

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S  
PARLIAMENTARY RECORD  
FROM 1895 TO 1900.

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ONCE more it has become the privilege of the Electors of the Carnarvon Boroughs to express at the polls their appreciation or condemnation of Mr. Lloyd George's past services. He is again about to be weighed in the balance to see if he can be found wanting. As some assistance towards ascertaining his exact weight in the Political Weighing Machine, I submit the following facts as to what Mr. Lloyd George has actually done during the past five years as Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs.

In estimating the value of the work actually done it must be borne in mind that

The Last Parliament was peculiarly unfavourable

to Liberal effort. The Government had the largest majority of modern times, and used that majority to *crush out all opposition.*

Knowing the hopelessness of fighting against the overwhelming forces of the Government, a large number of Liberal Members abstained from taking any part in actual public work in the House of Commons except upon stated occasions.

It will be seen from the following facts that

Mr. Lloyd George was not among these.

Indeed, one may safely go further and say that probably

No Liberal member has been so active in the last Parliament as Mr. Lloyd George.

**HOW OFTEN HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE SPOKEN?**

In five Sessions MR. LLOYD GEORGE HAS SPOKEN ON 226 OCCASIONS; this, divided by five, gives AN AVERAGE OF 45 TIMES EACH SESSION. It is doubtful whether any other Member of Parliament can point to such a record.

The topics on which he spoke cover the whole range of public business, local, provincial, national, imperial; labour, education, commerce; harbours, railways, fisheries; the church, the land, the rates—and the soldiers.

**WHAT HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE DONE IN RELATION TO THE WAR?**

Judging from the manner in which Mr. Lloyd George's action in relation to the War in South Africa is spoken of, one might imagine that this has been the one topic to which he has devoted most attention in the House of Commons.

*An Examination of the facts shows that this is not so.*

He spoke on War Questions pure and simple.....	6 times.
He spoke on Questions affecting the Soldier's Pay and Comfort .....	4 "
He spoke on Labour Questions .....	14 "
He spoke on Welsh Harbours .....	14 "
He spoke on Agricultural and Land Questions .....	17 "
He spoke on Railway Rates and Light Railways .....	24 "
He spoke on Questions affecting Wales and the Welsh language .....	31 "
He spoke on Educational Questions .....	39 "
He spoke on Questions affecting the Public Rates .....	43 "

Thus, of all the great questions which have been the topics of debate in the late Parliament.

*Mr. Lloyd George spoke less on the War than on any other question.*

But what did he say?

**HAS HE BEEN DISLOYAL?**

**HAS HE SPOKEN AGAINST OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS?**

Let us see.

1. On the Appropriation Bill he spoke on the Transvaal Franchise Question, the burden of his speech being that **IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT TO GET THE FRANCHISE IN WALES THAN IN THE TRANSVAAL.** This was not disloyalty.

(Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain by forcing on an October Election on an expiring register, have disfranchised 1,000,000 Electors in the United Kingdom, or more than ten times as many as all the Electors in the Transvaal put together! Over 15,000 Electors have been disfranchised in Wales only!)

2. On three occasions he spoke condemning the publication by the Government of garbled telegrams from official sources in South Africa. This was not disloyalty.

3. He condemned unsparingly the want of foresight and judgment on the part of Mr. Chamberlain and the War Office in rushing into the war unprepared with men, with artillery, with hospitals. This was not disloyalty.

4. He spoke on two occasions against the scandalous manner in which War Office Contracts were given out—showing how an enormous contract was given to the Chamberlain Family Firm of Kynochs, who had sent in the highest tender. This was not disloyalty.

5. He spoke strongly on two occasions against paying *five shillings a day* to COLONIAL soldiers, while WELSH AND ENGLISH SOLDIERS were only paid *1s. 3d. a day.* This was not disloyalty.

6. He seconded a motion (proposed by another Welsh Liberal Member) to extend the benefit of the Workmen's Compensation Act TO ALL SOLDIERS and to ALL MEN engaged IN THE NAVY. The motion was carried. Had it been put into effect by the Government.

(a) The widows and children of men killed in South Africa would have been provided for.

(b) The wounded and invalided would have received substantial compensation.

