1913

12 January
St. Ives.

Lovely day. In the afternoon Reynolds, Atkinson and I walk over to Lelant where most of the big St. Ives boats lie up between seasons. Many of them, I fear, will never leave their moorings again. A mournful spectacle – 80 sail or so of the once brilliant fleet of St. Ives. Can motor-power avail to save them?

[When we had completed our enquiry in Devon and Cornwall and agreed on our Recommendations Stephen Reynolds was left with a free hand in writing our Report [Cd 6752]. His passage on the St. Ives' boats at Lelant was widely quoted in the Press at the time. He said:—

'On a grey Sunday afternoon, near about sundown, we walked to Lelant, where the St. Ives boats are laid up. There, on one side of the broad sand and mud flats of Hayle Harbour, we saw a fleet of seventy or eighty boats, mostly luggers, moored up with old chains and rotting ropes to rusty railway lines of the old broad-gauge along a grass-grown quay. In local phrase, they were the St. Ives boats that have died. The unpainted hulls of many were ripe and rotten. On their still standing masts, the running gear, left as it returned from sea for another season that never came, had flapped in the wind until it parted. Only one boat of all the laid-up fleet was being repaired, perhaps not for the St. Ives fishing. The picture of that silent dead boats' graveyard remains vividly in our minds. It impressed upon us, more than all the sometimes contradictory representations we had heard, far more than angry protests, the decline of the West Cornish fisheries. In no light spirit we began our investigations. With a deep sense of the tragedy of the present situation we ended them.]

15 January

House of Commons. Home Rule Bill Third Reading. Superb oration by the Prime Minister – the finest speech, I think, I have yet heard in the H. of C.

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16 January

House of Commons. 3rd Reading Home Rule Bill carried by majority of 110.

17 January

House of Commons. Welsh Bill Committee.

Dinner N.L.C. given by Percy Illingworth, Chief Whip, to members of Liberal Insurance Committee. Sparkling speech by Lloyd George.

19 January

At work all day on the Draft Report on our enquiry in Devon & Cornwall.

20 January

H. of C. Committee Welsh Bill. Great deputation of the Irish Nationalist party to W.R. in Committee Room 14. Subject: the proposed 'quarantine' of 12 hours on all cattle from Ireland.

22 January

All other interests in the H. of C. dwarfed by the Woman's Franchise question. The Government has promised to give the House full licence to insert a Woman Franchise Amendment into the Franchise Bill. The P.M. is invincibly hostile to the enfranchisement of women and a fair half of the Cabinet are with him. The Constitutional question is what is to be the position of the P.M. and the members of the Cabinet who agree with him if an Amendment in favour of the women *is* carried? An even more important question is – What right has this Parliament to pass any measure enfranchising women? The informal undertakings in this regard given by Members in former days are coming home to roost with a vengeance. My own attitude is neutral. I have much sympathy with the claims of women but I don't think that this Parliament has any right whatever to give them votes.

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24 January

Woman Suffrage Debate. Alfred Lyttelton opens in favour of the women. Lewis Harcourt[1] replies in a speech of epigrams at the expense of Lloyd George and other members of the Cabinet.

On 27 February, Runciman announced the appointment of a departmental committee on the state of the inshore fisheries, following the more limited enquiry in Devon and Cornwall. Harmsworth was appointed to the committee, which was chaired by Sir E. Stafford Howard[2] and which also included T.H.W. Pelham,[3] Sir K.S. Anderson,[4] Sir Sam Fay,[5] J. Beaumont Pease,[6] S. Bostock,[7] C. Hellyer,[8] D.H. Lane[9] and Stephen Reynolds, plus the MPs Sir N.W. Helme,[10] N. Craig,[11] and W. Brace.[12] A.T.A. Dobson[13] of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries acted as its secretary.

[1]Lewis Vernon Harcourt (1863–1922): Lib. MP Rossendale 1904–1916; First Commissioner of Works 1905–1910, 1915–1916; Secretary of State for Colonies 1910–1915; cr. Viscount 1917; known as 'Lulu'.

