

**THE RIOT ACT: A  
PLAY IN  
THREE ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649763740

The riot act: a play in three acts by Sir James Sexton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SIR JAMES SEXTON**

**THE RIOT ACT: A  
PLAY IN  
THREE ACTS**



THE RIOT ACT



457945

# THE RIOT ACT

*A Play in Three Acts*

BY

JAMES SEXTON

LONDON

CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LIMITED

(THE CHARACTERS IN THE ORDER OF THEIR  
APPEARANCE.)

DUNNE (Chief Clerk at Office of the National Quayside  
Workers' Union).

MISS VAUGHAN (Typist at Office of the National Quayside  
Workers' Union).

MR. CUNLIFFE, J.P. (General Secretary of the National  
Quayside Workers' Union).

WARING (Leader of Deputation).

DOBSON

DUCKFIELD

KING

REILLY

CONOLLY

} Members of Committee.

MADDOCKS (Labour Leader).

THE LORD MAYOR.

MR. MOGG (Magistrate).

DOCKERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MAGISTRATES, NURSE.

---

ACT I.

*Buildings of the National Quayside Workers.*

SCENE I.—General Secretary's Room.

SCENE II.—Meeting Room District Council.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—Magistrates' Meeting Room.

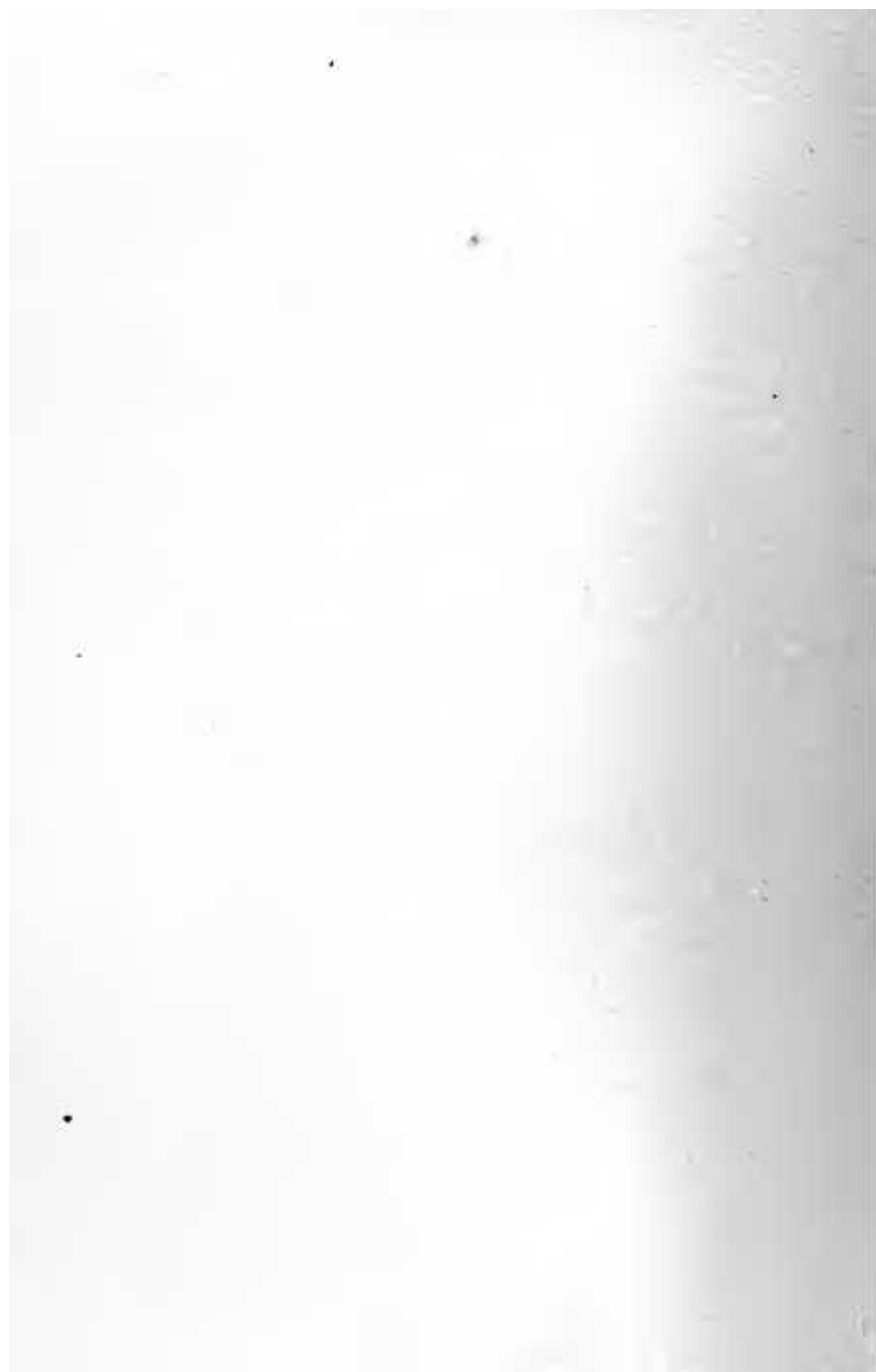
SCENE II.—General Secretary's Room.

ACT III.

SCENE I.—Strike Committee Rooms.

SCENE II.—General Secretary's Room.





# THE RIOT ACT

## ACT I.

### SCENE I.

SCENE.—*The Private Office of the General Secretary at the Headquarters of the National Quayside Workers' Union.*

*It is well but simply furnished with a solid square table, upholstered in brown leather. On the left, near the fireplace, is an ordinary half-backed office chair in front of the table, to the left of which stands the desk telephone on the table.*

*On the opposite side of the table is another chair, evidently meant for the use of the Shorthand Clerk and Typist.*

*On the wall, at the left, is a well-stocked bookcase.*

*The other walls are covered with maps and photographs or caricatures from "Vanity Fair" of well-known Labour M.P.'s.*

*At the back the clerks can be seen in the General*

*Office through the glass partition, through which there is a door leading into the General Secretary's room.*

*When the curtain rises, the Lady Typist and Shorthand Clerk ENTERS with the morning correspondence, all of which, with the exception of one letter bearing the inscription on the envelope O.H.M.S., are open.*

TYPIST. On His Majesty's Service.

*This evidently attracts the clerk, who fingers it longingly and turns it over several times. Her curiosity getting the better of her discretion, she turns her back to the glass partition, runs her thumb through the envelope, takes out the letter and reads it with a look of surprise and satisfaction.*

*Comes down to below L. of table, puts letter on table, and deliberately takes its contents down in Shorthand, and then puts the document under the pile of already opened correspondence on the table when the chief clerk, Mr. DUNNE, ENTERS. DUNNE looks enquiringly at the Shorthand Clerk and the open note-book.*

DUNNE (*comes down R. of table*). Has Mr. Cunliffe arrived?

MISS V. (*L. of table*). No.

DUNNE. Then why, may I ask, are you taking notes in his absence?

MISS V. (*With indignation, closing note-book*). You may ask, but it does not follow that I am compelled to