

journal/118532038/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0.

- 2 It can be read at: <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1909/apr/29/budget-statement>.
- 3 <http://cgi.ebay.pl/>

Original-Cartoon-1910-Lloyd-George-As-John-Knox_WoQQite mZ290286652386QQihZo19QQca tegoryZ367QQcmdZViewItem#ebayphotohosting.

The Rt Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1836–1908)

Further centenary commemorations in Scotland

Report by Dr Alexander (Sandy) S. Waugh

THE LIBERAL leader and Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman died in 1908. Earlier commemorations were reported in *Journal of Liberal History* 59 (summer 2008); this report focuses on later events in the autumn of 2008.

The High School of Glasgow – which Sir Henry attended between 1845 and 1850 – had its own Centenary Commemoration on the morning of Tuesday 16 September 2008. The audience in the Assembly Hall included members and former members of staff, all the sixth formers, history scholars from the fifth form and from two other Glasgow schools, past and present school governors and trustees and office-bearers of the School Club (former pupils) including the President, the Rt Hon. Lord Philip, and other invited guests.

After introductory welcomes by Colin Mair (Rector), Leona Duff, Girls' Captain of Bannerman House (named for Sir Henry in 1917) outlined Sir Henry's career at the High School. The programme then centred on a lecture by Dr Ewen A. Cameron, now Reader in Scottish History in Edinburgh University, who offered answers to the question 'Why study Campbell-Bannerman?', following much the same approach as

in his article on Sir Henry in the *Journal* (issue 54, Spring 2007) and his talk on Sir Henry at Meikle on 22 April 2008 (*Journal*, issue 59, Summer 2008). After a presentation on Bannerman House's current charitable fundraising project in Sir Henry's memory, Thomas Nicoll, Boys' House Captain, concluded the proceedings in the Assembly Hall by expressing the thanks of all present to Dr Cameron.

During the morning the guests also had the opportunity to see the bronze plaque commemorating Sir Henry (by Benno Schotz, RSA) and a picture of John M. Bannerman (1901–69), Lord Bannerman of Kildonan, another former pupil, who played rugby for Scotland on thirty-seven occasions and who, when Chairman of the Scottish Liberal Party (1955–65), came within 966 votes of winning Inverness in 1955 and within 1,658 votes of winning Paisley in 1961. Three months later, it was intimated that, with Bannerman House having raised £5,900 in support of Scottish International Relief's Mary's Meals projects, a plaque in the name of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is to be put up at the 1,200-pupil Cobbe Barracks Primary School in Zomba, Malawi.

The final Scottish Centenary event was the unveiling of a

Top: Glasgow High School, 16 September 2008: Colin Mair (Rector), Leona Duff and Thomas Nicoll (Bannerman House Captains) and Dr Ewen Cameron in front of the School's bronze plaque commemorating CB.

Bottom: 5 December 2008: Lord Steel unveils the bronze plaque at 129 Bath Street, Glasgow.

Photos: Neil Mackie (neilmackiephotography.com)

bronze plaque at 129 Bath Street, Glasgow (Sir Henry's family home from 1836 to 1860 and now the Abode Glasgow Hotel) by the Rt Hon. Lord Steel of Aikwood on the afternoon of Friday, 5 December 2008, the 103rd anniversary of Sir Henry's appointment as prime minister on 5 December 1905.

SIR HENRY
CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN
1836–1908
LIBERAL PRIME MINISTER
BORN IN GLASGOW AND
LIVED
HERE UNTIL 1860
A RADICAL • A PEACE-
MAKER
A GOOD MAN

Those present also included the Rt Hon. Charles Kennedy MP, representatives of the Lord Provost and the High School, a number of Liberal Democrat MSPs and councillors and other Liberal Democrats from many parts of Scotland.



After a reception, hosted by the hotel's General Manager, there were welcomes and introductory remarks by the leading promoters of the project: Nigel Lindsay (formerly a Liberal councillor in Aberdeen) and Robert Brown MSP. We were then piped outside by Thomas Nicholl of the High School (as above). In unveiling the plaque, Lord Steel praised Sir Henry as an 'overlooked radical' whose 1906 general election landslide

victory had paved the way for a succession of reforming governments. 'He had led the way for the longest period of successful radical government ever [and] gets overlooked because Asquith and Lloyd George were prime ministers for longer.'

Sandy Waugh is a member of the Liberal Democrat History Group and, like Campbell-Bannerman, a former pupil of Glasgow High School.

Liberal Democrats in Europe: 21 years of success or failure?

Fringe meeting, 6 March 2009, Harrogate, with William Wallace (Lord Wallace of Saltaire) and Sarah Ludford MEP; Chair: Tony Little.

Report by **Graham Lippiatt**

THE LIBERAL Party and the SDP were the most pro-European of the British political parties. So how has their successor party fared in European politics since merger in 1988? How has the party adapted to the wide range of liberal thought represented by its sister parties in the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR) and Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)?

Unfortunately the advertised speakers for this meeting were both unable to attend, and the History Group is particularly indebted to William Wallace and Sarah Ludford for agreeing to address the topic at short notice.

William Wallace introduced the meeting by recalling the role played by Liberal youth and student activists at Cambridge University during his time there. Michael Steed had urged them to become aware of the national youth

and student organisation of the party and encouraged them to get involved. When Britain joined the European Community in 1973, a similar need for engagement was called for on a continental scale. British Liberals began to visit their continental sister parties in their home countries; William mentioned his own journey to Germany to meet members of the Free Democrats, in an effort to learn more about the parties that British Liberals did not then fully understand. In those days the FDP had both social and economic liberal wings, although as time has passed the social liberal element has lost out. This process of engagement and mutual understanding became even more important in the approach to the first direct elections to the European Parliament in 1979, and it became necessary to form a more coherent European Liberal campaign group.

So what did the European liberal family look like in those

early days of cross-border cooperation? How has it changed over the years and how complicated has it been to cooperate transnationally, when each of the individual parties operates in their home environment in such different political and changing contexts? In northern Europe, for example, William Wallace pointed out that liberal parties historically are very often farmers' or rural parties, standing firmly against the idea of a centralised state; they also often oppose the idea of a state church. There has also been a strongly bourgeois, property-owning tradition which has found it hard, as did British Liberals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, to come to terms with the emergence of organised labour. In southern Europe, liberal parties have been motivated not just in opposition to the power of the state but also against the power of the Catholic Church.

In many European states, therefore, to be a liberal is to operate in an entirely different political context from that in Britain, often with a religious motivation outweighing questions of the relationship of the individual to the state. It is worth realising that although the struggle of the Nonconformist churches against the established church and an antipathy to Roman Catholicism played a part in the development of Liberal thinking and policy in the United Kingdom, these religious issues had disappeared from the causes of the party in contemporary Britain by the time the UK joined the EEC – yet for many European liberals these issues remained central to their beliefs and political actions. Another way in which anti-state liberalism has manifested itself in some European countries and which seems counter-intuitive in a British context, is support for monarchy, particularly in Eastern Europe where the exiled

In many European states, therefore, to be a liberal is to operate in an entirely different political context from that in Britain, often with a religious motivation outweighing questions of the relationship of the individual to the state.