Though Mr. Lloyd George and his friend *succeeded in carrying this motion*, IT HAS NEVER BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

Note therefore the following comparison :—

**THIS IS PATRIOTISM NOT DISLOYALTY.**

1. Mr. Lloyd George wanted the Welsh and English Electors to enjoy the franchise privileges it was proposed to give the Outlanders.

2. Mr. Lloyd George wanted the Government to give us the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about South Africa.

3. Mr. Lloyd George condemned the Government for not being prepared for the war when it came.

4. Mr. Lloyd George wanted War Contracts to be given out fairly like all other public contracts.

5. Mr. Lloyd George wanted the Welsh and English soldier to be paid at the same rate as Colonials.

6. Mr. Lloyd George wanted to compensate wounded and invalided soldiers and sailors, and to provide for widows and orphans of men—soldiers and sailors—killed in the war.

**THIS IS DISLOYALTY NOT PATRIOTISM.**

Col. Platt's party wanted to give the Outlanders what they refuse to give to Welshmen and Englishmen at home.

Col. Platt's party withheld information as long as they could, and then published garbled accounts.

Col. Platt's party rushed into the war without making necessary preparations.

Col. Platt's Party gave a big contract to Mr. Chamberlain's Family's firm, though it was the highest tender.

Col. Platt's Party insisted on paying Colonials four times as much as Welsh and English soldiers.

Col. Platt's Party have refused to put this rule into operation although passed by the House of Commons through Mr. Lloyd George's efforts.

Having regard for all this we can only come to the conclusion that

Mr. Lloyd George has proved himself

**THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND.**

Col. Platt's Party have proved themselves

**THE SOLDIER'S ENEMY.**

**WHAT HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE DONE FOR WALES AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE ?**

Among a number of other efforts on behalf of Wales, and the Welsh language, Mr. Lloyd George has done the following things :—

August 20, 1895. He urged the appointment of Welsh speaking Officer on Ordnance Survey for Wales. (Several such have been appointed).

August 22, 1895. Urged inclusion of Monmouthshire with Wales in official returns.

August 26, 1895. Urged appointment in Wales of Local Government Board Inspectors who could speak Welsh.

August 26, 1895; July 31, 1896; June 18, 1897; Urged appointment of competent Welshman to deal with Welsh MSS. in the Record Office; to make historical documents relating to Wales more easily accessible, and to distribute at Government expense for public purposes, copies of the Official Reports on Welsh Historical MSS.

April 10, 1896. Urged there should be a Central Inland Revenue Office for Wales. Showed that Wales is deprived of £60,000 a year of grants in aid.

May 1, 1896. Complained that the Public Prosecutor had taken no steps to protect Welsh witnesses intimidated by their landlords at the time of the Welsh Land Commission.

May 13, 1896. Endeavoured to exclude Wales from operation of Agricultural Rating Bill.

(Had he succeeded the ratepayers of the Carnarvon Boroughs would not, as they now have, to pay half the rates of Lord Penrhyn, Mr. Assheton Smith, Mr. Frederick Wynn, and other landlords).

May 19, 1897. Supported the Welsh Land Bill. If this were passed Welsh farmers would be freed from the grievances under which they now suffer.

June 17, 1897. Protested against the appointment as Chief Inspector of Schools for Wales, of a gentleman unacquainted with the Welsh language.

February, 1898. Speech on the Amendment to the Address, complaining there was no reference to Wales in the Queen's speech.

February 13, 1899. The same complaint, and urging the claims of Wales to especial consideration.

August 8, 1898. Secured from the President of the Board of Agriculture a promise of an increased Grant for Agricultural Dairy Occupation in Wales.