[2]Edward Stafford Howard (1851–1916): Lib. MP Cumberland East 1876–1885, Thornbury 1885–1886; Under-Secretary of State for India 1886; Senior Commissioner of Woods, Forests and Land Revenues 1908–1912; Mayor of Llanelli 1913–1916; Ecclesiastical Commissioner 1914–1916; knighted 1909.

[3]Thomas Henry William Pelham (1847–1916): Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trade 1895–1913.

[4]Kenneth Skelton Anderson (1866–1942): manager of the Orient Steam Navigation Company; knighted 1909, cr. baronet 1919.

[5]Samuel Fay (1856–1953): general manager of the Great Central Railway 1902–1917; knighted 1912 by King George V at the opening of Immingham Dock.

[6]John William Beaumont Pease (1869–1950): deputy chairman of Lloyds Bank 1910–1922, chairman 1922–1945; cr. Baron Waddington 1936.

[7]Samuel Bostock (1868–1938): leading figure in the Agricultural Organisation Society (formed 1901); later a promoter of the Women's Institute movement.

[8]Charles Pickering Hellyer (1876–1930): of Brixham and Hull, owner of the Hellyer Steam Fishing Company, Hull.

[9]D.H. Lane, formerly Inspector of Irish Fisheries.

[10]Norval Watson Helme (1849–1962): Lib. MP Lancaster 1900–1918; mill owner and leading lay Wesleyan.

[11]Norman Carlyle Craig (1868–1919): Con. MP Isle of Thanet 1910–1919, when succeeded by Esmond Harmsworth; KC 1909.

[12]William Brace (1865–1947): Vice-President of South Wales Miners' Federation 1898–1911, President 1911–1920; Lib.-Lab. then Lab. MP Glamorgan South 1906–1918; Lab. MP Abertillery 1918–1920; chief labour advisor to Ministry of Mines 1920–1927.

[13]A.T.A. Dobson (1885–1962): civil servant at the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries; later a leading international figure in marine conservation.

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8 February

To Shrewsbury to respond for the Bd. of A. & F. at the annual Dinner of the Shrewsbury branch of the National Farmers Union. A gathering of 200 or more in the Music Hall.

Vile dinner and bad speeches.

12 February

This week we have news of the disaster to Captain Scott and his little party at the S. Pole. He was a most simple, unaffected sailor man. Stayed, and Mrs. Scott, with us at Henley not long before he left on his last journey of exploration.

14 February

House rises after having sat for exactly a year. This has been one of the most fatiguing sessions on record. [. . .]

First meeting at Winchester House, St. James's Sq., of the Inshore Fisheries Committee.

(H. of C.) We have sat pretty late every day this week but this day. My hours for going to sleep have been Monday 3 A.M.., Tuesday 4, Wednesday 3 and Thursday 3.30.

21 February
La Dragonnière. Cap Martin.

On the whole a very tolerable journey from Calais.

I sleep most of the night. Leicester (staying with Annie at the Victoria Hotel) meets us at Monte Carlo Station. I consign my charges to his care and proceed in a little Victoria the 3 or 4 miles to Cap Martin. [. . .] Alfred and G.A. Sutton[14] (from Grasse) over for lunch. Alfred remarkably well and gay.

I go into Monte after lunch with Harold, leave him at the 'tables', wander round the town and then walk back to Cap Martin. Bridge after dinner.

[14]George Augustus Sutton (*c.*1869–1947): began working for *Answers* in 1888; held important roles in the Amalgamated Press and Associated Newspapers, Ltd.; cr. baronet 1919; a trusted associate of Northcliffe and an executor of his will.

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24 February
La Dragonnière Cap Martin.

After lunch Harold and I over the magnificent Corniche road to call on Lloyd-George and T.P. O'Connor staying at Nice at the Negresco Hotel. Ll.-G. and T.P. come in with Sir Charles and Lady Henry from playing golf just as we are leaving cards. Ll.-G. T.P. and Henry had had a mild adventure among the mountains as they came through in a motorcar. They were snowed up and had to stay the night at a dirty little Inn. Ll.-G. has the priceless gift of sleep at any moment and in any place and he got through the night pretty comfortably in the only available bed. T.P. and Henry had to content themselves with chairs, and were still sore in the recollection of their troubles.

