

BRITAIN'S NEW POLITICAL PARTY

Sir Richard Acland Explains Common Wealth

EXPLAINING his decision to cease making large-scale contributions to finance the Common Wealth Party, of which he is the founder, Sir Richard Acland, M.P., told the "Daily Mail" recently: "I have only £8,000 capital to live on for the next six years. When that is gone, I will have no more money." He added that a company director, Alan Good, and himself, had contributed £17,000 out of a £20,000 party fund. "Paradoxically, the Common Wealth Party has been too successful, involving heavy expenses," he said. "Unless the party's 10,000 or 15,000 members pay up, the party faces financial disaster."—Cable message.



SIR RICHARD ACLAND
Men who lost property would be questioned about men who lost eyes

THIS was but one of several references in our newspapers in recent months to Sir Richard Acland's Common Wealth Party in Great Britain (often misspelt "Commonwealth"). At the same time, reviews have appeared in English newspapers of Sir Richard's book *How It Can Be Done*, in which he details fully his beliefs, remedies, and general political programme. He insists that the plans he suggests are his own, but that the first six chapters of his book would be accepted by the members of the Common Wealth organisation—the remaining chapters are open to discussion.

Whether the Common Wealth Party will rival the big political parties has yet to be proved, but the newspapers have already given lists of constituencies which the Common Wealth Party expects to contest. Many of our readers, whatever their political colour,

will therefore be interested in Sir Richard Acland's scheme of Public Control of Private Ownership, which is the main plank of his platform.

ONE of the main criticisms of the Common Wealth programme takes the form of suggesting that if public control of private ownership is adopted, money in the savings banks, Defence Bonds, etc., will sooner or later be taken. Sir Richard writes:

"We so often hear talk about 'our all being capitalists now.' In a certain sense a great many of us are. There are statistics showing that 10 per cent of all workers (in Britain) work in businesses employing less than 10 workers each. We could not calculate from these statistics how many separately-owned businesses there are unless we knew the average number of workers in these small businesses. But obviously there must be quite a large number.

"Much more numerous are the people who, while they work for wages, also own a little bit of something—post office savings, Defence Bonds, the house next door, one or two shares in this and that. There are millions of these people. But the important thing about all these millions of little 'owners' is that when they are all added together, their property does not amount to anything very much.

"The Rich" and "The Poor"

"The facts about us are that 94 per cent of us put together own less than 14 per cent of all the property of the country, while six per cent of us own more than 86 per cent of the property. Or, to put the same thing another way, 37½ million people own one-seventh of the country, while two and a-half million own the remaining six-sevenths.

"For most of the 37½ million, earning wages is the way of life; while owning property is for some of them something which brings in a little bit extra

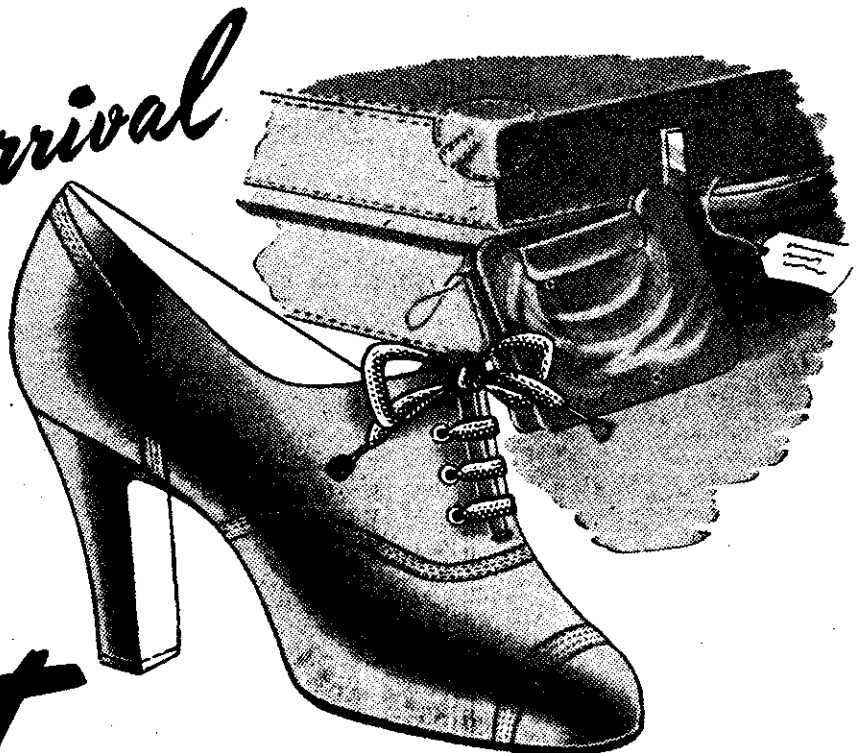
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