

**CARTOONS FROM  
'THE COMMUNIST' 1921-22**  
with an introduction by Eric Hobsbawm

# COMMUNIST Cartoons



By  
**ESPOIR**  
& Others

James Klugmann Pictorials Ltd.



If you choose, you can.



# COMMUNIST Cartoons

CARTOONS FROM *THE COMMUNIST*

1921-22

BY ESPOIR AND OTHERS

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ERIC HOBSBAWM

JAMES KLUGMANN PICTORIALS LTD. LONDON

## **A Table of Contents has been added to this scan of Communist Cartoons**

The original reprint of Communist Cartoons had no table of contents.

At the end of this pdf file, find 10 added pages that provide a table of contents of this book of cartoons.

This "table of contents plus" includes some of the text from the captions of the cartoons, combined at times with some of the text from the added explanations of the cartoon provided in the 1982 reprint on page 52.

This somewhat roughly-constructed addition was created in 2025 by Marty Goodman of the Riazanov Library digital archive project.

Published by James Klugmann Pictorials Ltd., 16 St. John Street, London EC1M 4AL

This edition © James Klugmann Pictorials Ltd. 1982

First published 1922 by the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain

Second revised edition 1982

Printed in Great Britain at Farleigh Press Ltd., Watford

Cover Design by Lee Robinson

*British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data*

Communist cartoons—2nd rev. ed.

1. World politics—1919–1932
2. World politics—Caricatures and cartoons

909.82'2'0207 D727

ISBN 0 946114 00 5

## Introduction

The collection of cartoons reprinted here is a reminder both of a moment in British history and of a particular episode in the history of the Communist press. Most of them appeared in 1921 in *The Communist*, the official weekly organ of the Young Communist Party. Its first issue was published on August 5 1920 and it continued for 131 issues until February 3 1923, when it was replaced by the *Worker's Weekly*. Its publication was uninterrupted, but not so its editorship. At the beginning of 1921 the first editor, Fred Willis, gave way to Francis Meynell, who edited it with the help of R. W. Postgate, who in turn took over from him after about six months. The cartoons essentially belong to the Meynell-Postgate period in the brief history of *The Communist*. During these months—and largely because of the force of these cartoons, the circulation of the journal rose from about 8,000 to 50,000, and even at one moment to 60,000, in spite of systematic boycott by the major newspaper wholesalers. The cartoons also brought about the end of this period in *The Communist's* life, and the resignation of Meynell. For the railwaymen's leader J. H. Thomas, then as later a pillar of the right wing, was outraged by various references to him, and notably, on the occasion of 'Black Friday' a cartoon of Jesus Christ's Last Supper, which cast him in the role of Judas. He sued for libel (supported by his lawyer Douglas Hogg, the father of the present Lord Hailsham). British judges, never at the best of times too keen on revolutionaries, were even less inclined to give them the benefit of the doubt at a time of a major miners' lockout, and the result was obvious. The fine of £2,000 was, for the time, enormous. As the *Daily Telegraph* put it (some things have not changed since 1921):

“This libel action will teach them (the Communists) that there are limits to the toleration of public men.”

The printers were suitably intimidated and refused to print the journal.

As the names of the editors suggest, they were by no means the typical Communists of the period, and indeed did not remain Communists for long. R. W. Postgate, brother-in-law of G. D. H. Cole, is described in the *Dictionary of Labour Biography* as 'journalist, author and gastronomic expert', for in his later years he became best known as the founder of the *Good Food Guide*. However, his contributions to labour history, which remained one of his interests, are of more permanent significance. He made important contributions to it at the time (e.g. the notable *The Builders' History*) and later, alone or in collaboration with G. D. H. Cole (*The Common People*). Postgate came to *The Communist* from the then militant *Daily Herald* and so did Francis Meynell, a handsome young man from a literary branch of the British Establishment, slightly bohemian, and with a rather densely packed marital life. He was already an enthusiastic and gifted typographical expert, and is now best known for his notable achievements as a printer and publisher of fine books, as Sir Francis and the husband of the formidable Dame Alix Kilroy who, as a very senior civil servant, made life difficult for Richard Crossman (or so he claimed) when he was a Minister in the Wilson era of the 1960s.

At this time Meynell was also a passionate and adventurous champion of the Russian Revolution, and active on the *Herald* which he had to leave because he took the view that it was as logical for a revolutionary Soviet government to offer financial help to a hard-pressed journal of the Left, as for the journal to accept this Russian gold, or rather jewels: £75,000's worth. At this time Arthur McManus, chairman of the C.P. had asked him to redesign *The Communist*. It was but one step to take over its editorship.

In short, both Meynell and Postgate belonged to that group of young middle class intellectuals, radicalised by the labour unrest before 1914 and even more by the fight against World War I, and inspired by the Russian Revolution, who were attracted by Bolshevism and the young Communist Party. Most of them, unlike the intellectuals radicalised in the 1930s, did not stay in it long. At the time these young intellectuals were perhaps short of what later Communist Party generations would regard as orthodoxy, and probably short on Marxist theory, but more than well supplied with militancy, and a faith in the workers and the

Russian Revolution, not to mention high spirits. As Meynell himself admits, they ran *The Communist* to please readers like themselves: it did not always live up to the severe standards of what the Party leadership expected from its official organ. But if the text of the journal was not always within reach of the toiling masses, the cartoons were, and they sometimes filled up to six of its eight pages. This was chiefly thanks to Will Hope, who disguised his name, on Meynell's suggestion, by translating it into French as G. Espoir, in order not to jeopardize his employment in Fleet Street.

The history of the modern British political newspaper cartoon has still to be written. When it is, the role of the men from Australasia will be seen to be crucial, coming, as they did, from a country with a democratic press, selling to a mass working class public, and lacking a sufficiently large middle class to support its own cartoon journals (like *Punch*), or the respect of an upper-class political elite in Parliament, which made the general run of late Victorian and Edwardian political cartoons so boring or relatively gentle: good clean fun rather than satire. For technical reasons, newspaper cartoons had to be simplified, preferably with sharp contrasts. In order to reach a broad public which did not belong to an in-group, cartoonists had to evolve an immediately recognisable cast of characters, institutions, issues and ideas, all expressed in shorthand symbols: ideally, as Meynell's review of *Communist Cartoons* put it "subtle judgements simplified into masterly pen-marks". This type of cartooning developed in Australia before it did in Britain, and the radicalism of Australian politics encouraged it.

The most celebrated of the immigrant image-makers from the Pacific were to be Will Dyson, the star of the *Daily Herald* from before the first world war, and David Low, who came to Fleet Street from New Zealand via an Australian newspaper career. They were and are by no means the only ones. As recently as 1970 eight out of forty-five Fleet Street cartoonists had been born or lived in Australia or New Zealand. The phenomenon was so familiar that, when Meynell was told to find a sporting cartoonist for the back page of the revived *Daily Herald* after the war, he notes that "of course he turned out to be an Australian." In fact, he was Will Hope, or Espoir. Meynell, with his excellent eye for art and design, admired him intensely. He predicted that "Espoir's name will live in the records of politics, and in the records of art." That prediction has not been verified. Espoir was forced to migrate across the Atlantic, where he maintained his old convictions as a letter from him to William Gallacher in 1963 showed. Possibly someone will study his work at greater length. In the meantime *Communist Cartoons* has been forgotten. Perhaps this reprint will give him his delayed and deserved recognition.

The year of British history recalled by these cartoons was harsh and dramatic. Lloyd George presided over his coalition government of Tories and Liberals. The war against the Irish liberation movement was at its height, and the British government was just about to recognise that, in spite of the brutality of its Black-and-Tans, it would have to negotiate with the rebels. In India, Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Party were in the middle of the campaign for independence. The sub-continent was in turmoil. In Russia, where the Soviet regime had survived the years of civil war and foreign intervention successfully, millions were starving to death in the great famine of 1921. In Britain the post-war boom, already undermined, collapsed into slump.

Unemployment shot up from just under 6% in December 1920 to just under 18% at the end of June 1921. The National Unemployed Workers' Movement, led by Wal Hannington, was founded in that year, and progressive Boards of Guardians, bearing the entire burden of poor relief which they refused to skimp on, entered on a policy of confrontation ('Poplarism') which was briefly to send George Lansbury and 29 other Poplar Councillors to jail in the autumn of 1921. The labour movement, advancing since 1918, was halted: it was government and employers who were now on the offensive.

The crucial engagement in this battle was fought and lost during the period with which this book deals. The government decided to decontrol the mines, shortly before the wages agreement between miners and coal-owners ran out, and the owners imposed unilateral and savage wage reductions. The miners struck, or were locked out (depending on which way one

looked at the dispute) on April 1. The Triple Alliance of Miners, Transport Workers and Railwaymen met on April 8 and called for a transport and rail strike in solidarity from April 12—in fact for the makings of a general strike. The government, which had already declared a state of ‘emergency’ on March 31, mobilised troops, and re-opened negotiations which postponed the strike, but immediately broke down. The strike was on again for midnight on April 15. The government called up all classes of reservists, turned the royal parks into armed camps and depots, and recruited 75,000 volunteers in ten days for a special ‘Defence Force’: in short, it prepared for civil war.

At this point—in fact on ‘Black Friday’, April 15—the strike was cancelled, and with it, as the historian E. L. Mowatt has put it “the whole structure of united working class resistance to an expected attack on wages and living standards was demolished at a blow.” No wonder ‘Black Friday’ was to be remembered in the movement as the day of the great betrayal. The two men most directly blamed for this betrayal were the Miners’ secretary, Frank Hodges (who was to leave the Miners’ Federation in 1924 to become a director of an investment company) and the NUR secretary J. H. (‘Jimmy’) Thomas (later a Labour minister who eventually joined the National Government in 1931 and resigned after leaking budget secrets). Others involved in and blamed for Black Friday were Robert Williams and Ernest Bevin of the Transport Workers, who also figure in these cartoons. As the last-but-one page of the collection stated “for obvious reasons” the cartoons savaging J. H. Thomas for his part in Black Friday, and which led to his libel suit, were not reprinted. They are, however, included in this edition.

This brief background sketch should help readers to situate the cartoons in this book. With the additional help of the captions and the editorial explanatory notes, few of them should cause much difficulty, even for those to whom the faces of the actors in these tragedies or black comedies are no longer familiar. For those to whom they are, even some of the unnamed figures are easily recognizable in several of them: Sidney Webb, Philip Snowden, Arthur Henderson. The king is George

V (1910-1935), the Prince of Wales, the future and shortlived king Edward VIII who abdicated his throne in 1936 for Mrs Simpson. Both are brilliantly and accurately caricatured. It may be worth recalling that the popularity of the playboy Prince was at its height at this time, and was being systematically used by the public relations experts of the Empire (which he toured systematically in 1919-1922), and for purposes of home politics. However, many of the cartoons require no knowledge of Britain and the world in 1921. And some of their themes are by no means obsolete: Justice and Injustice, famine and pestilence, oppression, brutality, the peculiarities of British judges and courts-of-law, the Special Branch, Ireland, royalty, and, not least, Lenin.

And if, as in *Espoir’s* series of cartoons, Jesus Christ was to come again in 1982 rather than in 1921, the details of his imagined reception would certainly be very different. But would he find himself more at ease in Mrs Thatcher’s Britain than in Lloyd George’s?

**Eric Hobsbawm**

In his letter to William Gallacher from Canada, dated April 1963, Will Hope wrote:

“Well, it was very hard for me to leave Fleet Street, but there was no alternative. When Hamilton Fyfe fired me from the Herald, I applied to the London Society of Compositors for reinstatement but the acting secretary at the time said he couldn’t do it. So I had to beat it to a foreign country to regain my union card. I was hoping to return, but when Thomson invaded Fleet Street the apple cart was upset.

“I see Low has been knighted and I gave him a bit of a ribbing which he didn’t seem to like. The *Worker* cartoonist is clever. Their is no field for me in Canada as there is no Labor daily. I could have been on the old Mail, the Montreal star, and Globe and Mail, but my politics didn’t appeal to them. Union busting, imported from the US, is the big weapon now. However, I have lost my touch.”

This review of Communist Cartoons appeared in *The Communist* of May 20, 1922.

Francis Meynell was a well-known writer, book-designer and typographer who had been a director of the Daily Herald from 1918-20, and then became editor of *The Communist* for the first six months of 1921. He soon left the Communist Party, founded the Nonesuch Press in 1923, and was knighted in 1946.

*Communist Cartoons* is the liveliest, and most dramatic, most realistic, most suggestive—the funniest, grimmest, most provoking, most satisfying and the most telling piece of pictorial propaganda I have ever seen. Excuse the welter of contradictory adjectives! You’ll find excuse quite easy, and you’ll enlarge the dictionary when you study this collection. I don’t think that any movement in any country has put out such a book—a triumphant book. Its triumph is that of a remarkable unity—the clean, clear outlook with consummate draughtsmanship, subtle judgements simplified into these masterly pen-marks.

“Espoir” makes the book, for there are about sixty of his pictures (among them two magnificent double-pagers) against less than a dozen contributed by three other clever artists. He makes the book. I think he made a lot of things besides. Not money, to be sure! But he made “a sensation” undoubtedly. He made a host of admirers. He helped to make a libel action—and I think he made himself, or at least found himself, as an artist.

When the *Daily Herald* was preparing for its first issue after the war I was told to find a sporting cartoonist for its back page. In the welter of stuff that was submitted I came suddenly on a little pile of samples of a very different quality. “Here’s a man,” I said, “who can *draw*. He’s got pen-control (even that’s a rare thing!) and his line is like a line of downs—mighty movement stilled.” Of course, he turned out to be an Australian, but at that stage he hadn’t the faithful sense of likenesses nor the intellectual adroitness of the great Australian school. He had, however, a swift but sure beauty of touch which Dyson, for instance, has never in my opinion equalled.

As a sporting cartoonist “Espoir” was only a three-quarter success. Enough, though, to get one of the great capitalist dailies so persistently after him that he left the *D. H.* I was sorry enough

at the time; but I am glad now. “Espoir” made (I believe) something of a mess of that job, or his new masters made a mess of him. The result was that when I came to *The Communist* “Espoir” was longing to use a pen which had been still for some months—and willing to turn it to quite new uses.

“Espoir,” the great political cartoonist, came into existence.

My admiration for his work is so intense and so general that I find it almost impossible to choose from among the sixty pictures (they are that as well as cartoons); and I really can’t set down my rhapsodies about the lot. But the Prince of Wales!—that smile, that tie, that row of war ribands extended a foot beyond his chest! And his august father, in many different aspects. And the Cripple Alliance; and Mond; and “Jimmy.” . . . Then the sense of architecture that the man gets into his picture—that marvellous vast empty amphitheatre, with its suggestion of mosaics, in which are absorbed up the four little politicians; the sort of tunnel in one of the small pictures of the Japanese Crown Prince series; and the prison interiors in two of the grim Irish cartoons—these indeed are masterly.

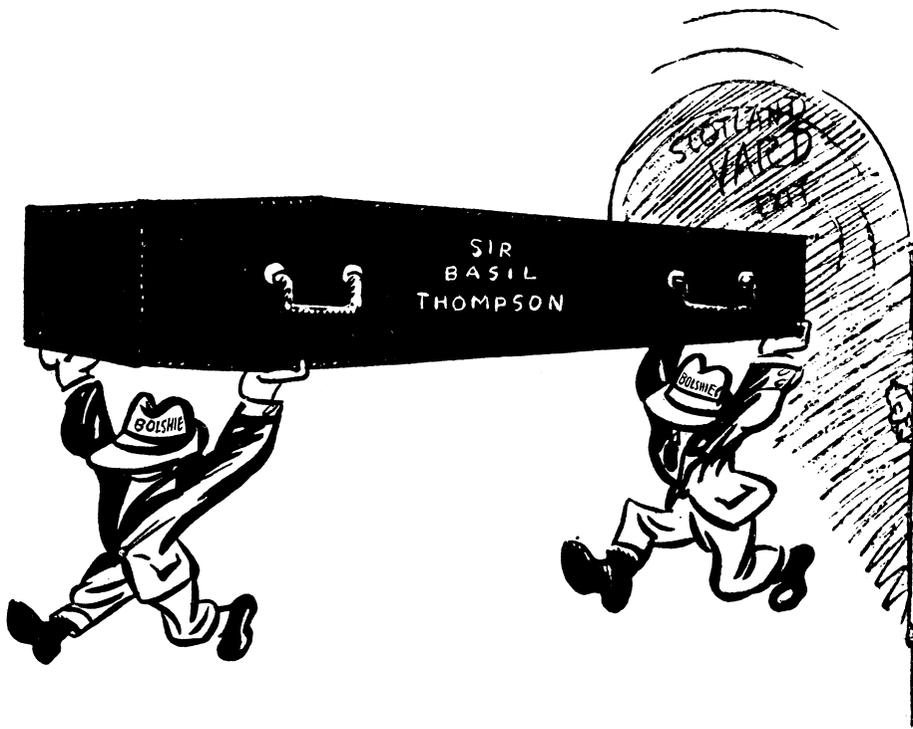
“Espoir’s” cartoons infuriated the *Morning Post* week by week as they appeared, and delighted scores of thousands of *Communist* readers. Let me assure both these sections that the accumulated passion, the political sense and fearlessness of which this book—printed in a sort of hand press style very apt to these drawings—is the vehicle will afford a new series of enhanced sensations. The cartoons seems better than ever, truer than ever, and—most markedly and strangely—newer than ever.

“Espoir’s” name will live in the records of politics, and in the records of art. If this book gets into the hands of book speculators it will be selling, in five years time, at a fancy price as a first edition.



J. H. THOMAS : " I claim the right to lay the first wreath—*I killed him !*"

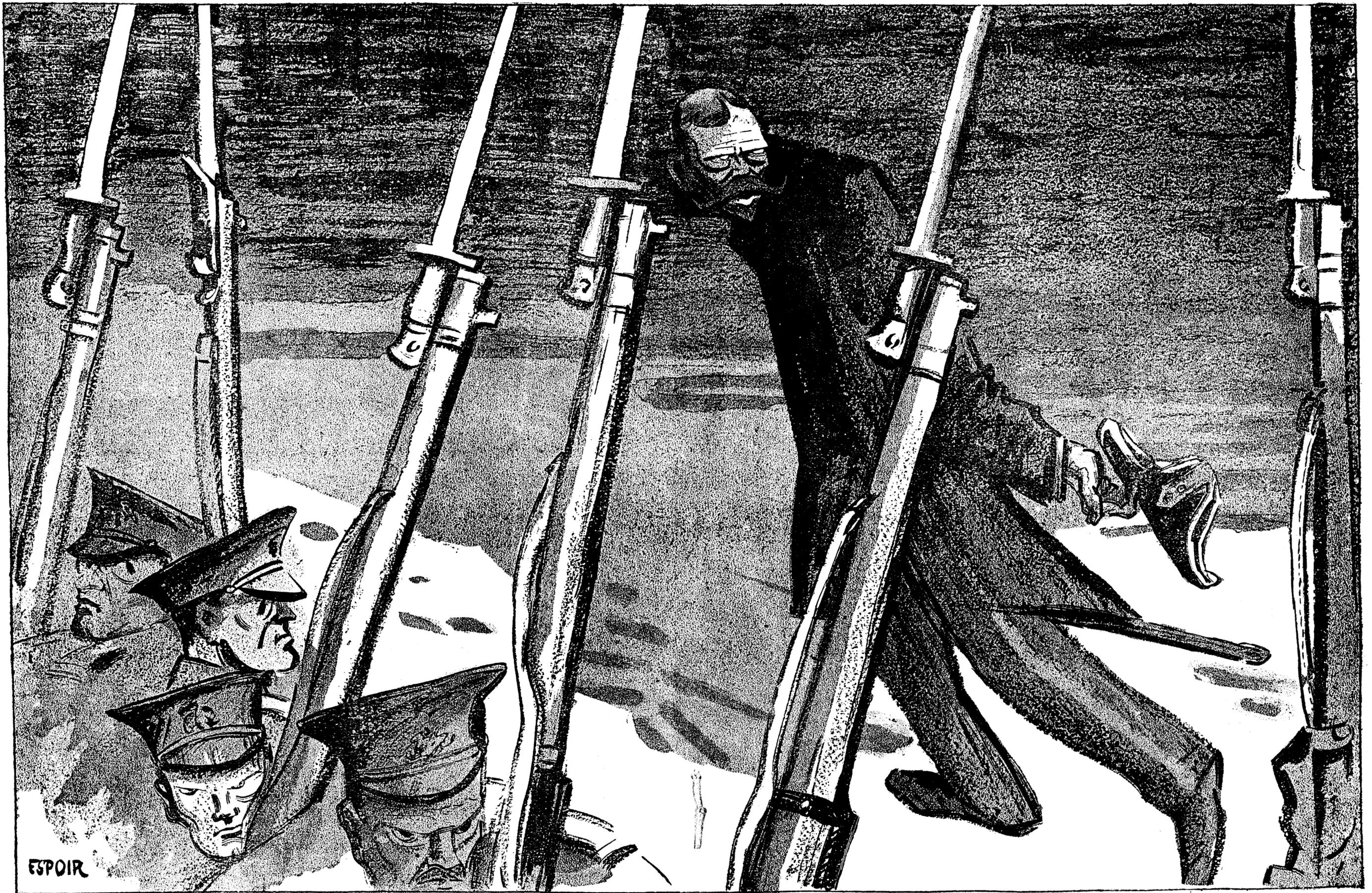
Dedicated to the late  
Sir BASIL THOMSON



ESPCAR



HERE'S A HEALTH!



## THE SYMBOLS OF EMPIRE

"The city literally teemed with military and armed policemen.  
"Thick timbered barricades sunk in stone sets lined the whole of the route, and none save the troops was allowed in front of these. Sentries were everywhere.  
"Overnight every window, every trap-door, overlooking the route of the procession had to be closed, and kept closed till this morning. Only by the holding of a special police pass could anyone watch the proceedings from a roof. Down in the harbour not a single craft was

allowed to move to-day for over eight hours.  
"A large force of troops carried out a full rehearsal of the programme.  
"Incomers to the city are under careful watch."  
(The *Daily Herald* describing George V's visit to Loyal Ulster, June, 1921).



