

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

"My losses," said Universal Provider Whiteley referring to the fire at his establishment, "amount to £525,000"; and a few months back a poor carter was sentenced to imprisonment for taking a few articles of paltry value, his defence being that his wages, about 11s. per week, were too small to support himself and family. Does "my gross losses" include some unpaid labour?

It is a moot point whether it is fair of us to kill and eat our fellow-lodgers on this earth—sheep, pigs and oxen. Archdeacon Farrar likes meat, so does his family; but, says his Reverence, "grave social problems are before mankind for solution," and hence he attends a vegetarian feed and says in fact that the solution will be arrived at by the "poor" consuming raw and cooked vegetables; and the vegetarian establishment for whom he delivered this advertisement, proceeds to solve this great social problem by selling tea and coffee at 3d. per cup, and draw attention to their "special rooms for ladies."

Such are the saviours of society. There are places in London neither infested with Archdeacons nor troubled with grave social problems, where for the same sum a working man could get a breakfast or tea (four slices of bread and cup of tea or coffee) and be thanked for his custom.

Whilst old and infirm human beings are working their aged limbs in pain to procure food, or being driven to the workhouse torture, our humane "upper" classes are stricken with sorrow for the sufferings of aged and infirm horses. Mr. S. Sutherland Safford and Miss Linde have established a home for aged and sick equines and the supporters are highly influential people. It would be interesting to know how many human beings are being worked to death to keep these idlers and their horses. The chief result of their efforts as yet is seen in the depressed condition of the cats'-meat trade and the ruined position of many vendors of pussy's meat, the supply of which is restricted owing to the society's interference with the law of supply and demand.

F. K.

The Midland strike has failed ignominiously, if appearances can be trusted. This was to have been expected from the first, inasmuch as there was little or no organisation, no mutual trust, and no safeguard against "rats." When the strike took place against a change, grasping and cynical as could well be conceived, there was a large number of men who did not come out. No efficient measures were taken to convince these of their error in acting treacherously to their comrades. A vigilance committee of strikers should have at once endeavoured strenuously to bring these "men" to a sense of their position.

Even now a little *gentle expostulation* might bring them to repentance!

All through the affair the men have shown a praiseworthy regard for the rights of property which forbid them to earn a reasonable livelihood: they did not use all the power they had to paralyse the whole Midland system. By their "self-restrained demeanour" they have earned the Thanks of the Directors and the Admiration of Law-abiding Citizens.

TIME: a few months hence. SCENE: a driver's cottage. PERSONS: Driver and Wife.—Wife: "Well, I wish you fellows had had the pluck of them Yankees, and shown the directors you were in earnest and that you weren't the white-livered, whining curs they took you for; and then I shouldn't have to slave my life out to keep the kids clean, and take in washing besides to make ends meet!" Driver: "Oh, but then we should have broken the law!"

Over at Elton, co. Limerick, there has been little heed paid to the law this last week. By long and dire experience the Irish people have found that it does not pay to win landlords' praises and rent-collectors' compliments. An ounce of rent retained by a tenant is worth a ton of soft-sawder laid out by a landlord.

But how many of the English workers are not tickled to death when an exploiter compliments them on their "law-abiding" ways? Even those who have courage enough to equal the Limerick labourers, and face rifle and bayonet armed with a pitchfork, would succumb forth-

with to the syren voice of Law and Order if it called them "Law-abiding British Citizens."

Meanwhile it is easy to see how rapidly grows the power of Socialism in this country. Only last week *Reynolds*—a paper which, however disinterested it may be, dare not go "beyond its market"—came out with a displayed leader calling in plain terms for the communalisation of the means of production without compensation. S.

The Government are taking credit to themselves for their Allotment Bill; and Mr. Jesse Collings, ex-Radical and now coercionist, has been buttering them all over for this "popular" piece of legislation. Sir William Harcourt has nothing better to say about it than to twit his political opponents with inconsistency, reminding them that when a similar measure was talked of before, its furtherers were called Socialists. "But now," says he, "it seems we are all Socialists." Really this is very poor stuff; it will not be the last time by a great many that the Government, Liberal or Tory, will bait their hook with similar pieces of "Socialistic" legislation. All one can hope is that those whom they are fishing for will learn to suck the bait off the hook without touching the latter, like wily old carp, if it is any use to them.

But as to this allotment scheme, J. S. Mill said all that was necessary when he said it was simply allowing the labourers to work to pay their own poor-rates. The bill is really in the interests of the employing farmers and the rack-renting landlords.

Mr. Bradlaugh, lecturing at the Fulham Liberal Association on "National Economy," is reported to have said "that working-men were quarrelling about a small percentage on wages while they allowed this monstrous war-expenditure to eat up the bread-and-cheese that should be in their cupboards." Yes, doubtless, the war expenditure is monstrous. Don't let workmen believe that supposing it were put an end to they would be any better off while labour and its earnings is forbidden to any one who cannot find a capitalist who can employ him. If the war-expenditure were stopped it would be necessary to find some other means of wasting the working-man's labour that would put money into the capitalists' pocket; and meantime, until that other means was found, trade would be the duller for it. Under the idiotic system which oppresses us, all destruction of wares, all consumption of them, however consumed, is temporarily "good for trade," advantageous to the actual producer in the lump.

But, after all, it is impossible to get rid of war expenditure or of war as long as all Society is based on war, commercial war; it is the struggle for the market that arrays the battalions in the field; the necessities of the capitalist is what brings on war now-a-days.

As to "the working-man quarrelling over a small percentage of wages," if he did not do so, if he had not been doing so ever since the birth of commercialism, bread, or rather skilly without the cheese would have been his roast meat by this time. Commercial war compels the capitalist to cheapen production to the utmost, the method of cheapening it is to reduce the amount of human labour to the utmost; the ensuring competition among the workmen for employment (for since they are slaves they cannot employ themselves) keeps down wages. Any combination among the workmen checks this tendency, and is good as far as it goes; but the partial combination of trades' unions and the like *must* develop into general combination, which will at last assuredly destroy the war of classes which is the foundation of our Society of waste, strife, and robbery—at last—might the workers but see it at once and set on foot that great combination before the pinch of utter misery which will come of the breakdown of our short-sighted system of commercial war, a war which Mr. Bradlaugh looks on with complacency, although, as aforesaid, it is the parent of the open war which he has (very rightly) been denouncing.

The *Daily News*, commenting on the meeting of the S.D.F., which demanded the release of Pole, is really a trifle too absurd even for a bourgeois print on a Monday morning. It admits the strong case of the Socialist, but says, alluding to the hanging of Endacott in effigy: "If they had asked for it in another way, the appeal must have commanded wide-spread attention." In other words, according to the *Daily News*, the justice or injustice of the sentence on a citizen de-

pend on the good or ill manners of certain other citizens who demand his release, and not on his own conduct. Really, is the *Daily News* then to be made responsible for Lord Salisbury's Coercion Act? or are we to be made responsible for the Monday morning fatuities of the *Daily News*? Here is solidarity with a vengeance!

