1911

2 January
Brighton.

In the early afternoon I take E. to see Dr. Johnson's house[1] – not very willingly because I have not wished her to form the worst impression of my intended purchase. Mr. Burr,[2] agent for the Calthorpe estates, goes with us. Happily some attempt has been made by the care-taker to clean up the windows and sweep the house down a bit and it looks a little less dreary than when I saw it some weeks since.

8 January

Back to Montagu Square – my companion in the railway carriage being John Lyttelton [afterwards Lord Cobham], my former opponent in Mid-Worcestershire and the present Member. We get on together famously as usual.

16 January

To Totteridge walking from Child's Hill. St. J. much better and we go out for a run to Damson Hall. [. . .] Alfred (Northcliffe) to stay night. Very full of his improvements to *The Times*.

3 February

Back to town. Whitefriars Club dinner in the evening with Hubert Carr-Gomm. Sir Robert Hudson[3] in the chair – Sir Courtenay

[1]See the introduction to this volume.
[2]Alfred Burr (1855–1952): architect; took charge of the restoration of Dr Johnson's house.
[3]Robert Arundell Hudson (1864–1927): secretary of Liberal Central Association and National Liberal Federation 1893–1927; married Northcliffe's widow, Mary Elizabeth Harmsworth, 1923.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Ilbert,[4] Clerk of the H. of Commons, as chief guest. Other guests include Mr. Erskine,[5] the Serjeant-at-Arms and Mr. Vaughan Nash[6] the Prime Minister's principal private secretary. Admirable discursive speech by Sir C. Ilbert on 'How Parliaments Differ'. Mr. Erskine told a very effective story of the most exciting, incident he had ever witnessed in the House – the appearance of a black beetle at the Bar of the House, its attempts to find shelter first on the Govt. and then on the Opposition side and its ultimate annihilation by a short-sighted Irish member who planted his flat foot on it amidst a storm of laughter from all members. Mr. Erskine's story made all the stronger impression because we all thought he was going to refer to the occasion when, in the course of the Home Rule debates of —, there was a free fight on the floor of the House and several Irish Members wore carried out by the police.

4 February

At night to Mrs. Asquith's[7] reception at 10 Downing Street. The Liberal Party in its glory and in high spirits. I meet Sir Samuel Evans, President of the Divorce Court, and remind him that he owes me £2. Late in the Session of 1909 he bet me 2 to £10. the Lords would *not* throw out the Lloyd-George Budget [Sam never paid me]. For the purposes of this reception the Prime Minister's House, that of the Ch. of the Exchequr. and the Whips office are thrown into one. Many long passages and a considerable segregation of people into groups but the general effect excellent.

[4]Courtenay Ilbert (1841–1924): Clerk of House of Commons, 1902–1921.

[5]Henry David Erskine (1838–1921): Serjeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons 1885–1915.

[6]Vaughan Robinson Nash (1861–1932): journalist; an assistant private secretary to Prime Ministers Campbell-Bannerman and Asquith 1905–1908; principal private secretary to Asquith 1908–1912; commissioner then vice-chairman of the Development Commission 1912–1915, 1919–1929; worked on reconstruction 1915–1919.

[7]Emma Alice Margaret 'Margot' Asquith, née Tennant (1864–1945): m. 1894 (Asquith's second wife).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

21 February

Larry[8] and I to town. In the afternoon I see Mr. Culpin[9] [E.G. Culpin, afterwards Alderman and Vice Chairman of the L.C.C.] Secretary of the Garden Cities Assn. of which body I have been chosen Chairman of the Council.

3 March

Dine with F.W. Maude[10] at Cadogan Gardens to meet Mr. Haldane[11] Secretary for War. Quite a revival of old Liberal League times. Also present Lord Willingdon,[12] Neil Primrose,[13] Cecil Beck, Sir C.D. Rose,[14] Sir Robt. Perks,[15] Sir Clifford Cory,[16] Sir West Ridgeway, Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton.[17]

5 March

Golf at Ranelagh with Alfred [Northcliffe]. He has played only a short time but in his second round were 10 fives. After many vicissitudes I ended the same round with 4 fours.

[8]The nickname of Henry Telford Maffett (1872–1914): twelfth of the Maffett children; a captain in the Leinster regiment; killed in action.

[9]Ernest Gladstone Culpin (1877–1946): architect; secretary, Garden Cities Association.

[10]Frederick William Maude (1857–1923): Baron of the Cinque Ports and sometime Mayor of New Romsey.

[11]Richard Burdon Haldane (1856–1928): Lib. MP Haddingtonshire 1885–1911; Secretary of State for War 1905–1912; Lord Chancellor 1912–1915, 1924; leader of Labour party in House of Lords 1924–1928; cr. Viscount 1912.

[12]Freeman Freeman-Thomas (1866–1941): Lib. MP Hastings 1900–1906, Bodmin 1906–1910; Governor of Bombay 1913–1918, Madras 1919–1924; Governor-General of Canada 1926–1930; Viceroy of India 1931–1936; cr. Baron Willingdon 1910, Viscount 1924, Earl 1931.

[13]Neil James Archibald Primrose (1882–1917): son of Lord Rosebery (Lib. Prime Minister 1894–1895); Lib. MP Wisbech 1910–1917 (Co. Lib. 1916–1917); Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs 1915; Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip) 1916–1917; died of wounds received in action 1917.

[14]Charles Day Rose (1847–1913): Lib. MP Cambridgeshire East 1903–1913; cr. baronet 1909.

[15]Robert William Perks (1849–1934): Lib. MP Louth 1892–1910; businessman; leading lay Wesleyan Methodist, and co-founder and chairman of the Nonconformist Parliamentary Council, 1898–1908.

[16]Clifford John Cory (1859–1941): Lib. MP St Ives 1906–1922 (Co. Lib. 1916–1922), 1923–1924; Welsh colliery owner; cr. baronet 1907.

[17]John Fletcher Moulton (1844–1921): Lib. MP Clapham 1885–1886, Hackney South 1894–1895, Launceston 1898–1906; Lord Justice on the Court of Appeal 1906–1912; organised Explosives Supply Department under War Office in Great War; cr. Baron 1912.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

6 March

Golf on the Merrow Downs Links with Alfred and lunch afterwards at Sutton Place. He much pleased with his new great room under the long Gallery, and keenly interested in his private links in the park row in process of formation.

13 March

In the morning with Reggie Maffett to Henley to arrange for the sowing of annual seeds, etc. Lunch at the Red Lion. In the evening to the Annual Dinner of the Marylebone Liberal Club, Sir Victor Horsley[18] in the chair. The great surgeon in fine form – a strong Liberal well acquainted evidently with all the political questions of the day. The young lady who responded for the ladies spoke fluently for a few minutes and then broke down saying 'There, you see I can't speak and I told you I couldn't.' This reminded Sir Victor of an Irishman who went to a doctor and complained that he had lost the power of speech 'Sure, doctor dear, I can't speak a word.' DOCTOR: 'Rubbish man, pull yourself together. Pronounce some common word that you are always using. Say 'horse', for instance.' PATIENT: 'Indeed, doctor, but 'horse' is one of the very words I can't say at all.'

15 March

A vile day with driving sleet and rain. Alfred (Northcliffe) turns up nevertheless for a round of golf on the Totteridge links. We are the only enthusiasts who brave the elements today. The heavy clay soil of Totteridge is not suited to winter golf and the recent rains have reduced the links to a quagmire.

[. . .]

I return to town in time for the Executive Committee meeting of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association. Mr. Ebenezer Howard,[19] the pioneer of the whole movement, present – a simple,

[18]Victor Alexander Haden Horsley (1857–1916): physiologist and surgeon; Vice-President, National Temperance League, and President, British Medical Temperance Association; unsuccessful Lib. candidate 1910 and prospective candidate 1911–1914.

