable member from Birmingham West is a villain of the deepest dye.

You might think Mr. Chamberlain was asleep, and every one of his 64 years old at that, but let the opposition member touch on some statement that would really count for something and the right honorable gentleman is suddenly discovered to be very much awake and young again. He sits up smartly and shoots a question or denial at the opposition orator that usually scores a point, the government supporters say "Hear, hear!" and Mr. Chamberlain shuts his eyes and grows old again.

The war is telling on him heavily in spite of his buoyance, for he hates exercise, works almost unceasingly either at the colonial office or at his lovely home, Highbury, in Birmingham, and probably plans and schemes o' nights. He intends to be

to bring against him—that of bringing about a monopoly without regard to the principles of fairness and justice to his competitors, was certainly not true. That by the aid of patented American machinery his firm was able to dictate terms to the other screw makers in the country, and that they were all, or nearly all, induced to sell their business at a fair price—thus leaving Nettleford & Chamberlain masters of the situation for years, may be accepted. But this could probably have been done by competition alone, without having to pay the price which the various businesses cost. No charge of real tyranny or injustice has ever been established. That the monopoly, however, was brought about and that it secured to all the members of the Chamberlain family great wealth, seems certain."

**As a Sunday School Teacher.** Another old friend of the colonial secretary has recently referred to Mr. Chamberlain's specialities, unsuspected of late, as a Sunday school teacher.

Naturally, they were exhibited before his political career had begun; in fact, only a short time after his start in Birmingham. Perhaps it was in obedience to the wish of some good people at home that young Chamberlain promptly joined the Church of the Messiah, but he found much that was interesting to him in religious work. Three years later he gave a series of talks on scientific topics to the young people of the congregation, and before long he was a full-fledged Sunday school teacher, with a class of boys, most of them lusty young factory hands.

All this was at the time when there was no national system of education in England, and when church workers not only taught the gospel but "reading, writing and arithmetic" as well, holding classes day