

LORD BIRKENHEAD AN INTERESTING, VERSATILE LEADER

H. G. Wells Calls Subject of
Book Greatest Man in
England.

By NEA Service
LONDON, Dec. 30.—A newly published book sets out for first time in detail the still young career of a man, scarcely known in the United States, whom G. H. Wells calls "the greatest man in England, and of whom the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, a bitter political opponent, says that he has "the greatest all-round mind in the country."

The man is the Earl of Birkenhead, who started life as plain F. E. Smith, earned \$252 in his first year as a lawyer and worked his way up to \$150,000 in fifteen years, abandoned active legal practice to become attorney general and then Lord Chancellor, is now secretary of state for India in the cabinet, and probably will be before long Viceroy of India, where he will be virtually emperor of a nation whose population exceeds that of the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy combined.

It is hardly exaggerated to say that Lord Birkenhead's career, in versatility and eminence, surpasses that of any living man—not excepting that of Mussolini. As lawyer, judge, athlete, statesman, soldier, politician and author he has won distinction. He has never failed in anything he has tried to do.

Tells People Things

Most of these things are known vaguely of him here. When a big political situation arises it is hinted that Lord Birkenhead is handling things—mapping out a course of action or finding ground for conciliation. He is credited with reconciling both British and Irish leaders to the compromise that resulted in the formation of the Irish Free State. It is said that rejection of his plan brought about the general strike last May. Whenever the necessity arises for an oratorical right to the law to the opposition political party Lord Birkenhead can be depended upon to administer it.

He is the reverse of modest over his accomplishments, but he is not a boaster. His belief in himself is shown when he talks. He does not argue, but tells people things. But once he did say of himself, only half humorously that he wondered how any man could be so consistently right.

He is unmatched in caustic de-bate. Presiding over the house of lords recently, he shocked that ponderous body by referring to Lords Londonderry and Selborne as "the Dolly Sisters." In almost his first

Then the Motorists Fainted Away

By Times Special
EVANSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 30.—Tourists, arriving here from Kentucky are reporting unusual generosity on the part of farmers near Madisonville, Ky.

On a short stretch of the Dixie Bee there autostops were miring in the deep gravel, but no sooner would their cars stall than a farmer would appear with a team and drag them out.

"What are the charges?" the motorists would ask feebly, searching for their wallets.

"Not a penny, sir. All we ask is that you come this way again," answered the teamsters.

Business men of Madisonville and Nortonville originated the free-service idea, it is said.

law case, he made an enemy and won a reputation for repartee.

Keen Repartee
The judge rebuked him for the remark.

"That was an improper observation," said the judge.

"It was prompted by a most improper suggestion," retorted Birkenhead—“Freddy” Smith as he was then.

"You remind me," said the judge, "of a saying of Bacon, the great Bacon, that 'youth and discretion are ill-wedded companions'."

"You remind me," Birkenhead replied, "of a saying by the same great Bacon that 'a much-talking judge is like an ill-tuned cymbal'."

"You are offensive, sir," complained the judge.

"We both are," said Birkenhead;

"the difference is that I'm trying to be but you can't help it. I am not going to be browbeaten by a garrulous old county-court judge."

Birkenhead is one of the best judges of liquor in England; he is a yachtsman who, when his yacht went on the rocks and the captain announced that all hands would probably be lost, ordered a steward to bring a bottle of champagne and a box of cigars—which his doctor had forbidden him. He goes to night clubs almost every night, plays tennis during the day, exercises his three Scottish terriers by taking them wherever he goes—to cabinet meetings as well as to his office—handles a big cabinet job, and writes articles and books. He is working now on a biography of Woodrow Wilson.

He would have won more recognition if he had not made so many enemies. He has not much opinion of ordinary people, though privately he is kind-hearted and a pleasant companion who is much sought after. He referred to a cabinet of his own party as "second class brains."

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Job's Daughters on Times Program



The New Year's Eve program of The Indianapolis Times on Friday night over WFBM, from the studio at the Sevierin will feature members from the three lodges of Job's Daughters of this city.

A chorus composed of members of Bethel Chapter No. 9, will be on the program. The members of the chorus are Frances Smith, Izetta Smith, Harriett Watkins, Dorothy Fyre, Claudia Taylor, Pauline Gallo-

way, Margaret Scree, Margaret Wheeler, Elizabeth Colburn, Vina May, Dorothy Durnell, Mabel Bryant, Mary Ireland, Eleanor Marshall, Delores Malard, Lillian Harris, Lucille Gaines, Alta Taylor and Mildred Hendrixson.

a peer—a pun of his plebeian name of Smith.

"I am smith of my own fortune" he wrote in Latin, and only 51, tall, dark, handsome, cynical-looking, he is still forgoing it.

OPPOSE BAR'S PROGRAM

By United Press
MUNCIE, Ind., Dec. 30.—Organization of a Constitution Preservation Club to oppose changes in the State constitution supported by the Indiana Bar Association was perfected here yesterday and work started today to extend its membership. The group of lawyers who started the movement propose to organize a district society and appoint a committee to carry on its fight in the State Legislature. Clarence E. Benard was elected president of the Muncie group.

THIEF PASSES UP \$65

Removes \$110 From Purse, But Leaves Remainder.

Police investigated a peculiar theft Wednesday night at 930 Alabam St. J. S. Wason said his wife was away for an hour in the evening, and while she was gone some one, using a pass key to enter, found a hidden purse in a closet and took \$10, leaving \$65.

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