

Primary Sources

Secondary Sources

Data and Original Research	Encyclopedias
Diaries and Journals	Chronologies
Speeches and Interviews	Biographies
Letters and Memos	Monographs (a specialized book or article)
Autobiographies and Memoirs	Most journal articles (unless written at the time of the event)
Books or articles written at the time of the event	Most published books (unless written at the time of the event)
Government Documents	Abstracts of articles
Census Statistics	Paraphrased quotations
Organizational Records	Dictionaries
Documentaries	Textbooks
Photographs	
Art (from the time period)	
Maps (from the time period)	
Internet communications (including listservs and Emails)	
Any of the above reprinted <i>in the original format and language</i>	



NEIL C. H. MACKENZIE,
~~Reverend Canon~~
TOWN CLERK.
TELEPHONE NO 1177-B

*Municipal Offices,
Barrhead, 25th July, 1946.*

Councillor Maxton,
Beechwood,
Gateside Road,
BARRHEAD.

Dear Councillor Maxton,

On behalf of the Provost, Magistrates and
Councillors I have to extend to you their deepest sympathy in the
irreparable loss which you and the Country have suffered by the death
of your brother Mr. James Maxton.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

N. C. Mackenzie

Town Clerk.

Letter to
James
Maxton's wife
offering
sympathy
following his
death.

**BORIS
JOHNSON**



THE
CHURCHILL
FACTOR
HOW ONE MAN MADE HISTORY

Biographical book
about Winston
Churchill written
by Boris Johnson

July 26. 1947.

THE Socialist Leader

Editors: F. A. RIDLEY and GEORGE STONE

Offices: 318 Regents Park Road, London, N.3

Maxton's Legacy

ON July 23rd, 1946, our comrade, James Maxton, died at his home at Largs after a long illness.

To readers of this paper it is not necessary to dwell upon the unique qualities, both political and personal, of our late comrade. Along with Keir Hardie, the name of James Maxton now "belongs to the ages."

Elsewhere in this issue, a fitting personal tribute is paid. What the "immortal memory" of Robert Burns has long signified for Scots in general, is, also, the significance of the "immortal memory" of James Maxton, not only to all who knew him, but also in the memories of men and women of all lands.

It is given to a few rare souls, amongst whom James Maxton was surely one, to have "the world for their parish" whilst they lived. For such men, as the old Greek orator once proclaimed, "the whole world" is their sepulchre." Their memory enriches the collective experience of the entire human race.

More than this it would be superfluous to add here with regard to the personal qualities of James Maxton.

From the standpoint of socialist politics there remains, however, something more to be said. Unless our whole interpretation of the man and of his epoch is entirely at fault, the political career of Maxton centred around two fundamental political conceptions: fundamental ideas which he spent a life-time preaching and advocating with all the resources of his unrivalled eloquence and with all the charm of his

To the defence and promulgation of these ideas Maxton devoted a lifetime on the public platform and in Parliament. And, in the struggle against the growing tendency of compromise in the wider Labour movement, Maxton ceased to be merely an unusually eloquent speaker and became the moral conscience of British Socialism in an era of general amorality, apathy and wholesale cynicism.

In the Labour Party, in the Cook-Maxton campaign, in the I.L.P. after disaffiliation, he fought unceasingly an apostolic fight for the pure integral principles of International Socialism unpolluted by worldly success.

No less pronounced was his belief in the historically essential rôle of the minority viewpoint in political life and thought. The minority, however temporarily unpopular and however unfashionable its views might be, is the custodian of the future: its ideas, far ahead of the current stream, contain within themselves the promise of the future and cannot, accordingly, be assessed by the merely Philistine method of counting the votes cast in their favour.

All progress, hitherto, has begun with minorities. In saying this there is nothing incompatible with the true concept of democracy. Doubtless, Maxton was a life-long democrat very largely because it is only in a democracy that minorities can flourish articulately.

In no totalitarian state, whether of the "Right" or the "Left," could a Maxton survive! Throughout his entire political life, James Maxton repudiated in word and in deed the well-known axiom of Napoleon—"Providence is on the side of the big battalions."

Rather did he make his life motto that other Napoleonic axiom—"The moral is to the material as three to one." It was from this angle that, in his last years, Maxton approached the rôle of the I.L.P. and its current relationship with the mass Labour movement.

On July 23rd, 1946, the world and world Socialism lost a great man who was, first of all, a great comrade. Such men are not easily replaced.

Politicians are two-a-penny; Cabinet Ministers come and go; history soon loses sight of the popular idols of the day. But men of heroic moral proportions are few and far between.

Hitherto, the British Labour movement has known only two

Newspaper
article
written
about
James
Maxton at
the time of
his death.

James Maxton

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



This article **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help [improve this article](#) by [adding citations to reliable sources](#). Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(November 2011)*

James Maxton (22 June 1885 – 23 July 1946) was a [Scottish socialist](#) politician, and leader of the [Independent Labour Party](#). A prominent proponent of [Home Rule](#) for Scotland,^{[1][2]} he is remembered as one of the leading figures of the [Red Clydeside](#) era.

