#### C. E. MONTAGUE, LIBERAL WAR WRITERS AND THE GREAT WAR

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- 22 Lawrence, *op. cit.*, p. 565.
- 23 *Manchester Guardian*, 20 April 1920.
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- 25 Ibid., pp. 34, 41.
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- 27 Manchester Guardian, 30 April 1919.
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- 30 Ibid., p. 58.
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  3; Montague, *op. cit.*, p. 51.
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# LETTERS

#### **D. S Macdonald**

Reading David Dutton's fascinating account of Liberalism in Dumfriesshire in Journal of Liberal History 76 I was struck by his references to a 'D.S. Macdonald' in the 1930s. This must surely have been the same elderly man who in 1959 was agent to the Hon Simon Mackay (now Lord Tanlaw) in the by-election in Galloway when we secured a creditable second place. Eight student Liberals from Edinburgh University, of whom I was one, spent a good deal of time campaigning there.

D.S. Macdonald conducted it from his house, and I recall him barking down the telephone to party HQ in London: 'Macdonald, Galloway here'. He also nearly killed several of us with his erratic driving, when he mistook a single oncoming headlight to be a motorbike and it turned out to be a tractor. He was a truly unforgettable and dedicated fighter for Liberalism.

David Steel

#### **Immigration policy**

I would counter what Nick Clegg has suggested about requiring a cash deposit from certain visa applicants by quoting what Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said about the Conservatives' Aliens Bill in the House of Commons on 18 July 1905:

'The hardest working man, the most laborious and intelligent man, the man most likely to make a good citizen if he settles here ... has no chance to come into this country unless he has money in his pocket. But the worthless man, the scamp, the lazy man ... can come in if he has money in his pocket.' Dr Sandy S. Waugh

#### Roy Jenkins and Lloyd George

In his review of Roy Hattersley's biography of Lloyd George (Journal of Liberal History 77), Ian Packer repeats the comments Hattersley attributes to Roy Jenkins about Lloyd George. But was Lloyd George 'a politician he disliked so heartily'?

Lord Hattersley does not give us the date or context of the comments. Was it over a claret-fuelled lunch or in more serious discussion? If this was the substantial view of Jenkins, the author of major biographies of Gladstone, Churchill and, most relevantly, Asquith, it might contribute to an assessment of LG. But in his only significant review of LG (*The Chancellors*), Jenkins rates him /continued on p. 31

### THE REFORM CLUB'S JUBILEE BALL: THE END OF AN ERA

legitimacy of the war in South Africa by means of 'resolutions which convey the smallest amount of logical meaning,' followed by a unanimous vote of confidence in Campbell-Bannerman.<sup>20</sup>

The 'sedative concoction' that was mixed at the meeting seems to have satisfied the party, but many club members were furious. One of them had objected in advance to the committee's plan to exclude members from a club room for the purpose of holding a political meeting which, presumably, will be largely composed of Radical and pro-Boer members of Parliament,' giving rise thereby to 'the presumption ... that the Reform Club is the headquarters of Radicalism in England, which it distinctly is not.' He urged the committee for the sake of 'the welfare ... if not the existence' of the Club to respect the feeling of 'the great majority' of members and not grant facilities for any more such meetings.<sup>21</sup>

'Another Member of The Reform Club' added that 'the socalled Liberal party in the House of Commons does not now, even approximately, represent the views of the majority of the club. Far from it ... The Liberal party, of which we used all to be so proud, was destroyed in 1886, and the party which now claims to represent it has since become so discredited that the majority of the club have the strongest objection to it being looked upon or used as the headquarters of that party.<sup>22</sup>

These protests had their effect and very few more Liberal Party meetings took place in the Reform Club. The Club itself invited Campbell-Bannerman in 1906 to be fêted by his fellow members on his landslide victory over the Conservatives in the recent general election, a meeting that was so popular that members had to ballot for a place. Two years later the Liberal Party convened at the Club to welcome Asquith as its new leader, and as Prime Minister, after Campbell-Bannerman's death. And in December 1916 Asquith summoned Liberal members of both Houses of Parliament to the Club to secure a vote of confidence in his leadership of the party and in Lloyd George as the new Prime Minister. That was the last time that the Liberal Party held any significant official meeting at the Reform Club.23

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tinctly is not.'

