

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

The World War I and capitalism cause dark life condition for certain group of people. The labour is one of the many social groups in the era that had to experience the bad effects. The thesis analysis is about the labour's life of the era, their struggle, and their social relationships. Willie Rough as the main character of the play is the representative of workers in the era of early World War I and capitalism in Scotland. He is the main object to be analysed.

Willie Rough is a married man, comes from Greenock looking for a job. He works for Jake Adams in the shipyard and he has many friends in James Watt Bar. Willie befriends with many people but most of his friends are his fellow shipyard workers in Clydeside. From the first time Willie shows his interest on labour movement and its struggle. There are three friends and one activist who give big contribution to Willie's life. The first is Jake Adams, the foreman. Jake helps Willie by giving him a job start. Jake always tries to be kind with Willie and willing to be his sharing and discussion partner on the labour movements. Willie knows that Jake positions as a foreman is unable him to join any workers union like Willie but Jake is always been sympathetic. The second is Pat Gatens, the fellow shipyard worker. Pat is a friend who always accompanies

Willie in most of his activities. The third man is Charlie McGrath. He is an engineer whom Jake introduced to Willie. The combination of Willie and Charlie results on duo-agitator and they are sharpened by one another.

The last is the activist who gives a big effect on Willie's way of thinking. Willie is a big fan of John MacLean. MacLean is a political agitator and orator of the era. He starts his first organisation debut in the first Marxist organisation, Socialism Democratic Federation (SDF). This organisation constructs MacLean's path into the spirit of Marxism in Scotland (<http://gdl.cdlr.strath.ac.uk/redclyde/rcpeojohnmclean.htm>). Willie proudly says that all he has in mind is something that he gets from MacLean and whatever people dislike or insult him that will not make Willie become less interested in him.

“WILLIE: He's a great man. I really believe that. His meetins are the only thing I've got tae look forward tae 'cept gaun hame tae the wife an' the weans at night.”

(24)

“WILLIE: Aye, it's a rare gift tae be able tae see what's ahead o us. MacLean got it. He's a great man. I've never met anybody like him, an you havenae, either, if you were tae be honest about it.”

(12; 66)

John MacLean influences Willie Rough in many ways. It can be seen in Willie's speeches in some problems such as war, labour movements, strikes, and so on. Willie is the representation of the workers that have the same view on their condition. Related to that, Willie's point of view about his social, life, and country's condition will be revealed; he also gives reaction according to his views. All of these will be analysed in this chapter.

A. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF WILLIE ROUGH

The characterization of Willie Rough will use Harry Shaw's theory of characterization in his book *Dictionary of Literary Terms*. According to the book, there are five basic means of characterization, that the character is reveal by his actions, speech, thoughts, physical appearance, and what other characters say or think of him (Shaw 71).

The first point is about Willie's actions. From his actions, the reader can have a clue that Willie is a serious man. He does all of his activities in a serious way, like the way he decides to join the labour union and get totally involve to the union activities to strive for the labour rights.

The second is about Willie's speech. Willie's speech is provocative from the early conversation. This makes his friend call him "Red Flagger". Willie becomes sharp tongue when he meets somebody

who is opposing him but he is mild to his friend. Willie surely rejects the invitation to conscript, as the quotation below,

“WILLIE: Stay where ye are. Here in Greenock, where ye belong. Sure, we’ve got tae try our hardest tae prevent this imperialist war: [*rhetorically*] but if it starts, as start, God help us, it surely will, it’s our duty to oppose it. Out of the crisis of the war we must find the means to bring an end tae capitalism.”

(2; 24)

The Thoughts is the third point of characterization. Willie Rough is a man with a firm standpoint. In the drama, it is shown that his way of thinking is mostly influenced by his idolatry to John MacLean. Willie’s standpoint is tested by his imprisonment and the result is that it is found to be intact, and fact that in the end of the story he is lack of support, he still insists with his thought that he is holding the right thing.