Ll.G. fresh and gay. The first time he came to Monte Carlo, he said, he was in the Casino and at one of the tables he found Sir Edward Carson, then Solicitor-General, laying on his money. Carson's confusion was manifest when he caught the eye of one of his most formidable opponents. Ll.-G. saved the situation, however, and put Carson entirely at his ease by himself putting on a small sum immediately opposite to where Carson was sitting. So were they tarred with the same brush – and Carson most grateful.

5 March
Montagu Square.

In the country between Paris and Calais the year is less advanced than between Dover and London. The boat full of M.P.'s, Radical and Tory, returning to their patriotic duties at Westminster.

6 March

Meeting of the H. of C. – the last day but one of the Session of 1912! The Lords amendments to various Bills including the Scottish Temperance Bill and the Railways (No. 2) Bill considered. House rises about 6.30.

New works in progress at the H. of C. including the grand staircase down to the Terrace in place of the old narrow and mean back-stairs.

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10 March

Opening of Parliament by the King and Queen. I view the Scene from the H. of C. gallery. The King wears his crown – an innovation on former ceremonials. King Edward and King George until now wore a Field Marshal's hat with feathers. Again, the former custom of keeping the King and Lords waiting for the faithful Commons was abandoned on this occasion, the Commons being in waiting at the Bar for the King.

Meeting at Aspley Guise. Packed and enthusiastic.

12 March
Flitwick.

Good meeting in School. Mr. Albert Oakley with us and Mr. Goodman in the chair. Dreadful village songs and music. [. . .]

All day on the Inshore Fisheries Deptl. Committee at Winchester House.

18 March
Luton.

Great meeting in the Plait Hall with Alexander Ure, Lord Advocate, who holds the audience spell-bound, as they say, for about an hour and a quarter, speaking without a note. We return to town by road.

22 March
Poynters Hall.

In the morning I write my chapter for the forthcoming book on the Garden City at Letchworth. [. . .]

A little story of Basil Burton.[15] His Uncle Alfred (Northcliffe) had got wet through on the Totteridge Golf Links and appeared anon in a suit lent him by Mansell, Mother's butler. Basil (taking his father aside and whispering in his ear) 'Dad, has Uncle Alfred got Mansell's job?'

[15]Percy Basil Harmsworth Burton (1906–1970): eldest child of CBH's sister Christabel Rose Harmsworth (1880–1967) and Percy Collingwood Burton (d. 1953).

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27 March

Em home early this morning from Ireland. Alfred (Northcliffe) comes for me about 11 o'clock in his motor car and we go up to Hampstead. Walk over the Heath and then in to town, first to Fleetway House and then to *The Times* office, Printing House Sq. Lunch in the comfortable old-fashioned Georgian house of the Walters, two ancient parlourmaids in attendance. A unique experience.

To the H. of C. Long talk with Winston Churchill.

8 April

Dined with Stephen Gwynn[16] at the H. of C. in one of the small rooms downstairs. Of the select party were John Redmond, T.P. O'Connor, Sir W. Nugent[17] and the great Profr. Mahaffy,[18] who is said to exhibit leanings to Home Rule and to be anxious to occupy a seat in the Irish Senate – when it meets. The Profr. is a man of witty and inexhaustible conversation; knows everything and everybody; a scholar eminent in Greek, Latin, German, French, Italian and in English Literature; a translator of Kant; a Doctor of Music as well as of Divinity; a cricketer (in earlier days) a shot and an angler. He is not above using a d–n word on occasion but then he is only a clergyman under the old academic regime. Lucas and Geraldine who have travelled with him in Greece say that he is a perfect companion on such a trip – imperturbably good-tempered, kind and thoughtful.

