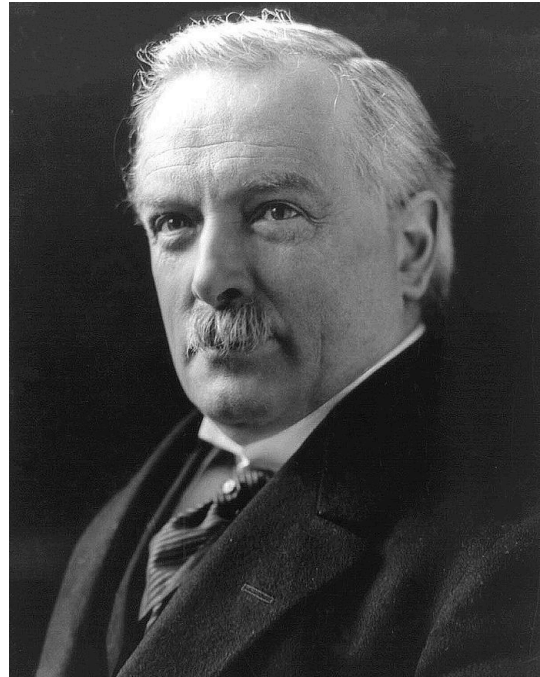


## **David Lloyd George, Prime Minister (Chairboard)**

Born in Manchester in 1863, David Lloyd George was raised in Wales after his father died when he was just a year old. He grew up in a modest household under the guidance of his mother and especially his uncle, a strong Welsh nationalist who greatly influenced his worldview.

He trained as a solicitor and opened his law practice in Criccieth. During this time, he gained a reputation for defending small farmers and nonconformists, which quickly launched him into the public eye. In 1890, at the age of 27, he became the Member of Parliament for Caernarfon Boroughs.



Known early on for his fiery speeches and wit, Lloyd George made a name for himself by opposing the Boer War and advocating for the rights of Welsh and working-class people. His political rise accelerated when the Liberal Party came to power in 1906. He was appointed President of the Board of Trade, where he introduced progressive labour reforms. In 1908, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer and introduced the famous “People’s Budget” of 1909, which proposed taxing the wealthy to fund social welfare programs. This led to a constitutional crisis with the House of Lords, but the bill eventually passed after a political showdown.

During the war, Lloyd George was first made Minister of Munitions and then Secretary of State for War, where he was known for his energy and impatience with military bureaucracy. In 1916, as public confidence in Prime Minister Asquith waned, Lloyd George replaced him and became Prime Minister himself. He was the first person from a working-class background to hold the position.

## **Lord Frederik Edwin Smith, Earl of Birkenhead, Lord Birkenhead, Lord Chancellor**

Born in Birkenhead in 1872, Smith came from a middle-class background; his father was a successful solicitor. He showed early signs of brilliance and ambition, both of which carried him through the ranks of British society. Educated at Oxford, where he studied law, he made a name for himself as one of the wittiest and most formidable debaters in the Oxford Union.

After Oxford, Smith built a thriving legal career and quickly earned a reputation as one of the sharpest barristers in London. He was appointed King's Counsel (KC) at an unusually young age and became known for his eloquent courtroom performances and biting wit.



He entered Parliament in 1906 as a Conservative MP for Liverpool Walton. A staunch defender of the British Empire and conservative principles, he often clashed with Liberals and Irish Nationalists. Still, his legal skills and loyalty didn't go unnoticed. During World War I, he supported the war effort and was appointed Solicitor General in 1915, then Attorney General a year later.

Smith formed a close political and personal alliance with David Lloyd George, which helped boost his career despite being a Conservative in a largely Liberal-led coalition. In 1919, Lloyd George appointed him Lord Chancellor, the youngest person to hold the position since the 18th century. As Lord Chancellor, he helped shape key legislation in the post-war period, though his aristocratic lifestyle and sometimes controversial remarks kept him in the spotlight. Smith had already been elevated to the peerage Earl of Birkenhead. Known for his intelligence, sarcasm, and hard drinking, he was both admired and disliked, depending on who you asked.