“WILLIE: But we didnae commit a crime, Charlie. For the first time in my life I wrote down something I believed in. sure, I wis willin tae go tae jyle for my convictions, because I kent that wis the law. But the law’s wrang. A man should be free tae criticise. “

(17; 83)

“WILLIE: I’ve got to stay. I’ve got tae show folk what it’s like tae live by somethin’ ye believe in. Mebbie I can change them by showin them that. Mebbie I cannae. But I’ve got to haud my heid up, so they can stick up for themselves an’ no be feart tae demand what’s their rights.”

(18; 89)

The last two points are about Willie’s physical appearance and what other characters say or think about him. For the fourth point, Willie’s physical appearance, unfortunately, it is not revealed in the drama so the readers have no clue about it. For the last point, the character is revealed from what other characters say or think about him.

“PAT: Can ye no take a joke? You’re that serious about everythin”

(3; 31)

“HUGHIE: Ye’re no looking sae sober yoursel’, Willie.”

(5; 35)

“JAKE: ... You trusted people far too much. That’s the troube wi you.”

(18; 87)

B. WILLIE'S POINT OF VIEW ON WW I, CAPITALISM, LABOUR MOVEMENTS, AND SOCIAL CONDITION

1 The Government, WW I and the Relation with the Labours

Willie Rough, with the background of Marxism, sees the government as a repressive agent. The government issues policies on behalf of dominant class and forces them to the citizen to obey and to be compliant, in the name of nationalism and the status of good citizen.

The Scottish Government is under the British government. The British government's decision to oppose German in WW I is absolutely has to be supported by all of the British Imperialist states, including Scotland. The support is not only given by the government but also should come from the whole citizens. By setting aside all of the disagreement of the citizen, the government's policies become an obligation for the citizen to fulfil.

Willie sees the state as the repressive agent. It is the tool used by the dominant class to extinguish any possible opposition that may rises from the economically oppressed people, especially the labour. The dominant classes here are The British government and capitalism. These dominant classes exploit the working class power to fulfil the goal. This is because they use the working class power but less concern to the labours' right. From this standpoint, the writer divided Willie's disappointment to the government into three, just as Marx and Engels says about the three

state's repressive agents; ideology (upgrading course and indoctrination), law (police, jurisdiction, and bureaucracy), and physical (military). For the result of the disagreement and disappointment, Willie pursues revolution for the labours' better live.

The first repressive agent is about ideology. The government doctrines the citizen about the war and the importance of the citizens' participation for the country. The indoctrination is done in many ways. In the drama, the government tries to burn the citizens' spirit to succeed the war. Posters are displayed in public rooms to impart the notion of succeeding the war for the citizens, "YOUR KING & COUNTRY NEED YOU!" and "WOMEN OF BRITAIN SAY "GO!" (4; 33). The posters try to burn the citizens' spirit to succeed the war, whatever the gender. The men are hoped to fulfil the conscription or volunteer and the women are hoped to support the men to join. The posters say about the importance of the citizens' involvement for the country and the women of Scotland are expected to be supporter for the men (33). The posters seem to burn the citizens' nationalism and to hush the wave of war rejection. Willie as an anti-war definitely curses the posters as he sees that publishing posters become the media to imparting the government's ideology.

Another imparting ideology is through organisations in the society. The organisations then will pass the government's messages to

their members. This way is effective, knowing that the citizens tend to follow what their leaders say and tend to take the general overview about something. Willie sees the imparting ideology is false consciousness. He cannot see that the war brings good to humanity, moreover it is about exploitation to the citizens, especially the working class. However, Willie cannot win the argument alone among the “agree” citizens, so he decides to join the labour union.

If the messages are accepted by the society, it will be easy for the government to take them to get involve to succeed the war, by their power. The government issues many policies for the war effort. Two of them are ‘The Defence of the Realm Act’ and ‘The Munitions Act’. Willie utters that the policies are two of some other instruments against the working people in the country (61).