11 April

Vere Harmsworth lunches at the H. of C. with me and I secure him a place under the Gallery. After pointing out the celebrities to him I go down to Walter Runciman's private room and fall asleep in the big chair before the fire. I awake to the dread reality of influenza. Home as quickly as possible in a taxi-cab, and to bed.

[16]Stephen Lucius Gwynn (1864–1950): Irish Nat. MP Galway Borough 1906–1918; Protestant; writer; the son of John Gwynn, the Regius Professor of Divinity at TCD during Harmsworth's time there.

[17]Walter Richard Nugent (1865–1955): Irish Nat. MP Westmeath South 1907–1918; succ. as 4th baronet 1896.

[18]John Pentland Mahaffy (1839–1919): classicist and musicologist; Fellow, then Professor, TCD, 1864–1919 (Provost 1914–1919).

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25 April

A fortnight's 'flue'. High temperatures have given place to low ones. Much better.

Arthur Murray [Lt. Col. Hon. Arthur C. Murray, M.P.] to see me.

2 July

First day of Henley Regatta but we do not receive visitors. All day discussion and all night sitting on the Plural Voting Bill. I stay at the House until 6 a.m. when I make for Paddington and catch the 6.50 for Henley.

30 July

Ebenezer Howard to lunch. Full of his co-operative housekeeping scheme, Homesgarth, at Letchworth.

Abortive attempt of Tory party to spring a 'snap' Division in the H. of C. on the Army Vote. They turned up from everywhere and located themselves on the Terrace and in all sorts of nooks and crannies until 10.55. Got us down to 33 amidst much cheering and laughter. Some of them hid in the bathrooms attached to the Members' dressing-rooms. This was their whip for this occasion:

Private and Confidential.

Please come 10.55 Wednesday, July 30.

Come straight to the Terrace without going upstairs. It is vital not to mention this to anyone.

It was signed 'H.P.P.' (H. Pike Pease, one of the Tory Whips) [Always called 'Pike' by Libs as well as Tories. Afterwards Lord Daryngton.]

1 August

Busy day in the H. of C. Acting as Lloyd-George's parliamentary Secretary in place of J.H. Whitehouse,[19] absent. Also, by a fortunate coincidence, in charge of several amendments to the Revenue Bill in behalf of the Garden City at Letchworth. 'L.G.' accepts amendments.

[19]John Howard Whitehouse (1873–1955): Lib. MP Mid-Lanarkshire 1910–1918; subsequently a prominent educationalist.

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20 August

In the afternoon Em and I to Madresfield (Malvern Link) to stay with Lord and Lady Beauchamp. They and their sweet family of 6 children (Elmley, Lettice, Hugh, Sybil and two other little girls) greet us very cordially. [. . .] The grounds opposite the drawing-room windows are full of marquees, merry-go-rounds, cokernut shies and other preparations for tomorrow's gathering of the Liberal clans of Worcestershire.

21 August

A little after midday the Liberal visitors begin to arrive and they assemble eventually to the number of something between four and six thousand. We are greeted everywhere by old Mid-Worcestershire friends with affecting warmth. We shall never forget them or they us. There is all the fun of the fair until about 6.30 when we inflict speeches on [. . .]

22 August
Madresfield.

We catch the 11 something train to town. [. . .]

I dine with the foreign Town-Planning tourists at the Grafton Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, and we form an International Garden Cities & Town-Planning Association. French, German, Polish, American and Japanese representatives present. Ebenezer Howard with us and the recipient of compliments calculated to turn the head of a less modest man.

15 September
Henley.

We are, it appears, the centre of large military movements. A Brown Army is pursuing a White Army which has retreated N. of the Thames, having taken care to destroy (theoretically) the bridges at Henley and Marlow. Every lane swarms with men in khaki or is congested with transport wagons and guns. Two or three aeroplanes perform their wonderful evolutions over us in the morning. In the afternoon we row down to Aston Ferry just below Hambleden lock. The soldiers are

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taking their horses, stores and guns across river in great broad ferry boats, a laborious and leisurely occupation. We hope for an attack of the enemy but he does not show himself, Tea at the humble Flower Pot Inn which is for the time being the home of the Headquarters Staff of the Brown Army. Generals with double rows of medal ribbons jostle us in the passages of the Inn.