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Biography [\[edit\]](#)

Early years [\[edit\]](#)

Born in the then [burgh](#) of [Pollokshaws](#) (now [Pollok, Glasgow](#)) in 1885, James Maxton was the son of two schoolteachers. He would himself later enter that profession after his education at [Hutchesons' Grammar School](#) and the [University of Glasgow](#).

James Maxton



**Member of Parliament
for Glasgow Bridgeton**

In office
15 November 1922 – 23 July 1946

James Maxton Wikipedia entry



GENERAL ELECTION, 1918.

Bridgeton Parliamentary
Division.

CANDIDATURE

OF

JAS. MAXTON

M.A.,

LABOUR CANDIDATE.

TO THE ELECTORS.

614 CATHCART ROAD, GLASGOW.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

As the adopted Labour Candidate for the Bridgeton Division in Parliament, I have pleasure in submitting my views on some of the problems that demand immediate solution if the people are to have that freedom and comfort that has been absent in the past from our lives.

I have devoted all my energies since attaining manhood to the service of the Working Class Movement. I have been a member of the Independent Labour Party, the Co-operative Movement, and the Trade Union Movement.

I have held responsible offices as Chairman of the Independent Labour Party in Scotland, as Vice Chairman of the Scottish Labour Party and as a member of the National Executives of both the I.L.P. and the Labour Party.

I have been an active worker in the cause of Education, and the interests of the children and of the teachers will always be of primary importance to me.

I hope that my record of work for the workers of Scotland, and the programme I submit now for your approval, will secure me your support at the forthcoming Parliamentary Election.

I am, Yours fraternally,

JAMES MAXTON.

James Maxton Election pledge



James Maxton was born in [Glasgow, Scotland](#), in 1885. Both his parents were schoolteachers and he was encouraged to have an academic career. After being educated at [Hutchesons Grammar School](#) and [Glasgow University](#) he became a schoolteacher in the city. Converted to socialism by speakers such as [James Keir Hardie](#), [Philip Snowden](#) and [Ramsay MacDonald](#), Maxton joined the [Independent Labour Party](#).

Maxton was involved in the formation of teachers' unions in Scotland including the Educational Institute of Scotland and the Scottish Socialist Teachers' Society. With [John Maclean](#), Maxton gave lectures on politics and economics in the [Scottish Labour College](#).

Maxton began working closely with other [socialists](#) in [Glasgow](#) including [John Wheatley](#), [Emanuel Shinwell](#), [David Kirkwood](#), [William Gallacher](#), [John Muir](#), [Tom Johnston](#), [Jimmie Stewart](#), [Neil Maclean](#), [George Hardie](#), [George Buchanan](#) and [James Welsh](#).

By 1912 Maxton was the leading figure in the [Independent Labour Party](#) in Scotland. Like most members of the ILP, Maxton opposed Britain's involvement in the [First World War](#). As a [pacifist](#) he refused to be conscripted into the armed forces. Maxton was also involved in organizing strikes in the shipyards, engineering and munitions factories. Dismissed as a teacher he was arrested in 1916 and charged with sedition. Found guilty, he was imprisoned for a year.

Maxton was defeated in the [1918 General Election](#) and for the next four years was Divisional Organizer for the [Independent Labour Party](#) and a member of the Glasgow Education Authority.

In the [1922 General Election](#) Maxton was elected as MP for [Bridgeton, Glasgow](#). Also successful were several other militant socialists based in [Glasgow](#) including [John Wheatley](#), [Emanuel Shinwell](#), [David Kirkwood](#), [John Muir](#), [Tom Johnston](#), [Jimmie Stewart](#), [Neil Maclean](#), [George Hardie](#), [George Buchanan](#) and [James Welsh](#). The Clydesiders were constant critics of the moderate policies of [Ramsay MacDonald](#). Maxton was also abusive about members of the [Conservative Party](#) and was several times suspended from the [House of Commons](#) for his comments.

Passage
about
James
Maxton
written
and
published
on the
internet

MAXTON'S GREAT ANTI-WAR SPEECH

THE speech of James Maxton, M.P., in the House of Commons on October 4th, has been widely quoted and commented on in the press but no paper has published the speech in full. Below



we give a verbatim report of the speech as reported in Hansard.

"I rise to say a few words on the matters before the House. I and those who sit with me made, more than a week ago, an unequivocal announcement to the country that if war took place we would be in opposition to that war and would take every step that lay within our power to bring it to a speedy end.

We did that with much heart-searching, knowing exactly what

such a step meant, knowing how we should be derided and chased from pillar to post and misrepresented.

We did it because we believe that war is the one great overriding evil that humanity has to face. We have every sympathy with Czechoslovakia as much as other people have. We have as much sympathy particularly for the working-class Czechs as other people.

We have the same sympathy for them as we had for the people of Belgium in 1914, but we did not see that as the issue.