The Munitions Act is about centralising workers to ensure the efficient and uninterrupted production and supply of munitions for the British armed forces. Willie does not talk much about his impression on this act, but he contends that this act is one of the instruments that against the working people in the country. Willie’s argument is understandable because the policy results on bad effects for the workingmen. By the policy, many workers have to migrate in some concentration places or other cities that produce munitions. The landlords see the migration as an opportunity to expand their house rental and increase the rent price. It is

worsen that the increasing of daily need prices also follows the increasing of the rent price. The increasing prices are not comparable with the labours' wage that is still at the constant level. Willie and another married workingmen may not feel the increased price directly because commonly, the father only give the financial support and not to manage it. The one who becomes the financial manager of the family is the wife so Katie feels the impact directly than Willie.

Another government's policy is The Defence of the Realm Act (DORA). DORA is the policy that gives the government emergence power to take over property, apply censorship, control labour, and commandeer economic resources for the war needs (<http://gdl.cdlr.strath.ac.uk>). It results on the conscription that instructs all the healthy and mature man in Scotland to join the British armed forces. Many of Willie's friends fulfil the conscription. The common workers think that to fulfil the conscription is about a chance to test the nationalism. It is constructed in the mind that the citizens should support the government strength and succeed the war.

This is definitely opposite to Willie's way of thinking. Willie sees it as an imperialist war and the government uses the labours' power to be the bait to defeat German. It is the interest of British government and the workers will get nothing in return. Willie's friend tries to compare the using of workers' power in war with the using of a big stick to defence

oneself (40), but Willie disagree with the argument. Willie says that there will be no problem if a person uses a big stick to fight against another person, but the war is about the imperialist war and Willie strictly refuses that the workingmen's power are used as the big stick. He cannot accept that the workingmen's power are use to bring the victory for the Imperialist Allies. For Willie, the victory should be on the labours' side.

In conclusion, Willie's disagreement on war is reasonable. Willie gives some arguments that the workingmen should rebel. Instead of supporting the war, the workers' duty is to oppose it. He sees that the labour refusal to support the war is a big step to prevent imperialism and out of the crisis of war, the workers have a duty to bring an end to capitalism (24).

The second repressive agent is the physical agent, or military. One of military duties is to keep the state security from any harm, from inside and outside the state. One of the security harms from inside the state is subversive action from its citizens. This physical agent will not be loath to do violence actions to the rebellious citizen, like labour activists.

The labour activists like Willie are usually called as "Red Flaggers" (2; 24, 5; 39). Karl Marx referred the term as the symbol of Republic of Labour and representing a subversive party (www.worldsocialism.org). This term will be given to people that assumed to be the member of labour union, subversive party, or socialism

sympathiser. Willie Rough notice the presence of military, but he seems does not care for it and keeps doing his union activity.

Knowing the high risk of the Red Flaggers' activities, people tended to keep away from them and the unions. It is understandable, that if they are detected to have relation on such activity or become the member of such union they have to be ready to face the high risks. They have to face terrors such as kidnapping, detention, job dismissal, social expelled, and so on. This happened to John MacLean, Willie's idol, and Willie himself will soon have the same treatment like MacLean.

The third agent is law (police, jurisdiction, and bureaucracy). The police duty is to make sure that the citizens obey the government's rules and become the upholder of it. The labour unions and its activities are considered subversive and against the law. People who against the law have to face risk; one of it is imprisonment. The threat of imprisonment is undeniable for the activist, like Willie. Willie knows exactly about the risk, just like what he thinks in John MacLean imprisonment, but it does not mean that he can accept it. He cannot accept the rule because he thinks that labourers deserve to gather, speak, and strive for their right. Willie considers the imprisonment act is excessive. Willie does not talk much about his point of view on the police, but Willie has many friends that have to deal with policemen because of the union activity. The

policemen cannot stop Willie's from his union activity until the big strike in February and the article publishing that Willie has to end in jail.