WILLIAM MORRIS.

### WOODEN LEGS.

WE have had our Bank Holiday; the clerk is back to his bank or shop stool, the factory hand and seamstress to their machines, the hodmen and labourers all over our happy islands to their general drudgery. They think, perhaps, of the advantages of the single day's festivity, of cheap trains and omnibuses to carry them into towns, or out of them, into such country as is left.

The other day I was in the drinking bar of a village near to the Canadian Backwoods. There was sitting there a sturdy-looking man with his back leaning against one end of a bench; he had a rough cloth lying across his knees, and all that I could see of his legs as they lay extended along the bench, was that they were very short and ended in wooden stumps. I began to express sympathy for the calamity from which he had suffered. "Calamity is a strong word," said he, "I hardly think they were worth so much." I admired the bravery with which he looked on his loss, and asked him how it had happened. "Why," said he, "I had been working all alone at clearing a place out in the forest, and at sunset just as I was about to leave work a tree toppled over, and one of its branches catching me unawares knocked me down and the trunk fell across one of my legs." "How horrible!" said I. "Horrible is a strong word," said he, "I was not so bad off as that, for I had my axe with me. So seeing there was no chance of help in that out of the way place and at that time of night, I just chopped off the leg that was held fast by the tree-trunk." "Brave, bold man!" said I. "Bold is a strong word," said he, "it did not need much of that, but only a straight chop with the axe." I sat in amazement, but said nothing. "I got up," he continued, "and tried to walk, but found it awkward work with one short and one long leg. So I just put the long one across a log, and my axe soon made it as short as the other. I got on famously after that. It shows what an advantage it is always to have your axe by you." I grasped his hand and cried, "Heroic man! Scævola was nothing to you; he put one hand into the fire, but you smile at the sacrifice of both legs." He stared and said, "Well, captain, I don't know what you are at with your bold men, and the fellow who burnt his hand, but if chopping through a bit of stick is thought so much of in your country I shall stop here." Slightly abashed, I said, "What an advantage to have wooden legs for trees to fall across!" "Ah!" said he, "they told me what an advantage it was to me that my legs and not my head were in the way of the cannon-ball at Gettysburg. I don't think much of that, but I'd rather have my natural feet to stand on, and to help me out of the way of danger."

The advantages which we now enjoy seem to be of the wooden leg kind. The Sewer Railway, and the other stuffy means of locomotion in and about London, are an advantage perhaps in so widespread a desert; but it would be better that our towns should only be so large that we might easily get from end to end of them on our own legs.

The labourer is said to be now in a more advantageous position. He can ease himself by means of the "free breakfast table" and of the free trade supply of margarine for butter. If, however, he had his own natural powers of mind to help him, instead of the artificial substitute of prejudice and custom, whereby he is caught under the heavy hand of the master, he would be still better off. His reason would tell him that free interchange between all peoples should be an instrument to increase the general good, and not merely a weapon to cut one class free from the oppression of another.

The most wooden-legged of our advantages is our system of instruction, and in particular of technical instruction. The barbarian as he makes a drinking-bowl, a sword, or a temple, puts his fancy into his work, and may be young in heart when grey in head. The Christian child has the thirty-nine articles of usury, ten per cent. profits, and national envy rubbed into his very marrow at a College or a Board School. Under this influence he grows old before he is a boy, and is in a fit state to receive technical knowledge, to learn the art of making things in such a way as to get the better of the foreigner. Well, if the freshness of the heart and mind is to be crushed under the war of competition, it is an advantage of a kind to be instructed in the use of the weapons. But that is the very degradation of education; this should give us an instrument, not of war against our fellows, but to make a clearing in the dense thicket of ignorance and sectarian jealousies.

C. J. F.

PROGRESS?—In addressing the British Medical Association, Sir Thomas Crawford argued that in spite of the boasted improvements in sanitary arrangements, there is an unmistakable deterioration in the physique of the "lower" class. The evidence adduced seems to fully bear out this view. From 1860 to 1864 32,324 men wishing to join the army, were examined by the army surgeons and out of this number the rejections were 371·67 per 1000. From 1882 to 1886 132,583 men were similarly examined, and the proportion of rejections had risen to 415·8 per 1000. Sir Thomas maintained this was good proof that during the last twenty-five years the general physical vigour of the people had very much fallen. A peculiar eye disease due to vitiated atmosphere resulting from overcrowding is very common although quite preventible. The recruits drawn from the towns gave the largest number of rejections.—J. L. M.

### FEUDAL ENGLAND.

THE Norman Conquest found a certain kind of feudality in existence in England; a feudality which was developed from the customs of the tribes with little or no admixture of Roman law; and also even before the Conquest, this country was slowly beginning to be mixed up with the affairs of the Continent of Europe, and that not only with the kindred nations of Scandinavia, but with the Romanised countries also. But the Conquest of Duke William did introduce the complete or Romanised Feudal system into the country; and it also connected it by strong bonds to the Romanised countries, but thereby laid the first foundations of national feeling in England. The English felt their kinship with the Norsemen or the Danes, and did not feel their conquests when they had become complete, and consequently mere immediate violence had disappeared from them; their feeling was tribal rather than national; but they could have no sense of conationality with the varied populations of the provinces which mere dynastical events had strung together into the dominion, the manor, one may say, of the foreign princes of Normandy and Anjou; and as the kings who ruled them gradually got pushed out of their French possessions, England became conscious of her separate nationality, though still only in a fashion, as the manor of an *English* lord.

It is beyond the scope of this article to give anything like a connected story, even of the slightest, of the course of events between the conquest of Duke William and the fully developed mediæval period of the 14th century, which is the England that I have before my eyes as Mediæval. That period of the 14th century united the developments of the elements which had been stirring in Europe since the final fall of the Roman Empire, and England shared in the general feeling and spirit of the age, although from its position the course of its history, and to a certain extent the lives of its people was different. It is to this period, therefore, that I wish in the long run to call your attention, and I will only say so much about the earlier period as may be necessary to explain how the people of England got into the position in which they were found by the statute of labourers enacted by Edward III., and the Peasant's Rebellion in the time of his grandson and successor Richard II.

