

**Why I Joined
the New Party**

Sellick Davies
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By SELICK DAVIES

**Ex LIBERAL CANDIDATE
for EVESHAM DIVISION**

WHY I JOINED THE NEW PARTY

By SELICK DAVIES.

EVER since the war, I have been one of the most active and loyal supporters of the Liberal Party. I believed that only through the success of that Party could my ideals be realised and the schemes which I was convinced were necessary to the good of mankind be carried out.

Liberalism, to me, stood for real freedom. Its philosophy was based on a belief in the fundamental value of human personality. So long as its policies contained the plans to give practical expression to this philosophy, and so long as there permeated the Party itself the will and the ability to carry these plans into effective action, so long I remained a Liberal.

My belief in this philosophy remains unaltered. I am as passionately desirous as ever to uplift every section of my fellowmen ; I still fight for equality of opportunity for all and freedom in the widest sense for the individual.

LIBERAL INEFFECTIVENESS.

I have been one of a large number of Liberals—especially amongst the younger school—who have become increasingly dissatisfied with the ineffectiveness of the Party during this period of national crisis. Individually it possesses brilliant leaders. Mr. Lloyd George, as a great national figure in times of previous urgency, has placed this country under a debt which it can never repay. Its enquiries into economic conditions are of supreme importance and still possess undoubted value. From time to time, it has formulated first-class policies of the utmost practical worth. Yet—as a political force, it has ceased to count.

FATAL WEAKNESSES.

NOW this failure to count has, in my opinion, been due almost entirely to two factors :

- (1) For years the effectiveness of the Party has been nullified by internal dissensions. In the House of Commons, on almost every issue it has been so divided that its voting power has been practically nil. Worse still, its policy there has been so vacillating that rank and file members have been bewildered

and dismayed by its constant abandonment of the principles they hold most dear. It has been so intent upon preserving the balance of Parliamentary power and keeping in existence a discredited Government that it has completely failed to adopt a definite policy of its own and courageously to pursue that policy irrespective of selfish Party considerations. **In short, it has paid far too much attention to tactics and far too little to principles.**

- (2) Its policies of national reconstruction, agricultural development and coal and power are excellent ; but they do not go far enough. This is largely because they have been formulated in a doctrinaire atmosphere of dogmatic Free Trade ideas. Any proposal which would have weakened the Free Trade position has been automatically rejected—indeed, it has hardly received consideration. **SO INTOLERANT HAS THIS BIAS BEEN THAT IN THE END FREE TRADE KILLED FREE THOUGHT !** In certain circles which exercise complete control of policy in the Party, Free Trade is positively

a religion. Too many are Liberals *only* because they are Free Traders ; in every other direction, they are the most retrogressive of Die-Hard Tories.

Thus the Liberal economic policies refuse to face realities. If the country is to survive and if the standard of living of the People is not to be greatly lowered, the home market must be considerably developed and, where necessary, scientifically protected against unfair competition from countries in which wage standards are much lower and where the industries are bolstered by Government subsidies. The doctrinaire Free Trader, whether Liberal, Labour, or Conservative, refuses to admit the existence of any alternative to Free Trade except than a general system of Tariffs. In my opinion, an economic policy cramped by such prejudice cannot possibly succeed for any length of time.

A NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

THUS I have left the Liberal Party. I am no longer content to fight with my hands tied. Like many others of my generation—who fought through the war and since the Armistice have earnestly striven to build up a better country—

I am passionately anxious to get things done. This is a moment of desperate national crisis. The Liberal Party is unable to affect the issue—at least in time to make any difference. It is shattered in organisation and divided in policy. It has lost the confidence of the country. There is a continuous conflict between Party and National interest. I have made what I believe to be the only choice. I have sacrificed my Party, as I always must, to my country.

Was there another Party? I could not find it in me to join either the Socialists or the Conservatives. The Liberal Party, even as it was, was better than these.

THE NEW PARTY.

THEN in the New Party, led by Sir Oswald Mosley, I found fresh hope. I eagerly read its manifesto, studied its policy, spoke to its leaders. I thought long and anxiously and weighed every consideration in the balance before deciding.

On the one hand — old associations, old political friends, ten years devoted service, misunderstandings, possibly even abuse

On the other hand—a **NEW PARTY** which possessed new vision, courage, sound patriotism, a brilliant and practical policy to deal with our immediate problems; a sincerity of purpose which is beyond doubt. A Party of understanding and ability, of sanity and reasonableness; filled with a sacrificial outlook, yet fired with a passionate spiritual urge; a Party of youth, which yet respected the wisdom of experience; a Party where opportunity is given to all—even to the humblest member; a Party freed from the prejudices and restrictions of the old Parties—pressing forward with eyes wide open, clear and fearless—attracting men and women from all Parties and from no Party—of all ranks and ideas. A Party, in short, born out of a realisation of the national danger. Its watchword is Action. Its object is National Salvation. It demands in its members sound patriotism, self-sacrifice and personal loyalty.

Is it any wonder that, when I left the Liberal Party, I joined the **NEW PARTY**?

To all Liberals who are thinking along the lines I have indicated, I would say, in all sincerity, “Come over and join us!”