24 September
Luton.

I open the splendid new baths of the Luton Corporation[. . .] A lovely day and an exceedingly well-managed function. Unhappily I bend the handsome silver-gilt key and it has to be sent back to the manufacturers to be straightened.

5 October
Montagu Square.

Busy in the morning with my Report on the Decrepit Horse trade for Runciman.

6 October

Busy all day with correspondence and other matters. Dine with Harold at the Ritz Hotel.

[Decrepit Horses.

The trade in decrepit horses (for food and sometimes for further use on farms, etc.) from Gt. Britain to the Continent (generally Belgium and Holland) is carried on under the inspection and licensing of the Dept. of Agriculture & Fisheries. At this time there was a Bill (in the name of my friend Col. Arthur Murray) designed still further to restrict this unhappy trade, if not altogether to suppress it. I was acting at the time as Private Parly. Secy. to Walter Runciman, President of the (then) Ed. of A. & F. Angry questions were being asked in the House. Walter knew nothing about it. I offered to go myself to investigate the trade, from the various ports of embarkation in England to the arrival of the animals in Belgium and Holland, and this I did very thoroughly. My enquiry brought out in relief the incurable Pecksniffism of the British peoples – our worst national vice. Whereas the R.S.P.C.A. and our Dumb Friends' League were lurid in their denunciations of

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the treatment of these poor creatures on shipboard and the ports of Belgium and Holland, they had no condemnation for the conditions under which it was possible to bring such decrepit horses down to *our* ports. Some I saw that well-nigh brought tears to my eyes – broken draught horses, discarded hunters and even, children's pet ponies!

It is a long story. If I remember aright my main recommendation was that if conditions could not be improved by a more effective inspection *here*, we should shut down the trade altogether. Even so, there was the risk that in the lack of a Continental outlet, *our* decrepit horses would be worked on our own farms etc. to a still further and more painful state of decrepitude! My friends in the H. of C. blazing with fury against the d—d foreigner were impatient of my view. But not one of them had taken the trouble to investigate the conditions of the trade, at home or abroad.]

9 October

First meeting at offices of A.O.S. *[Agricultural Organisation Society]* of provisional Committee of proposed Fisheries Organisation Society. Present: Stephen Reynolds, Sir Kenneth Anderson, S. Bostock, Col. Cotton[20] and myself. We decide that such a body should be formed.

11 October

Opening of Lloyd-George's Land campaign. Em and I go down by the 10.5 train from St. Pancras as we are entertaining at Lunch the statesmen (other than Ll.-G.) M.P.'s, candidates and other important people associated with the Libl. Party, and desire to assure ourselves as to the adequacy of the arrangement. 73 acceptances. Ll.-G. lies doggo somewhere in the vicinity, at Sir John Barker's,[21] Bishop's Stortford, I think. The town agog with excitement and the fine old Swan Hotel, where the Luncheon is to take place, swarming with police and detectives. After lunch we make through a dense crowd for the Drill Hall and soon afterwards Ll.-G. arrives with Sir John. A comfortable well-carpeted ante-room. Ll.-G. partakes of pounded liquorice from an envelope and offers me some. A vast meeting – a sea of pink

[20]Edward Thomas Davenant Cotton-Joddrell (1847–1917): lieut. col. in the territorials; Con. MP for the Wirrall 1885–1900; knighted 1911. Known until 1890 as Edward Cotton, he had shown some interest in fisheries during his parliamentary career.

[21]John Barker (1840–1914): Lib. MP Maidstone 1900–191, Penryn and Falmouth 1906–1910; founder of Barker's department store in Kensington; cr. baronet 1908.

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bald people – a delirious reception for Ll.-G. and an atmosphere that thickens momentarily. Ll.-G. speaks 2 hours and twenty minutes, Kellaway for 5 minutes and I, perceiving that people have had enough, for 1¼ minutes. Ll.G. diagnoses the disease but omits to prescribe the remedies.