2 Point of View on Capitalism

Willie sees that Capitalism has a close connection with the war. Capitalism will get the biggest profit if the state wins the war. One of the purposes of the war is to get a new colony; to take over another country. Capitalism gets the profit because it will make them easier to get the new market for their product, not only marketing the product but also open new field for factories and growing new capitalism. The new capitalism needs field, labours, and natural resources. This is absolutely against the spirit of labour union, to bring an end to capitalism. If the working class agree to get involve in the war that means they also agree to deploy the oppression to the working class.

The interesting point of the capitalism is about the relationship among the employers and employees. The relationship that results on exploitation to gain profit by depressing the production cost as low as possible. In the work Willie's employer is the owner of the shipyard building but the owner itself is not appeared. Willie only has Jake Adams as his foreman. The foremen are the accomplices of the owner of the enterprise. One of the foremen's duties is to ensure that the working situations run well and can achieve the production's targets. Jake also

does his duties like the others foremen. Jake's position is in the middle between the shipyard owner and the labourers. The owner assigns Jake with certain rules and targets that then Jake has to apply it to the working environment and the labourers. Jake has good relationships with the labourers and his daily presence causes him to know the working and the labours condition much better than the owner.

Jake Adams and Willie Rough instead of being a foreman and a labourer, they also have a good relationship. Willie trusts Jake and considers him a good friend. Jake sees Willie as a worker who has a high class-consciousness. Jake does not avoid Willie when he decides to join and be active on the labour union, which is somewhat forbidden for the employer like Jake. Jake like any other foremen and employers, they have to obey the government's rules. On the other hand, the labour unions tend to reject it because they want to have new policies that benefit their needs.

Willie always tries to share his union activities and plan with Jake although he knows that Jake's position disable him to join his way. Jake tries to respond it very carefully considering Willie's excitement and Jake's own position as an employer. In the early discussion, Jake tries to hold Willie not to involve to such activities by saying that he does not think that the union will bring good for Willie (3; 29). Jake knows that Willie will keep insist and he will never stop to hold Willie's involvement.

“JAKE: What’s on your mind, Willie?”

“WILLIE: It’s the negotiation committee, Jake. I know your collar an’ tie’s kept ye out o the Union, but your attitude’s always been sympathetic...”

“JAKE: No always, Willie, I’m in a funny position. It’s none o my business. Neither the Union nor your negotiation committee. Christ, if any o the high heid-yins saw me even talkin tae you two, I’d get the fuckin bag!”

(7; 46)

Jake Adams is the representation of the employer that tends to support the war. The capitalists support the war by allowing the government to use their properties in the Munitions Act and allow their labours to leave the work to go to the war. The government and the capitalists make a good collaboration for the war. This fact hurt Willie so bad, that the country and capitalism use the labour power to bring the triumph for imperialism. The fact is that in the end of the war, the labours will get nothing in return.

Another disappointment to the employer is that they refuse to raise the wage base rate. According to *Encyclopaedia Americana* Vol. 16, the term base rate means:

“The amount of pay for a unit of time worked, exclusive of premium pay for overtime or other premium payments. Under incentive wage systems, other than pieces rates, may refer to the amount guaranteed per hour or other time period” (585).

The employers’ reason is that the base rate is their maximal financial ability that they can pay for their labours. In the other hand, another enterprise, Weirs of Cathcart employ engineers from America. The American workers’ wage is much higher than the Scottish worker’s wage. They are paid ten shillings a week more than the Scottish and plus bonus every six months (8; 54) and this trigger jealousy in the Scottish workers. The labour unions try to compare the wage in Weirs of Cathcart with their base rate. Willie and the union use the case to push the other employers to increase the wage base rate in his speech in front of the strike in Temperance Institute, February 1915 (10; 60).

The employers’ roles are not stop in the support the war by using the labour power and refusal of the wages raises, but also the prohibition of any union involvement. The employers forbid their employee to join any labour union because the labour unions are considered subversive and they will give hard punishment to their labours if they are detected as the union’s member. Willie’s involvement in the union does not mean that he denies the role, but he believes that he is striving the right thing.

