

RECTORIAL CONTEST, EDINBURGH, 1908.NOTES FROM BOOKS

H. J. D. Jones.

(Script).

University of Edin.

34 Chalmers Street,

26th. October 1908.

Dear Sir,

We have fought and failed. The blow has been the heavier, because it was totally unexpected. That Winston Churchill might slip in by a very narrow majority over us was considered possible, but the general opinion, even among our opponents was that we would be found at the top of the poll with Churchill a good second. Wyndham a bad third.

Even the Unionist leaders did not expect a victory.

Under these circumstances the result is somewhat of an enigma.

There seems to be no doubt that in Medicine and in Science Wyndham was in a considerable minority. The two surprises were a Unionist majority in Arts (the first time on record) and the abnormally large liberal vote in the faculty of Medicine. But Law gave Wyndham 174 votes as against our 14, a factor which had been more or less left out of count by all parties, because Law men stand with few exceptions, entirely aloof from the University and seldom vote in these elections. The poll was from 10 to 12 a.m. and up to 11 a.m. the position was (1) Osler (2) Churchill (3) Wyndham. From 11 to 11.30 Churchill began a neck to neck race with us. Then the Wyndhamite Law voters arrived in motors, etc. from their offices and this turned the scale. About 80 or 90 of our men in Arts, wanting above all things to keep Churchill out, and seeing that Wyndham was forging ahead, transferred their vote to him. The election, in fact was only decided against us in the last quarter of an hour. One other thing militated strongly against us, almost the whole of final year medicine, 100 strong, were our supporters: they came up to the booths with their matriculation card and an extra mural class ticket. Although these classes are recognized by the University as equivalent to University classes, these men were refused the right to vote.

Needless to say we feel the disappointment very keenly, and feel it especially for you whom we invited to stand in full confidence.

As for the campaign itself I think there is no doubt we had the best of it all through.

P.T.O.

*Cf. Allen July 10.
" July 16 1891*

The Rector is elected by the Matriculated Students in the University on such day in October or November as may be fixed by the University Court after consultation with the Senatus, but not later than the second Saturday in November. The term of office is three years. The next election will take place in November 1908. The Rector is President of, and nominates an Assessor in, the University Court. He may, before he appoints his Assessor, confer with the Students' Representative Council. No Principal or Professor of any Scottish University is eligible. Appointments:-

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| Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, 1859 | Rt. Hon. George J. Goschen, 1890 |
| Thomas Carlyle, 1865 | Rt. Hon. J. P. B. Robertson, 1893. |
| Rt. Hon. Lord Moncreiff, 1868 | Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, 1896 |
| Sir W. Stirling Maxwell, Bt., 1871 | Most Hon. the Marquess of Dufferin and |
| Rt. Hon. the Marquess of Harrington, 1877. | Ava, 1899. |
| Rt. Hon. Earl of Rosebery, 1880. | Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Bannatyne Finlay, 1902 |
| Rt. Hon. Earl of Iddesleigh, 1883. | Rt. Hon. Richard Burdon Haldane, 1905 |
| Most Hon. the Marquess of Lothian, 1887. | |

Statistics of the Rectorial Elections, 1859-1905.

			Matriculated Students.
1859	Gladstone, 642. - Neaves, 527	.	1302
1862	Gladstone (unopposed)	.	1331
1865	Carlyle, 657. - Disraeli, 310	.	1288
1868	Moncreiff, 607. - Ruskin, 425	.	1398
1871	Maxwell, 594. - R. Palmer, 502	.	1533
1874	Derby, - 770. - Playfair, 583	.	1767
1877	Hartington, 932. - Cross, 684	.	2102
1880	Rosebery, 1024. - Christian, 985	.	2496
1883	Northcote - Blackie - Trevelyan	.	2660
1886	Iddesleigh, 1094. - Playfair, 747	.	2680
1887	Lothian (unopposed)	.	2493
1890	Goschen, 1378. - Russell, 805	.	3038
1893	Robertson, 1145. - Reay, 728	.	2649
1896	Balfour, 990. - Haldane, 771	.	2414
1899	Dufferin, 943. - Asquith, 686	.	2416
1902	Finlay, 916. - Grey, 621	.	2475
1905	Haldane, 877. - Dunedin, 847	.	2643

Dr. William Osler, candidate for the Lord Rectorship of Edinburgh University, was defeated at the election which took place on October 24, Mr. George Wyndham, M.P. receiving 826 votes to Dr. Osler's 614. Mr. Winston Churchill was also an unsuccessful candidate, receiving 727 votes. (Medical Record, Oct. 31, 1908)