**"THE KING GIVES UP £5,000 A YEAR"**

In August an Act of Parliament enabled the King to realise £100,000 of "his" capital. This was actually called by the press: "The King gives up £5,000 a year." The King's income is £470,000 a year.



**LLOYD GEORGE** (to Messrs. BRIAND, WILSON, ISHII and FAMINE): "A last word before we break up: Gentlemen, I rely upon every one of you!"

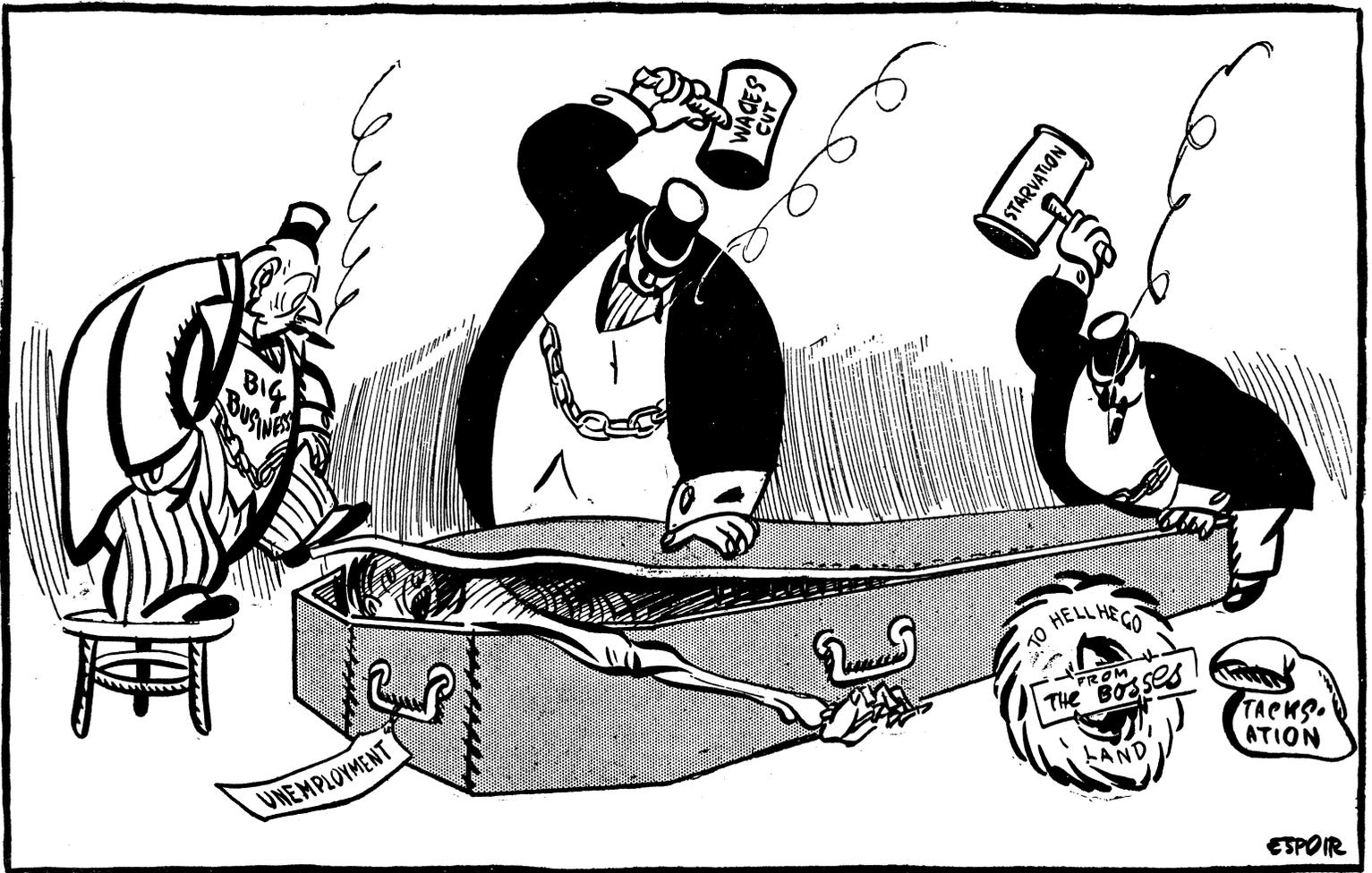


**GEORGE AND THE DRAGONS**

Lord Northcliffe (shouting): This is what you said about Ireland.  
George the Fifth: Yes, yes!  
Lloyd George (shouting louder): No, Sir! *This* is what you said.

George the Fifth: Yes, yes! Yes, yes.  
Mary the Four-fifths: Nonsense! Say what you did say. Assert yourself!  
George the Fifth: Yes, yes, my dear! Yes, yes.

[Lord Northcliffe stated in America that the Irish truce was due to the personal intervention of King George. Lloyd George denied this, and a wordy controversy ensued.]



HOMES FOR HEROES

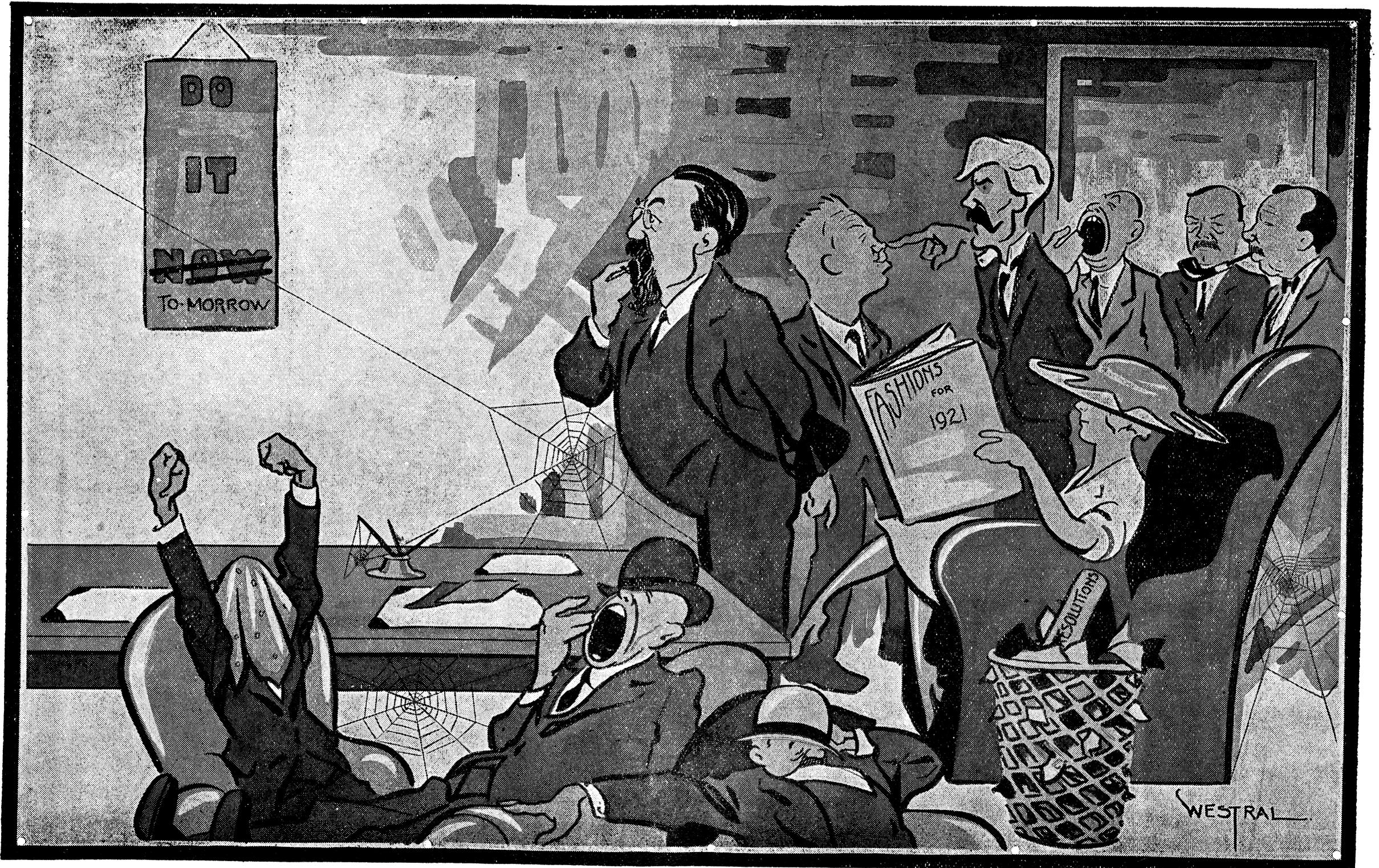


"Sir Alfred Mond, speaking of unemployment said: 'I am neither discouraged nor pessimistic'" —Daily Papers, Oct. 1921



**CABINET CONFERENCE ON THE UNEMPLOYED**

**AUSTEN:** "She's missed again . . . I quite agree, Sir Alfred, 30s. a week is far too much for the unemployed."  
**Sir ALFRED MOND:** "So. Ve have der monish not got!"



"Shall we do something, or is this a Council of Action?"



His Royal Highness the **PRINCE OF WALES** welcomes His Extreme Highness the **JAPANESE CROWN PRINCE** like anything. (*May 1921*)

The J.C.P. has come to England to arrange for the renewal of the Anglo-Jap. Alliance, and doubtless to place his knowledge of Japanese methods of repression in Corea at the disposal of the British.



**OUR SMILING PRINCE:** It is a particular honour to welcome a Prince of the country which has had the courage to eliminate the twin horrors of Socialism and Trade Unionism. Let me assure your Extremity that we are one with you in principle and desire.



**The J. C. B.:** A rebel?

**The P. O. W.:** Not exactly—*A SELECTED PERSON*

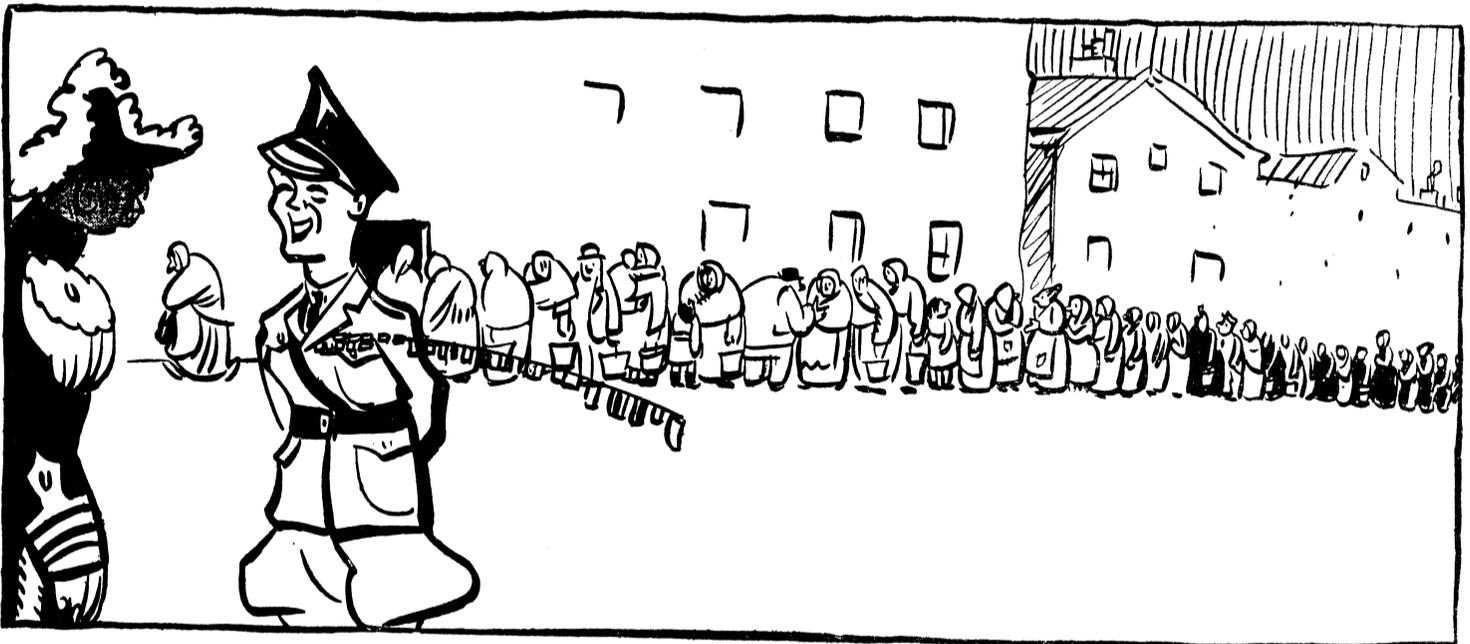
("For any outrages in future reprisals will be taken against selected persons known to have rebel sympathy, although their implication has not been proved."—*Crown notice in Kerry.*)



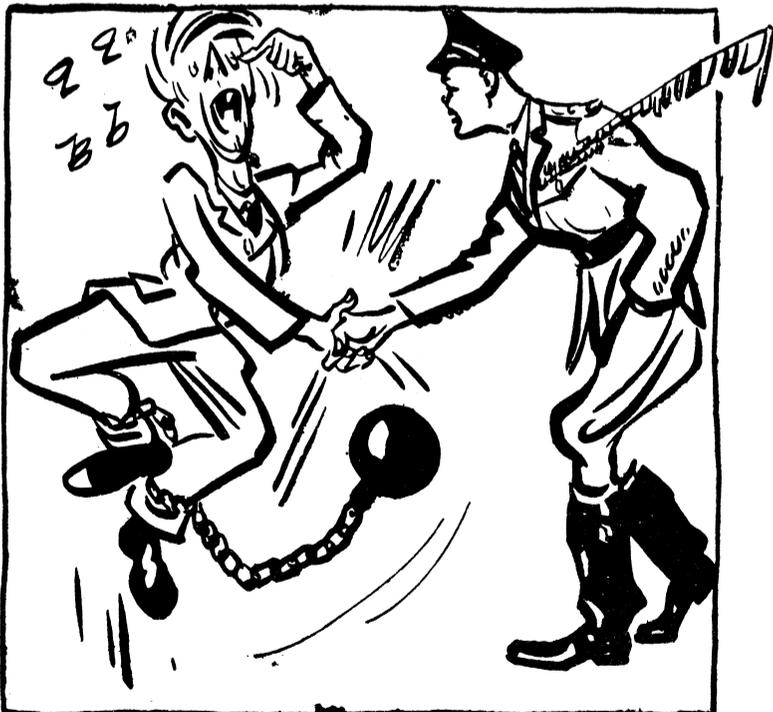
The J.C.P.: In Corea We were compelled to burn down some hundreds of villiages . . . But then we had some right in the matter—We had guaranteed her independence.  
 The P.O.W.: An excellent notion! We will pass it on to Sir Hamar.



The J.C.P.: A dog of a Christian, We presume?  
 [The population of Corea includes many Christians, and the Japanese persecution is inspired by religious as well as political hatred.]



The P.O.W.: This crowd to welcome you is provided by the loyal coal owners, who have arranged a lock-out in Your honour.



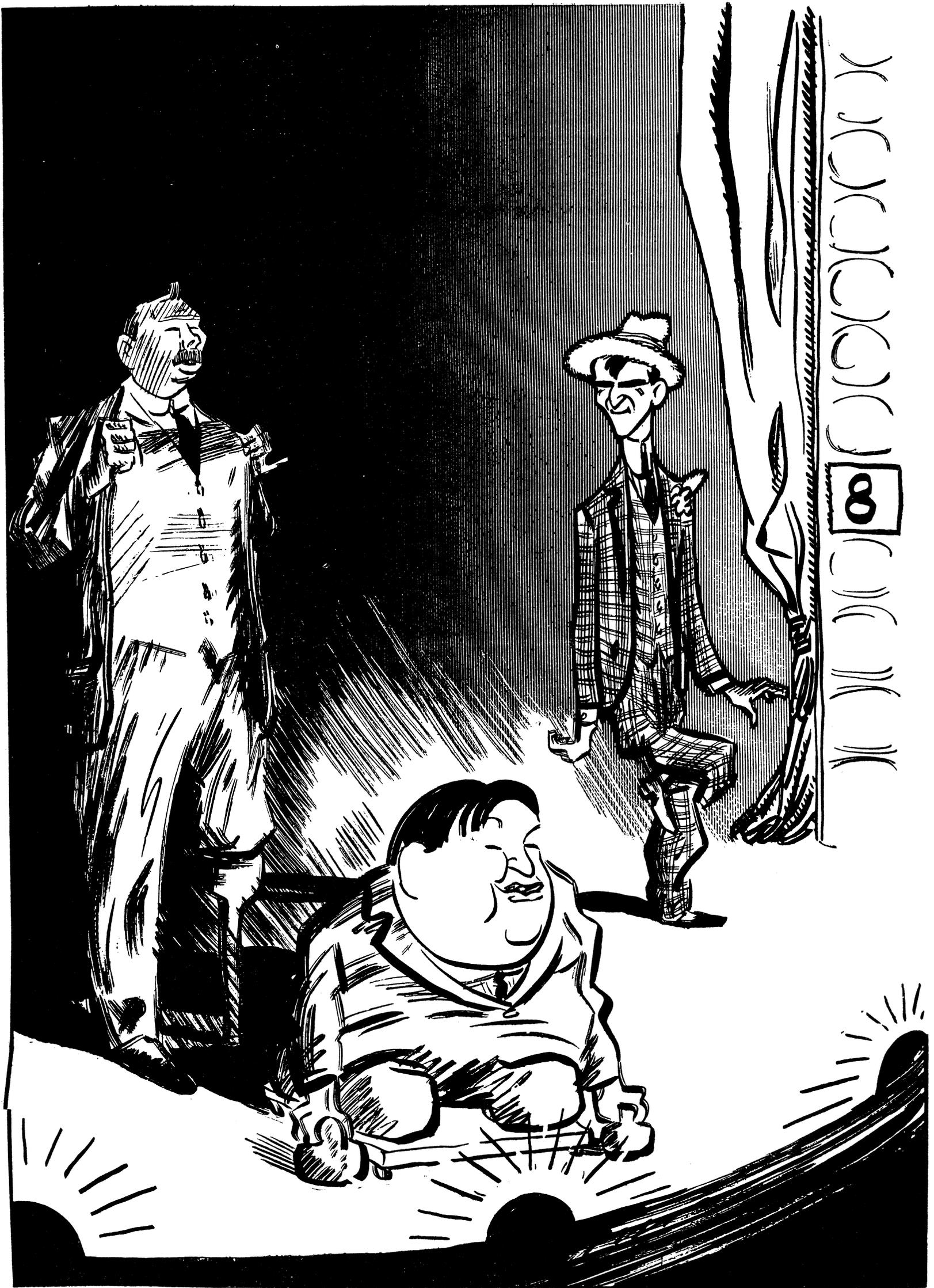
The P.O.W. Watch us shake hands with this lunatic. The press wil' report that We cured him with the 'Royal Touch.'  
 ["A lunatic at — who was permitted to shake hands with the Prince reported that he felt much better afterwards."]



The J.C.P.: In Corea also Our prisoners commit suicide in their cells . . .

