

COMMUNISM in the COMMONS

Walton Newbold's Maiden Speech Angers the Reactionary Majority

I REPRESENT in this House an area in which there are 13,000 men at the bureau. I represent an area which has been devastated by unemployment on a scale without parallel in its history. I am here as the representative of the working men and working women in my constituency, and of nobody else, for the purpose of bringing the grievances of the subject to the foot of the Throne, or whatever you like to call it.

We are not satisfied with the attitude the Government are taking up, but the Party to which I belong cannot but be almost grateful for the way the unemployed are being dealt with, because my Party do not believe you will ever enable us to carry our point constitutionally and legally.

We do not take the same point of view exactly as the hon. Member for Aberavon (Mr. Macdonald) or the right hon. Member for Derby (Mr. Thomas).

We have not got the same patience or the same confidence in it.

We believe that when the time comes we shall have to deal with your class as the hon. Member who once sat for Huntingdon dealt with your predecessors. There have been precedents in this country for revolution. There have been many precedents for revolution. There is no country in the world where there are as many precedents for civil war as this country, and, if you wish to challenge us again, then we shall be compelled to take up the challenge, and I say, with all the gravity I possibly can, that we do not desire to take up that challenge if we can help it.

We hope, just as much as our colleagues in the Labour Party, to be able to establish this system constitutionally and legally, but we do not think that you have given us much evidence during the course of the last week that you are going to deal with it in the spirit in which we might have expected that the gentlemen of England, the gentlemen of Scotland, and the gentlemen of Wales would have dealt with the poor men and poor women of this country.

We wish to know something much more satisfactory than that which you have given to us so far. We are not going to sit down with the scale laid down by the Ministry of Health in the last Parliament.

We are demanding the scale of the National Unemployed Workers' Committee. We are demanding 36/- per week for man and wife. We are demanding also an amount of rent up to 15s. per week, if necessary, and we are going to get it. If we do not get it inside this Chamber, we shall get it outside this Chamber. (Laughter.)

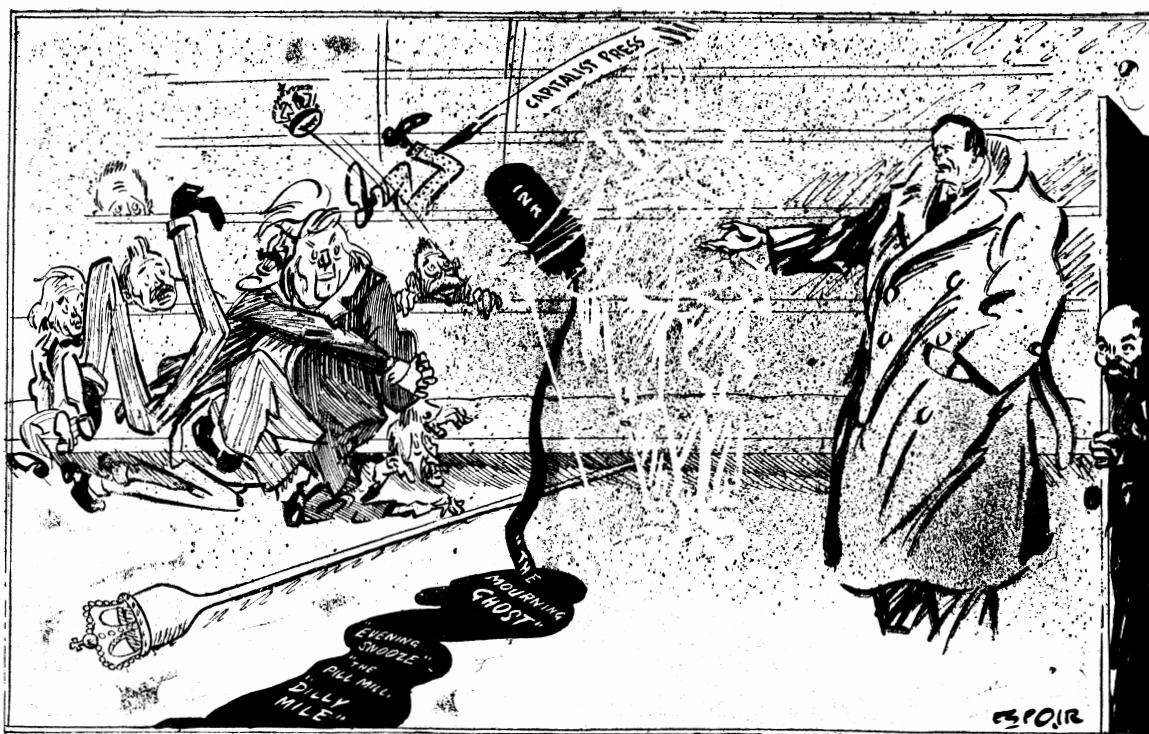
You may laugh to-day, gentlemen of England. You may laugh to-day, gentlemen of Scotland. You may laugh to-day, but we shall laugh best who laugh last.

I was very pleased to hear His Most Gracious Majesty the King. It is the first time I have had the pleasure of being in the High Court of Parliament. It is also the first time that an elected representative of the Communist International has had the chance of standing at the foot of the Throne. It will not be the last—not the last by a long chalk!

The Future of Our Paper

In pursuance of the arrangements for a new Party organ, outlined in last week's issue, the Executive Committee have called upon R. Falme Dutt, the Editor of the "Communist Daily," to undertake the editorship of the new organ on their behalf for the initial issues.

The first number will appear at the beginning of February. Further announcements will be made later.



"THE MEMBER FOR HUNTINGDON"

Nightmare experienced by a *Morning Post* reporter after the maiden speech of J. T. Walton Newbold. M.P.