[19]Ebenezer Howard (1850–1928): author, *Garden Cities of To-morrow* (London: Swan Sonnnenschein, 1902) [1st edn as: *To-morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform* (London: Swan Sonnnenschein, 1898)]; founder, Garden Cities Association 1899.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

fresh-coloured man with the glow of health about him that rightly belongs to an inhabitant of First Garden City.

27 March

Today I conclude the negotiations for the purchase of Numbers 17 and 16 Gough Square at the offices of Messrs. Walters, 9 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, I hand over a cheque for £4,000., sign the contract and receive the keys in the evening.

After dinner with E. and Reggie to Mrs. Scott's[20] reception at her studio in Buckingham Palace Road. Mrs. Scott is wife of Capt. Scott, R.N.,[21] who is at present in the Antarctic. First official news of the expedition since it arrived in the Antarctic came this evening.

28 March

Visit to Dr. Johnson's house with Mr. A.P. Nicholson[22] the very able 'Lobby' representative of *The Times*. We go over the dilapidated old residence with great care, noting every feature of (presumably) contemporary interest. Mr. Nicholson is to publish a detailed account of this transaction in *The Times* on the day following a purely formal announcement (stating that I have bought the house) in the whole of the Press.

2 April
[28 Montagu Square]

CENSUS DAY. Twelve people sleeping here tonight – C.B.H., E.A.H., Daff, Bud, Gol, Con Baker, Reggie Maffett, Mrs. Parkes (nurse),

[20]Kathleen Scott, née Bruce (1878–1947): sculptor; m. R.F. Scott 1908; m. secondly the politician Edward Hilton Young 1922; became Baroness Kennet 1935.

[21]Robert Falcon Scott (1868–1912): Royal Navy officer and polar explorer.

[22]Arthur Pole Nicholson (1869–1940): journalist and author; parliamentary correspondent of *The Times* 1908–1913.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Lena Guy (cook),[23] Lister (parlourmaid),[24] Reading (housemaid)[25] and Kate Sumner (kitchenmaid).[26]

11 May

Annual Dinner of the 'T.C.D.' Dining Club at the Grand Hotel, Sir Edward Carson[27] M.P. in the chair. A most enjoyable evening with the renewal of many old acquaintanceships. I propose the toast of the 'Guests', responded to by F.E. Smith K.C. M.P. in a speech of much humour and eloquence. The best speech of his I have heard since his memorable maiden speech in the H. of Commons in 1906.

18 May

Annual Dinner of the Sylvan Debating Club. Lord Robert Cecil[28] chief guest. Also present Harold Cox,[29] Lord Northcliffe, and H.S.H. Lord R.C. makes a speech, well-reasoned and searching, which seemed to justify the claim I have always made for him that, of the coming men on the Tory side in the Parliament of 1906–10, he shared the honours with F.E. Smith.

[23]Selina Guy (b. *c.*1871).

[24]Grace Lister (b. *c.*1885).

[25]Daisy Reading (*c.*1886–1926).

[26]Kate Sumner (b. *c.*1892).

[27]Edward Henry Carson (1853–1935): Unionist MP University of Dublin 1892–1918, Belfast Duncairn 1918–1921; Solicitor General for Ireland 1892; Solicitor General for England and Wales 1900–1905; Attorney General for England and Wales 1915; First Lord of the Admiralty 1916–1917; Minister without Portfolio 1917–1919.

[28]Edgar Algernon Robert Gascoyne-Cecil (1864–1958): Con. MP Marylebone East 1906–1910, Hitchin 1911–1923; Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs 1916–1919; Minister of Blockade 1916–1918; Lord Privy Seal 1923–1924; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 1924–1927; cr. Viscount Cecil of Chelwood 1923; awarded Nobel Peace Prize 1937.

[29]Harold Cox (1859–1936): Lib. MP Preston 1906–1910; economist and ardent free trader; editor, *Edinburgh Review* 1912–1929; author of works such as *Economic Liberty* (London: Longman's, Green & Co., 1920).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

19 May
Montagu Square

To see the Master of Elibank at 12 Downing Street about a Seat that is coming vacant in consequence of the election of a Liberal Member (unnamed) to the Peerage.

Afterwards to 38 Berkeley Sq. to call for Lord Rosebery and to take him to see Johnson's house. Lord R. not less unaffected and friendly than I have ever known him. He is not, think, a close student of Johnson nor has he the highest opinion of his literary qualities. 'Irene' in his opinion the worst tragedy ever written – so poor as to verge almost on comedy. The Dictionary probably his most memorable work. He is much pleased with the house, not having expected to find it in such good and *original* condition. [. . .] On our way home he refers to Harold's giving up Chatham's House at Hampstead. Asks very kindly after St. J. and after my own health. Spoke of his having had influenza when he was 'First Minister' and of the insomnia that crippled him then.

I notice again at Berkeley Square the scores of walking-sticks in the hall, the many tall hats on a side table, and the countless pairs of gloves. The rooms are full of fine pictures, presentation photographs from Kings and Queens, and splendid furniture, but it is a particularly unhomelike home even for a great London house.

20 May

Mr. E.G. Culpin, Secretary Garden City Association, and I to Letchworth. Mr. Ebenezer Howard meets us at the station. A most interesting day with him viewing the whole estate. The great experiment may now be regarded as a triumphant success – about 1200 houses already built; population estimated at nearly 5,000; factories 25, most of them now in the process of enlargement. The central square is, of course, planned and groups of young trees are planted, but there are no municipal or other public buildings. We visit the printing and book-binding establishment of Messrs. Dent and note the cheerful, healthy appearance of the workers. The population of the Garden City would be considerably larger but for the fact that many of the workers come from the surrounding villages which, Mr. Howard says, have been greatly revived by this contact with Letchworth. (Mr. Dent[30] told us he had observed an improvement in

[30]Joseph Malaby Dent (1849–1926): publisher, known for the highly successful *Everyman's Library* Series.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

the health and physique of the workers that have come to Garden City from London.)

21 May

E. and I to Sutton Place to the opening of Alfred's golf course by Mr. Balfour. I suppose that a more original or interesting afternoon party has rarely been given. Among those staying at Sutton Place for the weekend or visiting for the afternoon – Mr. A.J. Balfour, Mr. Gerald Balfour,[31] Mr. Alfred Lyttelton,[32] the Bishop of Pretoria (Dr. Furse),[33] Mr. G.H. Elwes (who sings so sweetly) and Lady Winefride Elwes,[34] Sir Joseph, Lady and various young Leese's,[35] Mr. and Mrs. Colefax,[36] Mr. Garvin,[37] Mrs. Furse (widow of the artist),[38] Mrs. Pennant,[39] Mr. Marlowe[40] (editor of the D. Mail), Mr. and Mrs. St. Loe Strachey,[41] Mr. P.A. Laszlo,[42] the artist, etc., etc. Four aeroplanists, Messrs.

[31]Gerald William Balfour (1853–1945): Con. MP Leeds Central 1885–1906; Chief Secretary for Ireland 1895–1900; President of the Board of Trade 1900–1905; President of the Local Government Board 1905; younger brother of A.J. Balfour, whom he succeeded as 2nd Earl of Balfour in 1930.

[32]Alfred Lyttelton (1857–1913): Con. MP Warwick and Leamington 1895–1906; St George Hanover Square 1906–1913; Secretary of State for Colonies 1903–1905.

[33]Michael Bolton Furse (1870–1955): Bishop of Pretoria 1909–1920; Bishop of St Albans 1920–1944.

[34]Gervase Henry Elwes (1866–1921) distinguished English tenor, one of the most popular singers of the day; gave the first performance Vaughan Williams's *On Wenlock Edge* in 1909; m. 1889 Winefride Mary Elizabeth Fielding (1868/9–1959): daughter of the Earl of Denbigh.

[35]Sir Joseph Leese (1845–1914): Lib. MP Accrington 1892–1910, cr. baronet 1908; m. 1867 Mary Constance Hageans (d. 1928).

[36]Henry Arthur Colefax (1866–1936): Con. MP Manchester South-West 1910; lawyer; knighted 1920; m. 1901 Sybil Halsey (1874–1950): later, as Sybil Colefax, became a noted interior designer.

