IN THE INTERNATIONAL

Newbold „Explains".

By M. N. Roy.

In the columns of the Glasgow "Forward", Walton Newbold M. A. ex-M. P. explains his political sommersault. He has made a great discovery: "there will be no further revolution in Europe for many a long year". So there is nothing else to do but to walk over to the camp of Reformism: — thus argues the ex- and would-be M. P., who wisely declares the present activities of the Communist International to be "melodrama, not Marxism". It is delicious. Since when did Newbold consider himself the greatest living authority on Marxism?

Newbold obviously does not know that others preceded him in this discovery, the logical consequence of which is the landing in the camp of the bourgeoisie. On his happy journey in the wake of those illustrious predecessors of his, we wish him God-speed. If he "conquers Motherwell" (this time for Newbold and not for Communism as he bragged last time) in the coming election, it will be entertaining to watch him participale, very reverentially, in those "parliamentary tomfooleries" which he ridiculed in his early enthusiasm.

In his article, Newbold endeavours to prove that he still remains a revolutionary, but only succeeds in giving out his motive in posing as such. He is one of those who have no particular objection to riding on the rising tide of revolution, but have no stomach for uphill work. Granted that the first wave of revolution has subsided, not to swell before a decade or two, as Newbold prophesies, what should be the duty of the Communist? Not to desert, but to keep the flag flying. But Newbold gallantly concedes that glorious job to Soviet Russia, for which he would "work might and main", while sitting comfortably on the uncomfortable benches in Westminster, "till the Blood Red Banner of Social Revolution is raised anywhere in Europe or Asia" by some other "romanticist or melodramatist" (epithets he hurls at the Communists). Meanwhile, it has become unprofitable to be a revolutionist. Why not, then, scramble for the loaves and fishes that are the rewards of reformism? This is the gist of Newbold's real argument.

The débacle of Newbold is likely to give a handle to the anti-parlamentarian comrades. There is another instance of a good man corrupted by evil communications. Contact with bourgeois political institutions corrupted a Communist. Such a conclusion would not be quite warranted. As against one Newbold there are hundreds of Communists who have attacked the parliamentary citadel of the bourgeoisie very successfully. We should be critical, not about the tried tactics of revolutionary parliamentarism, but of the Communism of our candidates. Newbold flopped, because his Marxism was hardly skin-deep; with him it was pure intellectual dilettantism.

In view of the fact that British Communists work in an atmosphere of corrupt proletarian outlook, and that this corruption of proletarian ideology strengthens the position of reformist illusionism, our Party must be armed with theoretical training not of the pedantic nature that still persists within the Party, but based on the revolutionary practice of Leninism.