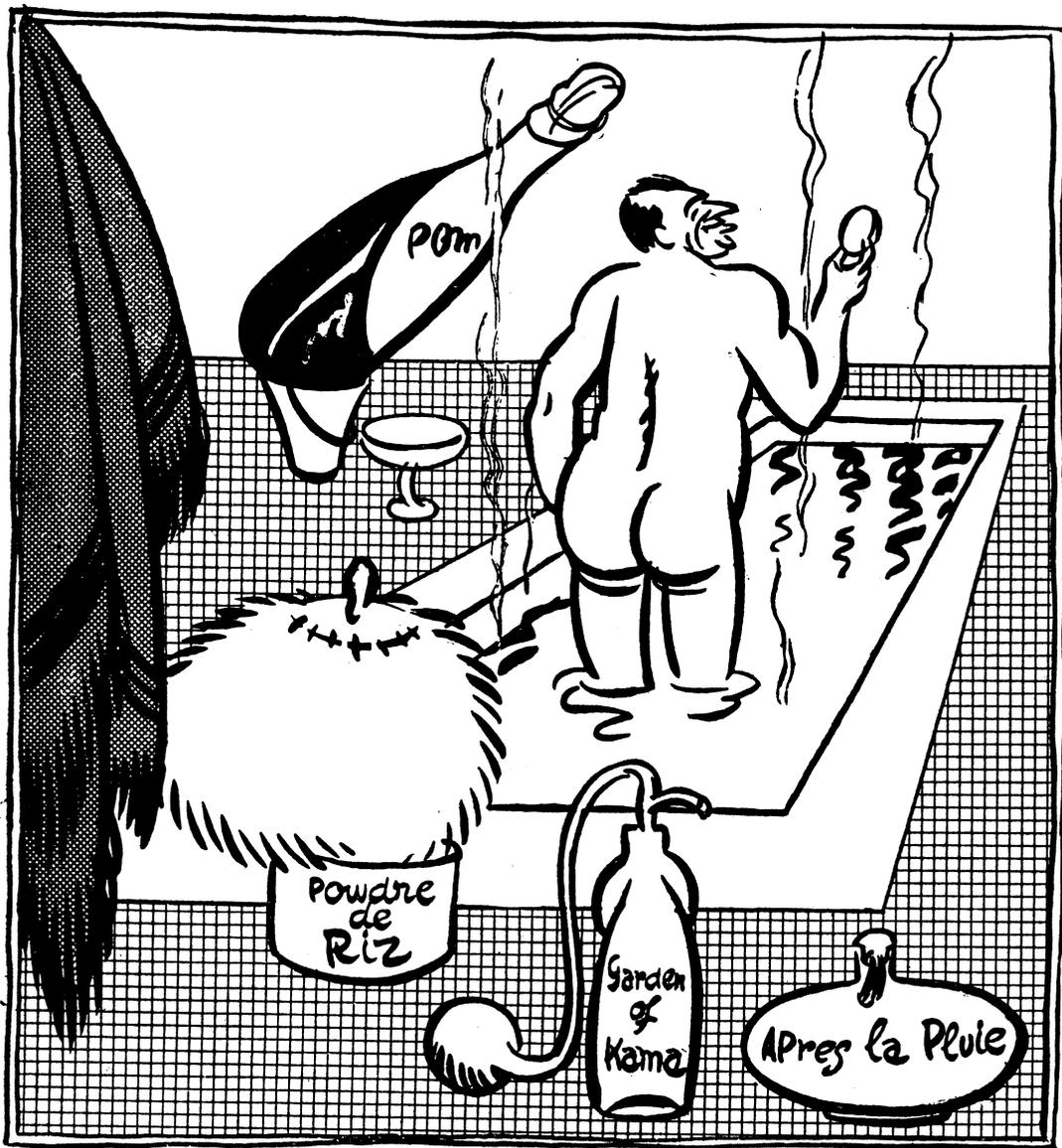


The Japanese Crown Prince: " True, we've made Korea no paradise—but these people murdered 400 unarmed natives at Amritsar, 850 in Egypt, and in Ireland——" (*His Extreme Highness is extremely sick.*)



**THE CRIPPLE ALLIANCE**

Since Black Friday Messrs. Thomas, Bevin and Hodges play nightly to enthusiastic audiences of coal-owners



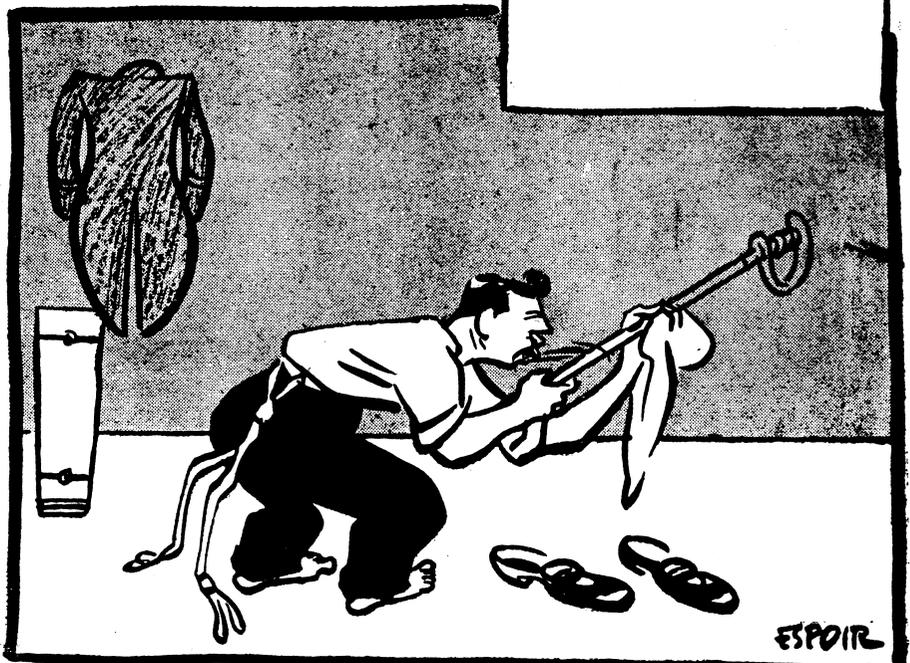
Mr. Robert Williams: "When I have washed myself, I shall address the delegates upon unemployment. I shall declare myself in a most revolutionary manner."



The Hackney Mare: "Go to gaol for the unemployed? No, not quite. But I will see the Premier—I insist on seeing him."



The Right Hon. C. W. Bowerman (at the Havana Cigar Importers' dinner): "And I think, Gentlemen, we ought also to express our sympathy for the unemployed, I do really."



The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, P.C. &c.: "As far as I am myself concerned personally as regards the unemployed, I will, under the abnormal circumstances, if I can only get my Court sword clean, go and see the King about it."

St. Frank Hodges: (to the Neath unemployed) "I say to you—and I know from whence my inspiration comes—There is no way out of this unemployment but to produce more."





The Rt. Hon. J. H. THOMAS, M.P., P.C., D.C.L. (honoris causa) writes another book

From "When Labour Rules" J. H. THOMAS. 10/-

"One of the most important movements towards the creation of a better state of affairs in Industrial England was the formation of a Royal Commission on Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, and as another evidence of the progress of the Labour Movement, it may be recalled that Labour was well represented on the Commission."

"There can be no question among thoughtful people that the Monarchy plays a large part in holding the British Empire together."

"If any evidence of this were required, it could be found in the unique position occupied by the heir to the Throne—the Prince of Wales—during his tour of the Empire. It would be true to say that there has been no factor which has contributed more to the

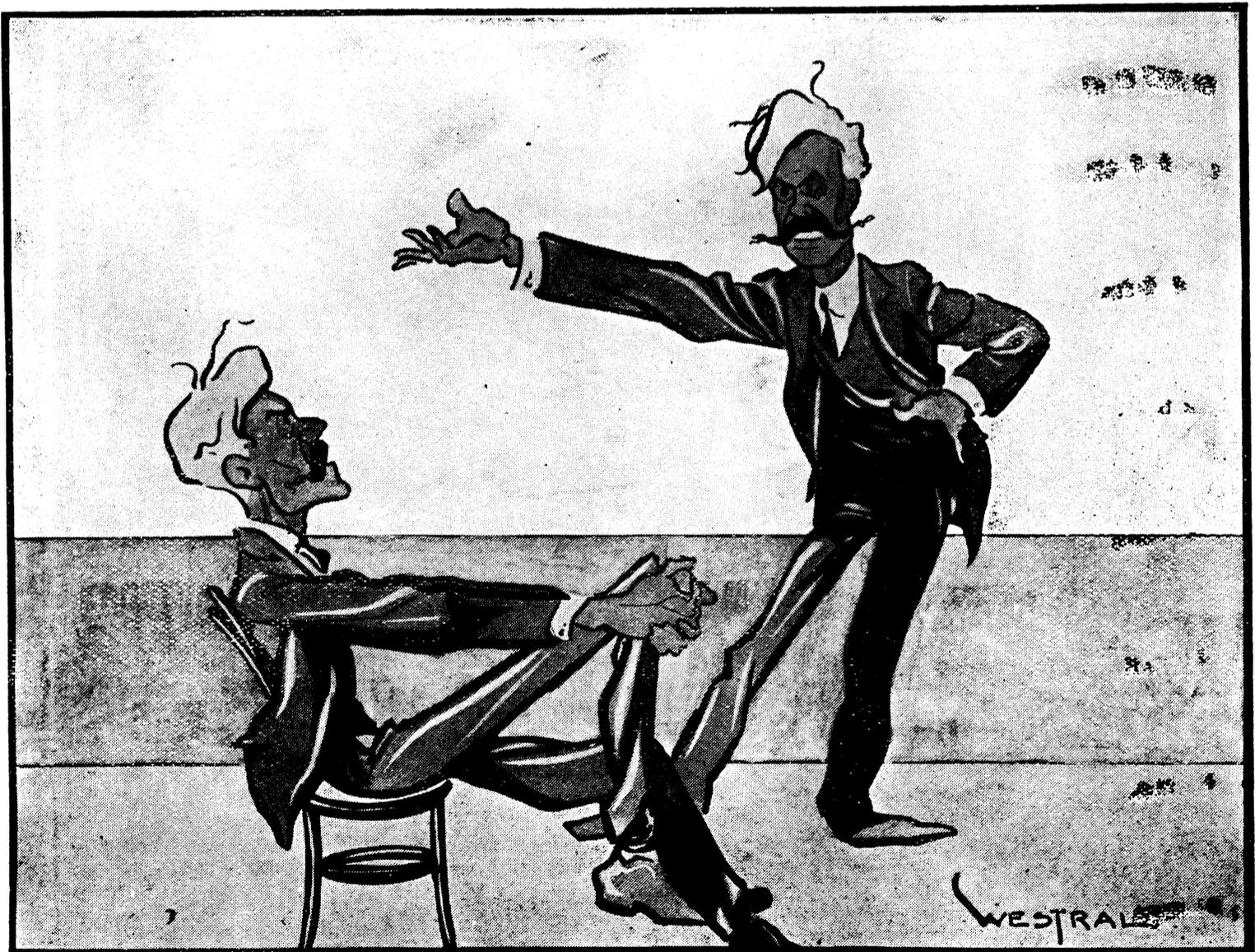
unity of the Empire than the Prince of Wales' visit to the Dominions, and this, let it be noted, immediately following the Great War, which very naturally left considerable suffering and disappointment in many lands."

"That capital will be entitled to some return will be recognised, but its interests will most assuredly be limited, and the workers by hand and brain will receive a more equitable share of the wealth which they create. Such a step will not have the effect of displacing the capitalists in favour of the workers as the privileged class . . . ."



**“PITY—AND ALL THAT . . . BUT HE WASN’T A MEMBER OF OUR UNION!”**

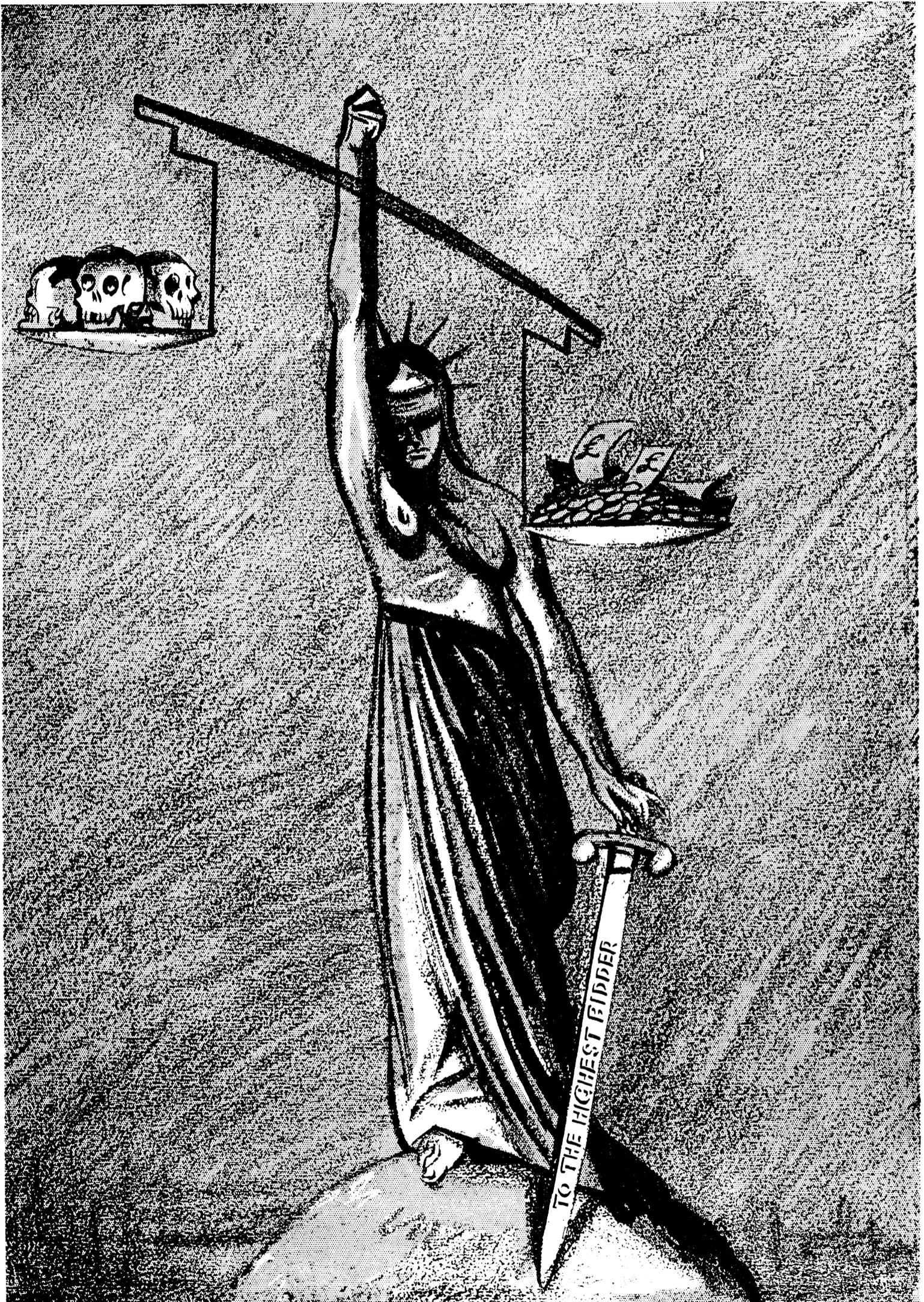
[C. T. Cramp, interviewed as to the attitude of the N.U.R. Executive towards the threatened strike of the Engineers and Fireman in protest against the murder of railwaymen by Black and Tans at Mallow: “At the moment I have no definite information that any of my members have been killed as a result of events in Ireland. That the position as far as we are concerned.”]

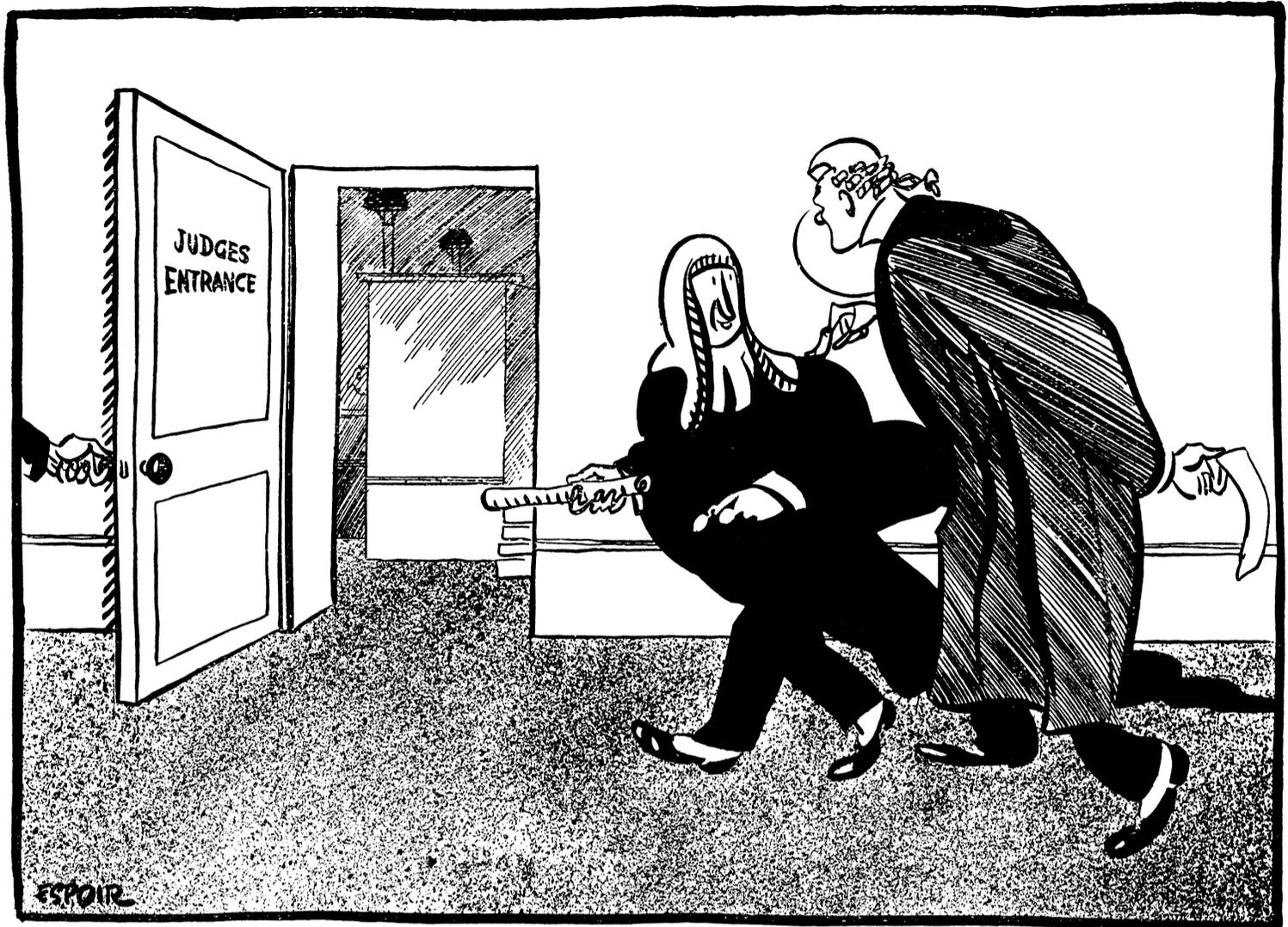


Friendly explanations during the Woolwich By-election (in which he was defeated) between Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald who supported the war and Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald who opposed the war; also between Mr. Macdonald, the candidate of the I.L.P., and Mr. Macdonald who has the blessing of the bourgeoisie; and Mr. Macdonald, Secretary of the Second International, and Mr. Macdonald, official of the I.L.P., which has repudiated the Second International.

**BOTH MISTER MACDONALDS: “So that whatever their politics, WE can be trusted to represent them!”**

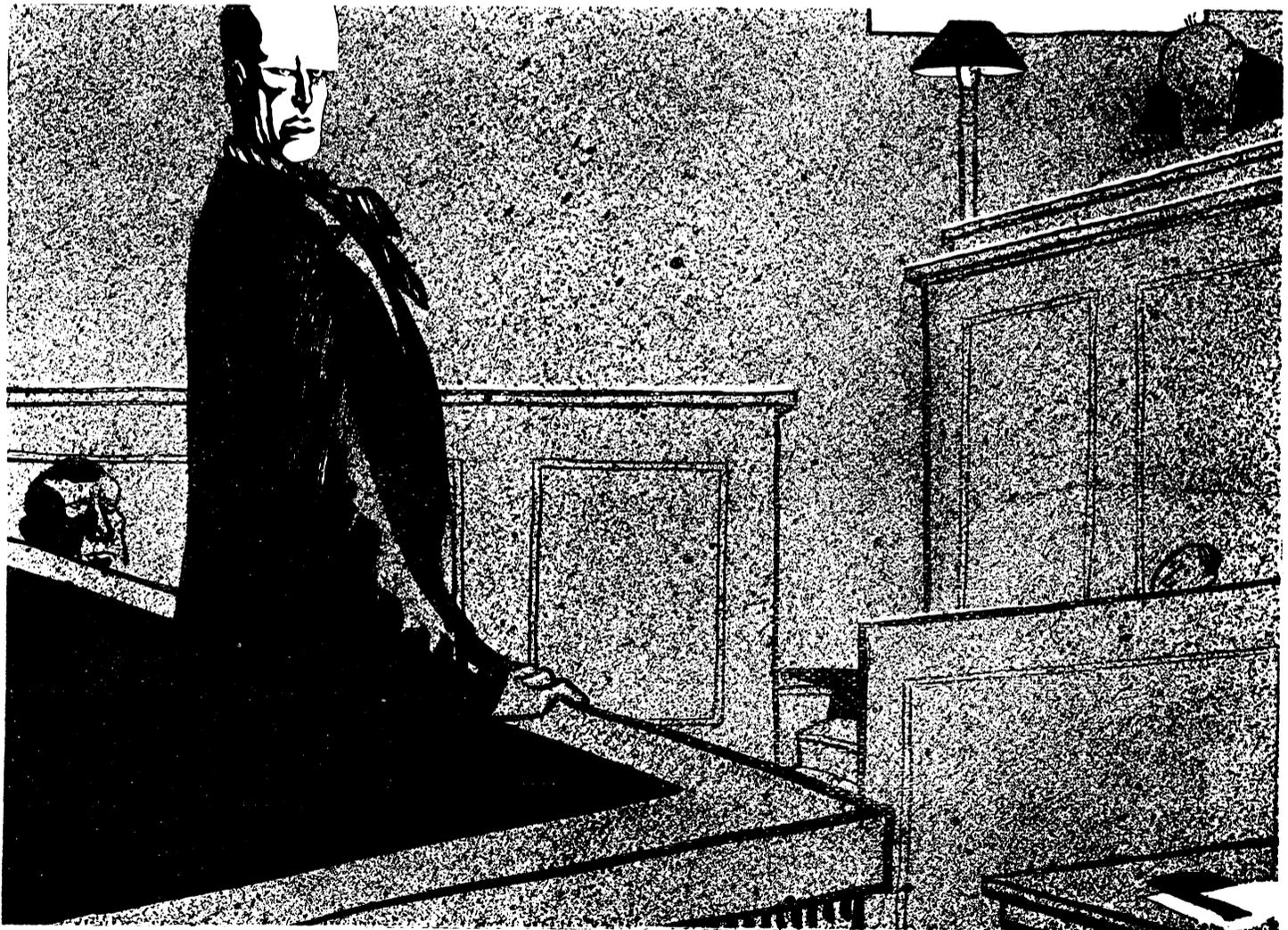
# J U S T I C E





Sir — — —, K.C., (to the judge): "Your Honour, Short says he thinks you'd better sentence this Kiley fellow pretty heavily. He says it'll make a good impression, and he'll see himself that everything's made all right for the boy afterwards."