[37]James Louis Garvin (1868–1947): journalist and author; editor, *The Observer* 1908–1942.

[38]Katherine Furse, née Symonds (1875–1952): widow of the painter Charles Wellington Furse (1868–1904), m. 1900; founded the Voluntary Aid Detachment in the Great War; Director of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, 1928–1938.

[39]Possibly Violet Blanche Douglas-Pennant (1869–1945): who briefly served as commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) in 1918 before her controversial dismissal. Harmsworth undertook an official post-war inquiry into the episode. However, Douglas-Pennant was unmarried, and so may not be the 'Mrs. Pennant' mentioned here.

[40]Thomas Henry Marlowe (1868–1935): editor, *Daily Mail*, 1899–1926.

[41]John St Loe Strachey (1860–1927): editor, *The Spectator*, 1887–1925; m. 1887 Henrietta Mary Amy Simpson (1866–1957).

[42]Philip Alexius de Laszlo (1869–1937): Hungarian-born portrait artist, domiciled in London from 1907.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Grahame-White, Snowden Smith,[43] Astley,[44] and Hewitt[45] arrive in biplanes or monoplanes from Hendon and Brooklands. I follow Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lyttelton round the links for some time and help to look for (but not to find) Mr. Balfour's ball when he pulls into the rough. The two statesmen – tall thin figures in loose tweed suits and with large spectacles – playing as well as one might expect considering the state of the course. It seems to be quite true that Mr. Balfour's golf language never goes beyond 'Bother!' and 'Oh, dear!' He tells me that he thinks very well of the possibilities of the course and is surprised to find so much natural sand.

22 May

We dine at the Emile Mond's[46] – afterwards to the Foreign Office reception to meet the Colonial Premiers assembled for the Colonial Conference.

27 May

With Harold [Rothermere] Lil and E. to the Granard's[47] reception in their fine house in Halkin Street. The interior is all new stone which 'comes off' on one's clothes. As I am proceeding up the grand staircase with E. to make my bow to Lord and Lady G. I am plucked by the sleeve and somebody brushes my coat vigorously with his hands. – It is Winston Churchill. I am relieved to find other people's clothes powdered in the same way. A crowded reception – said by *The Times* to be the most brilliant for two seasons. Indian Princes, inexpressibly gorgeous, Colonial Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, Cabinet

[43]Richard Talbot Snowden-Smith (1887–1951): lieutenant, aviator; became first officer on the Active List to be awarded a pilot's licence, 15 November 1911.

[44]Henry J Delaval Astley (1888–1912): aviator; died flying a Bleriot in an exhibition flight at Belfast.

[45]Vivian Hewitt (1888–1965): aviator; first person to fly from Holyhead to Dublin, April 1912.

[46]Emile Mond (1865–1938): scientist; member of board of Brunner-Mond, chemical company.

[47]Bernard Arthur William Patrick Hastings Forbes (1874–1948): soldier and Liberal politician; Lord-in-Waiting 1905–1907; Master of the Horse 1907–1915, 1923–1926; succ. as 8th Earl Granard 1889.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Ministers – most people in court dress or uniform, having come on from the King's Birthday dinners.

19 June

Interview with the Master of Elibank (Chief Whip) in regard to the vacancy in South Beds and satisfactory talk with a deputation from Luton in Sir Jesse Herbert's[48] room.

20 June

A hitch in the S. Beds business. Hemmerde[49] intervenes and finds favour with some of the Luton people. Elibank compels him to withdraw. I meanwhile knowing nothing of all this and wandering round the streets looking at the Coronation decorations and the armies of sightseers blocking every thoroughfare. Then a hurried visit to the H. of C, to see Elibank and to find the difficulty smoothed over.

Then an anxious and wearisome meeting trying to get on the telephone to Luton and Droitwich (to ask Mr. Hobson, my late Chairman, to send a message of recommendation to the S. Beds people).

21 June

Adopted, unanimously and enthusiastically, Liberal Candidate for S. Beds at the Liberal Club Luton. Bye-Election owing to Mr. Gair Ashton's[50] elevation to the peerage. Return to town at night.

22 June

Coronation Day. Harold having got me a ticket for the Press Gallery I arrive at the Abbey at about 8 o' clock, leaving Dora and Cuthbert

[48]Jesse Herbert (1851–1916): political secretary to the Liberal Chief Whip from 1890s; knighted 1911.

[49]Edward George Hemmerde (1871–1948): Lib. MP East Denbighshire 1906–1910, North-West Norfolk 1912–1918; Lab. MP Crewe 1922–1924.

[50]Thomas Gair Ashton (1855–1933): Lib. MP Hyde 1885–1886, Luton 1895–1911; industrialist; chairman of Cotton Exports Committee in Great War; cr. Baron 1911.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Maffett[51] at the H. of Commons stand in Palace Yard (tickets given us by the Carr-Gomms). By a dark and narrow circular staircase I make my way up to the N. Triforium which proves to be an unexpectedly broad gallery affording many points of view along the N. Transept and the Nave to the W. door. A company of journalists in constant touch with telegraph messenger boys, and Westminster boys with their masters. One or two trim hospital nurses are in charge of a stretcher and 'first-aid' equipment. By standing in my place I get a good view of the H. of Commons gallery just below – occupying the whole of the 'upper floor' of the transept (and the other transept) – the altar with Edward the Confessor's chapel beyond, the old chair (under which is the stone of destiny) and the two chairs of estate ranged in front of the tomb of Anne of Cleves, and the Royal box. The Abbey has undergone a remarkable transformation. The fine old grey pillars and arches remain but the tombs and statues have disappeared under the elaborate staging, and the great Church is seen to be strictly cruciform. The woodwork is covered for the most part in dove grey material. The floor of the theatre (the centre part of the cross) is carpeted in dark blue with a rich Persian carpet under the old Throne and another, much larger, is spread before the altar and up the altar steps. There is a magnificent display of gold vessels and plate on the altar and on the tomb of Anne of Cleves. At first only a few ecclesiastics – bishops, and the Dean and Canons of Westminster, in rich copes – move here and there about the theatre. Gradually ladies in court dress and men in uniform fill up the boxes and stagings. The judges of the High Court are massed in a great box in the archway below my general point of view – the Peers occupy the ground floor under the H. of Commons stagings in the two transepts.

The first event of supreme interest is the procession of the Princesses of the Blood with immense long trains of purple velvet edged with gold and ermine, their coronets borne by officers and their trains carried by ladies. Then there is the procession of the P. of Wales[52] in garter robes and with a great towering plumed hat and a coronet carried by a page. At each royal approach there is a fanfare of trumpets with other music from the Orchestra on the choir screen.

[51] Dora Harriett Maffett, née Fenwick (1868–1944): m. 1893 Charles Hamilton Maffett (b. 1866); their son Cuthbert William Maffett (1894–1982). Dora and Cuthbert were visiting from Ireland, and had unveiled a Classical Water Carrier in memorial to her father, Robert Fenwick, at Wandle Park, Croydon, on 14 June 1911.

[52] Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David, Prince of Wales (1894–1972); reigned briefly as King Edward VIII (1936).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

23 June

Meet Mr. Cotchin[53] and other officials at Luton.

24 June

Meet Mr. Cotchin again at Luton to arrange plan of campaign. Go round Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Toddington, etc., with him.

26 June
Leighton Buzzard.

Fine meeting.

We come down to Luton to stay at Mr. Cotchin's house very kindly lent by him:

Wardenhurst
Ashburnham Road
Luton.

28 June

Meetings at: – Chalton Milton Bryant and Toddington.

. . .

Over Mr. Davis's[54] Diamond works (iron foundry, stoves, ranges, etc.) in the morning with Mr. Inwards.[55]

[53]Charles Cotchin (*c.*1856–1923): at different times held various positions in the South Bedfordshire Liberal Association.

[54]The Diamond Foundry, Luton, owned by the David Gas Stove Co. Ltd.