- February 28, 1899. Secured from Sir Richard Webster a public statement that "Welshmen using their own language are not disqualified from serving on Juries."
- March 15, 1900. Urged that a language Column be added to all the Census papers. Though the Government had promised to consider the matter last year, they now refused the request by 164 to 54.
- July 11, 1900. Protested against the exclusion of Wales from direct representation on the Public Works Loan Commission. Showed how this exclusion had operated injuriously when Welsh applications came before the Commission. (Mr. Hanbury admitted the reasonableness of the request; promised that on the first vacancy a Welshman should be appointed on the Commission. *Subsequently Mr. Lloyd George was so appointed; THE FIRST WELSH MEMBER EVER APPOINTED TO THIS POSITION*).
- March 30, 1896; August 10, 1896; August 9, 1898. Fought hard for the devolution to a Welsh National Council, elected by the Welsh County Councils, of certain powers now exercised by Government Departments. (This is now in a fair way of being secured. All the Welsh Members, of both political parties, and a Special Committee representing the Welsh County Councils, have adopted a scheme which will probably shortly receive the sanction of Parliament. When passed it will very materially lessen the cost, and facilitate the promotion, of public works in Wales).

### WHAT HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE DONE FOR LABOUR?

- August 22, 1895. Supported Mr. Herbert Lewis in securing re-appointment of Committee on Distress from want of Employment.
- August 23, 1895. Pressed the Government to appoint a Special Labour Correspondent for North Wales. (*The appointment was subsequently made*).
- August 23, 1895. Urged the Government to make the Inspection of Fisheries a reality and not a sham.
- June 1, 1896; June 4, 1896. In connection with London Cabs Bill, protested against Government devoting to a Bill for subsidising landlords, the time which the House ought to have given to questions affecting the Working Classes.

- July 16, 1896. Pointed out that the firm of Kynochs, Company, (The Chamberlain Family Powder Manufacturing Firm) *compelled their men to sign agreements not to belong to any Trade Unions.*
- July 30, 1896; July 13, 1897. Protested against Government action in connection with foreign prison-made goods.
- July 30, 1896; July 13, 1897. Protested against Government in action in connection with foreign prison-made goods. Manager of the Dinorwic Quarries, to adopt the rules of working which he had approved and helped to draw up.
- July 28, 1897. Strong speech on behalf of the men in the Penrhyn Quarry Strike debate.
- May 28, 1897. Urged relaxation of rules in connection with Patents. Working men inventors should not be penalised for the benefit of the Revenue.
- June 28, 1897. Protested against Government refusing time for passing the Steam Engines and Boiler's Bill. Rather than give facilities to pass this Bill, affecting the lives and limbs of our workmen all over the country, the Government insisted on adjourning. "Yes!" said Mr. Lloyd George, "a theatre or dinner party is more important in your eyes than passing a bill to protect the working man!"
- May 11, 1900. Protested against employment of Lascars in preference to English Seamen. (Though the Unionist Candidates at last Election had raised cry of British Seamen for British Ships; the Government had done nothing to secure this during the five years they had been in office).
- June 15, 1900. Pleaded against the summary dismissal of teachers from schools.

When these are summarized it will be seen that

MR. LLOYD GEORGE HAS TRIED TO COL. PLATT'S PARTY HAVE TRIED TO

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| 1. Protect the Workingman's right of combination.              | Take away the Workman's Right of Combination.  |
| 2. Protect the Working Man from risks in Dangerous Employments | Ignore the Workman's Claim, preferring their own pleasures to passing labour bills.    |
| 3. Secure time for Labour Legislation.                         | Refuse time for Labour Legislation—giving it instead to the landlords and the parsons. |

**WHAT HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE DONE FOR PUBLIC WORK AND PUBLIC RIGHTS?**

August 20, 1895. Complained that the Government spent £7,000 a year on Holyhead Harbour for the benefit of the London & North Western Railway Company, while REFUSING ANY ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH A HARBOUR OF REFUGE on the West Coast of Wales.

August 23, 1895. Championed the claims of local authorities to foreshore rights.

(This would prevent the alienation of any existing foreshore rights at Conway, Bangor, Carnarvon, Nevin, Criccieth, or Pwllheli, without the consent of the Town Councils).

March 19, 1896; March 26, 1896; May 15, 1896; Called attention to the neglect of the Government to carry out their promise with regard to Naval Works in Wales.

(They had promised to spend £100,000; but only spent £5,000).

June 2, 1899; June 20, 1899; July 14, 1899. Fought successfully the battle of the Right of Public Meeting in connection with Rhyl.

(After being twice defeated, Mr. Lloyd George returned again to the attack, and at last succeeded in compelling the Government to give way on this question, and to grant what the people demanded).