**George Nathaniel Curzon, 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords**

Born in 1859 in Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, into an aristocratic family, George Curzon was destined for a life in high society and higher politics. He studied at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, where he quickly stood out, not just for his academic brilliance but for his ambition and arrogance. He was President of the Oxford Union and famously wrote that “no one has ever had such a passion to get on.”



Curzon's early career was marked by extensive travels through Asia and the Middle East, which helped shape his views on empire and foreign policy.

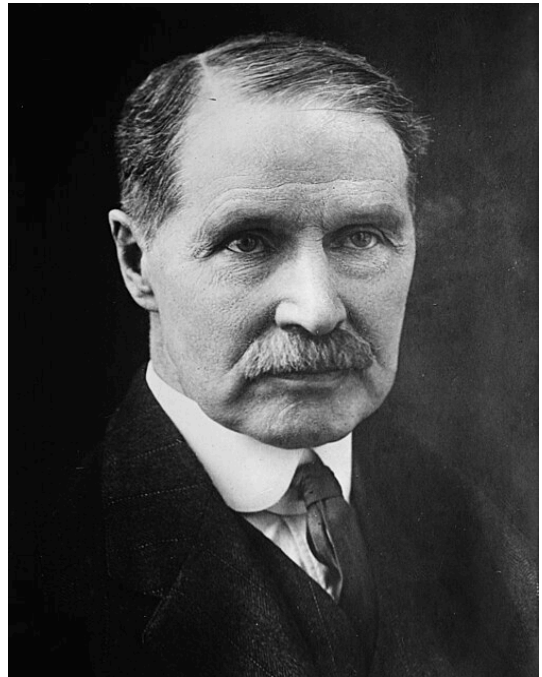
He wrote several travel books, including *Persia and the Persian Question*, that impressed readers and political elites alike. In 1895, he entered government as Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In 1899, he became Viceroy of India, the crown jewel of the British Empire, where he served until 1905. As Viceroy, Curzon was tireless and hands-on. He launched reforms in education, railways, irrigation, and the preservation of Indian monuments. However, his high-handed style and controversial decision to partition Bengal in 1905 led to unrest and his resignation. Despite his genuine interest in Indian administration, his imperial mindset and lack of tact made him deeply unpopular among many Indians. After returning to Britain, Curzon remained politically active and was appointed to the House of Lords. During the Great War, he joined the War Cabinet and was appointed Foreign Secretary in 1919, right in the thick of postwar diplomacy before rising as Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords.

## **Andrew Bonar Law, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons**

Born in New Brunswick, Canada, in 1858, Andrew Bonar Law moved to Scotland with his family as a child after his father's early death. Raised in a strict Presbyterian household, Law developed a strong work ethic and a deep sense of duty. He entered the world of business, becoming a successful coal merchant in London before turning to politics.

Bonar Law's political career began in earnest in 1900 when he was elected as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Glasgow Blackfriars and Hutchesontown. Known for his quiet determination and solid judgment, he steadily climbed the party ranks, earning respect as a pragmatic and reliable leader. His reserved manner and no-nonsense approach set him apart from the more flamboyant politicians of his era.



Throughout the early 1900s, Bonar Law became a prominent voice in opposition to the Liberal government's policies, especially on issues of tariff reform and the Irish question. He was an ardent Unionist, strongly opposing Home Rule for Ireland and advocating for the maintenance of the United Kingdom's integrity. His steadfast commitment helped unite the Conservative and Unionist parties, solidifying his influence within the right wing of politics.

Bonar Law played a crucial role in rallying support for the war effort and managing party unity during a time of national crisis. His organisational skills and calm leadership earned him a place in the wartime coalition government under Prime Minister David Lloyd George, where he served as Leader of the Conservative Party and held key ministerial responsibilities, including Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1915. Bonar Law is recognised as one of the leading figures in British politics who helped guide the Conservative Party through the upheavals as he earned the position of Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons.