Undoubtedly, then, the Norman Conquest made a complete break in the continuity of the history of England. When the Londoners after the Battle of Hastings accepted Duke William for their king, no doubt they thought of him as being much in the same position that the newly slain Harold had been; or at any rate such a king as Knut the Dane, who had also conquered England; and probably William himself thought no otherwise, but the event was quite different, for on the one hand not only was he a man of great character, able, masterful, and a great soldier in the modern sense of the word, but he had at his back his wealthy dukedom of Normandy, which he had himself reduced to obedience and organised; and, on the other hand, England lay before him, unorganised, yet stubbornly rebellious to him; its very disorganisation and want of a centre making it more difficult to deal with by merely over-running it with an army levied for that purpose, and backed by a body of house-carles or guards, which would have been the method of a Scandinavian or native king in dealing with his rebellious subjects. Duke William's necessities and instincts combined led him into a very different course of action, which determined the future destiny of the country. What he did was to quarter upon England an army of feudal vassals drawn from his obedient dukedom, and to hand over to them the lordship of the land of England in return for their military service to him, the suzerain of them all. Thenceforward, it was under the rule of these foreign landlords that the people of England had to develop.

The development of the country as a Teutonic people was checked and turned aside by this event. Duke William brought, in fact, his Normandy into England, which was thereby changed from a Teutonic people (theod) with the old tribal customary law still in use among them, into a province of Romanised Feudal Europe, a piece of France in short; and though in time she did grow into another England again, she missed for ever in her language, her literature, and her laws, the chance of developing into a great homogeneous Teutonic people infused usefully with a mixture of Celtic blood.

However, this step which Duke William was forced to take, further influenced the future of the country by creating the great order of the baronage, and the history of the early period of England is pretty much that of the struggle of the king with the baronage and the church. For William fixed the type of the successful English mediæval king, of whom Henry II. and Edward I. were also notable examples. It was, in fact, with him that the struggle towards monarchical bureaucracy began, which was checked by the barons, who extorted Magna Charta from King John, and afterwards by the revolt headed by Simon de Montfort in Henry III.'s reign; was carried on vigorously by Edward I., and finally successfully finished by Henry VII. after the long faction-fight of the Wars of the Roses, had weakened the feudal lords so much that they could no longer assert themselves against the monarchy.

As to the contest between the Crown and the Church, two things are to be noted: first, that at least in the earlier period the Church was on the popular side. Thomas Beckett was canonised, it is true, formally and by regular decree; but his memory was held so dear by the people that he would probably have been canonized informally by them if the holy seat at Rome had refused to do so. The second thing to be noted about the dispute is this, that it was no contest of principle. According to the mediæval theory of life and religion, the

Church and the State were one: separate manifestations of the Kingdom of God upon earth which was part of the Kingdom of God in heaven; the king was an officer of that realm and a liegeman of God. The doctor of laws and the doctor of physic partook in a degree of the priestly character. On the other hand the Church was not withdrawn from the everyday life of men; the division into a worldly and spiritual life neither of which had much to do with the other, was a creation of the protestantism of the Reformation, and had no place in the practice at least of the mediæval Church, which we cannot too carefully remember is little more represented by modern Catholicism than by modern Protestantism. The contest, therefore, between the Crown and the Church was a mere bickering between two bodies, without any essential antagonism between them as to how far the administration of either reached: neither dreamed of subordinating one to the other, far less of extinguishing one by the other.

The history of the Crusades, by the way, illustrates very emphatically this position of the Church in the Middle Ages. The foundation of that strange feudal kingdom of Jerusalem, whose king had precedence in virtue of his place as lord of the centre of Christianity over all other kings and princes; the orders of men-at-arms vowed to poverty and chastity, like the Templars and Knights of St. John; and above all the unquestioning sense of duty that urged men of all classes and kinds into the holy war, show how strongly the idea of God's kingdom on the earth had taken hold of all men's minds in the early Middle Ages. As to the result of the Crusades, they certainly had their influence on the solidification of Europe and the great feudal system, at the head of which, in theory at least, were the Pope and the Kaiser. Doubtless, also, the intercourse with the East gave Europe an opportunity of sharing in the mechanical civilisation of the peoples originally dominated by the Arabs, and infused by the art of Byzantium and Persia, not without some tincture of the cultivation of the later classical period.

The stir and movement also of the Crusades, and the necessities in which they involved the princes and their barons, furthered the upward movement of the classes that lay below the feudal vassals, great and little; the principal opportunity for which movement, however, in England, was given by the continuous struggle between the Crown and the Church and Baronage.

The early Norman kings, even immediately after the death of the Conqueror, found themselves involved in this struggle, and were forced to avail themselves of the help of what had now become the inferior tribe—the native English, to wit. Henry I., an able and ambitious man, understood this so clearly that he made a distinct bid for the favour of the inferior tribe by marrying an English princess; and it was by means of the help of his English subjects that he conquered his Norman subjects, and the field of Tenchebray, which put the coping-stone on his success, was felt by the English people as an English victory over the oppressing tribe with which Duke William had overwhelmed the English people. It was during this king's reign and under these influences that the trading and industrial classes began to rise somewhat. The merchant guilds (of which subject of guilds more hereafter) were now in their period of greatest power, and had hardly begun, as they did later, to develop into the corporations of the towns; but the towns themselves were beginning to gain their freedom and to become an important element in the society of the time, as little by little they asserted themselves against the arbitrary rule of the feudal lords, lay or ecclesiastical: for as to the latter, it must be remembered that the Church included in herself the orders or classes into which lay society was divided, and while by its lower clergy of the parishes and (afterwards) by the friars it touched the people, its upper clergy were simply feudal lords; and as the religious fervour of the "cultivated clergy," which was marked enough in the earlier period of the Middle Ages (in Anselm, for example), faded out, they became more and more mere landlords, although from the conditions of their landlordism, living as they did on their land and amidst of their tenants, less oppressive than the lay landlords.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be continued.)

We cannot help thinking that there is something wanting in the moral make-up of a Reformer who is less anxious that the right shall triumph, than that his share in the winning of a victory shall be duly recognised.—*Canada Labor Reformer*.

The Midland strike has collapsed. The last hope of the men was extinguished when the shareholders declared their approbation of the conduct of the directors. It was clear that the Chairman knew he had the whip hand when he politely told the memorialising members of Parliament who addressed his board, with a view to a settlement of the dispute through mediation or further conference, to mind their own business. The strike, which was doomed from the first by the men's want of courage and of union, may be useful in reading the men a severe lesson in the necessity for organisation and extended union. It is not yet apparent why the company seized the height of the excursion season to drive their engine-men to revolt—unless it was to demonstrate both to their servants and to the public how easily they can afford to be autocratic. The mere money loss it will take them a generation or two to recoup from the saving effected by the new arrangement. But the moral injustice of requiring the men to hold themselves at the call of the company from week's end to week's end, and yet paying them only by the piece as they happen to be employed—that the company will not get over at all; it will stand recorded against them for ever. The moral support that the men have received from those engaged on other railways, as well as from the public sense of fairness, may yet prove effective in ways that the Midland does not now think it necessary to include in its calculations. Moral principles live long, and they have shrewd ways of avenging their violation.—*Weekly Dispatch*.

### "AWKWARD FOR THE COO."

STEPHENSON, before the Board, questioned by a noble lord:—  
"But suppose a cow should stray in the locomotive's way?"  
answered with a twinkling eye, chuckled, too, with humour sly;  
"Yes," said he, "that's very true, 'twill be awkward for the coo."