Afterwards a select party – including Em and myself – dine with the Kellaways at the Swan. Present: Ll.-G., Miss and two Masters Ll.-G.,[22] Mrs. Ll.-G. (a pleasant unaffected little lady), the C.F.G. Mastermans,[23] Dr. Macnamara[24] [. . .]

Then an evening meeting – the same vast array of pink faces. Admirable speeches by Kellaway, Ll.-G, Masterman, Trevelyan and Mac[namara]. Suffrage interruptions quite negligible.

We get home at about 12.30, more dead than alive.

14 October
Hitchin.

I debate the question of the Referendum with Lord Robert Cecil in the Town Hall, Hitchin. Lord R.C. moves that:

'Irreconcilable differences between the two Houses of Parliament can only be settled satisfactorily by an appeal to the Electorate and that the Referendum is the only method by which such an appeal can be satisfactorily decided.' A decorous company of some 150 persons who, as I understand, have paid for their seats. Lord R.C. speaks for 40 minutes – I follow for 40 minutes too. Then we have 10 minutes each to reply. Lord R.C. not quite up to his usual formidable debating strength. Very polite to me – indeed we are scrupulously polite to one another. Motion carried but a good bunch of hands are held up for me.

[22]At this point the Lloyd Georges had four children: Richard (1889–1968); Olwen (1892–1990); Gwilym (1894–1967); and Megan (1902–1966).

[23]Charles Frederick Gurney Masterman (1873–1927): author and journalist; Lib. candidate Dulwich 1903, Lib. MP West Ham (North) 1906–1911, Bethnal Green South-West 1911–1914, candidate West Ham (Stratford) 1918, Manchester Rusholme 1923–1924; Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board 1908–1909; Under-Secretary of State, Home Department 1909–1912; Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1912–1914; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 1914–1915.

[24]Thomas James Macnamara (1861–1931): Lib. MP Camberwell North 1900–1918; Co. Lib. MP Camberwell North-West 1918–1924; Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board 1907–1908; Parliamentary and Financial to the Admiralty 1908–1920; Minister of Labour 1920–1922.

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16 October

Round the County Council holdings at Barton – well-named Barton-in-the-Clay. Heavy, sticky land in a shocking condition of neglect. Small Holders mostly village tradesmen. Only two or three agricultural labourers.

Afterwards to Markyate. Meeting of 70 people or so in the billiard room of the Liberal Club. The Club occupies the old Toll Gate house.

24 October

A visit to the Union House[25] Luton with Mr. Primett,[26] Mayor-elect of Luton, Mr. George Field and A. Earle. A clean, hygienic, entirely sanitary institution and depressing withal. Tea with the Master and Matron – Mr. and Mrs. Richmond.[27]

Then to Eaton Bray. Second tea with Mr. Gaius Batchelor[28] fine old Radical farmer (reputed wealthy) with land of his own and misgivings about Lloyd-George's land policy. Aged 81 and bright as a button. Farm (a poor modern building) surrounded by a moat. Formerly a castle here.

29 November
Letchworth.

I spend the inside of the day with Mr. Ebenezer Howard at Garden City. He is now living at Homesgarth, the centre of his Co-operative Housekeeping Scheme. Homesgarth consists of a little community of middle-aged and elderly people who have flats and take their meals in a common room. We lunch (at a separate table) with the Homesgarthians. E.H. beaming benignantly through his gold-rimmed spectacles and dreaming dreams of a working-class settlement with common kitchen, crèche, laundry and work-rooms. He is still heavily employed at his profession of shorthand writing. Recently his working hours (for the London County Council I think) were 12, 14, 14, and 10 for four consecutive days shorthand writing and transcribing. He does not complain but wishes he were freer to work for his ideals. He tells me

[25] i.e. the workhouse run by the local Poor Law Union.
[26] Walter James Primett (1864–1939): Mayor of Luton 1913–1915.
[27] Arthur Bridgwater Richmond (*c.*1868–1935); m. 1900 Amelia Goodall (*c.*1869–1932).
[28] Gaius Batchelor (b. *c.*1833). He had been a farmer at Park Farm, Eaton Bray since at least 1882. He appears to have slightly exaggerated his age to CH.