## **Joseph Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer**

Born in 1863 in Edgbaston, Birmingham, Austen Chamberlain was the son of Joseph Chamberlain, a towering figure in British politics. Raised in a politically charged environment, Austen was instilled with a strong sense of public duty and the importance of effective governance at an early age. Educated at Rugby School and University College, Oxford, he combined academic excellence with a pragmatic approach to politics.

Chamberlain entered Parliament in 1892 as the Member for East Worcestershire, quickly establishing himself as a skilled politician with a keen interest in economic and colonial affairs. Following in his father's footsteps, he became a prominent figure in the Conservative and Unionist Party, advocating for tariff reform and imperial unity. During the early 1900s, Austen Chamberlain held various government posts, including Secretary of State for India, where he worked to modernise administration and promote economic development. Chamberlain's expertise was called upon in crucial roles, including Minister without Portfolio and later as Chancellor of the Exchequer.



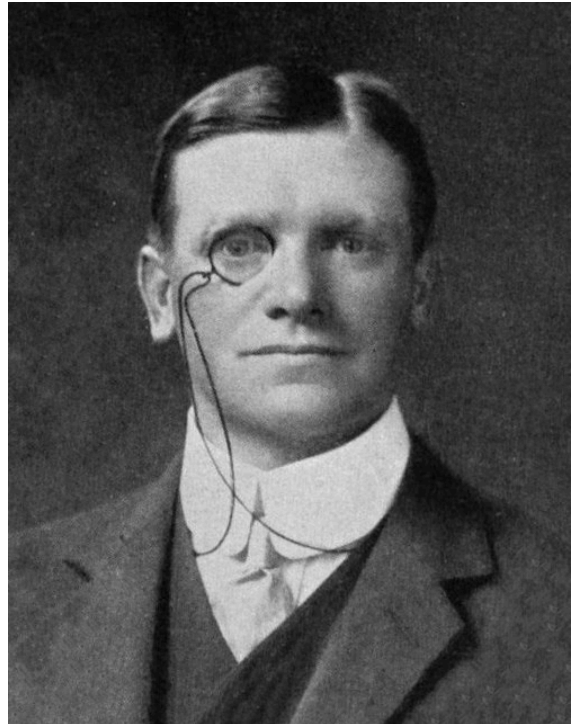
## **Edward Shortt, Secretary of State for the Home Department**

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1862, Edward Shortt was the son of a respected physician and received a strong education, attending Durham School before studying at University College, Oxford. Originally intending to enter the Anglican ministry, he eventually chose a legal path and was called to the Bar in 1890. Practising primarily on the North Eastern Circuit, Shortt gained a solid reputation for his legal skill and calm, methodical approach in court.

His entry into politics came relatively late. In 1910, he was elected as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a two-member constituency. Though not a flamboyant orator, Shortt quickly gained recognition for his reliability and legal expertise. During the First World War, he served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors, where his measured and humane handling of sensitive cases won him praise across the political spectrum.

In 1918, Shortt's profile rose dramatically when he was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, a post of immense difficulty during a period of growing unrest and nationalist agitation. In this role, he was known for trying to balance firmness with a desire to find constitutional solutions, though he faced mounting challenges from the increasingly militant Irish republican movement.

The following year, in 1919, he was appointed Home Secretary under Prime Minister Lloyd George, placing him at the centre of domestic security and legal affairs at a critical moment of postwar transition. Edward Shortt is seen as a loyal, steady figure within the Liberal ranks, trusted to navigate legal and political complexities during a period of great upheaval at home and abroad.

