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AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.
 Son of British Colonial Secretary Who Has Been Appointed Postmaster General.

Austen Chamberlain recently succeeded Lord Londonderry and with his father, Joseph Chamberlain, the colonial secretary, now occupies a place in the British cabinet. He is a "chip of the old block" and a young man of great promise. He was educated at Rugby and Trinity college, Cambridge, and has already served as civil lord of the admiralty and as financial secretary to the treasury.

Mr. Chamberlain's appointment has some direct interest for the United States, for there has been a lot of complaint about the delay in get-



HON. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.
 (Postmaster General in the Reconstructed British Cabinet.)

ting American mails through to London from Queenstown, and it is expected that the new man will look into the trouble. Furthermore, the question of a parcels post with the United States is up for discussion, and Mr. Chamberlain is known to be deeply interested in that subject.

It speaks well for the younger Chamberlain that his father's bitterest enemies—he has a wonderful collection of enemies—have had little criticism to offer over the son's appointment to succeed the marquis of Londonderry. The rich and ornate marquis got the place because he had a political pull, was rather sore at the government, and had to be placated. Even the conservatives admit that he was about the most inefficient postmaster general St. Martin's-le-Grand had ever seen.

Young Chamberlain, on the contrary, is a quiet, level-headed business man, who can be depended upon to make the fussy permanent officials in the post office sit up. Their motto apparently is: "It must be done thus, for thus it always has been done."

Postmaster General Chamberlain, who will be 40 next year, is about the same age as his second stepmother—the third Mrs. Chamberlain—who was the daughter of Judge Endicott, of Massachusetts. He lives with his father and is unmarried. He is not at all a bumptious young man, and is making his way largely on his own merits. He has a wonderful opportunity for cutting out a great future for himself by reforms in the post office.

THEY SOUGHT QUAIL

But the Englishman's Dogs Got Polecats Instead.

They Liked a Strong Scent and Had No Difficulty in Finding It—One of Senator Vest's Best Hunting Stories.

Senator Vest has told many stories, but one experience of his has not reached the general reader. It occurred many years ago, but the senator, telling it not long ago, was still chuckling.

In his younger days Senator Vest was an ardent hunter and an authority on the wild life of the prairies. He was living on the advance line of civilization and his home was known far and wide for its cordial and abundant hospitality. There Mr. Vest one day received a visit from a rich and famous hunter from London who brought a letter of introduction from a friend living in the English capital. And the Englishman had brought with him his own hunting dogs. Senator Vest had dogs of his own and he could not repress his surprise, but the Englishman asked him to wait and see. They drove for many miles and finally the wagon was left in care of the men, and Mr. Vest and the Englishman started out on the quest. They did well. The dogs of the Englishman were not worth much, but the Missouri breed gave excellent sport.

"Just wait and give my dogs a chance," declared the Englishman. "All they need is a stronger scent."

"They got it," said the senator, telling the story to a New York Sun man. "Yes, they got it. Some distance away was a little hill and in the side of the little hill were little holes. Suddenly the Englishman's dog got the stronger scent and started for the little hill with the little holes.

"Call them back," I shouted to the Englishman.

"Oh, no," he replied. "Now they've got it. Now they've got it."

"They will get it if they don't keep away from there," I answered. But with all I could do I could not call him back. He would not listen and he got so excited that he started on a run after his dogs.

"Well, it was my time to be moving, too, for I knew what was coming; so



HON. GEORGE G. VEST.
 (Missouri Senator Who Can Tell a Story and Make a Speech.)

I called my dogs and made for the wagon as fast as the good Lord would let me. Just as I crawled in I turned and saw the show, and I never pitied anybody in my life as much as I did that Englishman with the dogs that wanted a stronger scent. Out of the holes came little animals and you never saw such a mix up in your life. The dogs ran for the Englishman and jumped around him for protection. Then the Englishman tried to get away from the dogs for protection, too, and the whole combination started for the wagon.

"Put the whip to the horses," I told my man, "and don't let them get within half a mile of us."

"Hi, there, wait for me!" cried the Englishman.

"Keep your distance," I responded, and to the driver I said, "Whip 'em up."

So we went mile after mile over that prairie. I pitied the Englishman from the bottom of my heart, but there are times when pity must not get too close. I kept him in sight so that he should not miss the way, but he had to walk. Once in a while he would run as though I would allow him to catch up with the wagon, but every time he did we put on more speed. When we neared town, I had to call back to him that his company would not be desirable for at least 24 hours. I never saw him again.

"And the little animals in the little holes in the little hill, senator?" Mr. Vest was asked.

"Polecats," replied the senator. "The Englishman had read about quail living in holes in the prairie hills and he wouldn't change his mind when I tried to explain things to him. But those dogs of his certainly did get all the scent they wanted—there was no mistake about that."

Died for Her Baby Brother.

One of the touching stories of the season comes from a little town in northern Wisconsin, where a six-year-old child died for her baby brother. The baby had been left in the yard, sleeping in its buggy, and the sister had been asked to go out and see to him. There the little girl saw a big rattlesnake coiled at the feet of the infant, and, realizing the danger, seized a broom and tried to kill the reptile. The snake, disturbed, darted at the little girl, coiled around the handle of the broom and slipped down it, striking its fangs into the child's neck. The infant boy was untouched, but the motherly baby sister died in great agony.

JOKE WAS ON DOCTOR.

Asked a Question in School and Got an Answer He Neither Expected Nor Desired.

Dr. J. L. M. Curry, special ambassador to Spain, tells the following anecdote, says Harper's Magazine:

In the discharge of his duties in promoting the cause of education he has been frequently called upon to address the pupils of schools he has been visiting. On one occasion he was at a rural school, and the usual address was expected at the close of the exercises. The children went



DR. J. L. M. CURRY.
 (Noted Southern Educator, Politician and Publicist.)

through a number of calisthenic exercises, which were, probably, somewhat elaborated in honor of the distinguished visitor, and then came the doctor's speech. Thinking that it was a favorable occasion to impress upon his youthful auditors the importance of drill and practice, the doctor, after expressing the pleasure that the exercises had given him, told the children that they had done far better than he could have done, and then asked:

"Can some one of you tell me why it is that I cannot do these calisthenic exercises as well as you have done them?"

After an instant's pause a small hand went up, and, on receiving an encouraging word from the doctor, a little boy stood up and said:

"Cause you are old and stiff in the joints"—which was not exactly the answer either expected or desired.

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