[55]Harry Inwards (*c.*1863–1943): Luton manufacturer and active Liberal; author of *Straw Hats: Their History and Manufacture* (London: Pitman, 1922).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

29 June
Luton

Great meeting in the Plant Hall. Speakers F. Kellaway[56] M.P. for Bedford and Milner Gray.[57]

3 July

To Luton by train (via Paddington and St. Pancras). Round the shops and warehouses of Luton with Mr. George Warren.[58] After lunch to Dunstable round the shops with Mr. Inwards.

Meetings: – Houghton Regis and Dunstable.

Speakers: Mr. Milner Gray at both places. Mr. T.W. Dobson[59] ex-M.P. for Plymouth at Dunstable. [He was gifted with one of the finest voices I have heard on the platform – a clarion voice overriding tumultuous mass gatherings and the hubbub of market-place meetings. He was one of the regular speakers for the Liberal Party and was so acceptable and effective at Dunstable that I arranged with headquarters that he should be with me during the bye-election for as many meetings as he could spare. C.H. Oct. 1936.]

5 July

Meeting in Vauxhall Works 1.40. Deputation of chemists 2.15.

Evening meetings: –
Stondon (poor)
Shillington (splendid)
Leagrave (excellent)

[56]Frederick George Kellaway (1870–1933): Lib. MP Bedford 1910–1922 (Co. Lib. from 1916); Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Munitions 1916–1920; Secretary for Overseas Trade 1920–1921; Postmaster General 1921–1922; later Managing Director of Marconi.

[57]Milner Gray (1871–1943): chairman of Frank Harden Ltd of Luton (ladies' hat makers) and a director of the United Match Industries; subsequently Lib. MP Mid-Bedfordshire 1929–1931; chairman of National Liberal Federation 1934–1936; Chairman of Liberal party 1937–1939.

[58]George Warren (b. *c.*1849): Straw hat and plait merchant; Mayor of Luton 1897–1899.

[59]Thomas William Dobson (1853–1935): Lib. MP Plymouth 1906–1910.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

and look in at Plait Hall mass meeting addressed for 2 hours (!) on Insurance Bill by L.G. Chiozza-Money, M.P.[60] and Mr. Dobson.

6 July
Luton.

12.30 Balmforth's Works.
1.30 Kent's Works.
2.15 photographed by Mr. Cox.[61]
3.0 " " Mr. Thurston.[62]
8.0 small (very small) meeting at Hyde.
9.30 Show myself at outdoor meeting in front of Corn Exchange, previously addressed by Mr. Dobson and George Nicholls, farmer agricultural-labour candidate and M.P.
10.0. Meeting of workers at Club. Great alarm as to position of small hat-manufacturers under Insurance Bill.

7 July

Daff's birthday.
Luton.
Meeting at Brown's Works 11.55.
" " Commercial Cars 1.40.
Gathering of Life Assurance Workers at Liberal Club 2.30.
Evening meetings: –
Eggington 7.0.
Billington 7.30.
Heath (large and interrupted freely by a dozen noisy youths) 8.0.
Hockcliffe (very rowdy, but I secure a decent hearing) 8.0.

14 July
Luton.

Nomination at the Town Hall.
Gas Works 1.55.

[60]Leo George Chiozza Money (1870–1944): Lib. MP Paddington North 1906–1910, Northamptonshire East 1910–1918; economist and author.
[61]Probably Joseph Cox: local photographer.
[62]Frederick Thurston (*c.*1855–1933): photographer and art dealer.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Deputations: –
Free Church Council 2.30.
Extreme Suffragists 3.30.
Doctors 4. 0.
Mass meeting Park Square at 8. Triumphal return to Club.

19 July
Luton.

Final meetings at Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. Speakers Silvester Horne[63] and Chiozza Money. Splendid enthusiasm.

20 July

Luton. Polling day.
Blazing day. All round the Constituency in our Vauxhall car gaily decorated with light blue and yellow flags – Daff and Bud with us most of the day.

21 July

Anxious time in the counting room – the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Luton. At one time (near the five-thousands) Hickman[64] and I were neck and neck and for a moment he had even forged ahead!
Result: –

Harmsworth (L.)	7619
Hickman, J.O. (C.)	7006
	615

Magnificent scene when I emerge on the balcony on the right-hand of the Under-Sheriff.

[63]Charles Silvester Horne (1865–1914): Lib. MP Ipswich 1910–1914; Congregationalist Minister, and first serving minister of religion to sit as an MP since Praisegod Barebones.
[64]John Owen Hickman (1870–1949): barrister; brother of the Conservative MP Thomas Edgecumbe Hickman (1859–1930).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Tremendous throng in the Liberal Club and outside. After lunch in the Club triumphal procession accompanied by four other motor-cars round the Constituency.

24 July

Alfred arrives Poynters about 6 A.M. after seeing the airmen go North from Hendon on the £10,000. *Daily Mail* flight.

My re-entry into the H. of C. The Master of Elibank and Leicester[65] my sponsors. The House packed in every part and buzzing with excitement. The Prime Minister to move the rejection of the Lords' Amendments to the Veto Bill. Refused a hearing by the Tories! Scene of indescribable uproar during which the P.M. vainly attempted a dozen times to make himself heard. Speaker's appeals absolutely ignored. Mr. Balfour, replying for Opposition, given a polite hearing by Liberal, Labour and Irish parties. After that a stately little speech of rebuke to Tory rowdies from Sir E. Grey.[66] Then F.E. Smith attempted to speak but our people would not listen to him. Eventually Speaker adjourned House under Standing Order 21.

25 July
H. of Commons.

Education and other votes.

Innumerable congratulations from Members, Liberal, Tory, Irish and Labour – including Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, John Redmond, Willie Redmond,[67] Swift McNeill, T.P. O'Connor,[68] Pike

[65]Robert Leicester Harmsworth (1870–1937): 4th son of Alfred and Geraldine Harmsworth, younger brother of CBH; Lib. MP Caithness 1900–1918, Caithness and Sutherland 1918–1922.

[66]Edward Grey (1862–1933): Lib. MP Berwick-upon-Tweed 1885–1916; Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs 1892–1895; Foreign Secretary 1905–1916; leader of Liberals in House of Lords 1923–1924; succ. as baronet 1882; cr. Viscount 1916.

[67]William Hoey Kearney Redmond (1861–1929): Irish Nat. MP Wexford Borough 1883–1885, Fermanagh North 1885–1892, Clare East 1892–1917; younger brother of John Redmond.

[68]Thomas Power O'Connor (1848–1929): Irish Nat. MP Galway Borough 1880–1885, Liverpool Scotland 1885–1929; Father of the House at the time of his death.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Pease,[69] Ramsay MacDonald,[70] C.W. Bowerman,[71] Sidney Buxton,[72] John Burns, F.E. Smith, Arthur Lee,[73] Stanley Baldwin,[74] Jerry MacVeagh,[75] Ellis-Griffith, J.P. Boland,[76] Sir W.P. Byles,[77] H.W. Carr-Gomm, W. Clough,[78] S. Collins,[79] Herbert Craig, Sir H. Dalziel,[80] Eustace Fiennes,[81] Hamar Greenwood, G.G. Greenwood,[82] Silvester

[69]Hubert Pike Pease (1867–1949): Lib. Unionist (later Unionist) MP Darlington 1898–1910 and 1910–1923; Assistant Postmaster General 1915–1922; cr. Baron Daryngton 1923.

[70]James Ramsay MacDonald (1866–1937): Lab. MP Leicester 1906–1918, Aberavon 1922–1929, Seaham 1929–1931; Nat. Lab. Seaham 1931–1935, Combined Scottish Universities 1936–1937; Labour party secretary 1900–1912, chairman of parliamentary Labour party 1911–1914; leader of Labour party 1922–1931; Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary 1924; Prime Minister 1929–1935; Lord President of the Council 1935–1937.