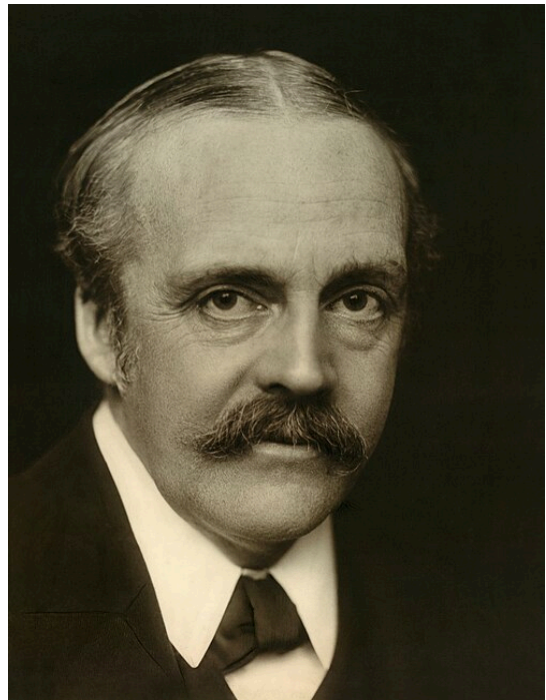


## **Arthur James Balfour, 1st Earl of Balfour, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs**

Born in 1848 in East Lothian, Scotland, Arthur James Balfour came from a wealthy and well-connected aristocratic family. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied moral sciences and developed a lifelong interest in philosophy. Though often seen as aloof and intellectually inclined, Balfour's political instincts proved sharper than many expected.

He entered Parliament in 1874 as the Conservative MP for Hertford, later representing Manchester East and then the City of London. At first dismissed by critics as a "nephew in search of an uncle" due to his relation to Lord Salisbury, Balfour soon established himself as a serious political figure. His tenure as Chief Secretary for Ireland from 1887 to 1891, during a period of intense nationalist agitation, earned him the nickname "Bloody Balfour" from opponents, but admiration within his party for his firmness and administrative ability. He rose through the ranks to become First Lord of the Treasury and then succeeded Salisbury as Prime Minister in 1902. His government introduced significant education reforms and laid the groundwork for British naval expansion, but internal divisions over tariff reform and Labour unrest led to his resignation in 1905. Though the 1906 Liberal landslide weakened the Conservatives, Balfour remained party leader until 1911 and was respected for his intellect and skill in debate, even when out of office. During World War I, Balfour returned to prominence.

In 1915, he joined the wartime coalition as First Lord of the Admiralty, replacing Churchill after the Dardanelles debacle. In 1916, he became Foreign Secretary under Lloyd George. It was in this role, in 1917, that he issued the Balfour Declaration, which is a landmark statement of British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, which would have lasting geopolitical consequences.





## **Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, Secretary of State for War and Air**

Born in 1874 at Blenheim Palace, Winston Churchill came from one of Britain's most distinguished aristocratic families. His father, Lord Randolph Churchill, was a prominent Conservative politician, and his mother, Jennie Jerome, was an American socialite. A rebellious student, Churchill struggled at Harrow but eventually entered the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and was commissioned into the cavalry.

Churchill first gained public attention as a war correspondent and soldier, covering and participating in campaigns in Cuba, India, the Sudan, and South Africa. His dramatic escape from a Boer prison camp in 1899 turned him into a national celebrity and helped launch his political career. In 1900, he was elected Conservative MP for Oldham—but by 1904, disillusioned with Conservative policies, he crossed the floor to join the Liberals.



He quickly rose through the ranks under the Liberal governments, serving as Under-Secretary for the Colonies, President of the Board of Trade, and Home Secretary. As First Lord of the Admiralty from 1911, Churchill championed naval modernisation and preparedness in the run-up to World War I. However, his role in the ill-fated Dardanelles campaign in 1915 led to his dismissal and political isolation. Deeply shaken, he temporarily rejoined the Army and served on the Western Front.

In 1917, Churchill returned to government under Lloyd George as Minister of Munitions, helping to manage Britain's vast wartime supply system. The following year, he was appointed Secretary of State for War and Air, overseeing the complex demobilisation process and the British intervention in the Russian Civil War.