3 Point of View on Labourers' Life and the Movements

This part is about Willie's point of view concerning the labourers' life and the movements. It includes the general labourers' life condition, activist idolatry, the labourers' rights, strikes, the labourers' life after dismissal, and the activist life after imprisonment.

Willie is so concerned about the workers' life. For Willie, the war is something that alienates and exploits the workers from their life, their family, work, and themselves. Willie considers the war alienates the citizen, especially the workers. Pat and Hughie state that nobody wants war (2; 24) but Willie sees it as a contradiction. Pat and Hughie's statement represents people's way of thinking on war, but on the other hand, people do many things for the war efforts. People fulfil the conscription; attend midnight marching, or else to support the war. The contradiction somewhat shows that people, especially the labourers, support the war under compulsion, mostly the pressure of the government.

The labourers' condition at that time is absolutely worsened because of the policy of war. The main problem is about the economic condition. The government policies for the war fundraising automatically trigger the prices to rise. It is not only because of the increasing prices of the daily needs but also the house rental price, which the landlords take advantage from the workers' migration for the Munitions Act. The increasing prices, as the

consequence of the government policies is not supported by the policy from the employer to increase the labours wage. From here, it is obvious that the labours economic condition is impacted.

The bad economic condition meets the conscription for the reason of nationalism. As the writer wrote in the first part of this chapter that Willie disagrees with the idea of it, Willie strongly rejects the labour involvement in the war by giving three arguments. First is he is disagree on how the labour power used in the imperialist war, which the labour should move to end it. Unlike his friends, Willie has his own point of view of war and he is surely rejects it. He sees the war is own by a certain group of people and labours' group is absolutely does not have any interest on it. Willie states that the war is not his war and neither the other workingmen's when it come (2; 23).

The second is that he is worry about the family condition without the father as the patriarch and the breadwinner of the family. Willie gives a big concern on the war impacts to the family condition. Willie invites the reader to imagine the impact of the father's absence on the "weans" (daughter) (24). Problems with the daughter, or children are not the only problem in the family as the impact of the war. The patriarchal system occurs in the era, particularly in the works, is that the father is the breadwinner of the family. The fathers are the one who guarantee the family economic and life secure and the wives are given the domestic jobs

to manage the family. People going to war are should be ready with the death threat, because the core of the war is to sacrifice life to attain the goals. Since the fathers have a significant role in the family so that the absence automatically give a big impact to the family condition.

The third is about humanity. Since nobody wants war, so people should deter the war to break out by refusing the conscription. Willie sees that, even if the war should break out, the worst impact is on the common people, like the labours.

There are groups of people that give a big concern on the condition of the labours life and decide to help the class to fight for the rights. They are the labour activists. There are two names of labour activists that appear in the drama, John MacLean (2; 24) and William Glacier (18; 88). These names are just two of the many activist names in that era. The activists invite the labours to get to know themselves better, especially their rights. John MacLean is Willie's idol who constructs Willie's way of thinking. In fact, Willie is not the only one who gets the effect of the labour activists. People like Willie then decide to initiate a labour union.

The basic purpose of labour union is to struggle on the wage rise, the hours, working condition, and job security, from here, and it is hoped that there is a good reciprocal relation between the employee and the employers. The employee, or the labours give their power in the process

of production so product can be sold and give profit to the capitalists (employers). The labours deserve to get something in return, not only the wage, but also other things that can support their working pleasure. In Willie Rough, Willie completes the purposes by adding the freedom for expression. Willie decries the convention that the citizen should only comply the government's rules without given any chance to speak.

“WILLIE: ... A man should be free tae criticise. If there's nae criticism, there'll be nae chynge, an' the same fools'll be runnin the country election aifter election, and the voice o the workin people will never be heard!”