April 26, 1900. Further strong protest against neglect of Government to establish a Harbour of Refuge on the West Coast of Wales, for the benefit of local fisheries.

(On this occasion Mr. Ritchie on behalf of the Local Government Board, made a conditional promise that the matter would receive favourable consideration. Mr Lloyd George, by untiring effort, has now secured co-operation of the Cambrian Railway Company, and local authorities, and there are prospects that the scheme for a splendid harbour at Pwllheli will be carried through).

**WHAT HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE DONE FOR EDUCATION**

Mr. Lloyd George took part in Education debates.

The subjects dealt with were very varied, but when summarized it may be said that Mr. Lloyd George fought

1. To get for the country the best value for its money.
2. To give those who paid for maintaining schools, a voice in managing them.
3. To place within the reach of every Nonconformist child a free public undenominational school under popular control, where the child would not be forced to learn religious dogmas to which his parents objected.
4. To enable any young person, of any denomination, to be employed as a teacher in public schools, without foregoing his religious principles.
5. To enable Pupil Teachers to enter Training Colleges without being subjected to Religious Tests.

(Against each and all of these the party to which Col. Platt belongs fought bitterly).

**WHAT HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE DONE IN THE MATTER OF RAILWAY RATES?**

1896. April 14. April 24, April 27, May 1, May 15.

1897. April 28. May 23. June 20.

1900. May 28.

On each of these dates he has fought the London and North Western Railway Bill with a view to minimising the evils of the monopoly the Company enjoys in North Wales. He pointed out that THE COMPANY CHARGED FOUR TIMES AS MUCH on their Welsh section as they did on other parts of their system. He showed that while goods could be conveyed FROM LIVERPOOL TO ANGLESEY AT 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per ton per mile, the Company charged 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. PER TON PER MILE FROM BANGOR TO ANGLESEY TOWNS. The result of this was that small industries were crushed out of existence. In 1891 Mr. Lloyd George carried a motion in the House of Commons reducing the rates, but Lord Stalybridge in the House of Lords, re-inserted the old rates in one class, but Mr. Lloyd George's reductions still hold good in the other class all along the line from Chester to Afonwen.

(This is a matter of extreme importance to all traders in North Wales, and directly affecting the prosperity of the Carnarvon Boroughs).

## WHAT HAS MR. LLOYD GEORGE DONE FOR THE

### RATEPAYERS?

Of course Mr. Lloyd George's *biggest* fight on behalf of the Ratepayers of the Carnarvon Boroughs, was over the Agricultural Rating Bill. Before coming to that it may be well to point out that he fought in other battles also for the Welsh Ratepayer.

April 10, 1896. He protested against Wales having to contribute to maintain London Parks.

(Carnarvon pays for its own park. Why should not London do the same?)

June 5, 1896. He protested against Wales being called upon to bear part of the cost of London Police Courts.

(Carnarvon pays for its own police. Why should not London do the same?)

July 7, 1896. Supported Mr. Herbert Lewis in trying to establish a GRADUATED INCOME TAX.

(If this were done the RICH would have to PAY MORE, the POOR would have to PAY LESS, than they do now).

On other occasions Mr. Lloyd George showed himself fully alive to the interests of the general ratepayer and taxpayer. On two occasions he endeavoured to reduce the duty on tea, and in other ways showed his active sympathy with those who have to carry the heavy burdens of rates and taxes.

### THE AGRICULTURAL RATING BILL.

however was the opportunity on which Mr. Lloyd George chiefly distinguished himself as the champion of the Ratepayer.

**HE SPOKE ON THIRTY FIVE SEPARATE OCCASIONS AGAINST THIS UNJUST MEASURE.**

He did so because the Bill directly affects his own constituents. Look at these facts which he brought out during the debates:—

The Ratepayers of the Six Boroughs pay FROM SEVEN TO NINE SHILLINGS in the pound in Local Rates.

The Rates in Rural districts AVERAGE ABOUT 2s. 3d. or 2s. 6d. in the pound.

If any one requires relief, it is he who pays the heaviest rate—that is the town ratepayer.

