

## **The rise and fall of David Lloyd George**

### **Prime Minister**

Lloyd George now joined hands with Andrew Bonar Law and forced Asquith to resign. The king invited Lloyd George to form a new coalition government. The Liberal Party was split down the middle and would never really recover. The Tories were now the majority in Lloyd George's coalition.

With no election this was a wartime parliamentary coup. The socialist Beatrice Webb wrote in her diary that it was 'brilliant improvisation - reactionary in composition and undemocratic in form'.

Lloyd George remade British government. A War Cabinet of just five men oversaw the fighting while outside this place (Parliament) British government power spread to undreamt of degrees.

The Edwardian age didn't really end in 1914. It ended with what was, in effect, the first parliamentary dictatorship since the days of Oliver Cromwell. The dictatorship of David Lloyd George.