

## **SYNOPSIS**

William Rough, 31 years old, comes from Johnstone to find a job in shipyard employment office in Greenock. When he first come, he finda no job for him. As the clerk man suggested, he goes to James Watt Bar to find one of the foreman, Jake Adam, who may be can hire him.

In the bar, he meets people who most of them are shipyard workers. After a moment, he introduces himself to some of them and says that he is looking for a job, and they help him to get the job from Jake Adams. After he get the Job, he has a small talk with his new friend, Hugie and Pat, about the war. Surprisingly, Willie talks rhetorically about the war and the politics and his interest in John MacLean meetings. His friends remind him that all he says can be considered as propaganda and that will give him trouble so that he must be very careful of it.

Knowing the high spirit of Willie, Pat offers him to join one of the labour union in town, and Willie agrees. Since the labour unions and the activities are still considere subversive so they do underground meetings.

The more day the issue of war become hotter and people could see the propaganda here and there, no exception in the James Watt Bar. Willie decides to get fully involves to the committee. Willie is so impressed to an activist, namely John MacLean. John MacLean is a one of the prominent activist in Red Clydeside. Willie decides to join a left-wing union, as McLean did. Willie attends its regular workers meetings; the more he joins the more he concerns to the labours right. The meetings rise to rank of workers and engineers to negotiate

wage raise two pence an hour. This happens because of the effect of World War I, the government makes some policies to support the war's need, this give impact to the increasing prices of daily needs and also the house rent.

Through the union, Willie fights for the labours' rights and he absolutely opposes the war. He is an anti-imperialist person, he sees the war as the imperialist war and the labours should not join. Willie thinks that the labours sacrifice their lives not for the sake of the world but for the sake of the capitalist imperialist group. Willie clashes in the pub with the co-workers about going to the front, he has many people, the pro-wars, hate him, but he does not care. He keeps intact with his standpoint. For the labours' problem in the country and determined to hold fast for the good of the workers, Willie calls a strike. The strike is an affiliation between the trade allies (Willie's union) and ASE (an engineers union). The strike spreads and participated by the workers along the Clyde. This strike is not the one and only strike shown in the play, there are some other strikes but the strike counted as the biggest.

Jake, the foreman, introduces Willie to a socialist namely Charlie McGrath. The man is even hard-liner than Willie is. He gives Willie courage in the movements to hold fast to face the poverty, but then the escalating war makes nothing easier. Many people die in riots and Willie and Charlie are eventually jailed after Charlie publishes Willie's article questioning the workers' need to go to the front.

After six months in jail, Willie tries to go back and decide to continue his struggle. He returns to his work but unfortunately Jake has decided to stop hiring

him. Jake gives the reason discreetly, that is not Jake's decision but it is the manager's policy. The debate between them is unavoidable. Willie sees the dismissal is unfair to a person who fights to the labours' rights. In the end of the play, Willie is alone, with no friend with him, but his faith is found to be intact.