I was glad to hear that the King was interested in unemployment. I was glad to know that his Ministers are interested in unemployment; but it would have been a lot better if they had spent a little less money upon that tomfool show of theirs—(Hon. Members: "Order, Order!")

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr. James Hope): If the hon. Gentleman is referring to that ceremonial at the opening of Parliament, his observations are not quite in order.

Mr. NEWBOLD: If they do not like it, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I withdraw: but I need, not, however, change my opinion as a Communist.

That spectacle is a challenge.

It is the challenge of Marie Antoinette: If they cannot get bread, why do they not eat cakes? If they cannot wear shawls, why cannot they wear diamonds and pearls? If they cannot get ordinary broadcloth, why cannot they dress themselves in ermine? Why cannot they dress themselves in purple and fine linen?

These Christian gentlemen! They that do these things are in king's houses. Yes, we have something to say about that.

We have to remember that this is the result of private enterprise for 160 years or more; of capitalistic private enterprise. This is what you have brought us to.

You have been lamenting to-day the condition of your currency. Your currencies are finished, Gentlemen. You know it.

You wish for tranquillity! Yes, you wish for tranquillity because Your Master's voice says "tranquillity." Your master's voice in Wall Street; your master's voice in the United States of America. Tranquillity!

We are told by the Prime Minister that you can get as much as merchants by putting these matters into the hands of somebody else as in the hands of your own countrymen. Of course you can; your class can. Your mercantile class can. Your banking class can. Not so the people who follow the lead of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Carnarvon (Mr. Lloyd George). Not so the members of the National Liberal Party. They are the great industrialists. Why are there so few of them in this Chamber? Why so few following the right hon. Gentleman the Member

for Paisley (Mr. Asquith)? Because there is no economic power there.

Why are you not going to withdraw from Mesopotamia? Let the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister ask his constituents whether he should withdraw from Mesopotamia. Let him ask his constituents—four-fifths of the shareholders of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. That is why he will not give an answer. That is why he is not going to do it.

There is not tranquillity, but the arrangement of a nice little deal with the Shell Oil Company and the Standard Oil Company. That is how you are going to do it, Gentlemen. We know your little game.

I heard the most Gracious Speech from the Throne, and the reference that was made in it to Austria. I could have prophesied that you would have mentioned Austria in that Speech. That was the voice of your master, the Bank of England. That was the voice of Baring Brothers. That was the voice of the Rothschilds. You have to have it this time, Gentlemen. That was the voice of Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.

His Master's Voice!

With what a delicate air you skirted around the subject of Russia. I am proud that I belong to the same army, and that I am rallied under the same flag as Nikolai Lenin, and—(An Hon. Member: "Why do you not go there?")—

Mr. LANSBURY: Why do not you oppose go to Russia?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think hon. Members ought to allow the hon. Member in possession to explain what he has to say.

Mr. NEWBOLD: I have been in a riotous House before.

I am glad, Gentlemen, that you are proving the contention of the Communist Party. You are proving that there is a class struggle. Go on doing it. That is what we want. These people near me do not want it. I want it. His master's voice! Then you come to the question of Russia. Do not forget that when you speak of Russia you are speaking of the oldest Government in Europe. Do not forget that the Russian Government is standing despite all that you have done, despite all that has been done by you and by your Allies, and by the so-called bankrupt neutrals or the mortgaged

neutrals, if they are not bankrupt. Do not forget that in the banner of Soviet Russia—(Interruption).

Yes, you have not got that banner down yet. It stands erect against the whole world, the whole capitalist world.

Sooner or later you have got to recognise the Soviet Government of Russia. The sooner you do it the better for you, because if you do not do it, there are firms—and I can name them—that are going into the Bankruptcy Court. Their workers are out on the streets.

You and I know how close you are to ruin. When that ruin comes; when there is no food because your export system is finished, what is going to happen to you? You will have to produce. You say you work to-day. Oh, yes, you work to-day, but you will have to work at useful work.

When you find that there are no exports and no wheat coming in, no exports going out, and no something else coming in, that is going to be very uncomfortable for you.

Of course, we shall use the rationing system, and those that then do the most useful work will get the most, and those that stand in the way will be sorry that they do stand in the way.

I want to know from the Prime Minister what is going to be his reply on the question of the back-rent. Hon. Gentlemen opposite perhaps do not know what back-rent means.

Mr. J. JONES: They do not know what rent means, anyhow.

Mr. NEWBOLD: I refer to back-rent, to that money which has been taken illegally—to money that has been taken by your class.

If you try by this assembly or any other to keep that which you have taken wrongfully, I shall be sorry for you.

You will then only the more inflame the people.

What has sent me to Parliament? What has doubled my vote in four years?—The discontent of the masses. Unemployment. Vile housing. The topic of back-rent.

It is not mere propaganda. It is not this or that propaganda.

Propaganda does not make revolution. Conditions make revolution. That is why you are so desperately afraid to-day. (Laughter.)

Oh, but you are. You will get it before very long.

We want houses. I want houses for my people.

Eighty per cent. of my constituents live in houses of not more than two rooms for each family. Great numbers of them live in not more than one room. I was accused at the election of a design to break up the family. I was accused then of all kinds of immoral opinions. I will tell you one thing.

We found during the election—and it was reported by the medical officer of health—that in one room there was a family living and a corpse was lying in one bed, while a man and two grown-up daughters were in the adjoining bed. That is not under Communism. That is under capitalism.

It is in the name of the men, women and children that live in Motherwell that I am here. I am here in the name of my people.

I am demanding justice. I am going to get justice. If not at this Table, then—we will get it.

Telegram

25/11/22.

To President Cosgrove.

Irish Free State Government,
Dublin.

Executive Committee Communist Party Great Britain strongly protests against wanton murder of Erskine Childers and other prisoners of war in Ireland.