[71]Charles William Bowerman (1851–1947): London Society of Compositors general secretary 1892–1906, Parliamentary Secretary 1906–1911; Lab. MP Deptford 1906–1931; Secretary of Trades Union Congress 1911–1923.

[72]Sidney Charles Buxton (1853–1934): Lib. MP Peterborough 1883–1885, Poplar 1886–1914; Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies 1892–1895; Postmaster General 1905–1910; President of the Board of Trade 1910–1914; Governor-General of South Africa 1914–1920; cr. Viscount 1914, Earl 1920.

[73]Arthur Hamilton Lee (1868–1947): Unionist MP Fareham 1900–1918; Civil Lord of the Admiralty 1903–1905; Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries 1919–1921; First Lord of the Admiralty 1921–1922; donated Chequers for use of British prime ministers 1917; cr. Baron 1918, Viscount 1922.

[74]Stanley Baldwin (1867–1947): Unionist/Con. MP Bewdley 1908–1937; joint Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1917–1921; President of the Board of Trade 1921–1922; Chancellor of the Exchequer 1922–1923; leader of Conservative party 1923–1937; Prime Minister 1923–1924, 1924–1929, 1935–1937; Lord President of the Council 1931–1935; Lord Privy Seal 1932–1934.

[75]Jeremiah McVeagh (1870–1932): Irish Nat. MP Down South 1902–1922.

[76]John Pius Boland (1870–1958): Irish Nat. MP Kerry South 1900–1918.

[77]William Pollard Byles (1839–1917): Lib. MP Shipley 1892–1895, Salford North 1906–1917; owner of the *Yorkshire Observer*; knighted 1911.

[78]William Clough (1862–1937): Lib. MP Skipton 1906–1918.

[79]Stephen Collins (d. 1925 at age 77): Lib. MP for Lambeth Kennington 1906–1918; knighted 1913.

[80]James Henry Dalziel (1868–1935): Lib. MP Kirkcaldy Burghs 1892–1921 (Co Lib. from 1916); editor, *Reynolds's News* 1907–1920, and owner 1914–1922; attributed with bringing Northcliffe and Lloyd George together in 1909; organised Lloyd George's purchase of *Daily Chronicle* in 1918, and thereafter its chairman and political director; cr. baronet 1918; Baron 1921.

[81]Eustace Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes (1864–1943): Lib. MP Banbury 1906–1910, 1910–1918; PPS to Churchill as First Lord 1912–1914; Governor of Seychelles 1918–1921, of Leeward Islands 1921–1929; cr. baronet 1916.

[82]Granville George Greenwood (1850–1928): Lib. MP Peterborough 1906–1918; knighted 1916.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Horne, Rufus Isaacs,[83] Sir J. Simon,[84] H.L.W. Lawson,[85] P.A. Moltino,[86] A.A.W.H. Ponsonby,[87] C.P. Trevelyan, A.J. Sherwell,[88] and scores of others.

26 July

E. India vote.

Dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Griffith and John Burns in the Harcourt Room. John full of stories of his early life. – Hampton Court was mentioned and John told us how he was chosen to conduct the late King (Edward VII.) over the old Palace on account of his special knowledge of it. How had he come to be so familiar with the Palace? He had spent his one-day honeymoon there!

27 July

Garden party at the Prime Minister's Downing Street. The pretty old garden gay with a distinguished throng. The P.M. good enough to say he was very glad to see me back.

Foreign Office vote in the House and important statement by the P.M. on German policy in Morocco.

[83]Rufus Daniel Isaacs (1860–1935): Lib. MP Reading 1906–1913; Solicitor General 1910; Attorney General 1910–1913; Lord Chief Justice 1913–1921; British Ambassador to USA 1918–1919; Viceroy of India 1921–1925; Foreign Secretary 1931; leader of Liberals in House of Lords 1931–1935; knighted 1910; cr. Baron Reading 1914, Viscount 1916, Earl 1917, Marquess 1926.

[84]John Allsebrook Simon (1873–1954): Lib. MP Walthamstow 1906–1918, Spen Valley 1922–1940 (as Lib. Nat from 1931); Solicitor General 1910–1913; Attorney General 1913–1915; Home Secretary 1915–1916, 1935–1937; leader of Liberal National party 1931–1940; Foreign Secretary 1931–1935; Chancellor of the Exchequer 1937–1940; Lord Chancellor 1940–1945; knighted 1910; cr. Viscount 1940.

[85]Henry Lawson Webster Levy-Lawson (1862–1933): Lib. Unionist MP St Pancras West 1885–1892, Cirencester 1893–1895; Tower Hamlets Mile End 1905–1906, 1910–1916; succ. as Baron Burnham, and inherited the *Daily Telegraph*, on death of father 1916; cr. Viscount 1919; sold *Telegraph* to Berry brothers 1927; served as chairman of numerous important public bodies.

[86]Percy Alport Moltino (1861–1937): Lib. MP Dumfriesshire 1906–1918; shipping magnate and philanthropist born in Cape Colony.

[87]Arthur Augustus William Harry Ponsonby (1871–1946): Lib. MP Stirling Burghs 1908–1918; Lab. MP Sheffield Brightside 1922–1930; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs 1924; Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport 1929–1931; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 1931; leader of Labour party in House of Lords 1931–1935; cr. Baron 1930.

[88]Arthur Sherwell (1863–1942): Lib. MP Huddersfield 1906–1918.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

PARLIAMENTARY LETTER.
MR. HARMSWORTH TAKES HIS SEAT.
TORIES AND THE PRIME MINISTER.
MONDAY'S DISORDERLY SCENES.

The new Member of Parliament must keep within the Bar of the House until he has formally taken his seat. Immediately after questions, the Speaker, standing in his place, says: 'Members desiring to take their seats', and the blushing novice, with the Chief Whip of his party on one side and another member on the other, advances up the floor of the House to the table, to the accompaniment of loud cheers from his own side. The little procession makes a profound bow at the Bar, another half way up the floor, and another at the table; and then the new Member takes the oath, signs the roll, shakes hands with the Speaker, and disappears from view behind the Speaker's chair. My sponsors on Monday were the Master of Elibank, M.P., and my brother, Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, M.P.

The moment I entered the House on Monday I felt conscious that the atmosphere was heavily charged with electricity. The House was packed in every part, and there was a buzz of conversation that drowned the voices of Members who were asking questions and of Ministers who were replying to them. Now and again there were wild disorderly shouts from one side of the House to the other. The excitement reached a high pitch when the Prime Minister came in from behind the Speaker's chair. The Liberal, Labour, and Nationalist Members rose as one man to their feet and cheered him rapturously for some moments. A like ovation was accorded to Mr. Balfour by his own friends when he entered a minute or two later. It required no great experience of the House of Commons to realise that a thunderstorm was brewing. Indeed, with the exception of the occasion when Mr. Ure, the Lord Advocate, made his memorable reply to Mr. Balfour's attacks on November 3rd, 1909, I have never seen the House in so excited a mood.

The order for Monday was the consideration of the Lords' amendments to the Parliament or Veto Bill. The Prime Minister rose from his place on the Treasury Bench, spread out his notes on the brass bound box, and prepared himself to make a statement that had been eagerly anticipated not only by Members of both Houses of Parliament, but by the great world outside. Mr. Asquith was not allowed to make his statement! To the dismay and to the intense indignation of all Members of the House of Commons who are jealous of the good name of the House, the Prime Minister was shouted down by the rowdies on the Tory side. Shouts of 'Traitor!' derisive cheers, and continuous cries of 'Vide' 'Vide' 'Vide' rose from the Opposition benches, and generally such a disgraceful hubbub as has never before,

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

so far as I am aware, affronted the dignity of the First Minister of the Crown. Mr. Asquith kept his temper perfectly and essayed a dozen times to begin his speech. Each fresh attempt on his part led merely to another outburst from the Tories. Mr. Asquith was at the table, I suppose, for the best part of three quarters of an hour, and there was practically no lull in the uproar throughout that time. Conspicuous among the malcontents was Lord Hugh Cecil,[89] whose cries of 'Vide!' were maintained without intermission during the whole period. It is said that a group of the younger and less responsible Tories had resolved to get themselves 'named' by the Speaker, and suspended. That the conduct of the Opposition on this occasion may be properly judged, let it be remembered that they insulted not only the Prime Minister but the Chair as well. Twice or three times Mr. Lowther rose in his place and appealed to them for order. His efforts were wholly unavailing. Mr. Lowther is by all admissions the ablest and most influential Speaker of modern times, but the Tories treated his appeals with complete indifference and disrespect. Meanwhile, it was impossible to form any notion of what Mr. Asquith was saying, and we who were in the House at the time were obliged to turn to the newspapers of Tuesday morning for information. In the end Mr. Asquith rolled up his notes, resumed his seat on the Treasury Bench, and made way for Mr. Balfour.