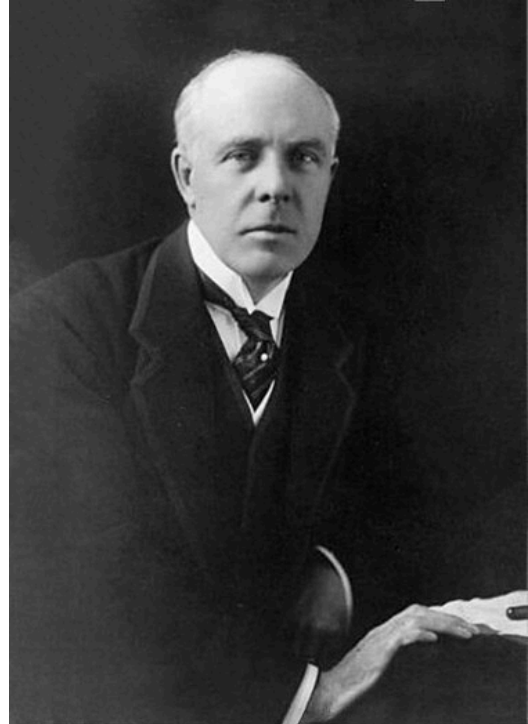
## **Albert Henry Stanley, 1st Baron Ashfield, President of the Board of Trade**

Born in Derbyshire in 1874, Albert Henry Stanley moved to the United States with his family at the age of ten. He grew up in Detroit and began working for the streetcar system there in his teens, steadily climbing the ranks of the American transit world. By his mid-thirties, Stanley had become general manager of several large railway companies, earning a reputation for modernising outdated systems and improving efficiency.

In 1907, he returned to Britain at the invitation of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London (UERL), becoming its managing director. Faced with chaotic finances and disjointed services,

Stanley introduced a businesslike approach to London's struggling transport network. His leadership helped rescue the Underground from near-collapse, forging a unified brand and a more reliable service. His work earned him widespread respect in both business and political circles.

Though not originally involved in politics, Stanley's expertise brought him into the national spotlight during the Great War. In 1916, Prime Minister Lloyd George brought him into the coalition government as President of the Board of Trade. He played a key role in coordinating wartime industry and transport, applying his managerial experience to pressing national problems.



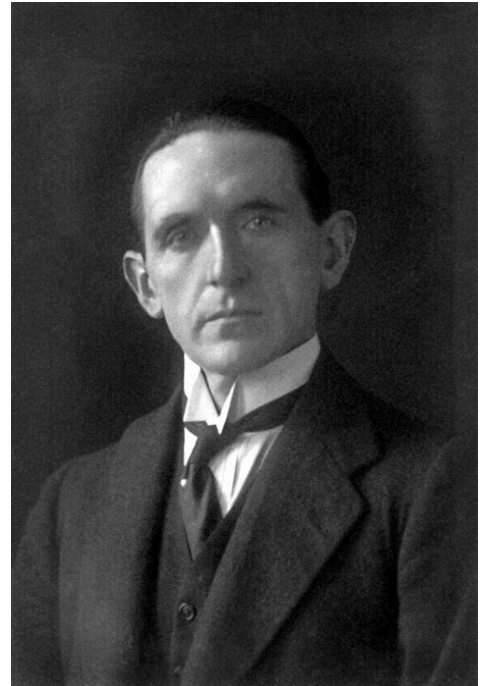
## **James Ian Stewart Macpherson, 1st Baron Strathcarron, Chief Secretary for Ireland**

Born in 1880 in Inverness-shire, Ian Stewart Macpherson came from a well-established Scottish family with strong Highland roots. He was educated at King's College, Aberdeen, and later at the University of Edinburgh, where he studied law. Called to the Bar in 1906, Macpherson built a successful legal career in Scotland before turning to politics.

In 1911, he was elected as Liberal MP for Ross and Cromarty, one of the largest and most remote constituencies in Britain. Though relatively young and little-known at the time, Macpherson quickly gained a reputation as an able debater and a steady presence on the backbenches. He was particularly interested in Scottish affairs and land reform, often championing the interests of crofters and rural communities in Parliament.

