

THE FORCES BEHIND THE CRISIS

Why Manchester went Imperialist

By J. T. Walton Newbold

LLOYD GEORGE went to Manchester and there made a speech. He has been to Leeds, and there he made another one.

Austen Chamberlain has been to Birmingham and there he, also, made a speech.

At Manchester Lloyd George spoke of the fact that it was his native city, implied that this was the reason for his coming.

Chamberlain, not too sure of the loyalty of his party, went to the home town of Liberal Unionism to announce the decision at which he had arrived of standing by the side of Lloyd George, leader of the Coalition Liberals. He went back to the citadel of his Party and there, appealing to all the most hallowed memories of "Joey," made known where he stood.

There is something singularly fitting in the venue of these three speeches . . . Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. They are the original home-towns of that industrial and commercial capitalism which had as its political counter-part the Liberalism from which sprung not only the Liberalism of Asquith and of Lloyd George, but also the Liberal-Unionism of the Chamberlains.

There can be no gainsaying the fact that not only yesterday but even to-day the nerve-centres of British industrialism are in these three cities, together with Glasgow and Edinburgh. Even the great colliery, steel, engineering and shipbuilding industries (which, in this phase of prolonged depression, have become of relatively less economic influence than was the case a few years ago) drew their capital from and to-day are still, to an immense extent, dominated by the big industrialists of the cotton, woollen and metal-making towns.

Hence it is appropriate that Lloyd George and his satellite Chamberlain, should have chosen these places wherein to rally their following.

Let us make no mistake about it. The real issue in this political crisis is the continued existence of British Capitalism as an independent force.

This election will be the prelude either to an act of secret abdication to or of open war with—Wall Street, New York City.

Chamberlain and his followers of the Liberal-Unionist Party, although economic evolution has rallied them, as the older imperialists of industrialism, to the side of the conservatives, so that most people confuse the two forces and think of them as one, have not ceased to take an active and directing part in the conduct of wealth production.

The Conservatives—representatives of the passive elements in the modern property system, the landed interest, the holders of public funds, the sleeping partners in capitalist industry and trade—are obsessed with the fear of the World Revolution. They almost to the exclusion of any other idea desire, at the risk of losing their independence as Britons, to call to their aid the authoritarian power of the French and American bourgeois republics.

The Liberal-Unionists are determined to make a last stand for the sovereign independence of British capitalism and, if need be, to meet their rivals on the high seas and in the air, fighting to the last.

The Conservatives, divorced from the actual life of capitalism, immersed in the arts of government or the enjoyment of property, are so class-conscious as to be ready to sink their national pride and, trusting to their traditional cunning in the

£1,000 WANTED

Communist Party Election Fund

Comrades William Gallacher and J. T. Walton Newbold are about to take the field in Dundee and Motherwell respectively.

Gallacher's fight is against Winston Churchill. It symbolises in a remarkable way the struggle of the working class against the forces of plutocracy and reaction.

Gallacher is the very type of the workers' unrelenting struggle against capitalism. His whole life is a record of selfless endeavour, and hardship endured for his class.

And Churchill—who does not know him as at once the tool of capitalist Imperialism, and inspirer of its evil deeds?

Newbold has given years of his life, too, in the struggle to break the capitalist yoke.

Newbold and Gallacher are men who are worthy of the support of all workers.

They are the direct Parliamentary Candidates of the Communist Party in the coming General Election.

And so a threefold duty devolves upon all members of the Communist Party.

First: Every comrade must work to secure the support of all workers for the Party's candidates, showing them that these stand for the working class against the representatives of its oppressors.

Second: Every comrade must exert himself to the utmost to contribute towards the necessary funds for carrying on the fight in these constituencies.

Third: Every comrade must appeal to all sympathisers outside the Party to contribute also to the funds.

"Second" and "third" follow naturally from "first." But they occupy a first place in importance. We are determined that our comrades who enter the fight as Parliamentary candidates [And there may be others besides these two we have mentioned] shall not be hampered by lack of funds.

We want £1,000.

Times are hard, and demands are many.

But do not shrink. Give everything you can, and give quickly. Enlist all the sympathisers you can as subscribers to our Election Fund, and do this now.

Besides this, you can help by reporting as to the way in which public appeals can be most effectively made in your particular district.

We want the money quickly.

Send it now to

W. M. HOLMES,

16, King Street,

Covent Garden,

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And send your ideas too.

craft of Empire building, and the prestige of the British name, to dominate and direct the politics of their purse-proud but otherwise singularly inexperienced patrons, the money-lenders of the U.S.A.

The public works, railway, engineering and mining machinery magnates of Birmingham look to South and Central Africa, to Egypt and to India, for a continued outlet for the products of their works.

The woollen and worsted manufacturers of the West Riding have been terribly hit by the collapse of the mark and will ardently support anyone whose policy it is to open up a steady and augmented trade in cloth with the millions of Germany, Russia and the other colder countries of Europe.

The cotton piece goods salesmen of Manchester—Germans, Jews, Armenians, Greeks, and all manner of Levantines making a large proportion of these—want a firm hand and wise dealing with the new elements in Indian textile industry.

The spinners of fine counts, the makers of artificial silk (mostly mercerised cotton!), the manufacturers of that blend of rubber and cotton fabric, the motor tyre, who are so enormously influential in Manchester, stand four-square for the British domination of Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Soudan, East Africa, and everywhere else where, by the pouring out of money in building railways, reclaiming swamps and irrigating deserts, it may be possible to grow in greater abundance and more cheaply the long staple cotton which has in the last generation become so vitally necessary to Lancashire's industry.

A series of changes in the technique of textile production has had the result of making Manchester, formerly the home of the pro-French idea in British politics, the antagonist of the Liberals, of Lyons and the other textile centres of France. Thanks to the vast improvements latterly effected in

the mercerising of cotton and in the acetate process of making silk from the same raw material as paper, Lancashire has invaded the silk industry—the staple manufacture of France.

France, seeing artificial silk everywhere displacing natural silk (for all but the highest quality of fabrics,) and making immense strides in popularity in an impoverished world ever on the search for substitutes, is now seeking in the Near East and in Africa to obtain control of that indispensable fibre—long staple cotton.

She is demanding from Germany instead of money payments control over those forests from which the celluloid and wood pulping king, Stinnes, obtains his raw materials.

Thus, cotton, supposed erroneously to be pacific in its influence, becomes, thanks to chemistry and mechanical ingenuity in the means of producing fine textiles (plus the depredations of the boll-weevil), the standard bearer of predatory capitalism.

Of Manchester origin—and, therefore, mealy-mouthed—this new imperialism has gotten itself a new name and calls itself the "inundatory system." It is, however, only the old Chamberlain cult dressed up in a new disguise. It is just British Imperialism.

Now, coal export, steel manufacture, ship-building and marine engineering, having, together with the ocean carrying trade, ceased to provide British capitalism with the means of re-creating and augmenting its resources, cotton has assumed a very much greater importance in the national and imperial economy.

This being so, need we wonder that Lloyd George went to Manchester the mart of the Greek piece-goods merchants, to blow the bugle calling his countrymen to the last fight to keep "the old trade plying and the Old Flag flying?"

NOTICE.

Owing to the General Election, our Circulation Prize Competition is suspended. The winning essay on the Cotton Industry will be announced next week.