My friends in South Beds will have noted already that Mr. Balfour was given a perfectly courteous hearing by Liberal, Labour and Nationalist members. Never before have I had so much reason to be proud of my Party. We were angry, too, and passionately indignant at the insult offered to a Chief who commands our affectionate loyalty, but we did not forget our manners nor the respect that is due to the Chair and to the Mother of Parliaments. I think that the sharp contrast between their own conduct and ours went home to the Tories. They expected to be repaid in their own coin. Very likely they hoped to be able to say afterwards that if they had treated our leader badly we had retaliated in kind on theirs. Little by little a look of shame crept over the faces on the other side of the House as Mr. Balfour proceeded with a speech that, rambling and inconsequential as it was, was listened to with polite attention. After Mr. Balfour came Sir Edward Grey, who administered a stately rebuke to the Opposition. Sir Edward occupies a position of almost unequalled authority in the House of Commons. The fact that he is Foreign Secretary keeps him in some degree aloof from many of the more heated controversies of the day. He speaks rarely in the House on matters outside his own department,

[89]Hugh Richard Heathcote Gascoyne-Cecil (1869–1956): Unionist/Con. MP Greenwich 1895–1906, Oxford University 1910–1937; author of *Conservatism* (London: Williams and Norgate, 1912); cr. Baron Quickswood 1941.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

and never intervenes in ordinary debates without making a profound impression. By the time he had finished his few dignified remarks the temperature of the House had fallen nearly to normal, and the debate, as was intended, might have been adjourned without further incident. Unhappily, however, Mr. F.E. Smith stood up to speak after Sir Edward had resumed his seat, and the storm broke out afresh, Our people were in no mood to listen to Mr. Smith. The methods of controversy, whether in the House or on the platform, adopted by this remarkable young politician, are anything but conciliatory. If he had been allowed to speak there might have been a scene of physical violence on the floor of the House. The blood was up again on both sides.

At this point Mr. Lowther intervened again. By Standing Order 21, the Speaker is empowered to adjourn the House 'without Question put' in circumstances of grave disorder. Mr. Lowther adjourned the House, and, after some noisy recriminations on both sides, we adjourned to the Terrace to cool our fevered brows.

So ended one of the most discreditable episodes in the history of the House of Commons. I fear that I have not conveyed to the minds of my friends in South Bedfordshire any adequate notion of the vulgarity on this occasion of the turbulent section of the Tory party. I have been present at many hostile political meetings, but I have never been treated with the disrespect that was meted out to the Prime Minister on Monday by the Tories in the House of Commons. I am far from saying that every Tory member in the House sympathised with the methods of the more disorderly section. For all I know these methods may have been resented by the quieter members. There was, however, no attempt made on that side to quell the disturbance, and Mr. Balfour, flushed and embarrassed, kept to his seat while the storm raged, uncontrolled, around him.

The Tories know that as regards the Veto Bill their game is up. The Prime Minister has the whip hand of them. This explains their outrageous conduct on Monday. They have been defeated hip and thigh, and must be conscious that, but for their own folly in the past in using the House of Lords for their own party purposes, they need never have met with so humiliating a reverse. They are in reality more angry with themselves and their leaders than they are with us, and their only refuge is in violent abuse and recrimination. But they are going to swallow the leek. Mr. Asquith will 'forcibly feed' them if necessary.

Let me add that my colleagues in the House are delighted with the result in South Beds. They think we have done exceedingly well in difficult circumstances. I tell them that we are not satisfied with 615, and mean to do much better next time.

CECIL HARMSWORTH.

Luton News, July 27th, 1911.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

1 August
H. of C.

Short speech on Medical Institutes under Insurance Bill in a thin House at dinner-time. Very well received.

2 August
H. of C.

Insurance Bill in Committee. My amendment accepted.

4 August
H. of C.

Last day of Insurance Bill in Committee before Autumn session, Explanatory statement by Lloyd-George.

To Henley with Babes by 6 o'clock train.

7 August
Henley.

To town in the morning. Balfour's Vote of Censure against the Government on account of advice given by them to H.M. to create Peers, Rejected by 119. Exciting debate. House insufferably warm.

8 August
H. of C.

Lords amendments to Parliament Bill considered and, in the main, rejected. E. and Con Baker to dinner. Hugh Edwards, M.P.,[90] with us.

[90]John Hugh Edwards (1868–1945): Lib. MP Mid-Glamorgan 1910–1918, Neath 1918–1922, Accrington 1923–1929.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

9 August
H. of C.

Finance Bill. The centre of interest is, however, in the H. of Lords where the Parliament Bill is under discussion. The gilded chamber packed in every part and the atmosphere stifling. I am unlucky enough not to hear any of the important speeches. Alfred comes to me at the Bar and we adjourn to the Terrace. The speculation is all as to whether the rebel Lords (the 'Die Hards') I will succeed in voting down the Parliament Bill in spite of the abstention of the more responsible peers. The Die Hards and our Liberal peers are said to be neck and neck.

10 August

VETO BILL carried in the H. of Lords by 131 votes to 114. Thirty-seven Tory Lords voted with the Government and 15 Bishops.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS resolution carried in the Commons by 256 to 159. I did not vote although in favour of the principle – my view that the measure should not be carried by resolution but by a Bill and that it should not apply to Members of this Parliament.

17 August

Gloomy day in the H. of C. Rumours and counter rumours all day long as to the negotiations about the labour troubles on the Railways. Late in the afternoon it is reported that all attempts at a settlement have fallen through. The Government have offered the men a Royal Commission and the offer has been flatly refused. Asquith is said to have taken a very high hand with the men. Labour Members very angry with him.

Strike notices issued. Much depends on how far the Non-Union men will co-operate with the Trade Unionists.

18 August

Royal Assent to the Parliament Bill in the H. of Lords. Liberal Members at the Bar and in the side galleries of the Lords raise a hearty cheer. [. . .]

Adjournment of Parliament postponed on account of the railway strike.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

19 August

Liberal Demonstration at Bedford to celebrate the passing of the Veto Bill. By road to Bedford with F. Kellaway, MP [Afterwards Postmaster General.] for the Borough. A procession with banners through the streets to the Park where a mass meeting is held. We look in at the Liberal Clubs at Bedford and Luton. Back again by motor-car at night. Most fatiguing day.

22 August
H. of C.

Adjourned meeting of the H. of C. Names of Royal Commissioners to enquire into men's grievances announced. Some silly provocative speeches made by Labour Members and two or three Radicals – another proof afforded that it is not advisable to summon Parliament when delicate negotiations, national or international, are proceeding. Parliament adjourned until October 24th.

13 September

Stone-laying at new Baptist School, High Town, Luton. Ceremony considerably marred by rain.

In the afternoon to Heath to open new Liberal Institute. Afterwards Liberal Club at Leighton Buzzard. Local Liberals greatly perturbed by revived rumour that I am about to be promoted to the H. of Lords!

15 September

Eighty Club Tour. [This was a tour in Ireland of unofficial Liberals, members of the 80 Club, to study conditions in Ireland, with special reference to Home Rule. Em and I were amused to be taken round many places that were very familiar to us. Some of our co-tourists had not been in Ireland before. C.H. Octr. 1936.]