His political career accelerated during the First World War. In 1916, he was appointed Under-Secretary for the Home Department, where he assisted with domestic security and wartime legislation. Two years later, in 1918, he was made Under-Secretary for Ireland during a period of intense political turmoil. With nationalist sentiment rising and the Easter Rising still casting a long shadow, Macpherson was thrust into one of the most challenging roles in the British government.

In early 1919, he was promoted to Chief Secretary for Ireland, effectively the British government's top representative in Dublin.



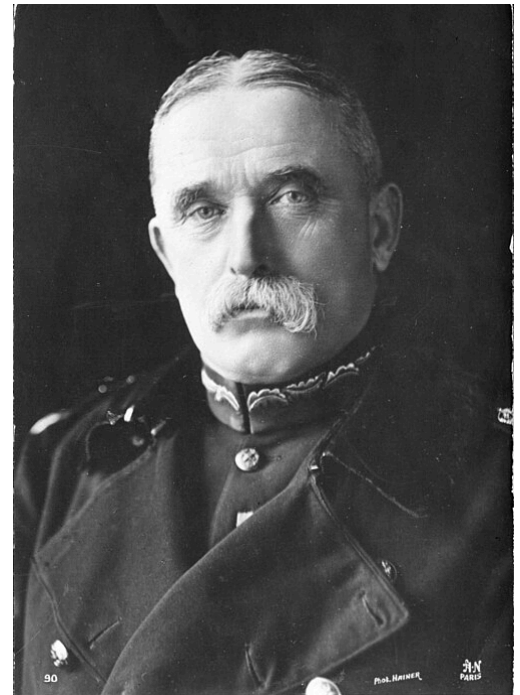
## **Field Marshal Lord John Denton Pinkstone French, Lord French, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland**

Born in 1852 in Kent, John Denton Pinkstone French came from a naval family and originally pursued a career in the Royal Navy before switching to the cavalry. Commissioned into the British Army in 1874, he steadily rose through the ranks, earning distinction in colonial conflicts, particularly during the Sudan campaign and the Second Boer War, where his leadership of cavalry units won him national recognition.

By the early 20th century, the French had become one of Britain's most senior military officers. He served as Chief of the Imperial General Staff before being appointed in 1914 as Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) at the outbreak of the Great War. He led British forces through the retreat from Mons, the Battle of the Marne, and the early stages of trench warfare in Flanders. Though praised for his bravery, his relationship with political and military leaders, including Lord Kitchener and General Haig, became strained.

As the war dragged on, criticism of French's leadership mounted, particularly after the failed offensives at Neuve Chapelle and Loos. In December 1915, he was replaced by Douglas Haig and given the largely ceremonial post of Commander of the Home Forces. Despite the demotion, French remained a respected figure in the public eye, seen as a symbol of British resolve in the early war years.

In 1916, he was elevated to the peerage as Viscount French and later made Earl of Ypres, in honour of his role in the early battles in Belgium. In 1918, amid rising tensions in Ireland, he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.



## **Sir Robert Stevenson Horne, 1st Viscount Horne of Slamannan, Minister of Labour**

Born in 1871 in Glasgow, Robert Stevenson Horne came from a respectable Scottish middle-class background. He was educated at George Watson's College and the University of Glasgow, where he excelled in both academics and public speaking. Initially pursuing a career in teaching, he became a lecturer in philosophy and then switched to law, being called to the Scottish Bar in 1896. Horne rose quickly in the legal profession, becoming a King's Counsel in 1910 and earning a reputation for sharp intellect and methodical precision.



Though not an early career politician, Horne entered public life during the Great War, when his administrative talents were quickly recognised. In 1916, he was appointed Director of Railways under the Board of Trade, helping to manage Britain's critical transport infrastructure during the height of the conflict. A year later, he became Director of Labour Supply, tasked with balancing the manpower demands of the military and domestic industries.

In 1918, Horne was elected as the Unionist (Conservative) MP for Glasgow Hillhead. Almost immediately, Prime Minister Lloyd George brought him into the government, appointing him Minister of Labour in January 1919.