

THE BATTLE OF BATTERSEA

By S. SAKLATVALA

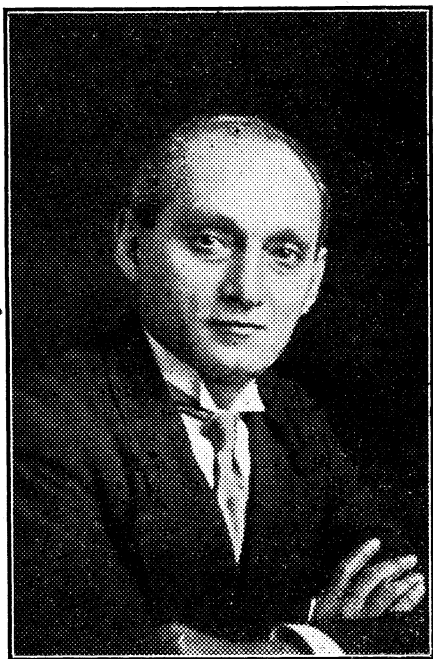
IF ever an election fight was a series of "pitched battles" it was at North Battersea. Yet they were all bloodless battles full of good cheer, and though a serious fight it was at the same time a sing-song fight all the way.

The great plank in the opponent's fight was to be the Labour Candidate's membership of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

But this plank never even once balanced itself on two firm ends. More loudly, more emphatically, and more repeatedly did the candidate himself declare and fully explain his Communism than the adversaries had the ability to do.

What assisted the Labour Candidate most was the very genuineness of his Communist principles; as, in a truly proletarian spirit, he got by his side members of all sections of the Labour Movement in Battersea to stand as solid as a rock.

The comrades of the I.L.P., the comrades of the Battersea Labour League (a creation of John Burns), the comrades of Trades Unions and Labour Party Wards, and the



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Irish Rebels stood solid as a rock without one woman or one man in the active Labour ranks making an exception.

All of them laughed at the scare-cry raised against their candidate being a Communist and all of them seemed to trust him and work more enthusiastically for him on account of the candidate's openness in adhering to his political principles. It was a substantial proof that genuine Communist Candidates are bound to enthuse the Labour and working class voters and electors in a higher degree than by any policy of timidity or half-heartedness.