Em and I from Euston for Ireland by special express at 8.30 A.M. Reception by Mr. and Mrs. John Redmond at the Gresham Hotel.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

16 September
Dublin.

Breakfast at the Royal Albert Farm Glasnevin. Speech by Rt. Hon T.W. Russell,[91] V.P. Board of Agriculture. Lunch 2 o'clock by Capt. Cooper and leading Unionists at Hibernian Hotel. Dinner by National Club of Ireland, Rt. Hon. Michael Cox, M.D.,[92] presiding. I respond to toast of Eighty Club – everybody very complimentary.

17 September
Dublin.

Motor to Col. Sir Nugent Everard's,[93] Randlestown, Navan, to lunch and to see his tobacco Farm. One of the most interesting things in Ireland.

19 September
Belfast.

Grand Central Hotel – excellent. A remarkably full day. Address at *breakfast time* (Hubert C.-G. in the chair) by Miss Galway[94] on conditions of labour in the textile trades of Belfast. Then to Harland & Wolff's[95] – a magnificent example of industrial enterprise. Lunch with Ulster Liberal Association. Great reception by Mr. Joseph Devlin M.P.[96] (Nationalist) in the evening. ['Joe' Devlin, the pocket Demosthenes of the Irish party and the youngest of its prominent members. A fierce and fiery orator – and one of the prime favourites of the H. of C. of

[91]Thomas Wallace Russell (1841–1920): Lib. Unionist MP Tyrone South 1886–1906; Independent Unionist 1906–1910; defeated as Lib. 1910; Lib. MP Tyrone North 1911–1918; Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board 1895–1900; Vice-President of the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction 1907–1918; cr. baronet 1917.

[92]Michael Francis Cox (1852–1926): distinguished Irish physician; friend and doctor to John Redmond and John Dillon; sworn of Irish Privy Council 1911.

[93]Nugent Talbot Everard (1849–1929): Lord Lieutenant of Meath 1906–1922; cr. baronet 1911; elected to Irish Senate 1922.

[94]Mary Galway (*c.*1864–1928): organiser of the Irish Textile Operatives' Society.

[95]A major shipbuilding firm based in Belfast.

[96]Joseph Devlin (1871–1934): journalist; Irish Nat. MP Kilkenny North 1902–1906, Belfast West 1906–1918, Belfast Falls 1918–1922, Fermanagh and Tyrone 1929–1934; leader of the Irish Nat. MPs at Westminster 1919–1921; leader of Nationalist party in Northern Ireland parliament 1922–1934.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

my time. Called 'Joe' by everybody. As great a master of vituperation almost as Tim Healy – eloquent, sincere, warm-hearted – he was of the type of Irish leader that the blockheads of Dublin Castle could never understand. C.H. Octr. 1936] Each of the ladies of the Eighty Club party presented with a beautiful bouquet.

21 September
Belfast to Galway.

Special train early from Belfast. Addresses and speeches all the way along! First ceremony at Armagh where addresses are presented to us in the Town Hall by various bodies. First-class reply by Prof. Morgan.[97] Then to the R.C. Cathedral to hear few words from Cardinal Logue[98] – a short ruddy old gentleman in a red skull—cap and with a typically Irish face. One of our party, Murray Hyslop,[99] President of the Congregational Union or something of the kind, so overcome by H.E.'s graciousness that he rapturously kisses his ring for all the world as if he were a good Roman Catholic. (We were greeted at Armagh by a picturesque body of Irish pipers in ancient national costume.) Addresses also at Cavan, Mullingar, and Athlone. Band at Galway station and much enthusiasm. Another address after dinner! A full but pleasant day.

22 September

Various groups of our party to various congested districts. We thoroughly explore Galway with Mr. Murphy,[100] Solicitor. This must be the most decayed town in the British Islands. Flour mills, distilleries, warehouses, woollen mills (except one) all tumbling to ruin. There is supposed to have been at one time a population of 40,000. Now it

[97]John Hartman Morgan, KC (1876–1955): Professor of Constitutional Law at University College, London; Lib. candidate for Birmingham Edgbaston Jan. 1910 and Edinburgh West Dec. 1910; entered the army 1914 and retired with the rank of Brigadier-General 1923; legal adviser to the American war crimes commission at Nuremberg 1947–1949.

[98]Michael Logue (1840–1924): Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland 1887–1924; cr. Cardinal 1893.

[99]Robert Murray Hyslop (1858–1935): industrialist; leading Congregationalist, and for many years Treasurer of the Congregational Union of England and Wales; chairman of West Kent Liberal Association 1910–1918, and of Home Counties Liberal Council 1920; knighted 1917.

[100]Probably Henry Murphy (b. *c.*1867), of Kilcorkey.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

is 14,000. The few remaining fine old houses and numerous coats of arms testify to a former great prosperity.

We also visit the Claddagh – not for the first time (for Em and me). Strange that such conditions should still exist, but some of the cabins are relatively clean and comfortable. 'You're all very welcome' and 'God speed your honours' are the universal salutations. We eat delicious oysters in one cabin and commission a griddle-cake in another.

Included in our round is the Industrial School conducted by Christian Brothers where boys are taught tailoring, boot-making, carpentry, baking, etc., etc., and then to the Queen's College a most pleasant foundation (not residential) in Tudor style. [. . .]

The Industrial boys play for us, and very well too, during dinner and I stand them cakes and lemonade.

23 September

Most interesting expedition by the S.S. Granuail to the Aran Islands – to the largest of them, Inishmore. A sea trip of about 3 hours. Enthusiastic greeting by the islanders with green banners bearing mottoes 'We want Home Rule', Cead Mille Failthe etc. etc. There are said to be but three outside cars and one road on the island. We drive to Dun Angus a wonderful fort on the edge of a precipice. [. . .] I buy a pair of the native raw-hide shoes which are too raw, however and soon become so offensive that they have to be thrown away. In general, conditions on Inishmore resemble those on the mainland opposite, at Costello.

25 September
Galway to Killaloe.

An early start by train to Athlone. Here we are first inconvenienced by the railway strike. Considerable difficulty and delay in getting our mountainous luggage from the train to the Shannon steamer. The Shannon scenery in these upper reaches by no means unattractive – fine grazing lands mostly with white-washed farms. In any case the drenching rain mitigates our delight in such scenery as presents itself. Clonmacnoise with its 2 Round Towers and ruins compensates us in some degree. Address at Portumna. Weather clears when we reach the Lake and we have a fine view of it. Most picturesque reception at Killaloe. A score or more bonfires at various points and candles in all

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

the windows of the cottages by the water's edge. Every man woman and child in the town on the quay, and a band! Great enthusiasm and shrill cheers (Irish crowds can't cheer properly). After dinner addresses from County Councils, Boards of Guardians and the like, and an excellent response from Artemus Jones[101] of our party.

28 September
Killaloe to Cork.

By char-a-banc to Limerick. Railway strike in lull swing and station thronged with constabulary men and soldiers. No signs of disorder. Our train the only one of the day, I think. At Cork we repair to the Imperial Hotel. The Lord Mayor goes off to the station to meet the Killarney contingent who arrive at the Hotel about 7 o'clock amidst tremendous popular enthusiasm. Responses from Hotel windows by P.W. Wilson[102] and Isaac Foot[103] – very good. Reception by the Mayor. Mrs. Crawshay-Williams[104] arrives and the C.W.' s, C.G.' s and ourselves drink fizz in honour of my birthday. Case for shaving papers from darling Daff and delightful letters and drawings from Bud and Gol.

29 September
Cork.

Interview in the morning with 6 sturdy Protestant and Unionist farmers of the county. One, Mr. Kingston,[105] a victim at present of boycotting and going everywhere with 4 armed constabularymen. He is in possession and has been for over 2 years of a farm from which the previous tenant was evicted. A *son* of the evicted tenant has returned from America and Mr. Kingston is expected to resign his farm in

[101]Thomas Artemus Jones (1871–1943): Welsh barrister, KC 1919; unsuccessful Lib. candidate 1922, 1923, 1924; North Wales County Court Judge 1929–1942.

