

The Lackeys of His Majesty.

The Second Session of British Parliament Opens.

By J. T. Murphy (London).

With all the pomp and ceremony associated with the bourgeois parliament, the MacDonald Government started the second session. They got the King to spout the MacDonald programme. That of course was a most fitting thing to do. Are they not servants of the King? It is said that he delivered the oration almost as good as MacDonald himself. And the ladies rolled up in the wonderful motor cars and had a marvellous dress parade. And Miss Ishbel MacDonald looked "so outstanding" as if to royalty born. Of course in accordance with the King's speech which MacDonald or his secretary had prepared "they viewed with grave concern and sympathy the continuance of heavy unemployment among so many of My People". The concern was written on the assembly. They laughed, they bowed to each other, they admired the wonderful dresses of gold and silver, the sparkling crown of Her Majesty, the charm of Miss Ishbel, the flowing gowns, dresses of the peeresses, the brilliant uniforms of the military gentlemen. And they adjourned to eat, drink and be merry in due concern for the continuance of heavy unemployment among "so many of My People".

And then to the House of Commons. The railway trade union leader Mr. Charlton appeared in his Sunday best suit to tell the "House" that he was honoured, indeed his constituency was honoured, the railway men were honoured, with the honour bestowed upon him to move

„That an humble address be presented to His Majesty as followeth:

"Most Gracious Sovereign, We Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."

There! Does not that make you feel happy? If not you must be very ungrateful indeed. At least Mr. Charlton, the ex-railwaymen and now trade union leader, felt happy, so happy that had His Gracious Majesty bid him crawl on his belly he would have gladly done it.

And what of the contents of this "Most Gracious Speech"? To begin with it expresses not only the sorrow of His Majesty concerning unemployment but goes on to tell us how unlucky he and his Majesty's Government and the landlords and capitalists are. It says "Economic depression unfortunately continues to dominate the markets of the world and the accompanying restriction of international trade is felt with particular severity in those industries which are specially dependent on export". But be of good cheer, His Gracious Majesty not so long ago decided to purchase six new motor cars not because he really wanted them or had need of them but to ease the depression and find work for the unemployed. And please do not forget that My ladies have lengthened their dresses and their gowns, their silks and satins, all to help the "basic industries". Isn't that good of them? Doesn't show a real concern for the unemployed?

But that is not all. The Gracious Speech from His Majesty written by Mr. MacDonald world renowned as a leader of the Second International also told us:

"My Government will persist in its efforts to develop and extend home, imperial and foreign trade and to help in measures which will lead to greater efficiency in industry." If that does not cheer the hearts of the working class then the workers are an ungrateful lot. Why, the Labour Government is going to help them to produce still cheaper and knock out the dirty foreigner. It is going to continue helping every capitalist to get two men to do the work of three for less wages. It is prepared to continue organising the bosses on a more efficient basis, helping them to develop monopolies, to close down "uneconomic factories and pits and railway lines".

It does not stop there. It promises more "good" times for the unemployed. The Unemployment Insurance fund is

bankrupt. It is £60,000,000 overdrawn. So now after the work of a three party committee, i. e. a committee composed of representatives of the Labour Party, the Tory Party and the Liberal Party, it is going to establish a "Royal Commission" to review the unemployment insurance fund and find ways and means of finding that sixty million pounds. How? Well there are three possible ways. One, make the employed workers pay more into the fund. Second, cut down benefits. Third, disqualify a lot of workers who are now receiving benefit. Here is "real" sympathy.

Then His Gracious Majesty's Speech says that the time has come to send the industrial workers "back to the Land". Every man his own cabbage patch! And what do you think to this? The Government and His Gracious Majesty have been reading of the Five-Year Plan in the Soviet Union and they have got a great idea. England is to be the land of large State farms. And they are not going to be long to the workers. They are going to prove that capitalism is not bankrupt, that it can beat the Workers Republic at its own game. It is going to have its own great capitalist farms. None of your workers farms for us. But real capitalist farms. Back to the land ye miners, ye railwaymen and engineers and learn how the Labour Government solves the problems of capitalism.

And then it makes some promises that were in the first King's Speech of the Labour Government. It says once more that it will raise the school leaving age to fifteen, it will amend the law about the trades unions. It will amend the factory acts. Of course it promised these things before. What you think that the Llandudno Conference is forcing their hands and compelling them to repeal the Trades Dispute Act? Not on your life. The Speeches of the Conference were for the repeal but the resolution of the conference only spoke of amending the law. So please do not get the idea that some radical virus has suddenly penetrated the veins of the Labour Government.

Listen to Mr. Charlton, the railwayman of yesterday, the trade union official of to-day, the mover of the "Humble address". He made things wonderfully clear to "His Most Gracious Majesty". He said: "The modern trade union leader has quite a different task to perform from those who preceded him. My own experience on the railways—and I believe every railway director and officer will bear me out—is that we have created order by our trade union efforts and by the co-operation of the trade unions with the management, and I am sure there is not a director or officer who would ask for the abolition of trade unionism on the railways."

In order to complete the picture of this happy fraternity with His Most Gracious Majesty and the railway directors and the capitalists and landlords, ladies and gentlemen we quote the following from the Minister of Transport, Mr. Herbert Morrison:

"I want every business man and every business manager to realise that the Labour Government is not their enemy, but that every Minister in this government wants to treat him as a man and a brother, and help to make his commercial or industrial enterprise more successful than it has been in the past."