(17; 83)

Since the labours' rights become less concerned, the labours unions initiate to rebel. The labourer activists propose strike; strike on the war to strike on the wage rise. The strikes are not only done by the labourers, but also the common citizen, especially the women who strike on the increasing price and rent. One of the strikes is the one held on February 1915. The strike is on behalf of the engineers and the workers, as Willie says that the strike is the affiliation between the ASE (Amalgamated Society of Engineers) and the Trade Allies (10; 60). The strike basically is to support the government to issue a policy for the employers to increase the wage. Willie is counted to be one of the

successors. Willie realises that there are many people in the high place (parliament) hate and despise them, but he imparts his fellow workers that the strike could not be stop. The more the parliament hates them, the more it shows that the labours are strong (10; 61).

The activities seem do not get full support from the labour. Most of the labours admit the significance of the labour unions because the unions strive the better live for the labours, but they tend to avoid it considering the high risk although in the deep of their heart they actually support the effort.

The labour activists that have to face the risks in the drama are John MacLean and Willie Rough himself. John MacLean is arrested and dismissed from his school board because his activity in giving Marxism preaches to the labours unions in Scotland. Willie Rough, after his heroic moments fighting for his class' right, also has to face the same risks. His activity, with a friend named Charlie McGrath, ended in imprisonment in Edinburgh, December 1915. Willie could not accept his condition for he still thinks that he is innocent. That he is fighting for the right things (17; 84).

This tragic end is somewhat proves that all struggles are in vain and only divest the power of the owner of the enterprise. From this case, the workers' struggle still seems to have very long and hard way to go. Moreover, in that era, the government seems less care with the labours'

problem. All the government concerned about is to keep everything runs in the right path, like the labour that suppose to work and earn profit and not to demand and make strike.

In the social life, people in the drama respond the war in two ways. One side is people who are so courageous responding the war and in the other side is the community of people who consider was as something useless and bring no good so does not have to be supported. The first type is representing the common citizen, or the “clean” labour. The war gives chance to the citizen to test their nationalism. It was constructed in their mind that the war is not only the government war but then it is becomes the citizen’s war. The second type is the anti-war. This group of people is surely filled by people like Willie Rough and Charlie McGrath. People who think that war is only could bring fortune for certain groups of people, and this group used the power of the working class to obtain their goal (5; 40).

The problem appears when the pros meet the antis. They tend to disfigure each other. Just like what happen in the James Watt Bar. Hughie speaks to some war volunteer, fellow workers, about his previous war experience and he is proudly says that he proud to be the part of it. Hughie gives spirit to Geordie and Sammy that they have done something honoured by registering volunteer. In the same time and place, there are Willie and Pat. Willie clashes with Geordie, for he never think that

Geordie finally decides to register. Willie says Geordie is taking a stupid action, and so do Geordie says to Willie that he is taking a fool way because however the strike is, it will end in vain. Willie's respond is surprising, he says that he wants to see 'stars' and he does not care if that would make him loose him job. Willie has tried to convince Geordie about the war, but he insists.

C. WILLIE'S REACTION TOWARD HIS DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT, CAPITALISM, AND THE LABOUR CONDITION

Willie' reaction will be analysed based on Marx and Engels' conception on revolution. The conception consists of five points; first is the presence of an individual resistance from the working class as the disability to resist the capitalist' oppression; the second is the working strike done by the majority employee; the third stage is the labours gathering into union; the fourth is the unions gathering into one proletariat party; and the fifth is the moment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In the first stage, Willie rough is the individual resistance from the working class as the result of the disability to resist the capitalists' oppression. These brave individuals are the pioneers to the next stage of class struggle.

Willie's disappointment to the government, capitalism, and the labour condition appears when he finds much inappropriateness in his social life compared to his standpoint. Willie shows his interest on the labour's affair and socialism way of thinking from the first discussion on war. The comments are influenced by John MacLean, but Willie himself is not join any union until Pat asks him to join and persuade Willie to nominate himself to be the union leader.