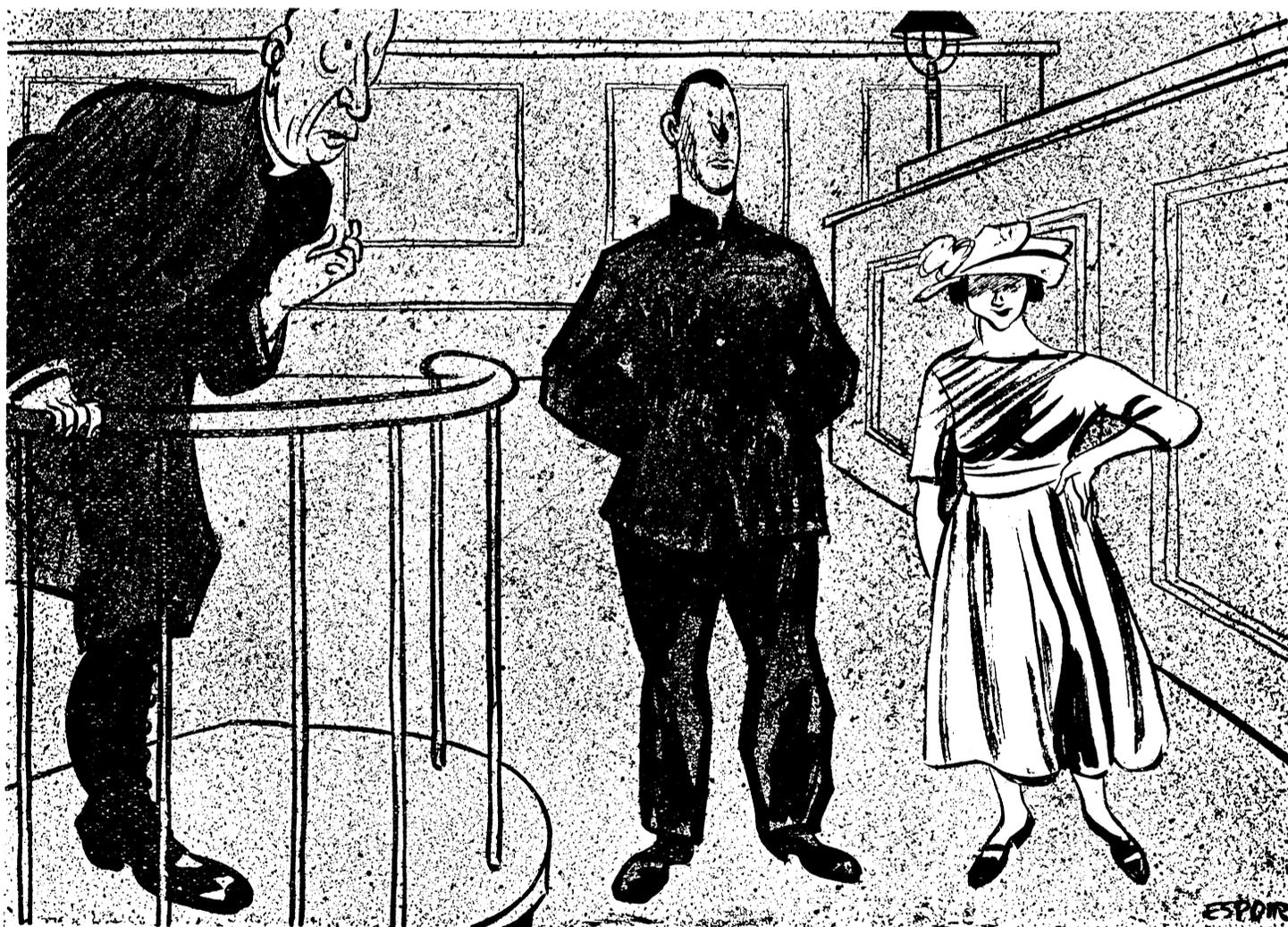
[Kiley, the son of an M.P. and company director, was sentenced to a heavy term of imprisonment for frauds on unemployed ex-soldiers, and then allowed to escape by Short's connivance.]



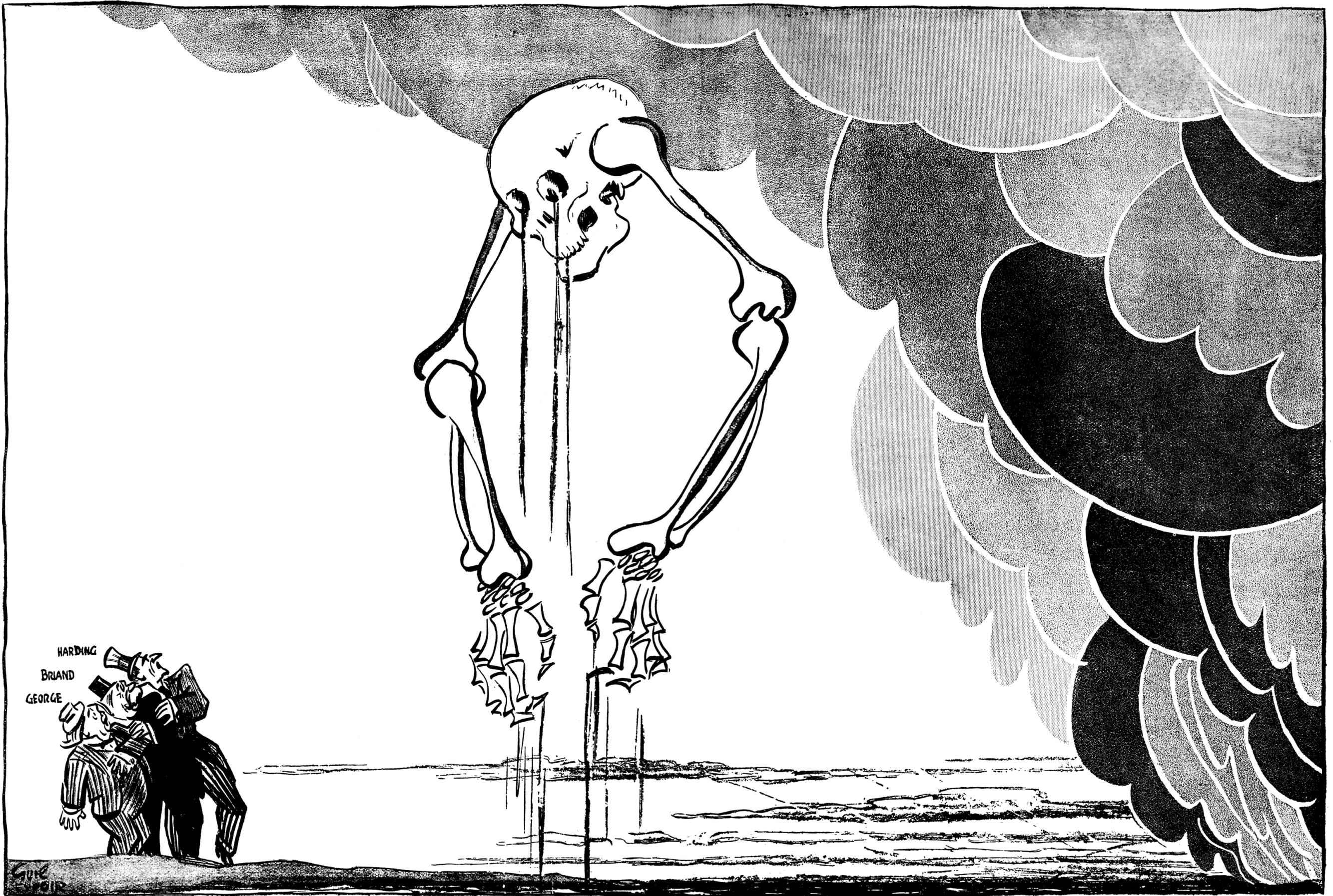
At Marlborough Street Police Court on August 30th, an unemployed miner was charged with stealing a pint of milk from a doorway. He had tramped to London from Scotland seeking work, and had been without food for two days. He was sentenced to one month's hard labour.



**THE COPPER:** "Prisoner, Your Honour, who is suspected of being a Communist, Your Worship, made an unprovoked and violent assault on the line of police, who were clearing the street with great self-restraint. He fetched me one on the conk, Your Worship . . ."



**ALMOST ANY ARCHDEACON:** Violent and unprovoked as was this young stranger's assault on my virginity, I am so touched with—ah—her need for salvation, that at the end of her term of imprisonment, I am ready to receive the erring lamb into my household, there to be under my protection . . .



### BLOCKADE—FAMINE—CHOLERA

Russia fought for three years in the Great War into which she was dragged by the Tsar. Against subsidized white invaders she fought for four more years.

All these four years her ports were blockaded, and this blockade has not yet ceased. For after the military blockade came a money blockade which has made trade impossible.

This blockade stopped the importation of all agricultural machines, and even prevented the arrival of iron for ploughshares. The peasants had to plough with wooden shares and the crops were peculiarly ready to be burnt by a drought.

With particular care, moreover, the Allies stopped the importation of medicines. Operations had to be performed without anæsthetics.

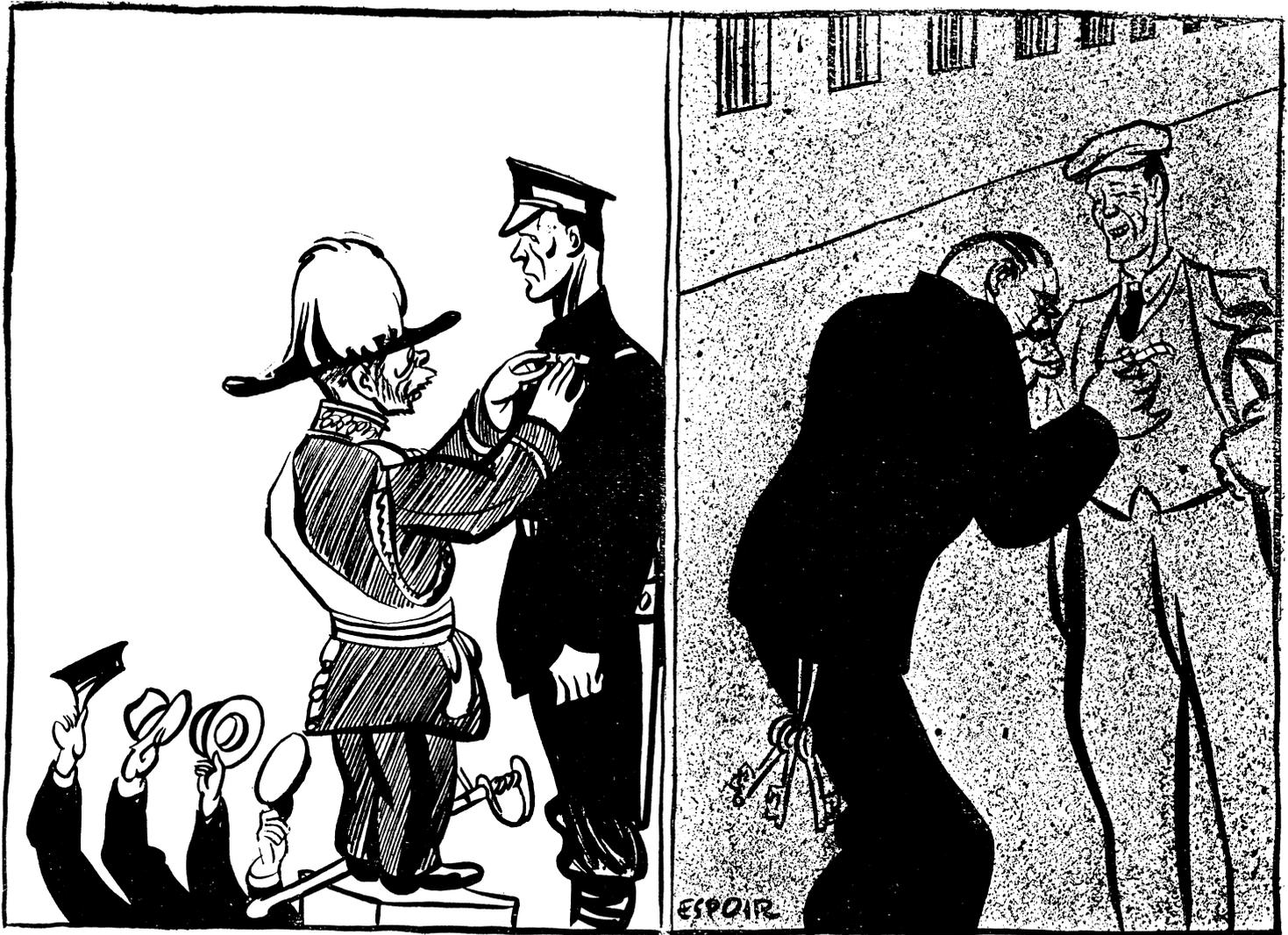
Doctors were deprived of the most elementary means of fighting epidemics.

Now the famine has come—produced by the Allies.

Now Cholera has come—produced by the Allies.

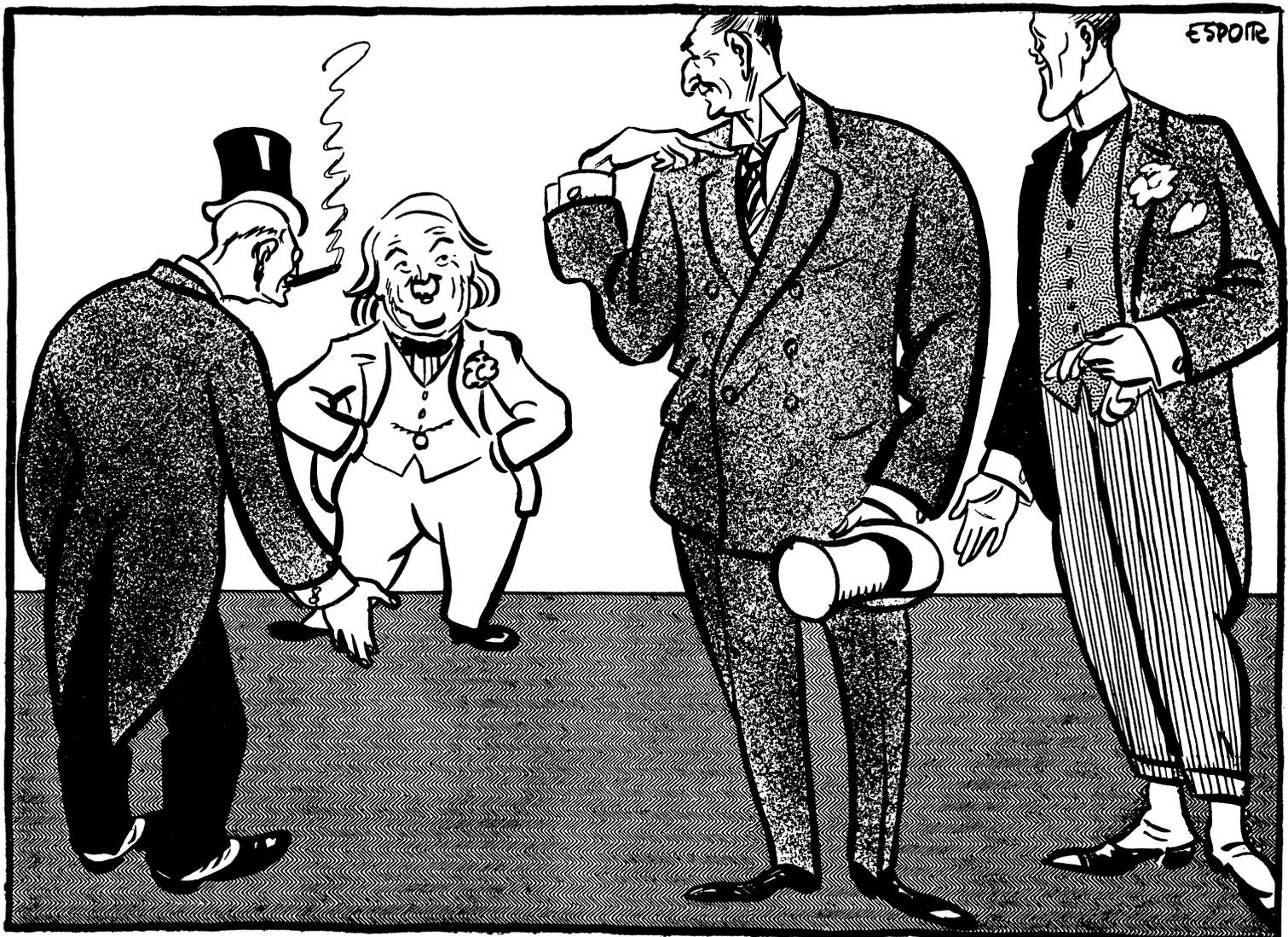
Cholera knows no frontiers.

The Allies are afraid.



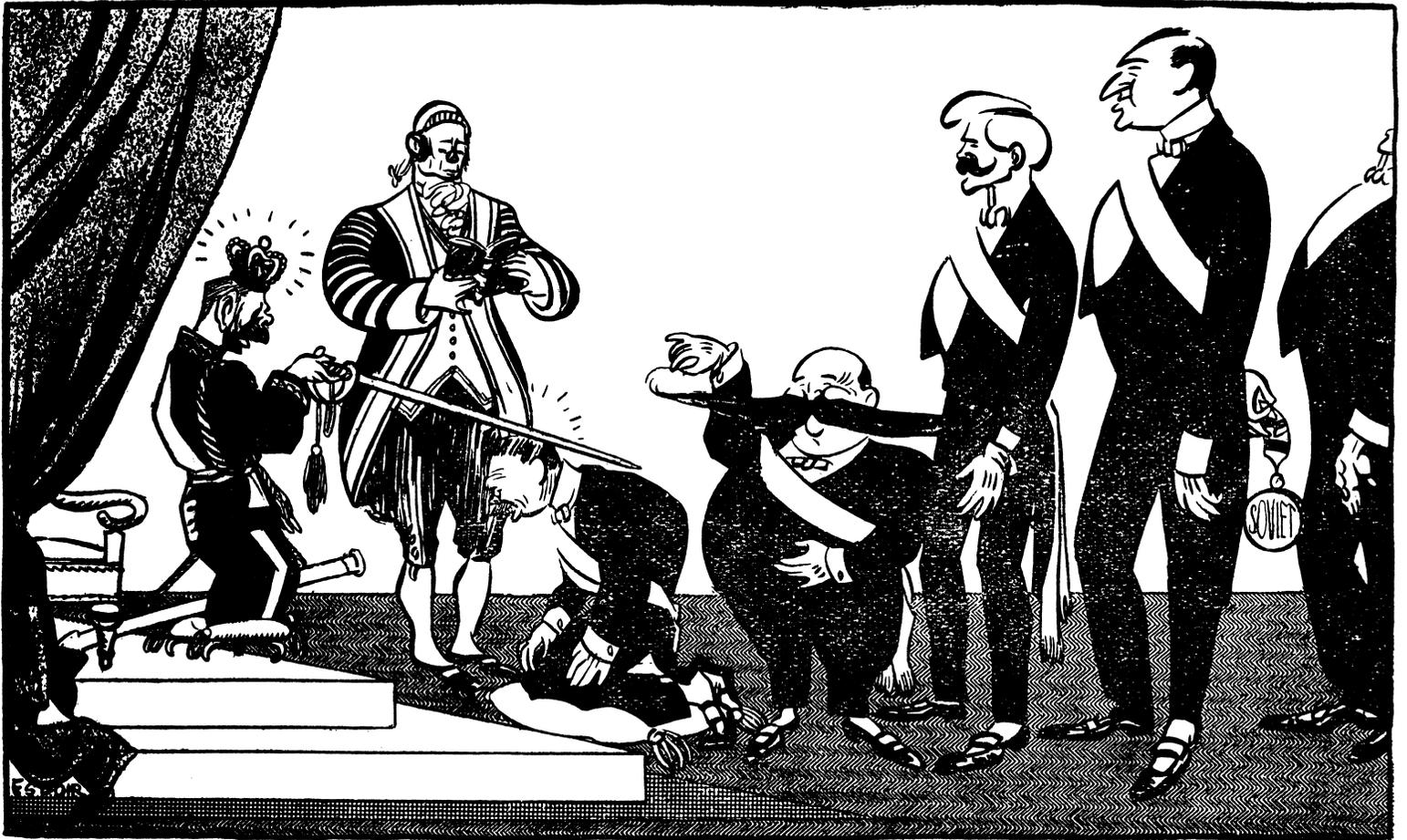
**THE LORD GAVE AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY**

[C. E. Williams, one of the thirty Poplar Councillors gaoled for refusing to leave the unemployed to starve, was stripped of his war decorations in Brixton Gaol.]

