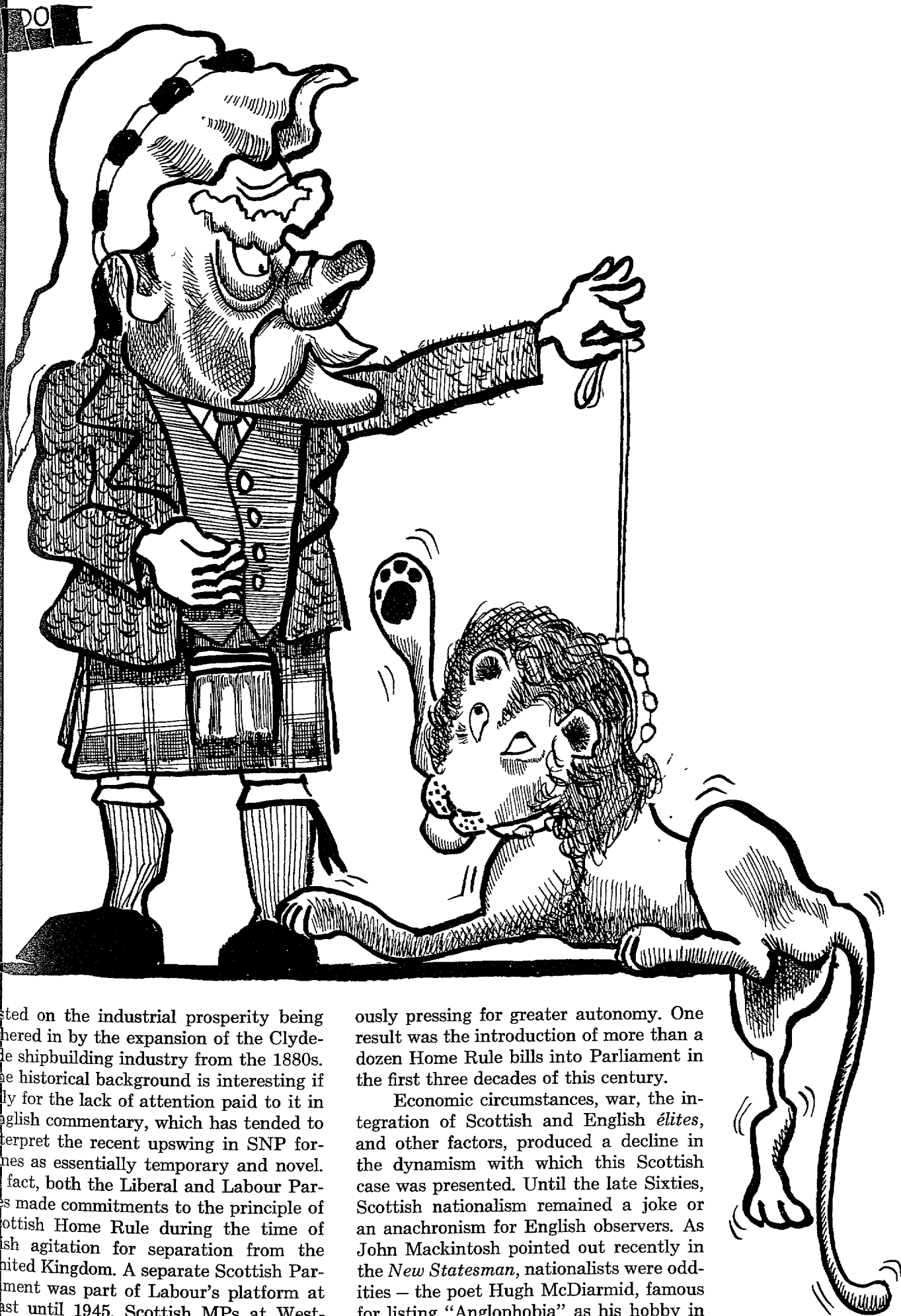


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rested on the industrial prosperity being ushered in by the expansion of the Clyde-side shipbuilding industry from the 1880s. The historical background is interesting if only for the lack of attention paid to it in English commentary, which has tended to interpret the recent upswing in SNP fortunes as essentially temporary and novel. In fact, both the Liberal and Labour Parties made commitments to the principle of Scottish Home Rule during the time of Irish agitation for separation from the United Kingdom. A separate Scottish Parliament was part of Labour's platform at least until 1945. Scottish MPs at Westminster often functioned as a group vigor-

ously pressing for greater autonomy. One result was the introduction of more than a dozen Home Rule bills into Parliament in the first three decades of this century. Economic circumstances, war, the integration of Scottish and English *élites*, and other factors, produced a decline in the dynamism with which this Scottish case was presented. Until the late Sixties, Scottish nationalism remained a joke or an anachronism for English observers. As John Mackintosh pointed out recently in the *New Statesman*, nationalists were oddities – the poet Hugh MacDiarmid, famous for listing “Anglophobia” as his hobby in *Who's Who*, or the people who stole the