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that he is often able to think of other matters when taking shorthand notes so natural and habitual has the practice of stenography become with him. This occurs when the subject matter is very familiar.

We look over a cheap cottage, inspect the Noel convalescent home and visit a man, one Mr. Clack,[29] a printer, who makes money out of a small plot of garden and a number of thoughtfully-bred fowls.

Tea at the Letchworth Club.

1 December

With Alfred [N.] at St. James's Place. Afterwards with him to the Sylvan Debating Club, Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden. Excellent attendance.

Alfred offers me presidency of Anglo-Newfoundland Development Coy.

2 December

Inside of day with Sir Stafford Howard and Mr. Pelham considering draft Report of Inshore Fisheries Committee.

Dine with Harold [Rothermere] at Claridge's Hotel.

3 December

Report Inshore Committee again. Dinner of Proportional Representation Committee at Holborn Restaurant. Many people of all parties present and members of foreign parliaments. Fine sonorous speech from Lord Courtney, now 81 years of age. A grand old boy he is – straight-backed, hale and vigorous.

8 December

First meeting of the Cottage Committee – Christopher Turnor, Raymond Unwin, Laurence Weaver[30] and myself. [This was a Committee set up by Walter Runciman to enquire and make plans

[29]Thomas Henry Clack (b. *c.*1878): linotype operator.

[30]Laurence Weaver (1876–1930): writer on architecture, influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement; knighted 1925.

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for rural cottages on the most efficient lines and with regard to the local building materials etc. We hadn't met more than two or three times before I suggested that a good common-sensible woman should be added to our number, which was accordingly done. She was worth the lot of us when it came to matters of kitchens, bedrooms, washtubs and the like.

We had several models to scale made (at our own expense) with removable roofs so that you could inspect the indoor arrangements, and we issued early in 1914 an admirable Report, with estimates, plans, illustrations of recommended types and other practical details, which was lost sight of altogether in the Great War and has never been resuscitated.

C.H. 18/1/1934.]

9 December

Deputation of members of the Farmers' Union to W.R. at Whitehall Place.

Dinner of the Central Land & Housing Council (formed to organize Lloyd-George's Land Campaign) at the National Liberal Club.

12 December

Breakfast with Harold at Claridge's Hotel. Mr. Mallaby-Deeley,[31] M.P. to see me about his Northern Junction Railway Bill. We defeated this Bill in the H. of C. this Session because it decapitated the Hampstead Garden Suburb. Mr. M.D. assures me that it has now been planned so as to avoid all injury to the Suburb. We shall see.

13 December

Luncheon of the Central Land & Housing Council at the National Liberal Club. I sit next to Lloyd-George and inform him of the progress the land policy is making in S. Beds.

Afterwards Lord Beauchamp carries me off to Stafford House where the London Museum collection is now being installed (Lord B. is a trustee).

[31]Harry Deeley Mallaby-Deeley (1863–1937): Con. MP Harrow 1910–1918, Willesden East 1918–1923; cr. baronet 1922.

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22 December

Christmas shopping with the children.

Mr. Myers,[32] M.P. (New Zealand) and Messrs. E.G. Culpin and Reade[33] of the Garden Cities Association to dinner and to discuss Australasian Town-Planning tour.

[32]Arthur Mielziner Myers (1868–1926): Ind. then Lib. member of New Zealand House of Representatives 1910–1921; government minister 1912, 1915–1919; knighted 1924.

[33]Charles Compton Reade (1880–1933): New Zealand-born journalist working mainly in Britain and becoming a leading member of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, before working in New Zealand 1911–12; selected to promote the garden cities movement in Australia and New Zealand with W.R. Davidge in 1914; became a very influential figure in Australian town planning.

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