Pompous dull capitalist,  
see the moral be not missed;  
resolute and undismay'd  
forward goes the New Crusade,  
seeks instead of care and strife  
fellowship and joy of life.  
Awkward it will be for you  
if you choose to play the "coo."

C. W. BROCKETT.

### ON THE IRISH EVICTIONS.

As when a haunting sense of personal shame  
Broods, a grim night-hag, on a sleeper's soul,  
Who sees and hears, yet vainly would control  
Some monstrous deed enacted in his name,  
Albeit he loathes it—till with heart aflame  
He bursts the hideous bondage of his sleep;  
So feel we now, who sit at home and weep  
At this dark blot on our fair England's fame.  
Shall they who for their outraged homes have fought,  
As Englishmen would fight, ay, nobly and well,  
Be flung like felons into prison-cell?  
Shall these curst deeds month after month be wrought  
By English hands? Speak, England! Let us break  
The spell of this foul dream. Arise, awake!

H. S. S.

### An Open Letter.—To Scab Carpenters and Renegades from a Boss.

BELOVED SCABS,—I am glad to know you are with us, i.e., that you favour the combination of your employers. We are organised for the purpose of saving men like you from yourselves. We will protect you from the tyranny of the trades' unions. We will restore you your ten-hour day as soon as we can crush out (and with your aid we will soon accomplish our object) those societies which are continually clamouring for what they foolishly call working-men's rights. We are glad that you know your rights as free men. These labour organisations would deprive you of your individual liberty, to choose for yourselves. What right have these organisations to compel you to pay dues to support walking delegates in idleness? We are pleased to know that you have taken a stand against such extortions. We are with you all the time. There is no telling to what condition we all may be reduced if this labour agitation is kept up. If it is not sat down upon, capital will build no more houses, and then we'd all be in a nice box, wouldn't we? We learn with much satisfaction that quite a number of carpenters have been suspended for non-payment of dues: Sensible men are they! We are gratified to know that in Baltimore, at least, there is no such thing as moral sympathy among the building trades. Why should the painters on a job quit work because the tin-roofers on the building are scabs? To do so has a tendency to strengthen organised labour upon the whole, and that is what you and I don't want. If you are willing to work for starvation wages, who shall attempt to prevent you? Your skill and labour is your own, and you should be let alone, too. We will reduce wages as soon as we have broken up these labour organisations, that want to put a price on labour. They should be content to take what we offer. The time is coming, if you scabs do your duty to us and yourselves, when there will be perfect harmony in the building trades, no strikes then, you know. You may all work then on the go-as-you-please plan, every one for himself, as it were. No one will be called a "scab" when we all get there. And we will get there if you will persuade those organised fellows that the Knights of Labour and trade unions are no good. The good old days of piece-work, long hours, and low wages will then have been restored, and strikes, lock-outs, and all that sort of rubbish be heard of no more. To the suspended members of the carpenters' organisations, I would say that we are ready to reduce wages and go back to the ten-hour system as soon as you are able to burst up those nonsensical labour societies. You can aid us, if you will, and you are certainly pursuing the right course in refusing to pay your dues and pronouncing the organisation N.G. Keep up the good work, scabs and renegades, for we are with you—until you have succeeded in wiping out the last vestige of an organisation in your trade, and then—you will be able to take care of yourselves.—*Baltimore Free Press*.

Now and then we see some smart twaddler talking about the community of interest which there is between Capital and Labour, and nine times in ten he don't know there is any difference between the assisting of labour by capital, and the plundering of labour by capitalists.—*Canada Labor Reformer*.

The Socialists have been accused of "warring against the family." But you, comrades, should know that all well-conducted families are governed on communistic principles. Each member is expected to work according to his or her ability, and each receives from the household stock according to his or her needs. Therefore it is not we who oppose the family arrangement, but our calumniators and antagonists. We wish to extend the family arrangement, not to destroy it. So much for one of the everlasting lies.—*RADICAL JACK in Chicago Labor Enquirer*.



"HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW: FIRST, FEW MEN HEED IT; NEXT, MOST MEN CONTEMN IT; LASTLY, ALL MEN ACCEPT IT—AND THE CAUSE IS WON!"

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors. Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BERLINER VOLKS TRIBUNE.—No. 1 not to hand, No. 2 received; will our friends kindly send another copy of first issue?

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 17.

ENGLAND	Chicago (Ill.)—Labor Enquirer	Ghent—Vooruit
Justice	Vorbote	SWITZERLAND
Jus	Hammonton (NJ) Credit Foncier	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Nottingham Evening News	New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	HOLLAND
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Hague—Recht voor Allen
Norwich—Daylight	San Francisco (Cal) The People	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts
Labour Tribune	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	ITALY
The Autonomie	Albina (Oreg.)—Weekly Courier	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Worker's Friend	Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	PORTUGAL
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Adelaide—Our Commonwealth	FRANCE	Voz do Operario
INDIA	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	AUSTRIA
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Le Revolte	Brunn—Volksfreund
NEW STATES	Le Socialiste	ROUMANIA
New York—Der Sozialist	Guise—Le Devoir	Jassy—Lupta
Truthseeker	Lille—Le Travailleur	DENMARK
Leader	BRUSSELS	Social-Demokraten
Volkszeitung	Liege—L'Avenir	SWEDEN
Boston—Woman's Journal	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
Liberty		

RAILWAY ROBBERY.

THE following facts regarding railways and the way the receipts are divided will be of interest:

Cost of building railways.

ITEMS.	Cost per mile.	Per cent.
Land and Parliamentary expenses ... ..	£ 2,000	5½
Land and compensation ... ..	7,000	19½
Works of construction and stations ... ..	18,000	50
Locomotive and carrying stock ... ..	3,000	8
Interest on stock, discounts, bonuses, dividends from capital during construction, contingencies, etc. ... ..	6,000	17

(AUTHORITY—'Encyclopædia Britannica,' art. "Railways," last edition.)

- Note—(1) That 42 per cent. of the nominal cost of railway construction is paid to lawyers, landlords, company promoters, etc., etc., etc.
- (2) That under the item "works of construction" is included the plunder seized by landlords under heading of MINING ROYALTIES and WAYLEAVE RENTS on the coal and iron used in the works.
- (3) It is stated by Mr. Morrison Davidson that £50,000,000 over the market value of the land have been paid to landlords for the land used by railways.

The nominal value of the railways of this country is £800,000,000—employing 400,000 men and boys, each employé using a capital of £2000. Allowing 50 per cent as over-statement in valuation, still £1000 per head of capital is worked by the employés. This fact should show advocates of co-operative production how impossible it is for the working population to create by thrift sufficient capital to free themselves from the control of the privileged class.

Division of the Earnings of Railway Companies.