Before joining the union, Willie's action is limited on his discussion with friends. All he had in his mind is the information from MacLean preach, but he does not get the labours' information in detailed. When Pat offers him to join the union, Willie sees it as a big chance to get more intense to the labour actions. By joining to the labour union, that will give Willie many opportunities and legalise him to act on behalf of the labour, at least, he will get much progress information on the labour affair.

The second is the working strike that is done by the majority employee. The strike will burn the labours' spirit to speak up and act. In this second stage, the labours tend to be destructive by making damages in the working place. This is a stage of spontaneous act from the oppressed labours.

The third is that the labour development in a line with the development of industry. The labours start to gather and notice the importance of a labour union to organise their strength and thought. This stage is called the stage of economise. By the labour union, all the labour movement will be more organised and effective. This can attack the employee to fulfil their demand.

Willie's involvement in the union seems to be the first step to his career in labour movements. He becomes an active member of the union and together with his close friend, Pat; he seems never miss any union

meeting. Willie shows much progress in understanding the labour and the more day the more he concerns on its affair. The most discussed topics in the union meetings are wage rises, increased rent, and the Defence of the Realm (DORA).

The fourth is the development of communication and media that bring the labour unions close. This consistent communication among labour unions then pursues the union gathering to be one proletariat party. The establishment of the proletariat party will then to be the new strength that bring the labour to oppose the capitalist, no longer as an individual or organisation, but as a class. The fifth stage is the moment when the labour, as a class has successful to defeat the capitalism and rises as the new dominant class.

In the drama, the labour union turned to be the first priority for Willie before his job in the shipyard and his family. In fact, the dispute in that era in Scotland is not only Willie's union problem, but also most of labour unions' problem in the country. Supported by his friends, condition, and MacLean on his head, Willie feels the responsibility and sure that the unprofitable condition could be over.

The first and main problem that the union fights for is about the wage base rate. After quite long meetings with the union's members, they decide to merge with the engineers' alliance, ASE. These two unions try to negotiate with the employer demand the wage rises. The two unions

demand two pence rise a week, but the employer could not fulfil it because of the lack of finance and they offered half penny and a penny maximally (5; 50). Willie says that the wage rises is all what the labours need because the increased cost of living. The employer refuse to give the rises but in the other hand, Weirs of Cathcart employs American workers and paid them much higher than to the fellow Scottish (8; 54). Both of the unions use the Weirs' policy to exhort the employers to increase the base rate, but until the end of the drama, the demand is never meet.

This failure makes Willie's spirit harden. From Jake, his foreman, he is introduced to Charlie McGrath. He is the member of ASE. Soon they become close each other and do many things together. They find many things in common in seeing the dispute and react toward the problems. Both of them become the facilitators for the union they represented.

In February 1915, there is a big strike on behalf of the engineers and the workers. This collaboration results on the formation of Labour Withholding Committee, which then organise the strike. The strike is participated by the workers throughout the Clydeside and 10.000 engineers, members of ASE (<http://gdl.cdlr.strath.ac.uk>). The strike fights for the labour rights, especially the wage rise and the Defence of the Realm Act. It is not shown how the two committees organise the strike and what is Willie's position in the strike organisation, but the reader can clearly see that he really concerns on the dispute and he involves to the

strike. This strike is based on fact and known as the *Clydeside Engineers Dispute 1915*.

Willie gives his speech in the Temperance Institute when the strike is still ongoing. His speech is rhetoric and motivational. He is proud that most of the workers in Clydeside can join the strike and that absolutely strengthen the workers and engineers power and prove that the government's and Weirs' policies are should be changed. From Willie's speech, the reader could get much information on the political condition of that moment. The strike supports the government to issue a new policy to increase the wage base rate. The support given by the national Trade union leader, including the Allied Trades and ASE as an act of the grossest treachery to the workingmen (10; 60).

