

sanction is given to active work against Liberal principles and to the repudiation of Liberal principles one by one ... Could not a Radical party be formed even now which would pledge itself to adhere to Liberal principles? If the leaders would come forward the members would roll up in their thousands. One feels the tragedy of the present situation, inasmuch as it is so infinitely easier to lose our hard-won liberties than to regain them, and if the consolidation of a really liberal party is left until after the war it may be too late to achieve much in our own generation.

As indicated, there were other letters along these lines.

Duncan Marlor

The Great War and the Liberal Party (2)

Professor Otte's excellent article on Sir Edward Grey ('The long shadow of war;', *Journal of Liberal History* 87, summer 2015) throws light on a puzzle which has vexed many historians. How did it happen that a man of high intelligence, complete probity and a deep love of peace nevertheless played an important part in involving Britain in a war which most people would now consider unnecessary and almost wholly destructive?

When I was looking at a different problem, I encountered memoranda sent to Grey by the two most senior Foreign Office officials, Sir Arthur Nicolson and Sir Eyre Crowe, shortly before Britain became committed to action which made involvement in the 1914 war inevitable. Both were obviously trying to stiffen Grey, urging that – as Crowe put it – 'in a just quarrel England (sic) would stand by her friends'. [FO800/94, fo.522] At a time when Belgium had not yet been invaded, or even directly threatened, both were much more concerned that Britain should support France and Russia than that

she should take whatever action was possible to avert the catastrophe.

This set me wondering. To what extent had Foreign Office officials, unknown to the public and probably to most MPs, gradually manoeuvred Britain into policies which led to war? Were there perhaps similar people in the background in Vienna, Berlin, Paris and St Petersburg who played a major part in impelling sovereigns and statesmen who did not want war into that avoidable conflict? And may it be that similar people still lurk in the various Foreign Offices of the world?

Roy Douglas

LIBERAL HISTORY QUIZ 2015

The 2015 Liberal history quiz was a feature of the History Group's exhibition stand at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth last September; the questions were drawn from our new book, *British Liberal Leaders*. The winners, each with 19 marks out of 20, were David Hughes and Richard Sanderson. We also included anyone answering at least five questions correctly in a draw for a second prize: the winner was James Sanderson. Below we reprint the questions – the answers are on page 39.

1. On hearing that Nick Clegg was going to join the Liberal Democrats who said: 'Oh, for heaven's sake, joining the Liberal Democrats is like joining an NGO!'
2. From which city's Town Hall in 1901 did David Lloyd George have to flee a pro-Boer War mob disguised as a policeman?
3. Which Liberal leader fell foul of the man who devised the rules of boxing and was consequently mentioned in the trial of a famous playwright?
4. CB acquired his surname well after his birth; why and when did he do it?
5. Which Liberal leader became the first ever British High Commissioner for Palestine?
6. What was the name of the baronetcy inherited from his grandfather by Sir Archibald Sinclair in 1912?
7. Which seat did Roy Jenkins fight unsuccessfully at the 1945 general election?
8. In what year was David Owen first elected as an MP for a Plymouth constituency?
9. Which leader defeated a sitting Liberal MP when he entered Parliament and later sat together with that opponent in the House of Lords?
10. What was the name of the quarterly journal, founded in 1993 and edited by Charles Kennedy, which advocated preparation for a Lib-Lab coalition?
11. Which Liberal leader introduced the targeting strategy known as the Winnable Seats scheme?
12. Criticised as ready at ten minutes' notice to assume the roles of a surgeon, an architect or an admiral, which leader was compared to a Venetian magistrate by a later leader in a mock obituary?
13. Which prolific leader, better known for a cuppa than his policies, fathered an illegitimate child by an aristocratic canvasser for Fox?
14. Who was Home Secretary at the time of the Tolpuddle Martyrs?
15. He held the offices of Secretary for War, Foreign Secretary (three times) and Home Secretary and was the MP who waited longest to become Prime Minister; who was he?
16. Whose maiden speech in the first reformed parliament professed a qualified opposition to the abolition of slavery?
17. Which leader had four children, three of whom died at the age of 23, all in unrelated incidents?
18. Which Liberal Prime Minister earned the nickname 'the last of the Romans'?
19. As a young man he was bowled over by Skittles; later he created a double duchess, led the Liberals and turned down the top job three times. Who was he?
20. Who were Menzies Campbell's two opponents in the leadership contest of 2006?