

(Continued from previous page)

above all, the real driving force behind the Socialist movement is and must be ethical and not economic. Hence the Common Wealth slogan, "What is morally wrong cannot be politically right"—a clumsy slogan, but one with some appeal.

Grafted on to this is a rather indeterminate immediate policy, which at times seems to promise everything to everybody. Common Wealth proposes to nationalise all the means of production, but it is also ready to pay compensation—full compensation to small property-owners, fractional compensation to big ones. It will stop exploiting the Empire, but will preserve the English standard of living. It will deal firmly with its opponents, but will permit freedom of speech. It will be anti-military, but will encourage patriotism. It will co-operate with anyone whose aims are reasonably similar.

In all this, no doubt, there is an element of Utopianism. But this much can be said: if common ownership is ever established in Britain, it will be by a party of approximately the kind that Acland is striving for, and not of the continental Marxist type.

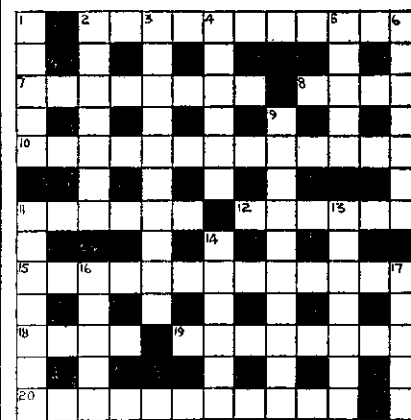
WHETHER Sir Richard Acland will be the ultimate leader of that party is a different question. He himself says that he does not want to; he merely wants to bring a larger movement into being. His opponents, on the other hand, accuse him of a "fuehrer complex" and declare that if Common Wealth seemed likely to be swamped by a really nationwide movement, Acland would walk out of it sooner than play second fiddle.

This judgment is probably coloured by jealousy. It is, in fact, not easy to imagine Acland as a political figure of the very first rank, either for good or evil. He has the single-mindedness of a dictator, but not the vulgarity, perhaps not even the toughness. More plausibly, his opponents say that Common Wealth is merely a product of the electoral truce and will wither away as soon as the Labour Party is free to campaign again.

MEANWHILE, Common Wealth fights by-elections all over Great Britain and wins a surprising number of votes. It may finally break, as all radical movements hitherto have broken, on the rock of the trade unions. Acland claims, and can produce figures to support him, that he has a strong following in the armed forces and is gaining ground in the factories in spite of Communist opposition.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 155: Constructed by R.W.C.)



Clues Across

2. Rain of sauce (anag.).
7. H.M.S. Miser shines with a faint, diffused light.
8. Name of two English brother architects of the 18th century.
10. To Mary, Sal, Ivan (anag.).
11. Scots warden?
12. Is dear (anag.).
13. Our Percy Flint behaves superficially.
15. Units of resistance frequently found on official envelopes.
19. Use tact, Iris, for this.
20. He eats—I can't (ana...)

Clues Down

1. Stops for positions.
2. Gathered along one edge.
3. Use a rag mop (anag.).
4. Sea nymph.
5. Hitler promises Europe a new one.
6. Some day (anag.).
9. Sat on giant (anag.).
11. Oh! a pram conceals a Greek vessel.
13. Of the hip.
14. Speed.
16. Dance.
17. A suitable craft for Cathy.

(Answer to No. 154)