“WILLIE: ... I've been told personally by a member of the National Executive that he was willing to agree with that wee Welsh...gentleman...Davie Lloyd George, to call of this strike an' to 'suspend' trade-union rights till the war's done. I'll tell ye exactly what he said. He said, 'It's aa-right for you blokes, but we've been called up by the Government. We could feel a threat behind what they told us. I says, 'What treat?' 'The threat of

imprisonment,' says he. 'Who for?' says I. 'For us' he said."

(10; 60-61)

The quotation above shows how the government responds to the strikes and the labour activists like Willie. From Davie, the government tries to convince the people on strike that their rights are not neglected. The government concerns on the war and promise that the trade-union rights will get intense attention after the war. The government also gives a hard line for the labour activist, that if they insist, they have to face the threat of imprisonment. The strike, especially Willie, seems not easy to be convinced. Willie cannot accept the government's comment casually because there is no official news from people in the top to the strike about that. Willie gets the information only from Davie, the member of National Executive. Moreover, Willie regards Davie as an insincere man. In one side, Davie says as if he is on the side of the labours, but in fact his position as the member of National Executive makes him despise the labour and the movements. Willie says in front of the strike participants that however the government threats them, they would not be broken up. All of the indignity to the strike proved that the workers are strong and solid (10; 60).

The social condition becomes worse and worse each day. The price keep raised and the wage still at the same level, and the workers

keep protesting those things. The police and related department keep trying to stop and sweep every people related to the workers underground community and many people died.

“HUGHIE: ... Willie Rough’s dementit. He cannae win.”

“EDDIE: Nae chance”

“HUGHIE: They’ll be after him soon. Mark my words,
Edward.”

“EDDIE: Who will?”

“HUGHIE: The press Gang. Listen tae me. Twenty
thousand men deid or missin. Have you got that?”

(8; 52)

His friends seem to be aware to what Willie’s going to face, that his life is in danger and going to end the same with the previous men who did the same struggle with Willie. The friends’ arguments are proved. After several moments Willie leads the strike and publishes article in the media, his life is threatened. His friends have predicted that.

Willie and Charlie are arrested and imprisoned in December 1915 and they have to spend six months in prison. Willie says that “six months in prison’s worth complainin about..”(17; 82) and he cannot accept the imprisonment. He is disappointed because he is neglected by the people that he put a great trust. Charlie says that whatever Willie says, nobody will listen to him, because they are in Edinburgh. Charlie does not say the

reason, what are the relation between Edinburgh and the problem that Willie's own. But if we see on the function of the city, Edinburgh is the Capitol City of Scotland and automatically is placed the central government of it. Willie's problem will be neglected because that is definitely opposite the government's policies about the war and the labour's life.

Willie's imprisonment cannot stop him to think about his struggle. He spends most of his time by discussing with Charlie. Charlie keeps trying to change Willie's point of view that Greenock is no longer suitable for Willie and he sees that Willie is much better on the union and organising. Charlie offers him to move on the city and he says that he will set Willie as a secretary in the Allied Trades, but Willie's decision is surprising. Willie rejects Charlie's offers and decides to go back to Greenock, to his old job in the shipyard with Jake Adams while keep supporting the fellow workers to join the labour union (17; 85).

After spending months in jail, Willie tries to go back to his old life. He meets his best friend, Pat, and the foreman, Jake. The meeting starts nicely, but then when Willie asks Jake to get a start, Jake refuse it. Jake gives the reason discreetly, that it is not his decision but it is the manager's policy to hire a labour activist, moreover, a former convict. The debate between them is unavoidable. Willie sees the dismissal is something unfair and he questions about the others strike participants'

job. Jake is firm with his decision because it is something that the management wants and he has to obey it.

In conclusion, when however Willie deplors the dismissal, he cannot do anything. In the end of the story, it is not shown what Willie's next decision, but they says to Pat that he will not give up. He will find another job in another place and decide to keep his principle and ready to be responsible for it. Willie's struggle to pursue revolution for the labours fail because of the imprisonment and job dismissal, but his faith is found to be intact.

CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION