

technical guidance in the preparation of this work but also valuable comments and criticisms of the initial draft of the text before Dr David Eastwood took the manuscript under his wing and saw it through publication. Finally there is the vast debt of gratitude I owe to my wife, Katie, who not only contributed patient support, enthusiasm and countless hours of transcription and word-processing, but also served as a constructive and ever watchful critic who frequently saved me from myself. In the end she knew the subject of this work as well as I did myself. This volume is dedicated to her as a token of my heartfelt appreciation.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In order to produce a manuscript of a publishable length, the Austen Chamberlain letters in this volume have been abridged to exclude much material of an interesting, but essentially non-political nature. Where sentences and paragraphs have been removed these are marked by the use of suspension dots. As far as possible, however, the letters themselves have been reproduced in their original form. Although Sir Austen Chamberlain adopted idiosyncratic and often inconsistent spellings for many surnames, particularly of foreign politicians, his abbreviations and original spellings have been retained throughout. Editorial insertions have been made in some places for the sake of clarity, but these are always in square brackets. Only the style of the dating has been standardised from the authors own many and varied forms in the interests of consistency and clarity. Chamberlain almost always closed his letters with 'Your affecte. brother, Austen Chamberlain' or 'Your loving brother, Austen Chamberlain'. These have been omitted to avoid repetition.