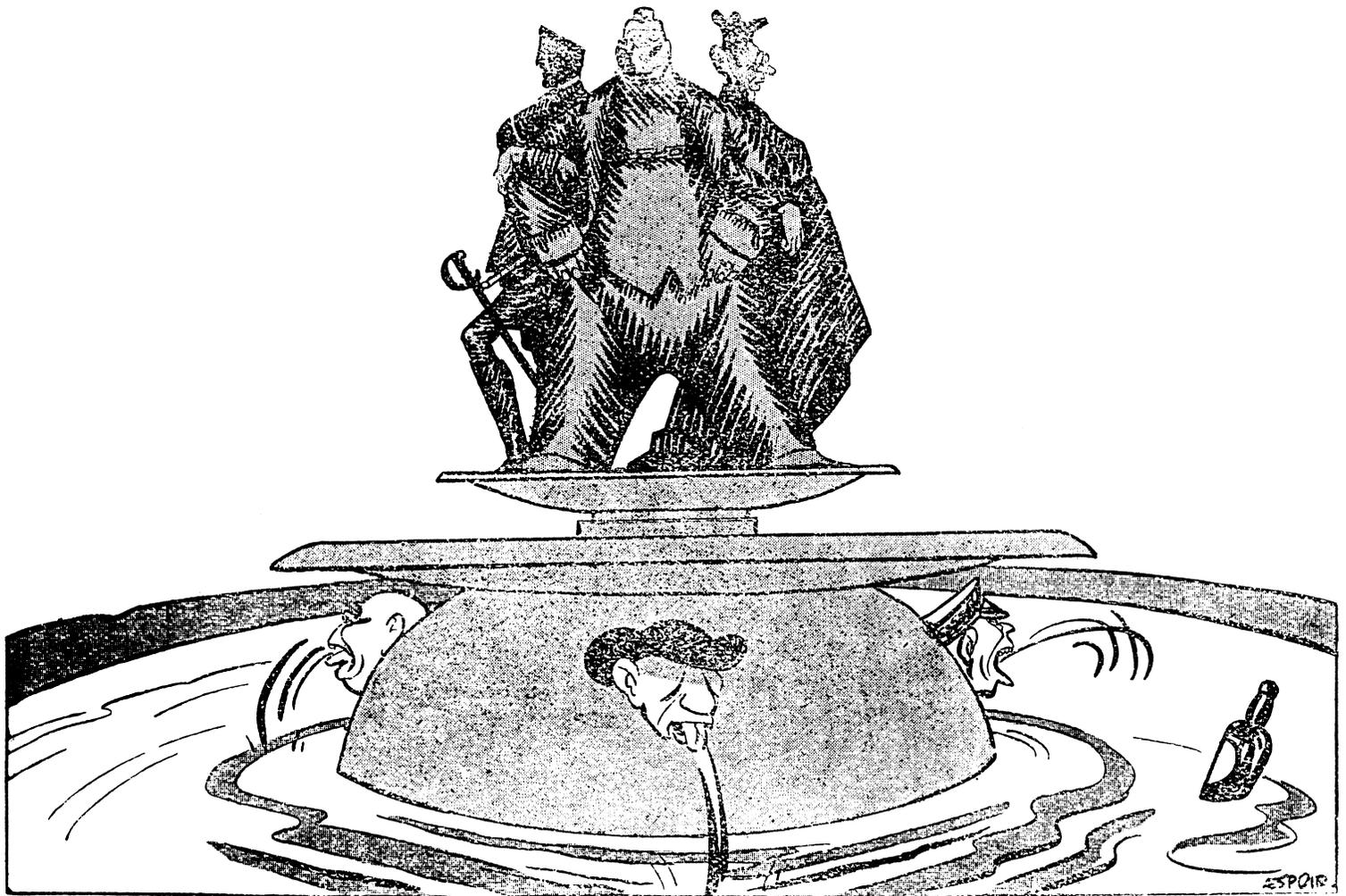


READING: I gave you the Marconi tip . . .  
 BIRKENHEAD: I was a good little rebel in Ulster . . .  
 JUSTICE LAWRENCE: I let the fellow down lightly who  
 ice-picked that Communist. . .

[All together]: Do remember ME  
 if there's any better job going.



**THE CLERK:** "May it please your Majesty. To be knighted:—The Right Honourable James Henry Thomas, P.C., M.P., D.C.L., J.P., for services too numerous, and too intimate, to be enumerated. To receive his fifth O.B.E.:—The Right Honourable William Brace, for Virtue. To receive the Garter:—James Ramsay MacDonald, for services rendered against the Communists. To be the first recipient of the Order of Black Friday, entitling the holder to sign the letters B.F. after his name on all occasions:—Robert Williams. To become Lord Twister and Twicer, Sir David Shackleton . . . ."

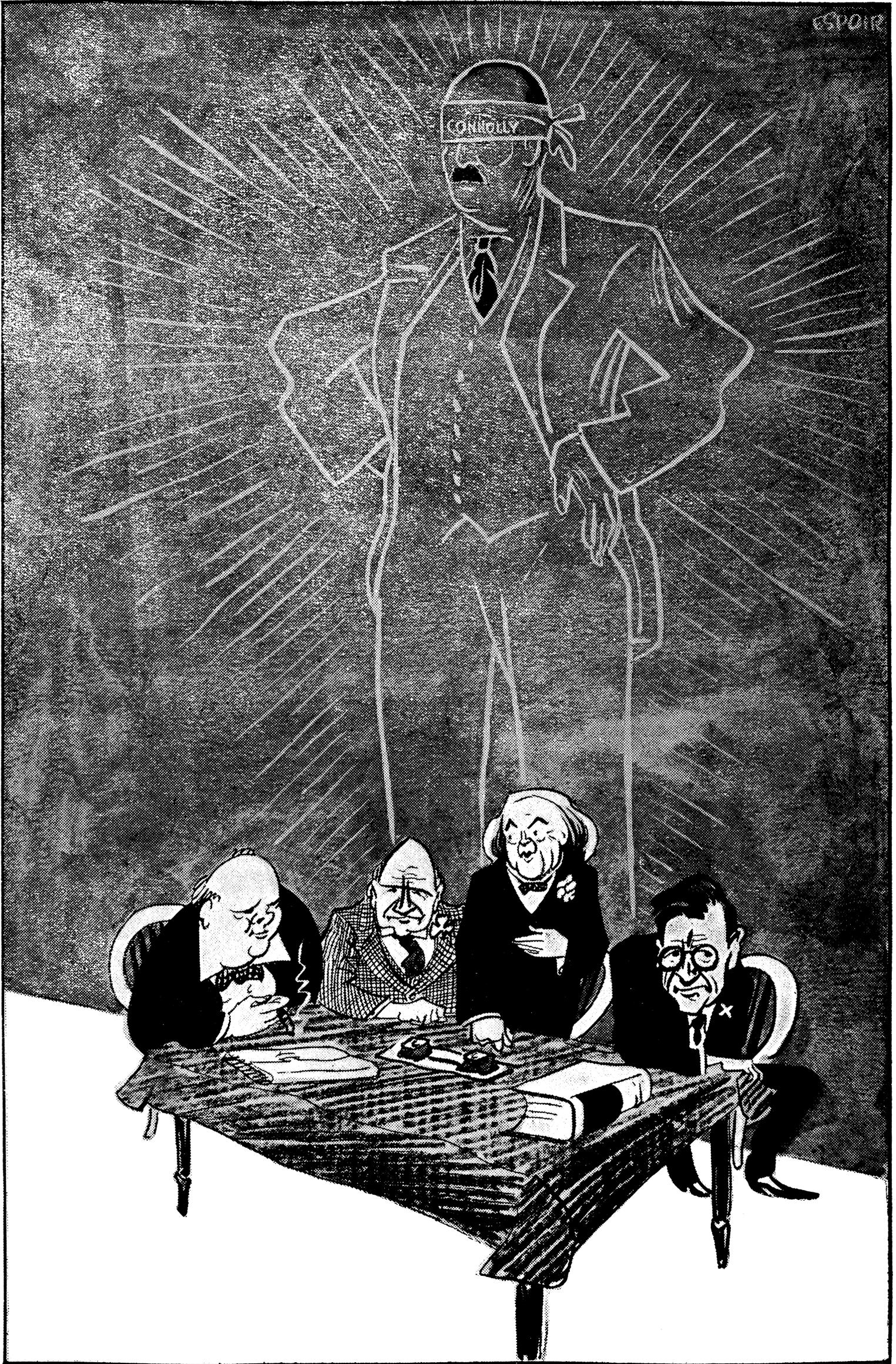


"There are in nature certain fountains of justice whence all civil laws are derived but as streams."—Lord Bacon

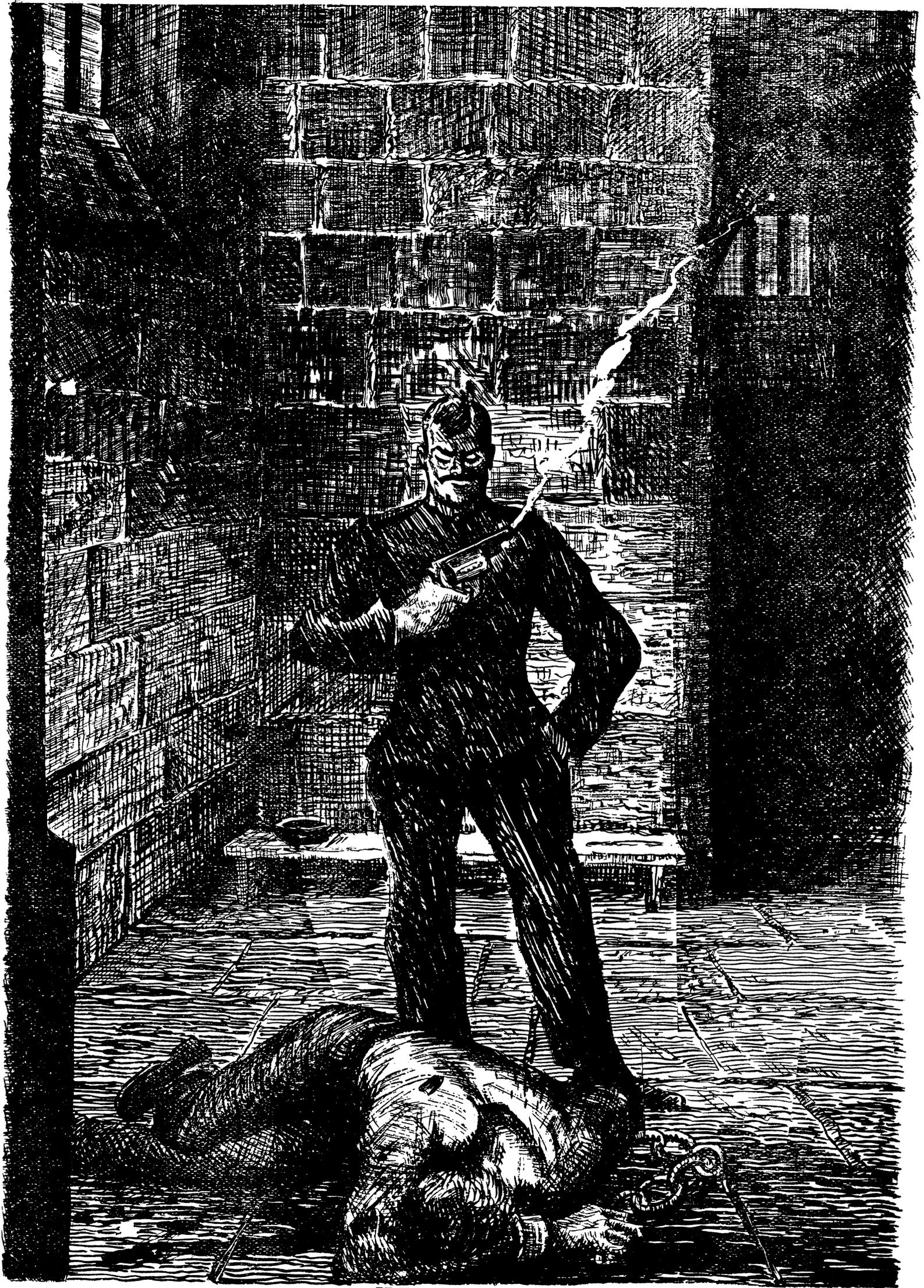


**LENIN:** Charming manikins . . . . And which is Northumberland and which is Hyndman?

[The Duke of Northumberland and Mr. H. M. Hyndman indulged in a much advertised debate on the policy of Labour and its relation to Bolshevism]

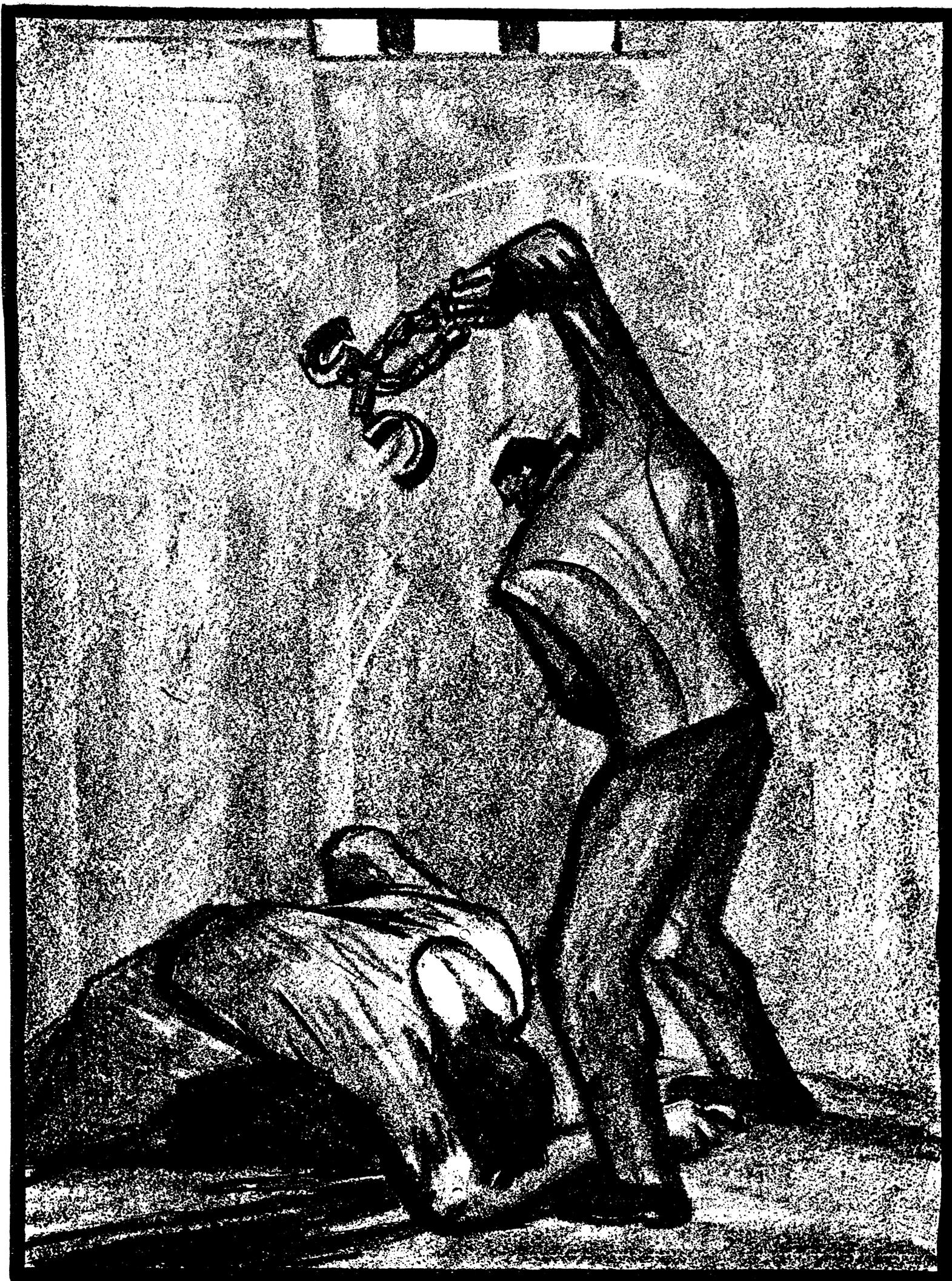


**THE ANGLO-IRISH CONFERENCE**  
D. LLOYD GEORGE: Well, gentlemen, are we all here?



IRELAND

"Prisoner Committed Suicide in his Cell"



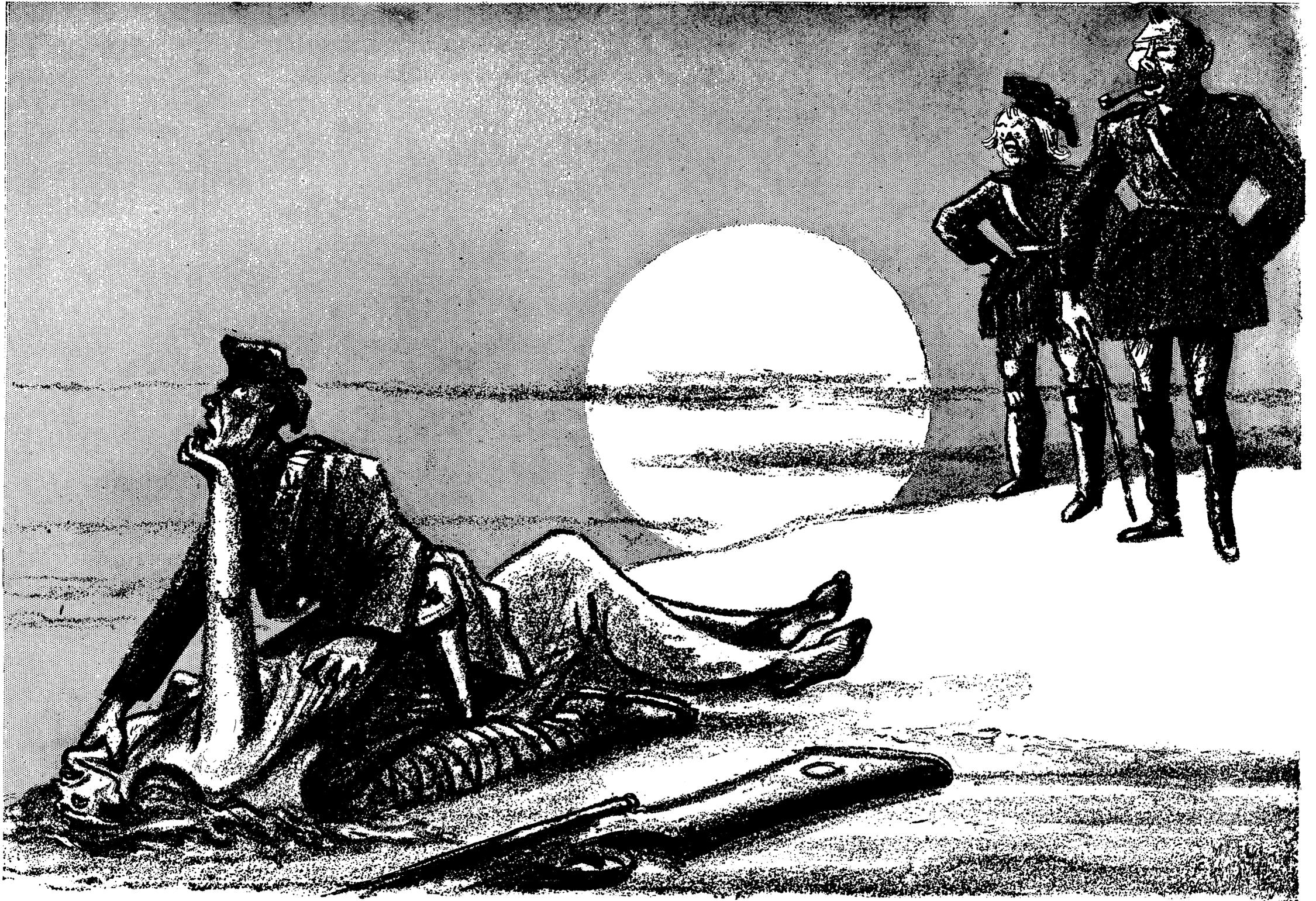
## IRELAND

“The Prisoner was killed whilst attempting to escape”

## In Ireland

"There is intimidation, there is murder, there is treachery—murder cowardly murder—cowardly mean murder . . . . The police regard these people as part of the citizenship which they are prepared to defend, and when the policeman passes on he is shot in the back. And while the police are discharging these elementary duties of civilization . . . ."—*The Prime Minister.*

Greenwood (to Lloyd George and Thomas):  
"Ah, the—! She's trying to strangle me!"

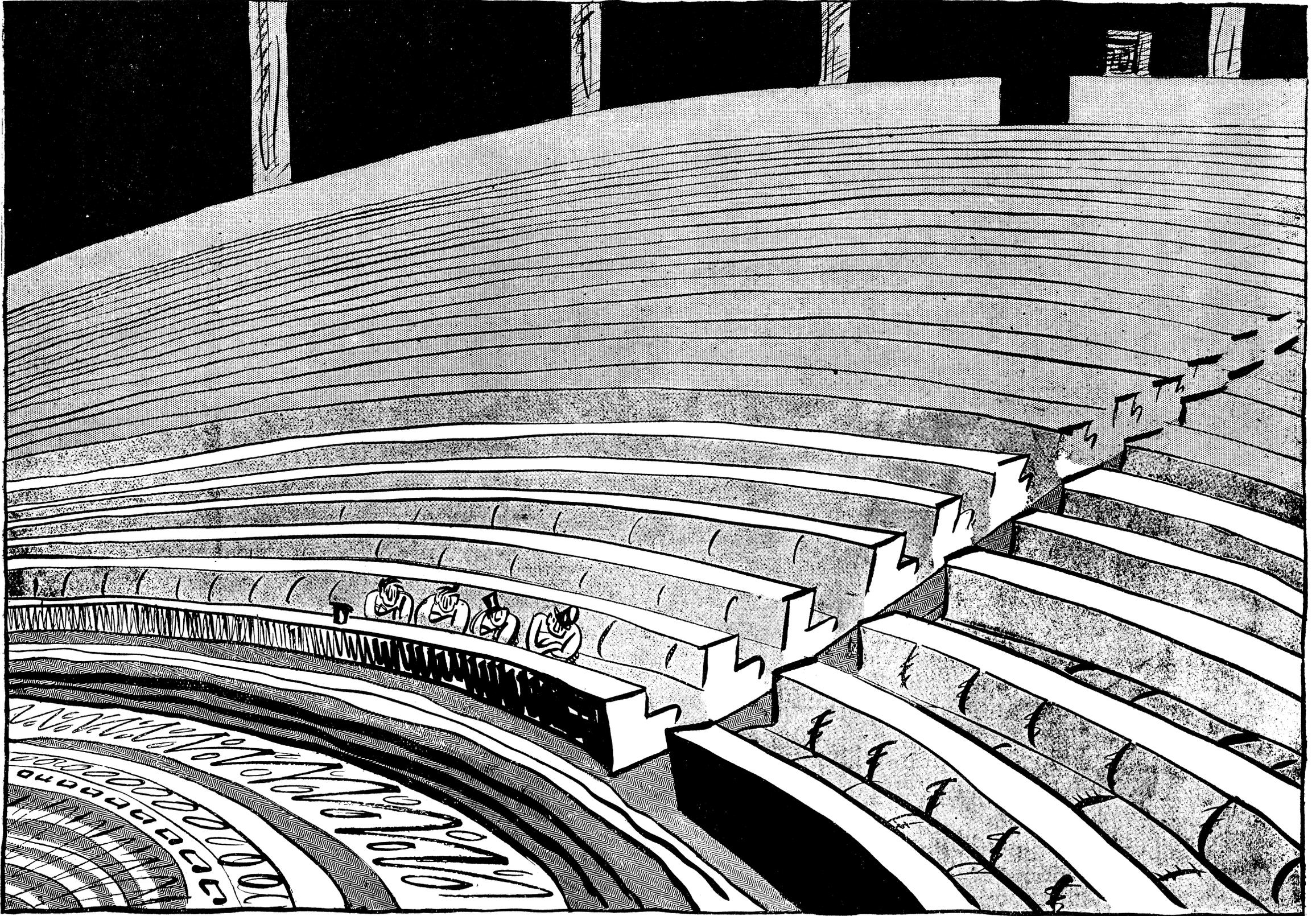




A statue of George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the revolting Colonists, First President of the United States of America, was unveiled in London at the end of June 1921.