	Per cent.
Total working expenditure, including wages and material for renewing plant <sup>1</sup>	52.6 of gross earning.
Payments to shareholders and bondholders, amounting in all to £33,000,000 per ann. <sup>1</sup>	47.4 do.
On the average, each railway man earns £50 a-year for himself and £80 for the users. <sup>2</sup>	

AUTHORITY { <sup>1</sup> 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' article "Railways." <sup>2</sup> Edward Carpenter's researches.

Examples of the division of NET earnings in English and foreign railway companies, taken from their balance-sheets.

RAILWAY.	Interest for half a year.	Wages for half a year.
	£	£
North Eastern Railway Co. ... ..	1,380,000	920,000
Midland Railway Co. ... ..	1,680,000	1,160,000
London and North Western Railway Co. ... ..	2,535,000	1,479,000
India Scinde and Punjab Railway ... ..	302,000	147,000
Brazil San Paulo Railway ... ..	159,000	42,000

These figures are about eighteen months old, but the proportion of interest to wages remains the same, so that the figures are as valuable as later ones.

Note—When the net earnings are divided in this fashion, it is not at all surprising that railway men grumble at their bad wages. THE RANK AND FILE ARE WORKING FIVE MONTHS IN THE YEAR FOR THEMSELVES AND SEVEN MONTHS FOR THE SHAREHOLDERS AND BONDHOLDERS. It must not be supposed that all railway men get starvation wages. Pompous old autocrats like Sir E. Watkin, and other chairmen and directors, receive their £5000, and sometimes more, a-year for doing work of practically no value to the community,

Treatment of the Public by the Shareholders.

The safety and convenience of the public, the trade of the country, and the health and comfort of the employés, are all made subservient to increasing their dividends a half per cent. Heavy inland rates are charged on minerals, bricks, fish, fruit, etc., to such an extent as often to swallow up in freight-charges the value of the commodities carried, thus preventing useful and cheap food-stuffs being put on the markets in large towns. In other cases commodities for export have to pay such high tolls that English goods are prevented making their way on the markets of the world. Again, cheap rates are quoted to foreigners which are denied to English manufacturers, the difference in favour of the foreigner being practically a bounty offered to foreign manufacturers to export to England. Railway companies sometimes make up their minds to develop a district, at others to destroy one, according to their caprice, or as it pays them. A notable example of railway boycotting is that of the North Eastern at Sunderland, where it is stated by inhabitants of that town, that because Sunderland would not sell her docks to the North Eastern Railway, the company has used every means to injure the docks, by high freight, bad service, etc.

The summary of the matter is that these railway corporations own the principal highways of England, and use them simply and solely to make the most money out of their monopoly, no matter at what cost to the community. The question is, are we going to let them boss the country in their own interests? or are we going to insist on these highways being controlled in the interest of all?

A. K. DONALD.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"CONCERNING USURY."

Perhaps I may be allowed to ask Mr. Morrison Davidson what ground he has for believing that the economical condition of the workers would be improved by "the repeal of all laws guaranteeing the collection of usury." His remedy is, I think, identical with that advocated by adherents of the anti-usury school represented by W. C. Sillar, and one is therefore forced reluctantly to conclude that Mr. Davidson, like these good people, uses the term usury in its narrow sense. He seems to forget that the workers are not recognised by law as the borrowers of the capital they use (or in current phrase, they are employed with), although they are in reality the borrowers, seeing that it is ultimately from them alone usury, or payment for the use of capital, is extracted in the shape of rent, interest, and profit. Borrowing and lending transactions, recognised as such, are for the most part concluded between members of the exploiting class, and consequently, legislation concerning these transactions would only affect the division of the spoil between the members of that class.

To put the question in a concrete form: Can Mr. Davidson demonstrate that the workers, say, in the woollen trade, would receive equitable remuneration for their labour, were the capital employed in that department of industry the property of the managing owners alone, instead of the joint property of managing owners and sleeping partners as at present? Can he show that the wages of, say, railway servants would be raised, were the shareholders relieved by Act of Parliament of the obligation to pay interest on the capital they borrow from the debenture holders? In short, can he hold out a reasonable prospect that capitalists would, on the repeal of the laws referred to, cease to appropriate the surplus-value created by labour?

It might be easy for him to do this, if the workers received legal recognition as borrowers of the land, mines, factories, railways, etc., etc., and if payment of rent, interest, and profit to the capitalist were forced from labour by the aid of certain laws. But, as far as I can see, there are no laws to repeal, regulating the transactions between the capitalists and the workers, the real borrowers. The price of labour-power is not regulated by law, but is determined by free competition.

The abolition of usury can only be accomplished, as T. S. Barrett says, by Socialism pure and simple. The land and the means of production must be taken out of private hands and managed for the good of the whole community, instead of for the benefit of the few as at present. And to effect this, the workers need not think that all they have to do is to send up representatives to Parliament to sit and repeal laws—or even to enact them. Parliament helps those that help themselves. The emancipation of labour can only be wrought out by the people themselves, for even if Parliament were willing to do everything in its power for Socialism, the great task of

bringing social order out of the present chaos, of organising industry on the basis of justice, must from the very nature of the case be done out of Parliament, in every trade and occupation, in every corner of the land.

J. HALDANE SMITH.

#### LENDING MONEY.

Mr. Davidson recommends an Act of Parliament to make interest irrecoverable at law, and if it should be found that such an Act failed to suppress the exaction of interest, he would make the *principal* likewise irrecoverable by legal process.

Is not all this "putting the cart before the horse"? Such Acts as he proposes no Parliament could make whilst the majority of the nation is unconverted to Socialism. When we are all Socialists, on the other hand, such Acts would no longer be needed. Nay more, an Act virtually forbidding the loan of money even free of interest would be positively mischievous. For it is quite possible to imagine men clubbing together in order to raise a sufficient sum for some public object, for which money might be required temporarily. It would not be right if such public-spirited subscribers to the undertaking were liable to the forfeiture of the money lent.

Things borrowed should be returned to the owners. Money borrowed is no exception. Giving is one thing; lending is another.

The evil of interest lies where the lender is lending for the purpose of making a profit. Hence we get a large number of persons living on money which no one has earned. In the present state of society this cannot be avoided. For why is money borrowed usually? In order that the borrower may trade with it and get a profit out of it himself. The lender merely claims a portion of the profit made by the borrower.

But if we had a Socialist state of society, there would no longer, I presume, be businesses carried on for profit—at any rate, no businesses where the workers are wage-receivers. Hence, the greatest source of borrowed capital (and consequently of usury) would be dried up.

Another great evil of interest lies in its continuance *ad infinitum*. This produces national debts, and families living for generations on the labour of others. A Socialist community might perhaps prevent this by declaring that every periodical payment from borrower to lender shall be deemed, not interest, but part of the principal returned. The debt would thus be repaid in instalments, instead of remaining undiminished at the end of many years. If this plan had been adopted, the National Debt would long ago have been wiped out.