[102]Philip Whitwell Wilson (1875–1956): author and journalist; Lib. MP for St. Pancras South 1906–Jan. 1910; Lib. candidate for Westmorland (Appleby) Dec. 1910.

[103]Isaac Foot (1880–1960): solicitor; Lib. Councillor Plymouth 1907–1927; unsuccessful Lib. candidate 1910; Lib. MP Bodmin 1922–1924, 1929–1935; President of Methodist Conference 1937–1938; President of Liberal party 1947–1948.

[104]Alice Crawshay-Williams, née Gay-Roberts (b.1887); divorced Eliot Crawshay-Williams (1879–1962) in 1913 following the latter's affair with Mrs Carr-Gomm and his resignation as Lib. MP for Leicester which he had won in 1910.

[105]Richard Kingston, of Curraclough, County Cork. The boycott was still going on in 1914.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

favour of the evicted man's son. He resolutely declines of course. We entertain our farmers at lunch and then a party of us accept the invitation of the President, Dr. Windle,[106] to visit the University College (formerly Queen's College). The main building is constructed of the local beautiful white limestone and is charming. Both sexes and all religions attend the College – even Franciscan Friars! One of these is Prof. of Scholastic Philosophy. The College is surprisingly progressive and up-to-date. An item in its equipment is a seismograph and a wonderful hydraulic engine for testing ironwork, concrete and other building materials. All the materials of a new bridge at Waterford are now being tested at the College.

Tea with Dr. and Mrs. Windle.

Reception at night by the United Irish League in a vast bare Town Hall. A rather cheerless entertainment in spite of patriotic songs and admirable speeches by two of our young men – Isaac Foot, and Dodds[107] who by the way has made some very clever caricatures of members of the party.

30 September
Fishguard.

Very rough passage from Rosslare. E. goes on with the main body of Eighty Club to Paddington. I remain here to keep my Welsh appointments with Hugh Edwards, M.P.

4 October
Neath. Castle Hotel.

Comfortable old-fashioned Hotel with a room that Nelson once occupied. Interviews during the day with Nonconformist divines and others about the forthcoming Disestablishment Bill. It is indeed astonishing that a whole people – or a huge majority of them – should find in the Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Church the most ardent expression of nationality.

[106]Bertram Alan Coghill Windle (1858–1929): anatomist and archaeologist; President, Queen's College (from 1907, University College), Cork 1904–1919; emigrated to Canada 1919.

[107]George Elliott Dodds (1889–1977): at this time a student at Oxford; author of various works on Liberalism; Lib. candidate for York 1922 and 1923; Halifax 1929; Rochdale 1931 and 1935; President of the Liberal Party, 1948, editor of the *Huddersfield Examiner* 1924–1959.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Through Maesteg to Nantymoel where I open the new Liberal Institute, and they present me with a silver key.

22 October
Garden City Letchworth Hall Hotel.

In the morning a walk over the golf-links and a tour of the estate in the motor-car with Mr. Williams.[108]

After lunch to call on Mr. Pearsall[109] one of the directors of the Garden City Company – tea at Mr. Gaunts[110] the estate agent – and then to Ebenezer Howard's cottage. The author of the Garden City in gold-rimmed spectacles, fresh as ever in colour, diffident in manner and benignant as Mr. Pickwick, greets us with great warmth. He is now for embarking on an active campaign to secure the establishment of a second Garden City We are afraid that the promotion of a second venture would tend to distract attention from First Garden City and to divert into the new channel capital badly needed for the fuller development of Letchworth. Williams suggests rather that Ebenezer should write a new book to be called something like 'The Garden City as it is' and describing the success that has attended the great experiment. Mr. Howard explains that the arduous nature of his work – that of shorthand-writer in the High Court and before Parliamentary Private Bill Committees, Royal Commissions, etc. gives him but little spare time and exhausts him too much for substantial literary effort. Not that but his profession has been a useful and congenial one, he assures us. It has put him in the way of acquainting himself with many aspects of public life and of forming a silent judgment on important social and economic questions. Still the profession is exacting and fatiguing, and the great reformer shakes his head ruefully over the prospect of another book to be written in the spare moments of a busy life.

How many members of Lords & Commons Committees and of Royal Commissions and how many Judges of the High Court have realised that the fresh little man with the gold-rimmed spectacles and the delicate aquiline features, transcribing with feverish haste the

[108]Aneurin Williams (1859–1924): Lib. MP for Plymouth 1910, Durham North-Western 1914–1918, Consett 1918–1922; Chairman of First Garden City Ltd., Letchworth.

[109]Howard Devenish Pearsall (1845–1919): Hampstead borough councillor; director of First Garden City Ltd., Letchworth; member of Fabian Society.

[110]Walter Henry Gaunt (1874–1951); president of the National Housing and Town Planning Council in the 1930s; served on Lord Reith's committee on New Towns 1946.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

evidence given before them, was one of the most notable men of their time!

Mr. H. dines with us at the Letchworth Hall Hotel.

He, Mr. Williams and Mr. Pearsall press me strongly to become a director of First Garden City Ltd. I demur on three grounds: – (1) that I am too busy; (2) that, however busy, I am not a 'business' man; and (3) that I made it a rule when I became a candidate for Parliament not to accept any directorate other than that of our own Amalgamated Press. But I promise to consider the matter.

23 October

Sir Henry Dalziel's lunch at the Savoy Hotel to Lloyd-George.

24 October

Government resolution claiming all the time of the House for Government business during the Autumn Session. The Babes home from Eastbourne – in highest spirits.

27 October

Insurance Bill in Committee.

Proportional Representation meeting at the National Liberal Club – Lord Courtney of Penwith[111] chief speaker. They want me to be responsible for the Bill in the H. of C.

28 October
Sutton Place.

To stay at Sutton Place for the week-end. Alfred [Northcliffe] better in health than I have seen him for years and full of enthusiasm for his new golf-links.

[111]Leonard Henry Courtney (1832–1918): Lib. MP Liskeard 1876–1885, Bodmin 1885–1900; Under-Secretary of State, Home Department 1881; Under-Secretary of State for Colonies 1881–1882; Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1882–1884; President of Royal Statistical Society 1897–1899; cr. Baron 1906.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press

15 November

Mr. Runciman[112] [President Board of Agriculture and Fisheries] asks me to be his Parliamentary Secretary (unpaid) and I accept after several hours hard thinking. Don't see how I can refuse.

Insurance Bill in Committee. Grand Committee B.

17 November

First morning at the Board of Agriculture & Fisheries.

In the H. of C. Scottish Small-Holders Bill – 3rd Reading.

18 December

I dine with J.M. Mullaly[113] at the Devonshire Club. Among those present General R.S.S. Baden-Powell[114] and Col. D.M.T. Lumsden.[115] I tell Baden-Powell of the children's interest in Boy Scouts and carry him messages from them. A very enjoyable evening.

[112]Walter Runciman (1870–1949): Lib. MP Oldham 1899–1900, Dewsbury 1902–1918, Swansea West 1924–1929, St Ives 1929–1937 (as Lib. Nat from 1931); Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board 1905–1907; Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1907–1908; President of the Board of Education 1908–1911; President of the Board of Agriculture 1911–1914; President of the Board of Trade 1914–1916, 1931–1937; Lord President of the Council 1937–1939; cr. Viscount 1937.

[113]Possibly the scientist of that name.

[114]Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell (1857–1941): army officer 1876–1910; founded Boy Scouts 1908, Girl Scouts 1909; Chief Scout of the World 1910–1937; cr. baronet 1921.

[115]Dugald McTavish Lumsden (d. 1915 at age 64): raised a volunteer corps of Europeans in India to fight in the Boer War; given the honorary rank of lieutenant colonel and gazetted CB.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960116315000548 Published online by Cambridge University Press