It now only remains to compel the ungrateful Indian, Egyptian and Irishman to join the British Empire in honouring the principles set forth in the "Declaration of Independence."

["We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundations on such principles and organising its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."]



THE DUBLIN PARLIAMENT IS ELECTED.

FOUR UNIONISTS ARE RETURNED.

“We few, we very few, we band of brothers!” *Shakespeare*



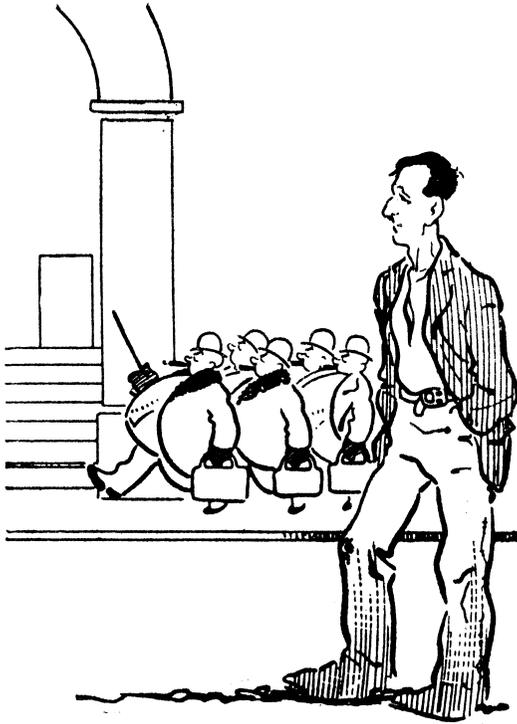
### MONOTONY

The Marchioness of Londonderry issued an appeal for her Amusement Fund for the Royal Irish Constabulary. She said: "The object of this letter is to try to impress on the public how very much anything that adds brightness to their lives and helps to remove care and monotony is appreciated by them."



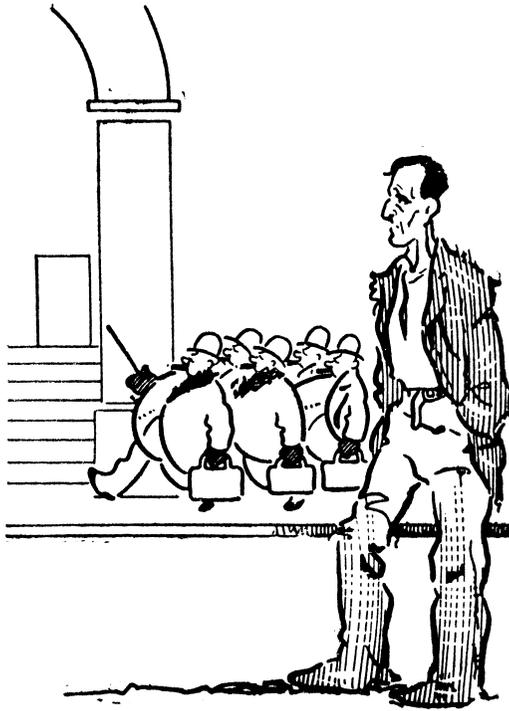
[English Unemployed were engaged at a low rate by the French Government to work in the devastated area.]

"Back again? What's the homes for heroes like?"  
"Much like yours, old son."



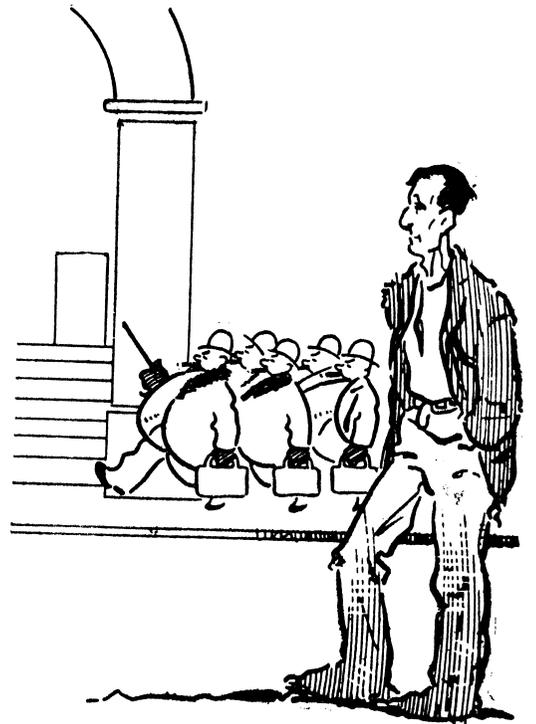
1

Labour Party meets to consider drastic action regarding Unemployed problem



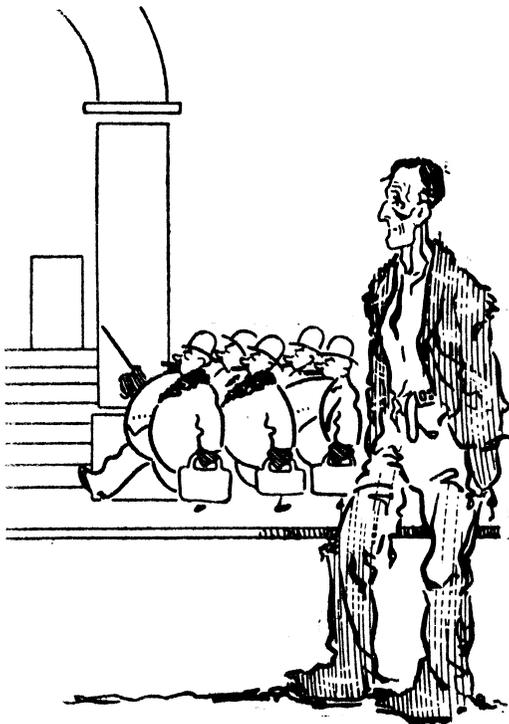
2

Adjourned meeting of Labour Party Conference to solve Unemployed problem



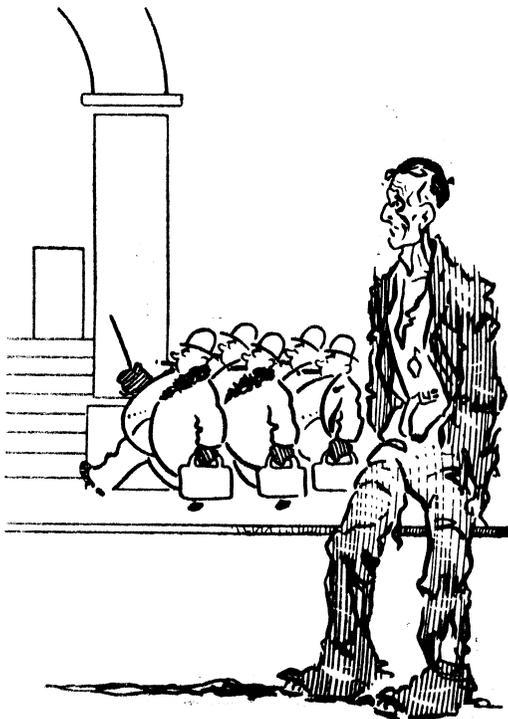
3

Further meeting of Labour Party Conference to solve Unemployed problem



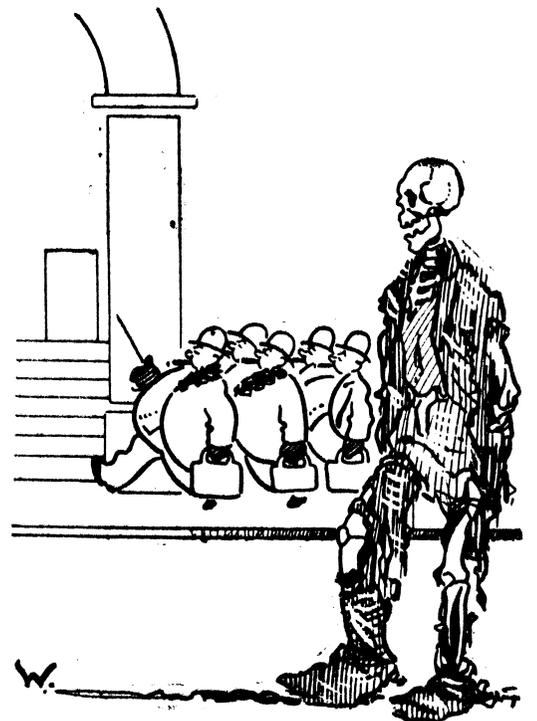
4

Labour Party calls a Special Conference to solve Unemployed problem



5

Adjourned meeting of Special Labour Party Conference to solve Unemployed problem

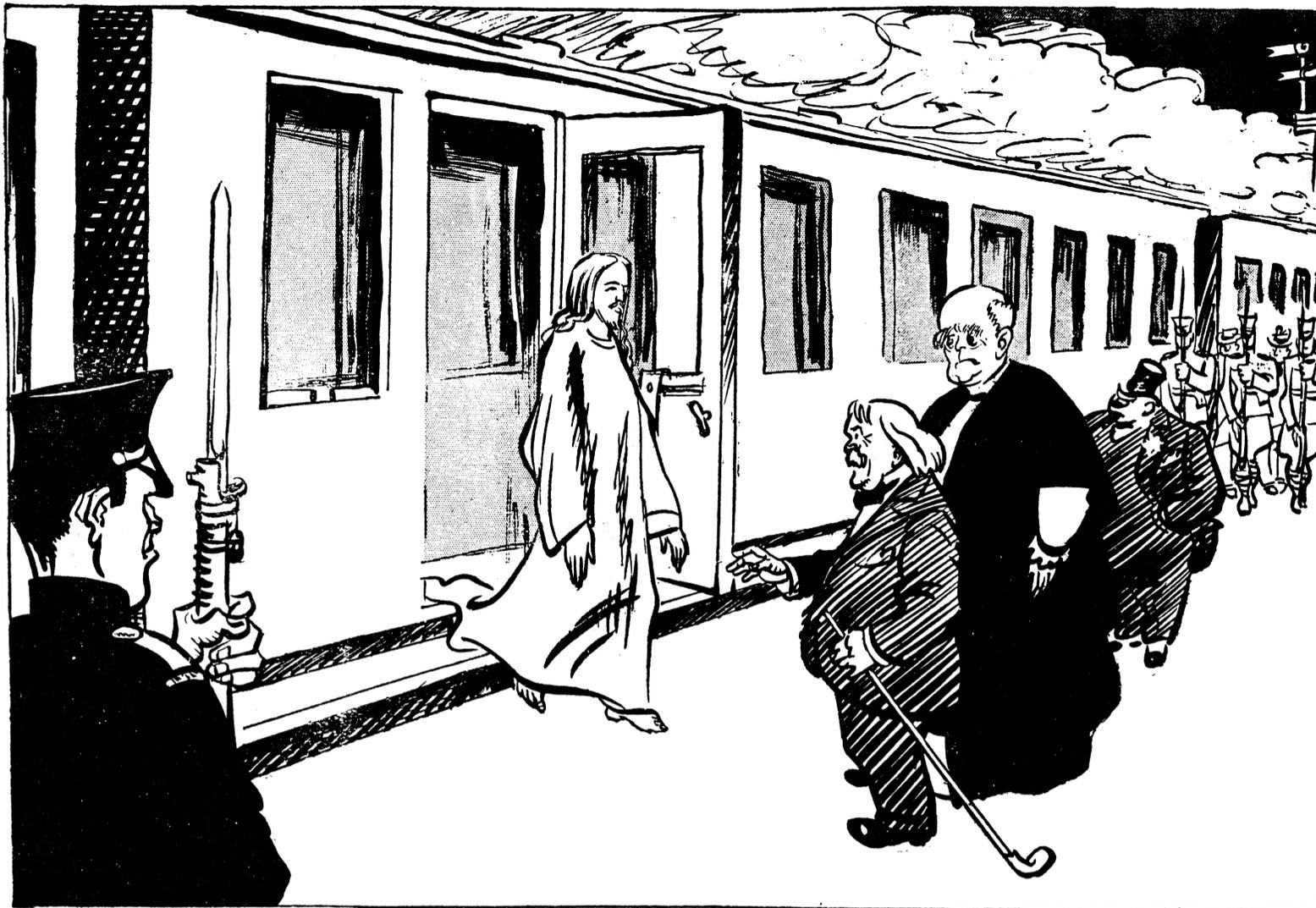


6

Labour Party calls Extraordinary Conference to solve . . . .

## The Labour Party Rescues the Unemployed

# THE COMING AGAIN OF CHRIST.



"For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey.—Mark xiii., 34.  
He is met at the station by the Prime Minister, the Archbishop and a Military guard of honour.  
And Jesus did not understand.



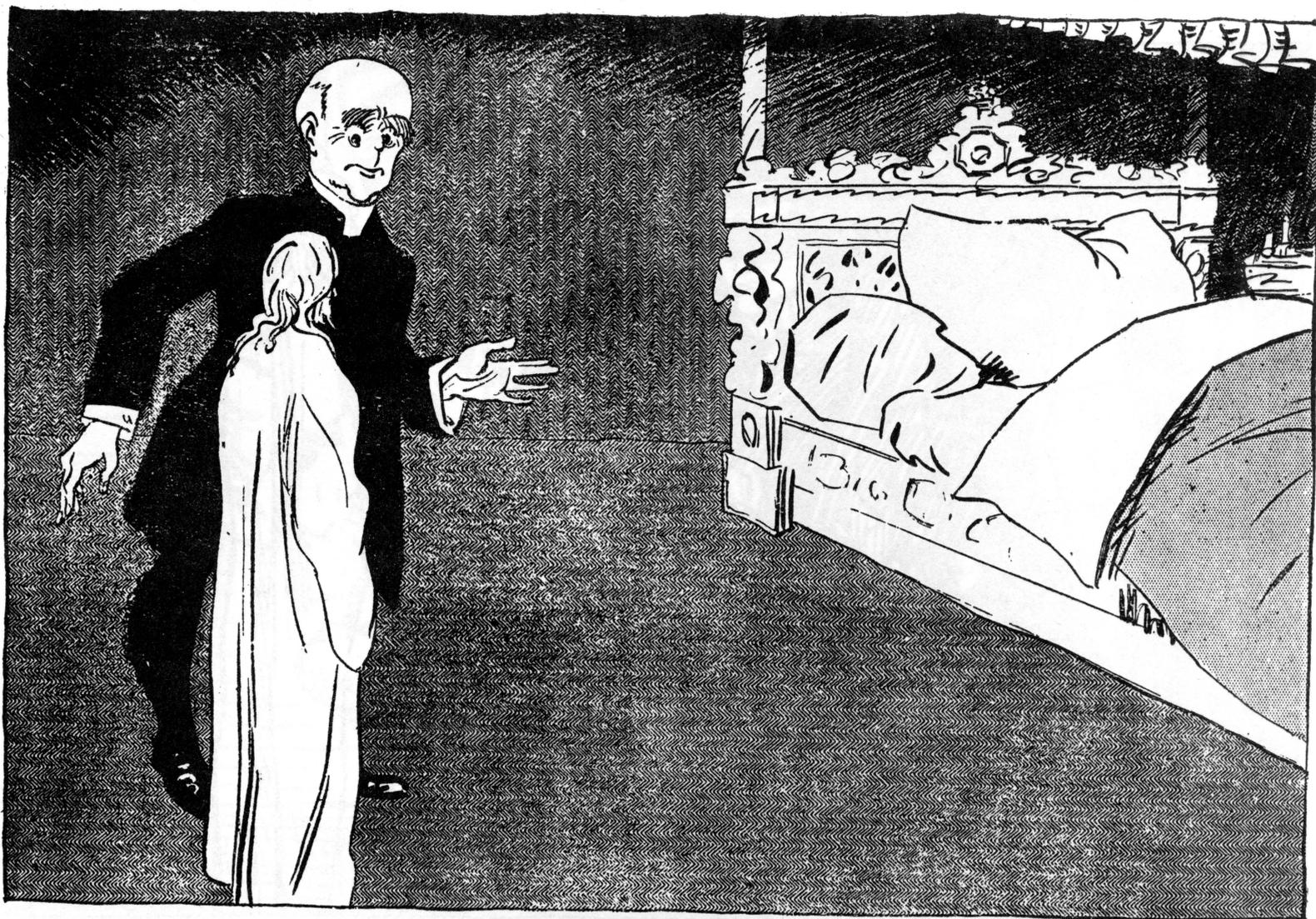
## He is received with Eagerness.

The Chiefs of the various Denominations dispute for the honour of Christ's first appearance. From motives of prudence it is agreed that he should be shown but not invited to preach. The Archbishop of Canterbury's premier claim (on the ground that his is the largest income) is finally accepted.  
Jesus did not understand.



## The Civic Reception

THE PRINCE OF WALES: "It is, I make bold to declare, not without significance that our illustrious guest has selected this place—the capital of the world's greatest empire—and this moment when the British Constitution is being basely attacked by seditionists, to make his reappearance." (Cheers)  
And Jesus did not understand.



### He is entertained by the Archbishop

The Archbishop: I have turned the finest room in my Palace into a bedroom for your use. Now you won't be able to say any longer that 'the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head,' will you, eh?"  
 And Jesus did not understand.



### He preaches: and comes under suspicion

"And Jesus said unto them, See ye not these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."—Matt. xxiv., 2.  
 "But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told what things Jesus had done."—John xii. 46.  
 And Jesus did not understand.



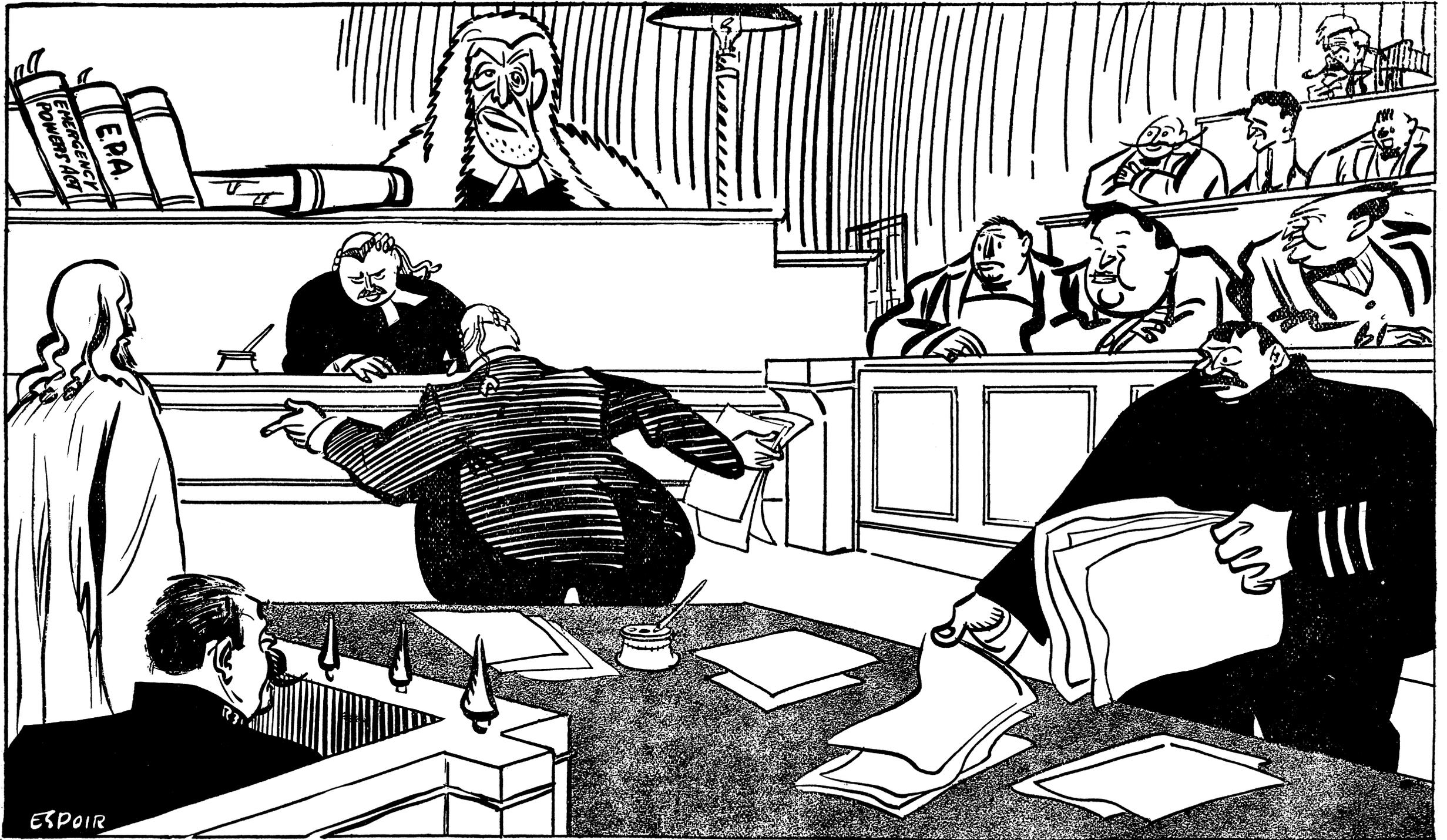
**He is asked by the I.L.P. to modify his tactics: and refuses**

“The same day there came unto him certain of the Pharisees saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye and tell that fox.—Luke xiii., 31-2.