T. S. BARRETT.

#### "LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE."

The statement as to the rise of rent and wages attributed to me by "J. M. G." in the last number of the *Commonweal*, is, as he will see by reference to the article on which he writes, a quotation from Mr. Mulhall.

"But why have rents so risen?" I am asked. They have risen because the propertied class has exercised its legal right to rob the labouring portion of the community in proportion to the productiveness of its labour.

From the labour of the workers in the United Kingdom each year £200,000,000 is taken *per force*, by the landlord class as rent. This huge sum divided among the 37,000,000 of its inhabitants amounts to a trifle more than £5 8s. per head. In England and Wales the gross rental is £172,653,906, the rateable value is £145,527,944, and this latter amount divided among the twenty-seven and a-half millions inhabitants comes to about £5 5s. per head. There is no reason which can be justified on moral grounds why this should be paid at all.

The abolition of the laws of hypothec and distraint might slightly lower rents, but this gain would only be temporary. Permanent gain can only be obtained by the community becoming its own landowner and lord. Both of these it can be when private ownership in the necessities of life is no longer possible. This is where the shoe pinches; "spot" it.

Moral: Nationalise the land and means of production.

H. A. BARKER.

#### A NOTE FROM JAPAN.

The following is taken from an interesting note from a member of the Hammersmith Branch now in Japan:

"The social arrangements here are most interesting. The people are at a stage somewhat representing that of England three hundred years ago. The first impression is that the whole people are a race of retail shop keepers, and one wonders how they live by *distribution* of wealth alone; but now one perceives that the retail shops are also the *work* shops. The goods sold in the shops are also made in them by the whole of the members of the family, who also live in the place. The consequences are very well worthy of note. There is no competitive system; no cutting of profits. The family works away easily and quietly—smoking and sleeping, and indeed, as we would call it *idling* a good deal; but working for no master, and not working in competition with machinery, consequently quite certain of a subsistence, except in the case of too great idleness. Note also that the peculiar feature of Japanese goods, that they are *artistic*, so that the whole of Europe is going mad about them, is due to this fact, that they are made by hand, each by an individual who stamps the mark of his individuality on the article. It is due to this much more than to any innate artistic capacity on the part of the Japanese. I now quite understand, for the first time, the hatred that Ruskin and Morris have for machinery. There can be no doubt that *could the benefit be ensured for the people*, machinery might be introduced with advantage in many cases. For example, one sees the grinding of corn done by revolving, by hand, one small millstone on the top of another, and many other such like things which could undoubtedly be done better by machinery than by hand; but I have little doubt that a 'manufacturing system' here would do, on the whole, much more harm than good. Think of Tokio as it is at present, a city of over 1,000,000 inhabitants, and so far as can be seen, no squalid poverty anywhere, and filled with a gay laughing people who seem to *live*, not to vegetate, as the London 'people' do.

W. K. BURTON.

Antiquity, what is it else but man's authority born some ages before us? Now, for the truth of things, time makes no alteration; things are still the same as they are, let the time be past, present, or to come. Those things which we reverence for antiquity, what were they at their first birth? Were they false?—time cannot make them true. Were they true?—time cannot make them more true. The circumstance, therefore, of time, in respect of truth and error is merely impertinent.—*John Hales* (the "ever-memorable.")

#### A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

THE defeat of the Illawarri miners was a severe blow to the labouring community, and already in one branch of maritime industry a reduction of from 10 to 20 per cent. has been enforced. Scores of men who made themselves prominent during the strike found themselves practically boycotted by the colliery proprietors from gaining employment. Some idea of the condition of the labouring classes in New South Wales at the present time may be obtained from this short extract from the *Melbourne Age* of June 4th: "Every little township has its band of unemployed, while gangs of destitute have their passage paid across the southern border." John Norton, the Labour delegate, has returned. When interviewed by an Adelaide reporter, he said, "English trade unions are to-day mere benefit societies; their power for material good is nil. The Radical clubs and Socialist organisations are rapidly taking their place." Since his arrival in Sydney he has been asked to stand for South Sydney, but he declined. Several hundred men are receiving a free meal every day from a restaurant-keeper in Bourke Street, Melbourne. When I was there, there was a dispute with the Huddart and Parker Steamship Co. It appears the men had to work till 11 p.m. to finish loading. The stevedore heard from the clerk that the men would not be paid that week. This he told to the hands, who refused to work any longer unless promised pay. At dinner-time they interviewed the manager, and the stevedore spoke on their behalf, emphasising the fact that it was Saturday and the men wanted their money at 5 p.m. that their wives might purchase the provisions for Sunday. After a deal of discussion, half their wages was promised, and they returned to work; but the man who had spoken on their behalf was told his services would be no longer required. This is the method which employers use to prevent any workman speaking on behalf of his fellows. This is no exceptional case, it is only one of many.

I had a letter the other day from a friend of mine in Palmerston, Northern Territory. He tells me there is nearly 200 "unemployed" working in Bennett Street. He also enclosed a copy of the *N. T. Times*, from which it appears some of these men were given employment by Smith, manager for Miller Bros.' contract for the Pine Creek Railway. They excavated 120 yards of earth, for which they were offered the price of 80. They put their case into the hands of Louis Solomon, the editor of the *N. T. Times*, who interviewed Smith, telling him he should take the case into court on behalf of the men. Smith then paid the men for the 120, saying he only did it *by way of a joke*. As Mr. Solomon remarks, it was a doubtful joke, for if they had found no person to take up their cause they would have had to accept Smith's terms for want of funds to carry on their case.

An Anarchist club has lately been started in Melbourne, with *Honesty* as its organ. I do not think *Our Commonwealth*, an Adelaide advanced print, is a very successful venture. It is not written in that vigorous manner which I think is absolutely necessary for the success of a paper whose object is the implanting of a great doctrine in the heart of the masses. They do not require educating up to their grievances, but rather to the remedy.

Several followers of Henry George were returned for the S. A. Parliament at the last election, and in New Zealand a Bill is to be brought in next session to nationalise the land, but it will be a matter of surprise to thousands of those who wish it success if it should be passed.

The average wage around Gippsland is from 30s. to 35s. per week, and I have seen mechanics in Sale working for 6s. 6d. per day.

A meeting was convened in Sydney Town Hall, presided over by the mayor, to consider the best method of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. An amendment was moved by Fred Jones, seconded by John Norton, to the effect that it was undesirable to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, as it would be antagonistic to the democratic feeling of the colony. The amendment was put, and carried almost unanimously, and when the mayor called for three cheers for the Queen the response came in hearty groans. Sydney, I have always considered, would be the most prolific soil for Socialist propaganda. Within sixty miles are the thousands employed in the mining industry of the Illawarri and Newcastle districts. Here lies the material, requiring only a few energetic men, possessed of the energy and force to infuse life into any paper they may issue as an exponent of working-class views. Men having a solid belief in the doctrine they advocate, not mere stump-orators clamouring for a passing breath of popular applause, would in my humble opinion receive a gratifying return.

