

# The Simon Commission's Royal Reception.

By A. Jones (London).

The Government planned to give the members of the **Simon Commission** a royal reception on their arrival in London. Their special saloon arrived at the royal platform, and among those waiting to meet them were the representative of the King, the Prime Minister **Baldwin** in person and notable leaders of all three capitalist parties, and high Indian functionaries. But this beautiful idyll which was to demonstrate the unity of all parties as far as the Empire (and India in particular) is concerned, was marred by a demonstration of a different kind. Outside the station (for they were not allowed to enter the sacred precincts of the royal platform) were gathered a small but significant band of representatives of the oppressed Indian masses and of the militant workers of Britain. But in order not to spoil the idyllic scene which was being enacted inside the station itself, the police drove off the streets any Indian they could find, captured the black flags that were being carried by the demonstrators, and tried to obliterate any signs of discontent by the time the members of the commission emerged. But even then, according to report, Sir **John Simon** was escorted to his house by an armed guard of 150 police.

This counter-demonstration against the Simon Commission, though we could wish it had been larger, is nevertheless of the greatest significance, and what is more, a portent for the future. While all three capitalist parties (among which the **Labour Party** is the most vociferous) are manifesting their united front in defence of the Empire, the **Communist Party**, the only party of the workers, is making a frontal attack against the consolidated reaction. They have already put two candidates in the field against the Labour members of the Commission, in order to reveal to the workers the chauvinist imperialist policy of the capitalist Labour Party.

All three parties intend to keep India out of the election. In a statement to the press on landing at Folkestone, Sir **John Simon** declared:

"I know I am expressing the view of my colleagues when I say that we most earnestly trust that India will be kept entirely outside all party controversy. We have worked together in this spirit and will ourselves do everything possible to preserve this to the end. Much will be heard of Indian affairs in the next Parliament, but we trust that nothing will be heard of them during our domestic discussions of the next six weeks."

Thus, while India is bleeding, while 150,000 textile workers are already out on strike, while 31 of her best trade union and revolutionary political leaders are awaiting trial, while hundreds of millions of workers and peasants are living under inhuman conditions, our Tory, Liberal and Labour imperialists "trust that nothing will be heard of them during our domestic discussions of the next six weeks". But, make no mistake about it, the voice of India will be heard during the next six weeks. The Communist Party will break through this conspiracy of silence. Wherever it can, it will put up its candidates against the members of the Simon Commission. Throughout the length and breadth of the country it will issue its challenge against the oppressors and executioners of the Indian masses. It will expose the hypocrisy of the labour imperialists who continue to pose as pacifists, internationalists and socialists.

Sir **John Simon** and his colleagues are making the greatest mistake of their lives. Apart from the activities of the British Communists, India is today speaking for itself. India has become the arena of great class struggles. Neither the sweet soothing words of the members of the Simon Commission, nor the bullets of the British forces will succeed in crushing this movement.

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"We did not conquer India for the benefit of the Indians. I know it is said at missionary meetings that we conquered India to raise the level of the Indians. That is cant. We conquered India as the outlet for the goods of Great Britain. We conquered India by the sword and by the sword we shall hold it (shame). Call shame if you like. I am stating facts. I am interested in missionary work in India, and have done much work of that kind, but I am not such a hypocrite as to say that we hold India for the Indians. We hold it as the finest outlet for British goods in general, and for Lancashire cotton goods in particular." Sir **William Joynson-Hicks**.