**He creates a disturbance: and is arrested**

“Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.”—  
 Luke vi., 25.  
 “Then they took him and led him and brought him into the high priest’s house.”—Luke xxiii., 50.  
 And Jesus did not understand.



### He is Tried and Condemned

“ And there arose certain and bare false witness against him. . . . But neither so did their witness agree together. . . . Then the high priest rent his clothes and saith what need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him. . . .”—St. Mark xiv., 57-64.  
**AND JESUS REMEMBERED AND UNDERSTOOD.**



“Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master is it I?  
He said unto him, thou hast said.” MATT. xxvi, 25

Dedicated to the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P., P.C., D.C.L.

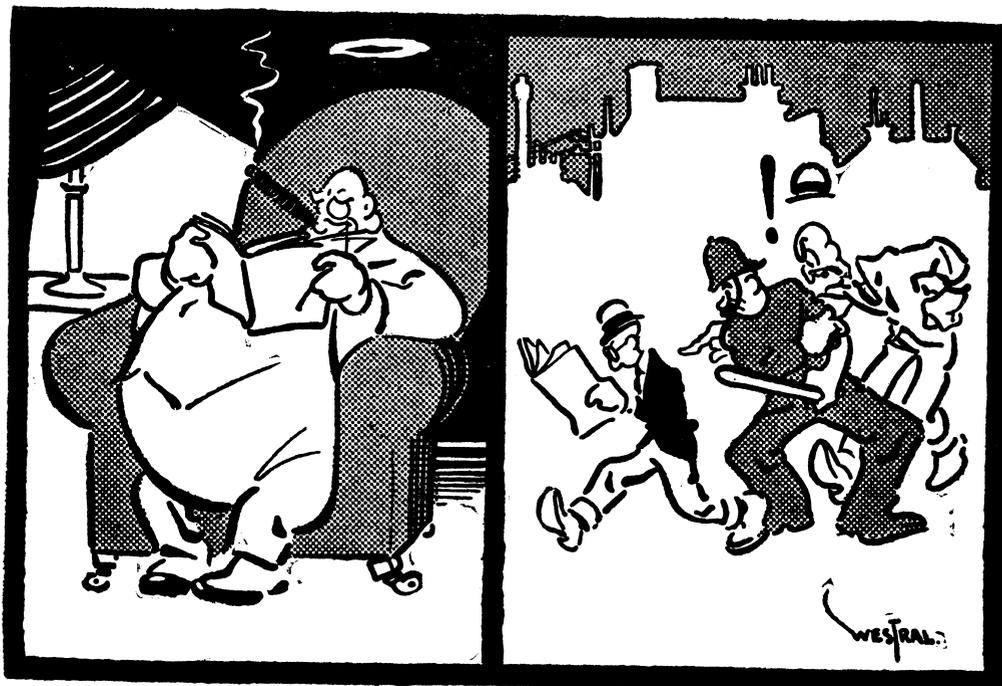
AFTER THE RAID.



STUDYING THE EDITOR'S BIBLE. "Bust me, Inspector, but them words seem the very sime as wot's in the Missus's Bible at 'ome. I don't want 'er getting six months!"

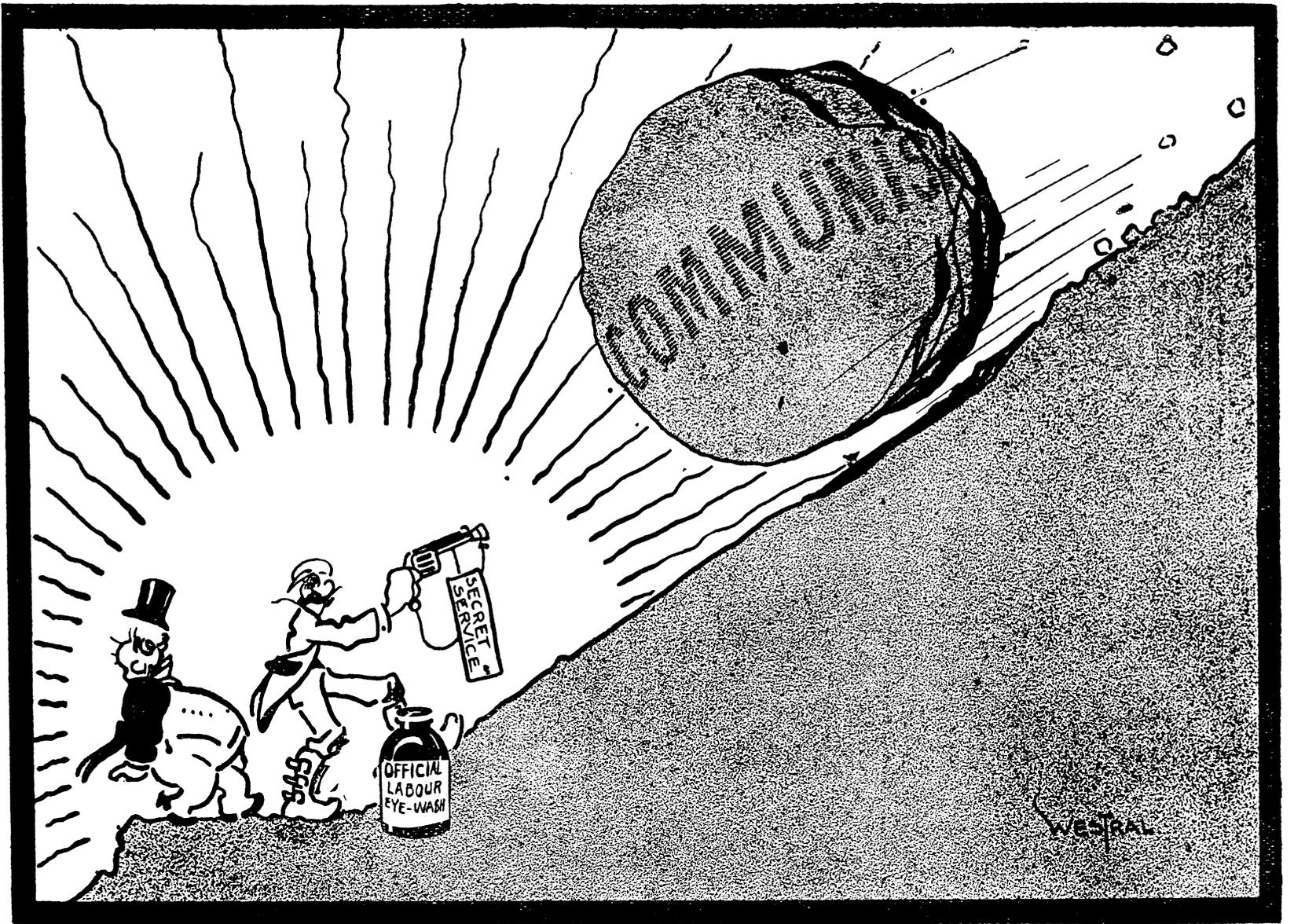


Head of Intelligence Staff to Sir Basil: "It's like this, Sir! With £400,000 and 38,000 men we've captured 60 of these 'ere Communionists. All we want is double the money and treble the men and we'll get 60 more!"

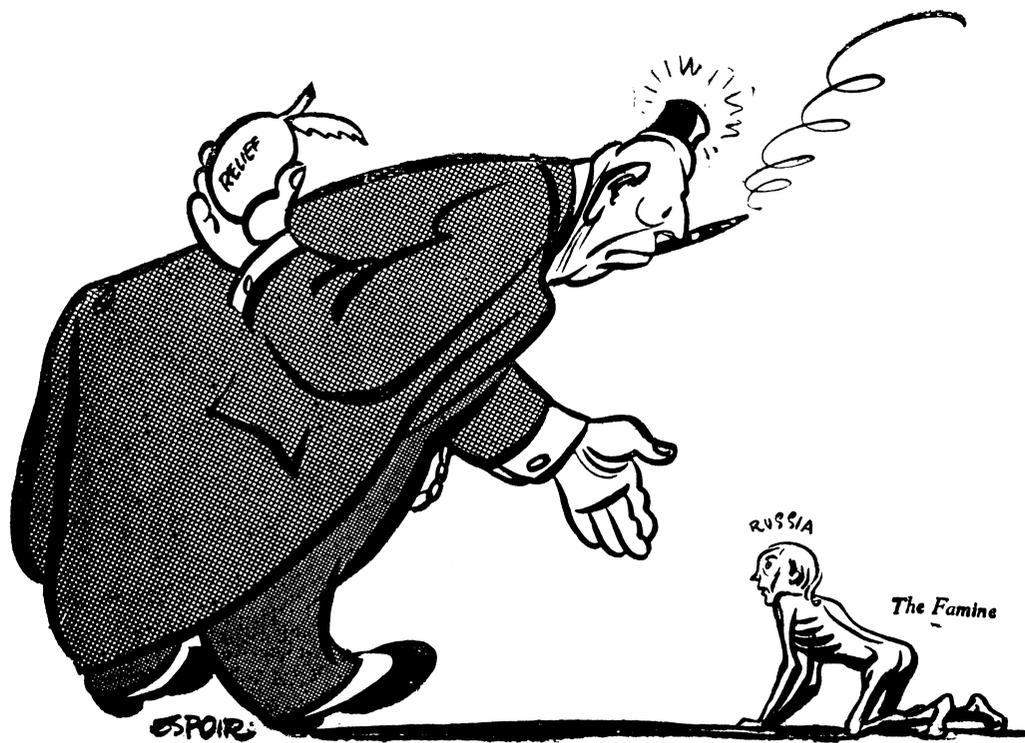


The Earl of Fitznoddle (pronounced Fuddle) studies some Communist literature

Bill Jones of Clapham does the same.



"WATCH ME STOP IT"



The Allied Philanthropist: "First, what's your politics?"

# The Moplah Death Train

SHADE OF SURAJAH  
DOWLAH (to the officer  
commanding Death Train)  
"Sahib, you are a great  
king, and a greater ruler  
than ever I was. But I am  
surprised that you make no  
use of modern scientific  
methods of inflicting pain!  
I thought of this sort of  
thing myself! Is this  
worthy of your greatness?"





## ASKING PAPPA

LLOYD GEORGE: "Please, Father, I want you to tell me about the future. Here's your fee. I want to know: Will I be able to diddle Lenin if he comes to Genoa? Is that Younger man going to make me have an election when I don't want to? Will Michael Collins be able to deliver the goods in Ireland? Are any of the Indians going to blow up that silly young fathead who is touring out there? Is Churchill off his dot or is he just like that? Will this Poincare person drink himself to death soon? And you might tell me about Asquith too while you're about it, and will Uncle Arthur be next Premier, and ought I to give Ernest Bevin an O.B.E.?"



You can't feed a roaring lion on buns



**ESPOIR**

**"He called me Jimmy"**

*(A sketch in court)*

Most of the cartoons speak for themselves, but in some cases identification of the individuals or events depicted is needed, and this is provided in the following explanatory notes.

#### *Cover*

The caption of the original cartoon was "If you choose, you can". It was published during the campaign for a strike of railwaymen and transport workers in support of the locked-out miners—the Triple Alliance—but actually appeared the day after the leaders called off the strike, "Black Friday", April 15th, 1921.

#### *J. H. Thomas: "I killed him"*

5. This is one of the cartoons omitted from the original edition because their publication in *The Communist* had been the subject of libel action brought against the printer, editor and publisher of the paper by J. H. Thomas, who was eventually awarded £2,000 damages. The cartoons were published at the time of "Black Friday".

#### *Dedication*

6. Sir Basil Thomson was head of the Special Branch of Scotland Yard, responsible for the raid on the Communist Party's headquarters and the arrest of some of its leaders in May 1921.

#### *Lloyd George to Messrs. Briand etc.*

10. Aristide Briand was the French Prime Minister, Woodrow Wilson the US President, and Ishii the Japanese special envoy in the peace negotiations after the 1914-18 war.

#### *George and the Dragons*

11. The "Irish truce" was the withdrawal of British troops to barracks in the Twenty-six Counties in July 1921 pending discussion between the British Government and Sinn Fein. Lord Northcliffe was the Chief Proprietor of *The Times* and *The Daily Mail*.

#### *"Sir Alfred Mond, speaking of unemployment"*

Sir Alfred Mond was Minister of Health in the Lloyd George Coalition Government from April 1921 to October 1922, and was responsible for the rules concerning treatment of the unemployed both under the National Insurance Scheme and by the Poor Law Guardians. He was the founder of Imperial Chemical Industries.

#### *Cabinet Conference on the Unemployed*

13. Sir Austen Chamberlain was Lord Privy Seal in the Coalition Government, and the leader of the Conservative Party.

#### *"Shall we do something, or is this a Council of Action"*

14. This cartoon, showing among others, Sidney Webb (centre), Ramsey MacDonald and Margaret Bonfield relates to the National Council of Action established in 1920 to oppose war against the new Soviet Republic, which by 1921 was being sharply criticised by the Communist Party for its inactivity on the questions of trade and solidarity with Russia.

#### *The Cripple Alliance*

19. "The Cripple Alliance" was the name given to the Triple Alliance after J. H. Thomas (railwaymen), Ernest Bevin (transport workers) and Frank Hodges (miners) called off the proposed strike on "Black Friday".

#### *Mr Robert Williams: "When I have washed myself"*

20. Robert Williams was leader of the Transport Workers' Federation. He was expelled from the Communist Party for his part in the "Black Friday" betrayal, and later became a propagandist for the National Government in the 1930's. The "Hackney Mare" was Herbert Morrison, who was Mayor of Hackney. He opposed the militant actions of the unemployed and attacked George Lansbury and the Poplar councillors who went to jail for refusing to levy the LCC and other rate precepts as a protest against unemployment and the scales of relief.

#### *"Pity—and all that. . . but he wasn't a member of the Union"*

22. Consemore T. Cramp was Industrial Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen and J. H. Thomas its Political Secretary. At Mallow, Co. Cork, three railwaymen were killed and several

wounded by the Auxiliary Police (ex-army officers recruited in England) as a reprisal for the shooting of a member of the British High Command.

#### *Sir — —, K. C. (to the judge)*

24. The Kiley referred to in the caption, after being sentenced was transferred to the prison infirmary for health reasons, but representations were made by his friends to the Home Secretary, Edward Shortt (whose name is mis-spelt in the cartoon caption), and he was allowed to go to a private nursing home, from which he vanished.

#### *Reading: I gave you the Marconi tip....*

28. Lord Reading, then Sir Rufus Isaacs, had been involved in the Marconi scandal, in which he and Lloyd George bought shares in the firm prior to the signing of a Post Office contract. Lord Birkenhead, previously F. E. Smith, had been assistant to Sir Edward Carson (later Lord Carson), the bitter opponent of Home Rule for Ireland.

Lord Chief Justice Lawrence, when a judge, sentenced a man who attacked a Communist speaker in London with an ice-pick to only a month's imprisonment, on the grounds that he found the victim's opinions offensive.

#### *The Clerk: "May it please your Majesty"*

29. William Brace was a miners' leader who became a Lib-Lab MP. Sir David Shackleton was a Labour leader who later became chief labour adviser at the Ministry of Labour.

#### *Lenin: Charming manikins....*

30. H. M. Hyndman had been a leader of the British Socialist Party, which was later the leading force in the foundation of the Communist Party in 1920. He left the BSP in 1916 because it opposed the First World War and he supported the war, and founded the National Socialist Party, which, like the BSP was affiliated to the Labour Party. The Duke of Northumberland was a large landowner and coalowner drawing huge coal royalties from the pits on his estates.

#### *The Anglo-Irish Conference*

31. The cartoon shows Winston Churchill, Lord Birkenhead, Lloyd George and De Valera, with the figure of James Connolly, Irish Socialist Republican leader shot by the British in 1916, in the background.

#### *In Ireland*

34. Hamar Greenwood, later Viscount Greenwood, was chief secretary for Ireland from 1920-22, and responsible for the "Black and Tans", a repressive force recruited in England, whose wholesale violence against the Irish people he defended.

#### *The Dublin Parliament is elected*

36. In the May 1921 election for the Dail Eireann 124 seats were won by the Republicans and four by Unionists.

#### *He is asked by the I.L.P to modify his tactics: and refuses*

42. The cartoon shows Margaret Bondfield, Philip Snowden and Ramsay MacDonald.

#### *The Judas, which betrayed him, answered . . .*

44. This is the other cartoon omitted from the original because of the
45. J. H. Thomas libel action.

#### *After the raid*

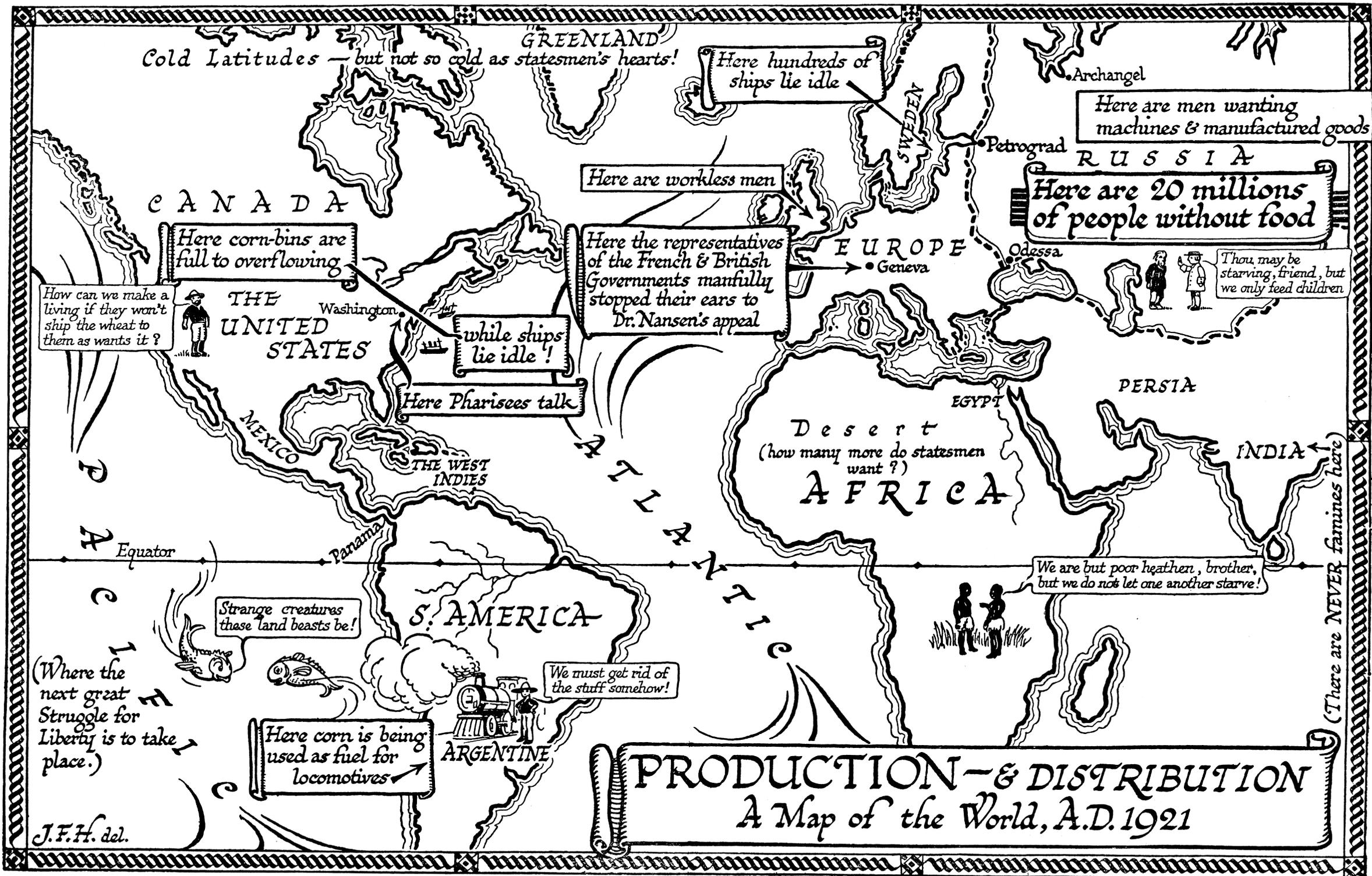
46. The raid referred to is that on the Communist Party office at 16 King Street WC2 in May 1921.

#### *The Moplah Death Train*

48. A rebellion of peasants in Moplah, India was ruthlessly repressed by the British in 1921, and 100 of them were put in a closed railway luggage van, 26ft. by 8ft., in which 56 died of suffocation.

G.M.





GREENLAND  
Cold Latitudes - but not so cold as statesmen's hearts!

Here hundreds of ships lie idle

Here are men wanting machines & manufactured goods

CANADA  
Here corn-bins are full to overflowing

Here are workless men

R U S S I A  
Here are 20 millions of people without food

How can we make a living if they won't ship the wheat to them as wants it?

THE UNITED STATES  
Washington

Here the representatives of the French & British Governments manfully stopped their ears to Dr. Nansen's appeal

while ships lie idle!

Thou may be starving, friend, but we only feed children.

Here Pharisees talk

Desert (how many more do statesmen want?)

PERSTIA

INDIA

(There are NEVER famines here)

We are but poor heathen, brother, but we do not let one another starve!

Strange creatures these land beasts be!

S. AMERICA

We must get rid of the stuff somehow!