Gippsland, Victoria.

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN.

Sir Edward Watkin sits in Parliament because working-men vote for him as an employer of labour. We hope those who elect him are proud of their representative. The servants of the Midland Railway go on strike. The officials of their union issue the usual circular requesting other railway servants not to play the dastardly part of "blacklegs," and come between them and their masters, whom they are fighting for a decent wage. They threaten blacklegs with the usual boycotting if they do; and forthwith Sir Edward Watkin has the impudence to get up in the House of Commons and demand that the authors of the circular be prosecuted criminally by the Government! Sir Edward Watkin owes everything he possesses to the toll he has been able to take of other men's brains, ideas, and manual work. And yet the creature seems to swell with rage—such rage as used to animate the planter against his slave—if the men who made him, and make him, even dare to exhibit the slightest sign of vindicating the rights of their toil-worn class. Still, so long as working-men vote for people who despise them, so long shall we have Watkins legislating for them.—*Weekly Dispatch*.

At the Forth Bridge works the waste of life is enormous. Every week two or three accidents. Over 100 killed since the building of the bridge was begun, and there is still two and a half years' work and the most dangerous part of the work is still to do. The law steps in to prevent theatre and circus managers from neglecting any possible precaution for the safety of the performers. If an enterprising damsel exhibiting her limbs is in the least danger a net is spread for her safety. These men who are working like slaves and are being driven to the utmost to get the work done, are being slaughtered by dozens, but no restraint is put on the carelessness of the managers. All the accidents are preventible if a little more were spent in safeguards and the men allowed to work with more leisure; but in the hurry and bustle and greed of modern commerce no time or money can be spared over the mere matter of a few workmen's lives. The same thing may be said of every large work. After a few dozen more have been killed or a score taken off at a time, it will pay some journalist to make a sensation over the affair, and then a little temporary caution will be shown.—J. L. M.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

Although Oldham is said to have abandoned the short time movement, still there are many mills either working short time or the workpeople are only partially employed.

An order has been received at Chatham Dockyard from the Admiralty, directing that in future all expenses incurred through workmen's or draughtsmen's mistakes in carrying out work will be deducted from their pay.

**COLLIERS' WAGES.**—It was anticipated that further reduction of wages would take place in Wales. Notices have however been posted at the collieries throughout the Rhondda Valley that, as a result of the auditors' award, the wages rate will remain unaltered for the ensuing three months.

The owners of the extensive coal fields in the Forest of Dean, finding it impossible to go on any longer under the present conditions, owing to the severe competition between them and the Welsh colliery owners, invited the men's representatives to see the list of actual prices, with the result that a reduction of 2½ per cent. will take immediate effect.

**EDINBURGH JOINERS.**—A meeting of the operative joiners has been held in Edinburgh, to consider the masters' offer of 6½d. per hour, the present wage being 6½d. The men considered that the state of trade warranted their request of 7d. per hour being granted, and unanimously resolved that in the event of this not being agreed upon to come out on strike.

**BOLTON.—ELECTION OF A LABOUR CANDIDATE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.**—Mr. Michael Battle, who had been unanimously selected in the labour interest by the Trades Council was elected a representative in the Town Council for Derby Ward, on the 11th inst. Great interest was taken in the contest, the labour candidate being nominated as a protest against the conduct of the authorities in regard to the engineers' strike. Wm. Cunliffe (Liberal) joiner and builder, opposed, but was beaten by a vote of nearly five to one.

**STRIKE OF MATCHWORKERS AT GOVAN.**—The female workers in the filling department of Messrs. Mitchell and Co., Clyde matchmakers, Govan, have come out on strike in consequence of their employers refusing to advance their wages. The girls, who number about 70, are on piecework, and earn from 8s. to 12s. a-week. They allege that they were not being paid equal to those in the other departments, and asked for a slight advance in the rates, equal to a rise of from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a week.

Notice of discharge has been given to 310 more men, comprising 150 shipwrights, 40 joiners, 60 blacksmiths and hammermen, and 60 labourers, at Chatham dockyard, bringing the total number discharged up to the present time to between 1,000 and 1,100 men. During the next two or three weeks 400 more men will probably be discharged. The same is occurring at all the Government dockyards, and the coming winter will witness great distress among shipwright artisans.

**THE MIDLAND RAILWAY STRIKE.**—The decision of the shareholders—the last hope of the strikers—having been given in favour of the action of the directors, the strike has collapsed all along the line. It appears that the number of men who actually struck work was 2713, comprising 980 drivers, 1090 firemen, 401 passed cleaners, and 142 cleaners. The *Times*, referring to the strike, advocates special legislation to prevent railway men striking in future; discussing the great public inconvenience should a strike prove successful.

**WEAVERS' STRIKE AT PRESTON.**—The weavers employed at the Manchester and Castle-street Mills of Messrs. H. C. Owttram and Company, Preston, have decided to strike against the prices paid by the firm for velvet, which are said to be 15 per cent below trade prices. There are 1200 looms. The workers will be supported from the funds of the Weavers' Association, and their case has been taken up by the Council of the Northern Counties, who will make an appeal to the members of the Weavers' Unions in the Northern districts on their behalf. The strike threatens to be prolonged.

The twentieth annual Trades Union Congress will be held at Swansea on September 5th and five following days. Amongst the subjects for discussion are—Employers' Liability Act, 1880; certificates of competency for men in charge of steam engines and boilers; the desirability of increasing the number of factory and workshop inspectors; the right of the relatives of deceased miners to be represented at Coroners' inquests; co-operation, and its relation to trades-unionism; representation of labour in Parliament; reform in the land laws; international trades unionism; sudden and accidental deaths in Scotland; and "Shall the State be asked to pass an Eight Hours' Labour Bill?"

A deputation from the Cleveland Miners' Association, consisting of Messrs. Toyn, Rowlands, Stevens, Reeder, Strong, and Turnbull, met the Cleveland mineowners, at their offices, Middlesbrough, on Aug. 10, to further discuss the question of a new sliding-scale. The men renewed their request that the district tonnage rate should be made the minimum for broken work; and as to deputies' wages, they asked that the reference to arbitration should be merely on the question of whether the present rate should be increased. Various other points were mentioned, but the owners pointed out the impossibility of listening to proposals that entailed greater cost. Finally the proceedings were adjourned until the 2nd of September, when a further meeting will take place between the two sides.