Instead of this the Act pays from the common fund **HALF THE RATES ON AGRICULTURAL LAND,—NOTHING TO HELP THE TOWN RATEPAYER.**

The reduction in Rates does not help the farmers—for **THE RENTS HAVE GONE UP.**

That is to say **THE MONEY GOES** not into the farmer's but **INTO THE LANDLORD'S POCKET.**

The landlords who own the Agricultural land around the towns, also own the land in the towns. For these lands they get enormous ground rents. These ground rents have doubled and trebled the landlord's income from such lands. The town ratepayer has paid for the improvements which have increased the value of the landlord's land inside and outside the towns.

These landlords **DO NOT CONTRIBUTE A PENNY** towards the town rates on account of the enormous ground rents they receive.

The **TOWN TAXPAYER**, on the other hand, **PAYS HALF THE RATES ON THE LANDLORD'S ESTATE.**

The Act **PUTS TWO MILLIONS A YEAR IN THE LANDLORDS' POCKETS.**

The Act **PUTS £60,000 A YEAR IN THE POCKETS OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.**

Mr. Lloyd George fought this Bill at every stage. He tried to exclude Wales from its operation. He tried to exclude Boroughs from its operation. He tried to make it applicable only to those in need. He tried to stop the money going into the landlords' pockets.

The House of Commons was kept for *five days* discussing a single clause.

And what did Mr. Lloyd George get for fighting the battle of the ratepayer against the landlord?

The Government tried to GAG him—but they **FAILED.**

They closed the debate over and over again—but Lloyd George came up as fresh as ever on the next discussion.

One night, after a number of divisions had been taken, Mr. Chaplin moved the closure on Clause 4. Sir William Harcourt reminded the Government that they had promised to discuss an amendment which this closure would exclude from being discussed. Mr. Chaplin persisted and went to a division on the Closure.

Mr. Lloyd George, with Mr. Herbert Lewis, Sir John Brunner, and three others REFUSED TO GO INTO THE LOBBY.

The Speaker was called in. Mr. Lloyd George explained that he had refused to vote as a protest against the unjust manner in which the Government was forcing the Bill through after promising discussion.

Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Herbert Lewis, and two other Members WERE SUSPENDED.

This was on May 21, 1896. In June, Mr. Lloyd George appeared as fresh as ever to fight the Bill. After being repeatedly closed, he and his friends kept the House sitting on June 29, FOR OVER SEVENTEEN HOURS.

This Bill will come up again for discussion next March.

Will you send Col. Platt up to support the Bill,  
or

Will you send Lloyd George to fight it once more?

### WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S

#### WORK IN PARLIAMENT?

The foregoing brief summary of some portions of Mr. Lloyd George's work in Parliament speaks for itself. Now what do other people think of him. For instance

### What does Sir William Harcourt think of Lloyd George?

It is no secret that Sir William Harcourt looks upon Mr. Lloyd George as *one of the ablest Members* on the Liberal side of the House. Speaking in the House of Commons on the Third Reading of the Agricultural Rating Bill, July 1st, 1896, The Liberal Leader said:

"THE HON. MEMBER FOR THE CARNARVON BOROUGH HAS RENDERED GREAT SERVICES WITH REGARD TO THIS BILL—SERVICES WHICH WERE RECOGNISED BY THE HOUSE."

### What does Mr. Perks say?

Mr. Perks, it will be remembered is the originator of the Million Guinea Scheme for English Methodism; he is a staunch Imperialist; and he is Chairman of the Nonconformist National Political Council.

Mr. Perks says:—

"IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISFORTUNE TO THE COUNTRY IF THERE WERE NOT IN PARLIAMENT MEN OF THE POSITION OF MR. COURTNEY, MR. LLOYD GEORGE, AND SIR ROBERT REID" (*See British Weekly, August 9*).

### What does Mr. Chamberlain's paper say?

The Paper which reflects Mr. Chamberlain's views, which blesses where Mr. Chamberlain blesses, and which curses those whom Mr. Chamberlain curses, is—The Birmingham Post.

The Birmingham Post says:—

"THE THREE MEN ON THE LIBERAL SIDE WHO HAVE MADE THEIR MARK IN THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT, ARE MR. BIRRELL, MR. LLOYD GEORGE, AND SIR EDWARD GREY."