

George. In part, perhaps, it was a tragedy for Britain.³⁷

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- 1 There is much valuable material on the Lloyd George Fund in John Campbell, *Lloyd George: the Goat in the Wilderness* (London, 1977), Roy Douglas, *The History of the Liberal Party, 1895–1970* (London, 1971) and Trevor Wilson, *The Downfall of the Liberal Party, 1914–1935* (London, 1966). For a most helpful, brief overview of the Liberal Party during these years, see also Paul Adelman, *The Decline of the Liberal Party, 1910–1931*, 2nd ed. (London and New York), 1995. Useful also are Barbara Bliss, ‘The Lloyd George Fund’, *New Outlook*, November 1966, and Chris Cook, ‘Lloyd George’s last great battle’, *ibid.*, May 1970.
- 2 Bodleian Library, Oxford, Asquith Papers, Viscount Gladstone to Asquith, 1 August 1924.
- 3 See Chris Cook, *The Age of Alignment: Electoral Politics in Britain, 1922–1929* (London, 1975), pp. 43–45.
- 4 See Sir Ivor Jennings, *Party Politics*, Vol. 2 (London, 1965), p. 265.
- 5 *The Times*, 16 February 1927.
- 6 Wilson, *Downfall*, p. 345.
- 7 Michael Kinnear, *The British Voter: an Atlas and Survey since 1885*, 2nd ed. (London, 1981), p. 46.
- 8 Henry Pelling, *Social Geography of British Elections, 1885–1910* (London, 1967), p. 164, table 14. Only Totnes or Devon South, with an average of 61.3 per cent, came close to this figure.
- 9 For these voting figures, see F. W. S. Craig (comp.), *British Parliamentary Election Results, 1885–1918* (London, 1974), p. 257.
- 10 Pelling, *Social Geography*, p. 172.
- 11 Election address of J. G. H. Halse, October 1924.
- 12 *Manchester Guardian*, 1 May 1929.
- 13 *Ibid.*
- 14 Kinnear, *The British Voter*, p. 119: ‘The Agricultural Vote in 1921’.
- 15 Cmd. 114, PP 1929–30, Vol. XXIV, p. 755.
- 16 National Library of Wales (hereafter NLW) MS 22,532E, f. 51, Colonel T. F. Tweed to Halse, 30 April 1929.
- 17 *Ibid.*, ff. 53–53, Halse to Tweed, 11 May 1929.
- 18 *Ibid.*, f. 54, memorandum from Tweed to Sir John Davies, 16 May 1929.
- 19 *Ibid.*, f. 55, Viscount St Davids to J. T. Davids, 22 May 1929. He went on, ‘Please ask Miss Pitt not to put “very secret” outside envelopes to me. I am sure it must whet the curiosity of local post-masters, and add materially to the risk of a letter being opened’.

Indeed, for nigh on forty years the existence of the Lloyd George Fund had caused much debate and anxiety within the ranks of the Liberal Party.

- See also *ibid.*, f. 56, Halse to Sir John Davies, 25 May 1929.
- 20 *Ibid.*, ff. 57–58, Halse to Sir John Davies, 25 May 1929.
- 21 *Ibid.*, f. 59, J. T. Davies to Halse, 26 May 1929 (‘Private’) (copy).
- 22 *Ibid.*, ff. 60–61, Halse to Sir John Davies, 3 June 1930.
- 23 *Ibid.*, ff. 64–65, Halse to Sir John Davies, 4 August 1930; *ibid.*, J. T. Davies to Halse, 2 September 1930 (‘Personal & Confidential’) (copy).
- 24 *Ibid.*, f. 63, Davies to Halse, 23 June 1930 (copy).
- 25 Pelling, *Social Geography*, p. 398, table 48.
- 26 Kinnear, *The British Voter*, p. 119: ‘The Agricultural Vote in 1921’.
- 27 *Manchester Guardian*, 7 May 1929: ‘An electoral survey’.
- 28 *The Times*, 1 June 1929.
- 29 Election address of Dr Joseph Hunter, May 1929.

- 30 Cmd. 114, PP 1929–30, Vol. XXIV, p. 845.
- 31 NLW MS 22,532E, ff. 40–44, Dr Joseph Hunter to Sir John Davies, 2 August 1929.
- 32 *Ibid.*, ff. 45–50, letters, 7–19 August 1929.
- 33 See Frank Owen, *Tempestuous Journey: Lloyd George, his Life and Times* (London, 1954), p. 689.
- 34 British Library, Viscount Gladstone Papers, Vivian Phillipps to Gladstone, 26 July 1929.
- 35 Owen, *Tempestuous Journey*, pp. 691–93.
- 36 Parliamentary Archive, House of Lords, Lloyd George Papers G/3/7/2, Frances Stevenson to W. S. Belcher (amended by Lloyd George), 16 February 1939.
- 37 Owen, *Tempestuous Journey*, p. 707.

LETTERS

Bribery and Berwick

Bribery may not have affected the political allegiance of many Victorian voters (‘Berwick-upon-Tweed: A Venal Borough?’, *Journal* 48, autumn 2005) but it could upset people. In Berwick in 1857 a much respected Dissenter clergyman, Rev John Cairns, who became a national leader of the United Presbyterians, wrote to one of the Liberal candidates, Matthew Forster, saying that he could not support him because he had been turned out of Parliament for bribery five years previously (Alexander MacEwen, *Life and Letters of John Cairns, DD, LLD* (London, 1895)). Forster wrote to Cairns:

I am grieved at the loss of a supporter of whom I have always been so proud, but I thank you for the frank and kind terms in which you notify that loss. If you knew all the circumstances attending the decision to which you allude, I think the conclusion you have come to would have been a little more merciful. But it may be a satisfaction

to know that I have taken such precautions and securities as will prevent the possibility of any like result on the present occasion.

Whether such determination to be honest this time – or his past record of venality – was the reason, Forster, one of three Liberal candidates for the two-member seat, came bottom of the poll, beaten even by a bribing Tory.

Willis Pickard

Death duties in 1894

A small correction, if I may. In his review of *Harcourt and Son* (*Journal* 48), Martin Pugh incorrectly states that in the 1894 budget the graduated scale of death duties peaked at six per cent on estates of a million pounds. The correct figure is eight per cent, Harcourt having abandoned a proposed top rate of ten per cent after representations from Rosebery (p. 253). Professor Pugh criticises a ‘remarkably brief treatment’ of the budget, but I do at least try to get my facts right!

Patrick Jackson