We saw that the war in 1914 was fought for 4½ years as a war to end war; and it did not do that. It was fought as a war to make this land fit for heroes, and it did not do that. It was a war fought for democracy, and it did not do that, because to-day the big

menace with which we are confronted arises from the fact that the aftermath of the last War was not the spread of democracy in Europe but the creation of more dictators.

10 MILLION LIVES LOST.

We saw our own country enter into that war as a democracy, and within a short time turned into a military dictatorship—of a necessity. An hon. Member opposite—I am not sure

Transcript of a
speech written
and delivered by
James Maxton

PASSPORT REGULATIONS.

Applications for Foreign Office Passports must be made on authorized forms, and enclosed in a cover addressed to the Passport Office, 1, LAKE BUILDING, ST. JAMES' PARK, S.W. 1.

The charge for a Passport is 7s. 6d. Passports are issued by the Passport Office, between the hours of 10 and 4 (Saturdays 11), except on Sundays and Public Holidays, when the Passport Office is closed. Applications should, if possible, reach the Passport Office not less than seven days before that on which the Passport is required. If the applicant does not reside in London, the Passport may be sent by post, and a Postal Note for 7s. 6d. should in that case accompany the application, and stamps will not be required in return.

Foreign Office Passports are granted:—

- (1) To natural-born British subjects.
- (2) To the wives and widows of such persons; and
- (3) To persons naturalized in the United Kingdom, in the British Dominions or Colonies, or in India.

A married woman is deemed to be a subject of the State of her husband is for the time being a subject.

Passports are granted:—

- (1) In the case of natural-born British subjects and persons naturalized in the United Kingdom, upon the production of a Declaration by the applicant in the authorized form, verified by a Declaration made by a member or official of any Residing Five established in the United Kingdom, or by any Mayor, Magistrate, Provost, Justice of the Peace, Minister of Religion, Barrister-at-law, Physician, Surgeon, Solicitor, or Notary Public, resident in the United Kingdom. The applicant's Certificate of Birth and other evidence may also be required. Applicants serving in His Majesty's Forces may have their declarations verified by their Commanding Officer.

- (2) In the case of children under the age of 16 years requiring a separate Passport, upon production of a Declaration made by the child's parent or guardian, in a Form (B), to be obtained upon application to the Passport Office.

- (3) In the case of persons naturalized in any of the British Self-governing Dominions, upon production of a Recommendation from the High Commissioner or Agent-General in London of the State concerned; and in the case of natives of British India and persons naturalized therein, upon production of a Letter of Recommendation from the India Office. Persons naturalized or ordinarily resident in any of the Crown Colonies must obtain a Letter of Recommendation from the Colonial Office.

If the applicant for a passport be a Naturalized British subject, the Certificate of Naturalization must be forwarded to the Passport Office with the Declaration or Letter of Recommendation. Naturalized British subjects, if resident in London or the suburbs, must apply personally for their Passports at the Passport Office; if resident in the country, the Passport may be sent, and the Certificate of Naturalization returned, to the person who may have verified the Declaration, for delivery to the applicant.

Naturalized British subjects will be described as such in their Passports, which will be issued subject to the necessary conditions.

Foreign Office Passports are not available beyond two years from the date of issue. They may be renewed for four further periods of two years each, after which fresh Passports must be obtained. The fee for each renewal is 2s.

A Passport cannot be issued by the Foreign Office unless it is a person already abroad; such person should apply to the nearest British Mission or Consulate. Passports

No. 195409

PASSPORT.



*We, George Nathaniel
Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Viscount Scarsdale,
Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,
a Member of His Britannic Majesty's Most
Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Commander
of the Most Excellent Order of the Star of India,
Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent
Order of the Indian Empire, &c. &c. &c.
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs.*

*Request and require in the Name of His
Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow
me James Maxton
to pass freely without let or hindrance, and to
afford me every assistance and protection of
which I may stand in need.*

*GIVEN at the Foreign Office, London
the 13th day of July 1920.*



Curzon of Kedleston

*This passport is valid for two years only
from the date of its issue. It may be renewed for
four further periods of two years each after
which a new passport will be required.*

RENEWALS.

- 1.
- 2.

DESCRIPTION OF BEARER.

Age 35. Profession Lecturer.
Place & date of birth Glasgow 22/4/1885.
Maiden name of widow or married woman travelling singly
Height 5 feet 10 1/2 inches
Forehead high Eyes Blue.
Nose straight Mouth straight
Chin round Colour of Hair Black
Complexion Sallow. Face oval.
Any special peculiarities
National Status British-born subject

DESCRIPTION OF WIFE OF BEARER.

Age 35. Profession
Place & date of birth Glasgow 7/4/1885.
Maiden name Mrs. Lockhart
Height 5 feet 3 inches
Forehead high Eyes Blue.
Nose straight Mouth straight
Chin round Colour of Hair Brown.
Complexion Rosy Face oval.
Any special peculiarities

PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS.

Name	Age	Sex
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PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER.



SIGNATURE OF BEARER.

PHOTOGRAPH OF WIFE.



SIGNATURE OF WIFE.

James
Maxton's
Passport