

# **LIFE OF VISCOUNT RHONDDA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649150878

Life of Viscount Rhondda by J. Vyrnwy Morgan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**J. VYRNWY MORGAN**

**LIFE OF VISCOUNT  
RHONDDA**





VISCOUNT RIBBENTROP

*Amalthea*

LIFE  
OF  
VISCOUNT  
RHONDDA

BY

THE REV. J. VYRNWY MORGAN, D.D.

EDITOR AND PART AUTHOR OF

"THE CAMBRO-AMERICAN PULPIT," "WELSH RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN THE  
VICTORIAN ERA," "WELSH POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS  
IN THE VICTORIAN ERA," "THEOLOGY AT THE DAWN OF THE  
TWENTIETH CENTURY"

AUTHOR OF

"THE WELSH RELIGIOUS REVIVAL, 1901," "A STUDY IN NATIONALITY"  
"THE PHILOSOPHY OF WELSH HISTORY," "THE WAR AND WALES"  
"THE CHURCH IN WALES IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY"  
AND OTHER WORKS

LONDON: H. R. ALLENSON, LIMITED  
RACQUET COURT, 114 FLEET ST., E.C.4

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S TRIBUTE  
TO LORD RHONDDA

AT LEEDS, DECEMBER 7TH, 1918

"LET me say this of Lord Rhondda's rationing system: that it abolished queues. It so distributed food that there was no difference between the rich and the poor. The Germans themselves, in an official report we had two or three months before the war was over, called attention to the system in Britain, and pointed out how superior it was to their system. It was a system, let me say, for which Lord Rhondda gave his life. I am glad he saw the success of the efforts for which he had paid such a sacrifice, and that he received the gratitude that was his due before he passed away."

*All Rights Reserved*

PRINTED BY WILLIAM BRENDOFF AND SON, LTD.  
PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND

DEDICATED  
TO  
J. H. THOMAS, ESQ.  
LATE OF YSCUBORWEN  
AS A MARK OF ESTEEM AND FRIENDSHIP

2065900



## VISCOUNT RHONDDA AND THE MASONIC ORDER

### BRO. LORD RHONDDA, P.G.W.

V. W. BRO. LORD RHONDDA, P.G.W., was initiated in the Loyal Cambrian Lodge, No. 110, Merthyr Tydvil, in 1889, became its W.M. in 1895, and was appointed to the rank of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Province of South Wales (E.D.) in the same year. He was a founder of the Hendre Lodge, No. 3250, Cardiff, consecrated in 1908, and of the Cardiff Exchange Lodge, No. 3775, consecrated in 1917. In 1890 he became a joining member of the St. David's Lodge, No. 679, Aberdare. He was also a member of the Caer-daf Chapter of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, No. 118, Cardiff. In 1917 he was appointed Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England. Bro. Lord Rhondda was a Vice-Patron of the three Masonic Institutions, a subscriber of fifty guineas to the Freemasons' War Hospital and Masonic Nursing Home, and a Vice-President of the South Wales Eastern Division Home Charities.

He took a great interest in Masonic matters, and was as frequent a visitor to private Lodges as health and duties would permit. He was present at a meeting of the Gallery Lodge, No. 1928, in February of the present year, as the guest of his friend of many years standing, Bro. Sir Alfred Robbins, President of the Board of General Purposes, and Almoner of the Lodge.

## PREFACE

IT is now more than four years since the idea of writing a book on Viscount Rhondda occurred to me. After reading my work on *The War and Wales*, he wrote suggesting an interview, which took place the week before he accepted the Presidency of the Local Government Board. Into the object of that interview I need not enter here ; but I may say that I then expressed to him my intention of writing a book based on his early days and business life, and he acquiesced. That was at the time when he was a subject rather for blame than for praise ; before his name had become associated with fruitful legislative work, and before it was thought that he could have attained such a measure of greatness. The ashes of industrial controversy, in which he was so much concerned, were still hot. Like other noted men of the past, he seemed to be suffering through the very effectiveness of his own work and success as a business man.

My acquaintance with him, though not at any time of an intimate nature, extended over a quarter of a century. I knew him during his Parliamentary career, which, as the late Lord Robson once said, "was not a happy one." He then impressed me as a politician of striking unlikeness to other politicians ;

as a man of singular versatility, astuteness and disinterestedness, as well as a man of high moral rectitude who had been misunderstood and underrated.

Though the note of independence is not wanting in this work, the standpoint from which I have approached Viscount Rhondda is less that of a critic than of an admiring friend. While I have honestly endeavoured to strike the mean between importunate advocacy and excessive laudation, I must confess to a partiality for one whose remarkable abilities were so tardily recognized, and who suffered and endured political ostracism for so many years, with such dignity and quiet forbearance.

Unfortunately, there is not in England, or Scotland, or Ireland, a large circle of readers interested in Welsh literature, or Welsh worthies; this is a consideration that has always weighed with English Publishers, especially those of them who regard the whole matter from a purely pecuniary, or business point of view. True, Viscount Rhondda has the merit of appealing to a double audience—one a purely Welsh audience, another composed of a larger public beyond the border. At the same time it has to be said that while, in view of his work in America and Canada, and as President of the Local Government Board and Food Controller, the larger public cannot and should not be lost sight of, it is clear that Wales has the claim to the greater consideration, for in spite of his cosmopolitan experience, he was essentially a Welshman, though not of the narrow kind. His heart throbbed with the spirit of ardent nationality, and the story of his life as a whole has, therefore, a special significance for