

Written by Col. W.
Returned,

ASHLEY, Wilfrid William

MOUNT-TEMPLE, 1st Baron

BIOGRAPHIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

In 1929 the Prime Minister (The Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin, M.P.) appointed a Committee, presided over by Colonel the Right Honourable Josiah Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P., to examine the material available for a record of the personnel and politics of members of the House of Commons from A.D. 1264. The Committee reported that the task of preparing and publishing such a record was possible and should be undertaken.

It has been suggested that it would be desirable for Members or their surviving relations to assist in the compilation of these biographies. Below are questions which ought to be dealt with. It would have been useful to have answers to these from our predecessors.

Answers to all these questions are optional. If it is desired that answers be treated as confidential, they should be enclosed in brackets; these will remain unpublished for 100 years.

Please supply also the usual bald facts from "Who's Who" or any other work of reference so as to save the compilers trouble.

Please write your answers in the space provided.

COMMITTEE ON HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT,
1, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE BUILDINGS,
DARTMOUTH STREET, S.W.1.

1. When did you first become interested in national politics? Why?

From boyhood; my father was a Liberal M.P.
& held office.

2. What influence started you on this line of thought?

Attending meetings with my father

3. What books formed your political views?

Not books, but the daily papers

4. What were your religious convictions?

Low Church

5. Which was then your favourite newspaper?

"Times"

6. Why did you want to be an M.P.?

Became Politician are the most interesting -
of all things

7. What or who first led you to think of it as a career?

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman ^{when I was his}
Printed Secretary

8. What was your trade, profession or occupation?

Soldier - Grenadier Guards

9. Annual income, earned and un-earned, when first you stood for Parliament?

£10,000 a year gross

10. Had you any experience of public work—if so, what?

✓

11. How did you first get a seat?

By being a friend of the son of the local
Conservative Assⁿ Chairman

12. What was your chief political interest?

Army matters

13. On what did you, in fact, concentrate most in Parliament?

Queer Time - 3 to 3.45 PM

14. What did it cost you then to contest? And how much yearly while M.P.?

£1200

£500

15. Who, at that time, was your ideal (a) living British statesman, (b) dead statesman of any land?

(a) Arthur Balfour

(b) Gladstone

16. How did Parliament modify your views?

~~Just~~ I moved further to the Right

17. How did being an M.P. affect your earning capacity?

✓

18. What did you enjoy most in Parliamentary life?

Having a fringe - however humble -
in the national pie.

19. What did you dislike most, apart from getting re-elected?

Social functions in the Constituency

20. Which speech do you think was your best?

✓

21. What was the greatest speech that you remember hearing?

F. E. Smith's maiden speech

22. Did speeches affect your vote?

Seldom - but Lloyd-George twice made me
vote against my Party

23. What was your best piece of work?

Creating the "Comrades of the Great War" - during the last
year of the War & afterwards - an ex-Servicemen organization

24. If you are no longer in Parliament, why did you leave?

Created a Peer

25. What books have you written, and what books have been written about you?

✓

Morant Temple -
formerly
Lt-Col Wilfrid Ashley
M.D.