

**LABOUR, THE
GIANT WITH THE
FEET OF CLAY**

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Labour, the giant with the feet of clay by Shaw Desmond

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

THE writer, who has been a member of the Labour Party since 1906, has special qualifications for the critical analysis of Labour which follows. He has not only had some personal experience of the executive side of Labour and Socialist bodies but he has spoken for Labour throughout Great Britain and Ireland at street corner and in public hall, and widely lectured upon it abroad, although of later years he has been more looker-on than active participator. He stood as Independent Socialist against the Right Hon. John Burns for the Battersea division of London in the 1910 General Election, and has made an intensive study of Labour, both national and international, over a period of fifteen years, not only in this country but also, in many of the countries themselves, throughout Europe as in the United States.

His novels and plays have largely centred around democracy, whilst his writings upon Labour and Socialism have appeared constantly not only in various English periodicals but also in the Continental and American press.

His knowledge of the movement is therefore not that of the armchair but from the inside, whilst his confession that he is still a convinced believer in Labour and Democracy lends especial point to his analysis, an analysis often searching and challenging, but always sympathetic and understanding.

FOREWORD

IN a very real sense, I have written this little book against my own will and only after many years of hesitancy.

I have hesitated because not only am I still a Socialist but because the conclusions to which, rightly or wrongly, I have come, have been forced upon me in spite of myself and because they destroy in my own case, as in the cases of countless others, the illusions of half a lifetime.

I have written it because not only do I believe it to be the democrats who are killing democracy but because I know it to represent what increasing numbers of socialists and labour sympathisers are feeling throughout the world, often without daring to acknowledge it to themselves.

It will be said that, whilst I have criticised Socialism and the world's Labour movement in these pages, I have not dealt with the failures and shortcomings of Capitalism. That, however, has not been my business here, where I am concerned only with Labour.

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