The Reform Club had weathered the storms of two major schisms and numerous lesser divisions in the Liberal Party. But it had managed this only by gradually casting off its historic political role, opting instead to continue as a social club, though still retaining a liberal character.

Peter Urbach is the Reform Club's Honorary Archivist. A former research chemist and lecturer, he has published Francis Bacon's Philosophy of Science (1987); a new translation and edition of Francis Bacon's Novum Organum (jointly with John Gibson, 1994); and Scientific Reasoning: The Bayesian Approach (jointly with Colin Howson, third ed., 1996), as well as numerous academic articles.

- The Graphic, 25 June 1887.
- 2 The Lady's Pictorial, 25 June 1887.
- 3 The Times, 16 June 1887.
- George Woodbridge, The Reform
- *Club 1836–1978* (Reform Club, 1978).
- The Lady's Pictorial, 25 June 1887.
- The Times, ibid.

#### Letters

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highly as Prime Minister, with no suggestion of hearty dislike. Nor is there any such indication in Jenkins' biography of Asquith. It would be a pity if this com-

ment were to be accepted as Jenkins' real judgement. Perhaps John Campbell, in his forthcoming biography of Jenkins, will help. *Alan Mumford* 

## C. L. Mowat and Lloyd George

I much enjoyed the issue dedicated to David Lloyd George (*Journal* of Liberal History 77); it was interesting, informative and, rightly, contentious.

If I was disappointed it was at the lack of an article exploring LG's role at the very start of the 1914–18 war, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Such an article would be much appreciated by a wide readership, particularly since the present Governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, observed in 2008 that: 'Not since the beginning of the First World War has our banking system been so close to collapse.'

- 7 The Times, ibid.
- 8 The Times, letter, 21 June 1887.
- 9 The Times, 16 June 1887.
- 10 Philip Salmon, Electoral Reform at Work. Local Politics and National Parties 1832–1841 (Royal Historical Association/Boydell Press, 2002).
- 11 The Times, 16 Mar. 1854.
- 12 The Reform Club Archive.
- 13 The Manchester Evening News, 19 Apr. 1887.
- 14 Henry Lucy, A Diary of the Salisbury Parliament 1886–1892 (Cassell & Co., 1892).
- 15 Peter Urbach, 'The Reform Club's portrait of the Grand Old Man', *Reform Review*, Winter 2009/10, pp. 4-5.
- 16 The Times, 12 Mar. 1892.
- 17 The Times, 15 Mar. 1892.
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- 19 The Glasgow Herald, 16 Feb. 1899.
- 20 The Times, 10 July 1901.
- 21 The Times, 5 July 1901.
- 22 The Times, 13 July 1901.
- 23 Michael Sharpe, *The Political Committee of the Reform Club* (Reform Club, 1996), p. 72.

I was a history student at Swansea University in the mid 1950s where, to our immense benefit, Professor C. L. Mowat spent a sabbatical year. I still recall with pleasure the inspiring lectures of a great historian – and the friendliest of men.

Although his excellent and very popular book, *Britain Between the Wars 1918–40*, published in 1954, did not deal directly with the LG– Asquith split he makes it abundantly clear that he sided with Lloyd George. He contrasts Neville Chamberlain's attitude to Churchill after his fall in 1940 to that of Asquith's to Lloyd George after 1916.

His brief book on Lloyd George in the Clarendon Series, published in 1964, underlined his pro-Lloyd George interpretation of the December 1916 split. I think his outstanding publications should at least have been acknowledged when Chris Wrigley examined the much changed attitude towards Lloyd George.

Rufus Adams