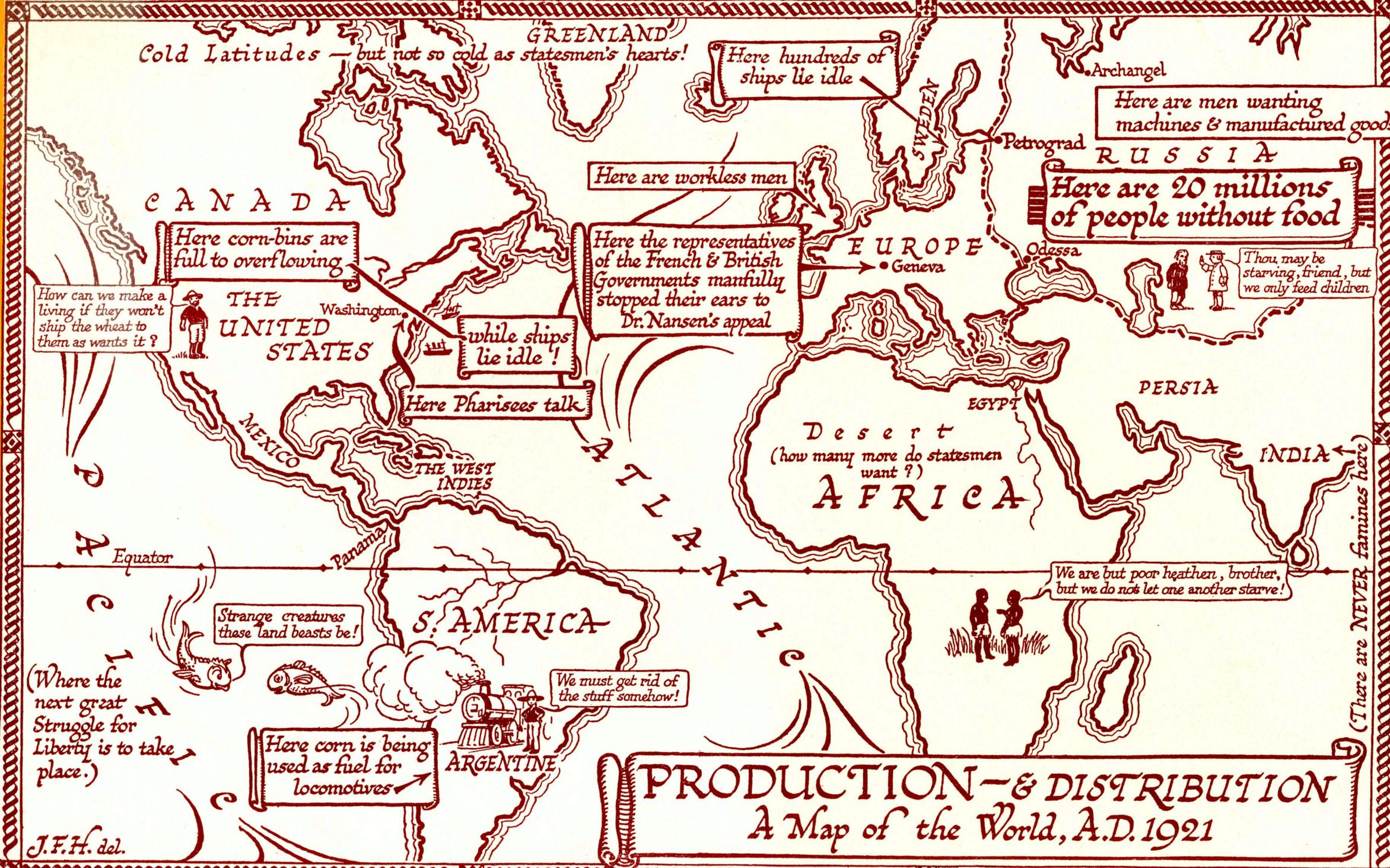
Here corn is being used as fuel for locomotives

ARGENTINE

PRODUCTION - & DISTRIBUTION  
A Map of the World, A.D. 1921

(Where the next great Struggle for Liberty is to take place.)

J.F.H. del.



Cold Latitudes — but not so cold as statesmen's hearts!

Here hundreds of ships lie idle

Here are men wanting machines & manufactured goods

Here are 20 millions of people without food

Here are workless men

Here the representatives of the French & British Governments manfully stopped their ears to Dr. Nansen's appeal

Here corn-bins are full to overflowing

How can we make a living if they won't ship the wheat to them as wants it?

THE UNITED STATES

while ships lie idle!

Here Pharisees talk

Desert (how many more do statesmen want?)

We are but poor heathen, brother, but we do not let one another starve!

Strange creatures these land beasts be!

We must get rid of the stuff somehow!

Here corn is being used as fuel for locomotives

(There are NEVER famines here)

(Where the next great Struggle for Liberty is to take place.)

# PRODUCTION - & DISTRIBUTION

## A Map of the World, A.D. 1921

J.F.H. del.

**Table of Contents of Communist Cartoons  
from "The Communist" [CPGB] 1921-1922  
Cartoons by "Espoir" (Will Hope) and others. Introduction by Eric Hobsbawm**

This Table of Contents composed by Marty Goodman of the Riazanov Library digital archive project. This table of contents may be freely reproduced by any and all.

[Some of this content taken from the descriptions of some of the cartoons in the book by G.M, found on page 52 of the book. Much of it from the lengthy captions on the cartoons.

It is regrettable that not only does this collection as reprinted in 1982 not have a table of contents, but that it also entirely lacks any notation of in what issue of "The Communist" the cartoons reproduced in this book appeared. And that artists' names (other than that of "Espoir" (Will Hope) are often not provided. [Note that Will Hope did the artwork for the color cover of the June 1916 issue of the US socialist arts and literature magazine, "The Masses". ---marty]

**Cover Page:**

The caption of the original cartoon was "If you choose, you can". It was published during the campaign for a strike of railwaymen and transport workers in support of the locked-out miners ---the Triple Alliance--- but actually appeared the day after the leaders called off the strike, "Black Friday", April 15th, 1921.

Provided: a 300 dpi 24 bit color scan of the cover and a 1200 dpi, single bit BW mode) scan.

**Pages 3 and 4 Introduction by Eric Hobsbawm**

[ An informative and cogent introduction to this material by the eminent Marxist historian!  
---marty]

**5. J. H. Thomas:**

"I claim the right to lay the first wreath - I killed him!"

This is one of the cartoons omitted from the original edition because their publication in The Communist had been the subject of libel action brought against the printer, editor and publisher of the paper by J. H. Thomas, who was eventually awarded £2,000 damages. The cartoons were published at the time of "Black Friday".

**6. Dedication**

Sir Basil Thomson was head of the Special Branch of Scotland Yard, responsible for the raid on the Communist Party's headquarters and the arrest of some of its leaders in May 1921.

**7. Here's A Health!**

"Unemployment" and "Starvation" offer a cup of "Revolution" to "Capitalism"

**8 and 9. The Symbols of Empire** [two page wide printing of the cartoon]

"The city literally teemed with military and armed policemen.

"Thick timbered barricades sunk in stone sets lined the whole of the route, and none save the troops was allowed in front of these. Sentries were everywhere.

"Over night every window, every trap-door, overlooking the route of the procession had to be closed, and kept closed till this morning.

Only by the holding of a special police pass could anyone watch the proceedings from a roof.

Down in the harbour not a single craft was allowed to move to-day for over eight hours.

"A large force of troops carried out a full rehearsal of the programme.

"Incomers to the city are under careful watch."

(The Daily Herald describing George V's visit to Loyal Ulster, June 1921)

**10 "The King Gives Up £5,000 a Year"** [top cartoon]

The King's income is £470,000 a year

**10 "Lloyd George (to Messrs. Briand, Wilson, Ishi, and Famine):** [bottom cartoon]

"A last word before we break up: Gentlemen, I rely on every of you!"

Aristide Briand was the French Prime Minister, Woodrow Wilson the US President, and Ishii the Japanese special envoy in the peace negotiations after the 1914-18 war.

**11. George and the Dragons**

Lord Northcliffe (shouting): This is what you said about Ireland.

George the Fifth: Yes, yes!

Lloyd George (shouting louder) : No, Sir! *This* is what you said.

George the Fifth: Yes, yes! Yes, yes.

Marty the four-fifths: Nonsense! Say what you did say. Assert yourself!

George the Fifth: Yes, yes, my dear! Yes yes.

[Lord Northcliffe stated in America that the Irish truce was due to the personal intervention of King George. Lloyd George denied this, and a wordy confrontation ensued.]

The "Irish truce" was the withdrawal of British troops to barracks in the Twenty-six Counties in July 1921 pending discussion between the British Government and Sinn Fein. Lord Northcliffe was the Chief Proprietor of The Times and The Daily Mail.

**12. Home for Heroes** [top cartoon]

Big Business, Wage Cut, and Starvation pound the nails into a worker's coffin.

Coffin labeled "unemployment".

## **12. "Sir Alfred Mond, speaking of unemployment, said:**

" 'I am neither discouraged nor pessimistic' " - Daily Paper, Oct. 1921

Sir Alfred Mond was Minister of Health in the Lloyd George Coalition Government from April 1921 to October 1922, and was responsible for the rules concerning treatment of the unemployed both under the National Insurance Scheme and by the Poor Law Guardians. He was the founder of Imperial Chemical Industries.

## **13. Cabinet Conference on the Unemployed**

Austen: "She's missed again... I quite agree, Sir Alfred, 30s. a week is far too much for the unemployed." Sir Alfred: "So, ve have der monish not got!"

Sir Austen Chamberlain was Lord Privy Seal in the Coalition Government, and the leader of the Conservative Party.

## **14. "Shall we do something, or is this a Council of Action"**

This cartoon, showing among others, Sidney Webb (centre), Ramsey MacDonald and Margaret Bonfield relates to the National Council of Action established in 1920 to oppose war against the new Soviet Republic, which by 1921 was being sharply criticized by the Communist Party for its inactivity on the questions of trade and solidarity with Russia.

**Pages 15, 16, 17, and 18: Cartoons involving the Japanese Crown Prince ("JCP")**  
[and the Japanese decimation of Korea (spelled "Corea").]

## **19. The Cripple Alliance**

Since Black Friday Messrs. Thomas, Bevin, and Hodges play mightily to enthusiastic audiences of coal-owners.

"The Cripple Alliance" was the name given to the Triple Alliance after J. H. Thomas (railwaymen), Ernest Bevin (transport workers) and Frank Hodges (miners) called off the proposed strike on "Black Friday".

## **20. Five small cartoons highlighting quotes about the unemployed,**

by Mr. Robert Williams, St. Frank Hodges, Morrison, The Right Hon. C.W. Bowerman, and The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas. More re: page 20: "When I have washed myself" Robert Williams was leader of the Transport Workers' Federation. He was expelled from the Communist Party for his part in the "Black Friday" betrayal, and later became a propagandist for the National Government in the 1930's. The "Hackney Mare" was Herbert Morrison, who was Mayor of Hackney. He opposed the militant actions of the unemployed and attacked George Lansbury and the Poplar councilors who went to jail for refusing to levy the LCC and other rate precepts as a protest against unemployment and the scales of relief.

**21. The Rt. Hon. J. H. THOMAS, M.P., P.C., D.C.L. (honoris causa) writes another book**

From "*When Labour Rules*" J. H. Thomas 10/-

"One of the most important movements towards the creation of a better state of affairs in Industrial England was the formation of a Royal Commission on Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, and as another evidence of the progress of the Labour Movement, it may be recalled that Labour was well represented on the Commission." "There can be no question among thoughtful people that the Monarchy plays a large part in holding the British Empire together."

"If any evidence of this were required, it could be found in the unique position occupied by the heir to the Throne-the Prince of Wales-during his tour of the Empire. It would be true to say that there has been no factor which has contributed more to the unity of the Empire than the Prince of Wales' visit to the Dominions, and this, let it be noted, immediately following the Great War, *which very naturally left considerable suffering and disappointment in many lands.*"

"That capital will be entitled to some return will be recognized, but its interests will most assuredly be limited, and the workers by hand and brain will receive a more equitable share of the wealth which they create. Such a step will not have the effect of displacing the capitalists in favour of the workers as the privileged class ..."

**22. "Pity-and all that ... but he wasn't a member of the Union" [top cartoon]**

Consemore T. Cramp was Industrial Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen and J. H. Thomas its Political Secretary. At Mallow, Co. Cork, three railwaymen were killed and wounded by the Auxiliary Police (ex-army officers recruited in England) as a reprisal for the shooting of a member of the British High Command.

**22. Both Mister Macdonalds: "So whatever their politics, WE can be trusted to represent them." [bottom cartoon]**

Friendly explanations during the Woolwich By-election (in which he was defeated) between Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald who supported the war and Mr. J. Ramsey Macdonald who opposed the war; also between Mr. Macdonald, the candidate of the I.L.P., and Macdonald, official of the I.L.P., which has repudiated the Second International.

**24. Sir--, K .C. (to the judge)** [top cartoon]

"(to the judge): "Your Honour, Short says he thinks you'd better sentence this Kiley fellow pretty heavily. He says it'll make a good impression, and he'll see himself that everything's made all right for the boy afterwards."

The Kiley referred to in the caption, after being sentenced was transferred to the prison infirmary for health reasons, but representations were made by his friends to the Home Secretary, Edward Shortt (whose name is mis-spelt in the cartoon caption), and he was allowed to go to a private nursing home, from which he vanished.

**24. At Marlborough Street Police Court on August 30th** [bottom cartoon]

An unemployed miner was charged with stealing a pint of milk from a doorway. He had tramped to London from Scotland seeking work, and had been without food for two days. He was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

**25 The Copper** [top cartoon]

Legless veteran, "suspected of being a communist", accused of beating up two policemen.

**25. Almost Any Archdeacon** [bottom cartoon]

Cleric admits to rape... then offers to "receive the erring lamb into my houseold, there to be under my protection..."

**Pages 26 and 27 Blockade - Famine - Cholera** [two page wide cartoon]

On the famine and epidemics in Russia post the invasion and civil war intended to overthrow the Soviet state. US President Harding, Briand, and Lloyd George look on, concerned but doing nothing.

**caption:** Russia fought for three years in the Great War into which she was dragged by the Tsar. Against subsidized white invaders she fought for four more years. All these four years her ports were blockaded, and this blockade has not yet ceased. For after the military blockade came a money blockade which has made trade impossible.

This blockade stopped the importation of all agricultural machines, and even prevented the arrival of iron for ploughshares. The peasants had to plough with wooden shares and the crops were peculiarly ready to be burnt by a drought.

With particular care, moreover, the Allies stopped the importation of medicines. Operations had to be performed without anesthetics. Doctors were deprived of the most elementary means of fighting epidemics. Now the famine has come-produced by the Allies. Now Cholera has come-produced by the Allies. Cholera knows no frontiers. The Allies are afraid.

**28. The lord gave and the lord hath taken away.** [top cartoon]

[C. E. Williams, one of the thirty Popular Councillors gaoled for refusing to leave the unemployed to starve, was stripped of his war decoration in Brixton Gaol.]

**28. Reading: I gave you the Marconi tip ...** [bottom cartoon]

all three to Lloyd George:

Reading: I gave you the Marconi tip...

Birkenhead: I was a good little rebel in Ulster...

Justice Lawrence: I let the fellow down lightly who ice-picked that Communist...

All speaking together: Do remember ME if there's any better job going.

Lord Reading, then Sir Rufus Isaacs, had been involved in the Marconi scandal, in which he and Lloyd George bought shares in the firm prior to the signing of a Post Office contract. Lord Birkenhead, previously F. E. Smith, had been assistant to Sir Edward Carson (later Lord Carson), the bitter opponent of Home Rule for Ireland.

Lord Chief Justice Lawrence, when a judge, sentenced a man who attacked a Communist speaker in London with an ice-pick to only a month's imprisonment, on the grounds that he found the victim's opinions offensive.

**29. The Clerk: May it please your Majesty, To be knighted...** [top cartoon]

[Assorted anti-communist and anti-labor operatives receiving knighthood for their services.]

William Brace was a miners' leader who became a Lib-Lab MP.

Sir David Shackleton was a Labour leader who later became chief labour adviser at the Ministry of Labour.

**29. There are in nature certain fountains of justice whence all civil laws are derived but as streams" - Lord Bacon.**

**30. Lenin: Charming manikins ...**

[And which is Northumberland and which is Hyndman?]

H. M. Hyndman had been a leader of the British Socialist Party, which was later the leading force in the foundation of the Communist Party in 1920. He left the BSP in 1916 because it opposed the First World War and he supported the war, and founded the National Socialist Party, which, like the BSP was affiliated to the Labour Party. The Duke of Northumberland was a large landowner and coal owner drawing huge coal royalties from the pits on his estates.

[Pages 31 - 37 concern themselves with Ireland]

### **31. The Anglo-Irish Conference**

D. Lloyd George: Well, gentlemen, are we all here?  
[Ghost of Connolly looms over the conference table.]

The cartoon shows Winston Churchill, Lord Birkenhead, Lloyd George and De Valera, with the figure of James Connolly, Irish Socialist Republican leader shot by the British in 1916, in the background.

**32. Ireland:** "Prisoner Committed Suicide in his Cell"

**33. Ireland:** "The Prisoner was killed whilst attempting to escape"

### **34. In Ireland:**

Greenwood (to Lloyd George and Thomas): "Ah, the ---! She's trying to strangle me"  
[image of policeman raping an Irish woman while other police stand and watch]

" There is intimidation, there is murder, there is treachery--- murder cowardly --- murder-cowardly mean murder.

... The police regard these people as part of the citizenship which they are prepared to defend, and when the policeman passes on he is shot in the back. And while the police are discharging these elementary duties of civilization . . . . "

*-The Prime Minister.*

### **35. A statue of George Washington.**

[unveiled in London at the end of June 1921]

"It now only remains to compel the ungrateful Indian, Egyptian, and Irishman to join the British Empire in honouring the principles set forth in the "Declaration of Independence"

[image of Irish, Indian, and Egyptian persons slammed to ground and held at point of bayonette, as Lloyd George looks on, smiling]

### **36. Dublin Parliament is Elected**

Four unionists are returned

In the May 1921 election for the Dail Eireann 124 seats were won by the Republicans and four by Unionists.

"We few, we very few, we band of brothers!" --- Shakespeare  
(St. Crispin's Day speech, from Henry V)

### **37. Monotony** [top cartoon]

[image of police terrorizing civilians]

The Marchioness of Londonderry issued an appeal for her Amusement Fund for the Royal Irish Constabulary. She said: "The object of this letter is to try to impress on the public how very much anything that adds brightness to their lives and helps to remove care and monotony is appreciated by them."

### **37. English worker talking to skeleton in a grave** [bottom cartoon]

[English Unemployed were engaged at a low rate by the French Government to work in the devastated area.]

skeleton to worker: "Back again ? What's the homes for heroes like? "

worker to skeleton: "Much like yours, old son."

[THIS is in my opinion one of the very best of the cartoons presented in this book.

Its dark humor is hugely on target. ---marty director, Riazanov Library]

### **38. The Labour Party Rescues the Unemployed**

A series of six frames (two rows of 3 frames) in which a Labour Party speaker addressing a Labour Party meeting repeatedly promises stern action to deal with unemployment... but never DOES anything. Frame by frame he becomes more and more decrepit in appearance, until in the last frame he's a talking skeleton wearing a suit.

**pages 39 - 45 Assorted cartoons invoking the return of Jesus Christ.**

Often invoking quotations from the bible.  
including one 2-page-wide cartoon on pages 44 - 45.

The cartoons attack Lloyd George, the Church of England and the Emergency Powers Act.

Note that the two page wide cartoon: **The Judas, which betrayed him, answered ...** is the second of two cartoons present here (the first is the cartoon on page 5) omitted from the original printing of this collection. This because of the J. H. Thomas libel action.

**46. After the Raid** [a set of 4 frames of cartoons]

The raid referred to is that on the Communist Party office at 16 King Street WC2 in May 1921.

**47. "Watch me stop it"** [top cartoon]

Secret service, using "official labour eyewash", tries to stop rolling down hill boulder of "communism"

**47. The Allied Philanthropist: "First, what's your politics?"** [bottom cartoon]

Relief aid withheld from a starving Russia gripped by famine

**48. The Moplah Death Train**

SHADE OF SURAJAH DOWLAH (to the officer commanding Death Train) " Sahib, you are a great king, and a greater ruler than ever I was. But I am surprised that you make no use of modern scientific methods of inflicting pain ! I thought of this sort of thing myself! Is this worthy of your greatness?"

A rebellion of peasants in Moplah, India was ruthlessly repressed by the British in 1921, and 100 of them were put in a closed railway luggage van, 26ft. by 8ft., in which 56 died of suffocation.

**49. Asking Pappa** (Lloyd George addresses the Devil)

Lloyd George: "Please, Father, I want you to tell me about the future. Here's your fee. I want to know: Will I be able to diddle Lenin if he comes to Genoa? Is that Younger man going to make me have an election when I don't want to? Will Michael Collins be able to deliver the goods in Ireland? Are any of the Indians going to blow up that silly young fathead who is touring out there? Is Churchill off his dot or is he just like that? Will this Poincare person drink himself to death soon? And you might tell me about Asquith too while you're about it, and will Uncle Arthur be next Premier, and ought I to give Ernest Bevin an O.B.E.?"

**50. You can't feed a roaring lion on buns**

[Lloyd George offering a roaring lion labeled "Unemployment" a bun labeled "Temporary Measures"]

**51. He called me "Jimmy"** (a sketch in court)

**52.** A page of "explanatory notes" providing "identification of individuals or events depicted [in some of the cartoons] signed "G. M."

**Back Cover:** "Map of the World, A.D. 1921" showing "Production and Distribution". provided both as a 300 dpi 24 bit color scan of the back cover, and as a 1200 dpi black and white scan, which is closer to how this originally appeared in "The Communist".