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EVICTIION WAR ON.

For Donald Cook it was Zero Hour. No use his sympathisers crying No Evictions. The communist ex-paratrooper could effectively barricade his flat no longer; evicted he was. So too, from his Silverdale House flat, was the other rent rebel, Communist Arthur Rowe. Any hope that the evictions would proceed peacefully was dashed from the start. Now without a home Rowe called on his campaign from outside, against the policy of "Rents based on tenants' ability to pay". At Kennistoun House, scene of Don Cook's eviction, the situation was now ugly; Things were obviously heading for a riot. Cook, like Rowe was here of the hour. He and his supporters were watching how the police now there in strength - would cope with it all.

Injuries in plenty were unavoidable. So were arrests. 43 men, a youth and a woman were in Court next day. It was as though the social clock had been put back a hundred years. No one of this Welfare State generation had seen anything like it.

It went on all day. At night, matters grew worse. This was not a spontaneous outbreak; as eviction day neared, trouble of some sort was foreseen; and possibilities foreseen can generally be avoided. Demonstrators afterwards charged the police with being unnecessarily violent. Disinterested observers praised them for using all possible restraint. There had been nothing in London on this scale since the Hunger March of nearly 30 years ago.

At this stage it was a force of 500 police against an enraged mob of more than a thousand. Tempers on both sides rose higher as the night went on. Housing Minister Henry Brooke next day defended the rent policy of the St. Pancras Council. Now it will all be settled no one can yet tell. One thing must be said: the honour of London demands that no more scenes like these are witnessed again.