**UPHALL.—THE SHALE MINERS' STRIKE.**—The strike of the miners and oil workers at the majority of the oil companies' works still continues, and there is no immediate prospect of a settlement. The men at Clippens, Oakbank, and Holmes are working at the old rate of wages, no attempt having been made to enforce any reduction at these places, Clippens' employes stating that their men had been reduced indirectly in another way; Oakbank was a new work, and were not prepared for a stand, while Holmes had to keep working on account of their contract with Pumpherson to supply crude oil. Of those who struck work, Pumpherson is the only place where a settlement has been made, and it is believed that that company has incurred the displeasure of the other companies connected with the Mineral Oil Association for settling with their men at a twelfth off their wages instead of a sixth as agreed upon. Those still out are Broxburn, Young's, Philipstoun, Champfleurie, Dalmeny, and Burntisland, and, as already indicated, both employes and men seem determined to continue the struggle for some time.

**BREACHES OF CONTRACT AT CONGLETON.**—A number of poor fustian-cutters were summoned to the Congleton police court a few days ago for leaving their work in an unfinished condition, and in every case were mulcted in damages and costs. The result is very different when it is the workers who are robbed and oppressed by breaches of the Factory Acts, as will be

seen from another paragraph. The following case is one more illustration of the miserable lot of the wage-slave to-day: Two fustian-cutters, named Thomas Kennedy and Patrick Kennedy, brothers, were summoned by Mr. G. H. Chatwin, fustian master, Moor Lane, for leaving their pieces in an unfinished state. Mr. Chatwin claimed 5s. from each defendant for damages for their breach of contract. Mr. Chatwin stated the facts of the case, saying that the defendants left their work in an unfinished state, and without giving the required notice. Defendants said they were not able to earn above 5s. a-week after a hard week's work, and having a mother who was ill, and required nourishment, they were obliged to leave and get work where they could earn more money. They asked that the case might be adjourned, as their mother had died that morning. Mr. Chatwin said he did not press for the full amount claimed as damages under the circumstances, but he wished it to be understood that cutters could not do as they liked with their work. The Bench make an order for the defendants to return and complete their work and pay costs, or in default to pay 2s. 6d. each as damages, and the costs.

**THE BOLTON ENGINEERS' STRIKE.**—The men are holding out firmly and are well supported. Last Saturday a great open-air trades' demonstration was held at Bolton in support of the men on strike. A gathering numbering several thousands assembled on the wholesale Market, and, headed by seven bands, marched to a field where three platforms had been erected, and speeches were delivered. Mr. James Swift, general secretary of the Steam-Engine Makers' Society; Mr. Charles Hough, chairman of the Bolton joint-committee; and councillor Threlfall, chairman of the Southport Trades' Council, presided at the several platforms. Resolutions were passed unanimously sympathising with the Bolton engineers in their struggle for an advance, pledging those assembled to continue pecuniary and moral support, and thanking the inhabitants of Bolton for the fraternal manner in which they had supported the men on strike. The general tone of the speeches was to the effect that the men of Bolton were fighting the battle for the whole of the country. A meeting of the strike committee has been held, at which an alternative scheme of arbitration was decided upon and forwarded to the mayor. The conditions are that the rate of wages paid within twelve miles of Manchester prior to January 1886 should be taken as a basis, otherwise the wages paid in Manchester and Salford at the present time. The balance in the hands of the strike committee was over £1200, of which Manchester contributes £50, Oldham, £20, Liverpool £10, London £25, and Bolton £160. The whole of the society men went on short donation, according to the rules of the society, which means that their pay is reduced from 15s. to 12s. per week; but the allowance has been made up from the strike fund to 17s. 6d. per week. Thirteen men have left Dobson and Barlow's works, eight of whom have been discharged for incompetency.

**BREACHES OF THE FACTORY ACTS.**—The *Cotton Factory Times* commenting upon some scandalous cases which have recently been brought before the courts, says: "For years we have been struggling to obtain inspectors worthy of the name, and, when obtained, to get for them some encouragement to do the work to which they are appointed. Now when we have got a moderate proportion of decent men, we find to our intense disgust that we are confronted by a new danger. This danger lies in the fact that the magistrates, who sit and adjudicate upon the cases brought before them by inspectors, appear to be allying themselves with the law breakers to defeat the enactments made by Parliament for the protection of women and children." This indictment is supported by reference to a batch of cases tried before the Stockport magistrates in which the firm of R. M'Clure & Sons, of Heaton Norris, were summoned by Mr. Jones for allowing a woman to clean her machinery at seventeen minutes past one on Saturday July 2; and to a batch of cases brought forward by Mr. Prior, and tried at the Halifax Borough Court. In the first case Mr. Prior found the works of S. Whitely & Co. running six minutes after the time for stopping. He took the names of twelve women, and afterwards went with the manager into the engine-house to compare his watch with the clock. They found that they only differed a few seconds. At the trial, however, the firm asserted that there was a second clock which governed the engine, and that according to this they were only running one or two minutes overtime. The manager did not deny that according to their own "time o' day" clock and the inspector's watch they had run six minutes overtime, but on the flimsy evidence of the person who said he had taken the indications the case was actually dismissed. It should be noted that, as in the Stockport case, one of the heads of this firm is a magistrate, and that when the case commenced Mr. E. Crossley, M.P., Mr. L. J. Crossley, and Mr. E. M. Wavell joined the bench, and left immediately after it had been adjudicated upon. Two other cases were also dismissed in spite of the evidence. Our contemporary concludes: "What are we to understand by this? Are the capitalist class concocting a course of action for the purpose of rendering the Factory Acts non-effective? It was the cry that we wanted inspectors who would do their work. We have now got some who are doing their duty, but if the system we have referred to is to be continued they might as well go back on the old lines. Employers may, however, rest assured that the last has not been heard of these cases. It is well that in all cases justice should be tempered with mercy, but the sort of decision which gives all the mercy to capitalists and the justice to workmen, is one that is far from commending itself to our taste, and the sooner working-class voters make this clear to their Parliamentary representatives, the better it will be for all concerned."

**A DILEMMA.**—*Worker:* I desire labour, sir.

*Capitalist:* I cannot give it to you until the goods that you produced last year are sold. You are not only the producer but the consumer. The goods you made last year you must consume before I can afford to set you to work producing more. There is an over-production.

*Worker:* I am willing enough to consume the goods if you will let me. I am ragged, hungry, and my house is dilapidated. This over-production problem is easily solved. I will take the goods at once. (Starts to make off with them.)

*Capitalist:* Hi! Hullo! Police! Here, what are you doing? You pay for those goods, you rascal, or drop 'em!

*Worker:* But I have no money left, sir. I produced them all, it is true, and you say that the value of my production last year was 1,000 dols.; you paid me for it, however, but 346 dols.; I have spent that as you know for some of the goods, but there is still 654 dols. worth left unsold on your hands. I can't buy those back unless you set me to work so I can earn the necessary wages to do it. And yet you won't let me go to work until the goods are sold. This is a queer world. You are one of the intellectual classes; won't you therefore explain me the reason for this dilemma?

*Capitalist:* My opinion of you is that you are a d—d Anarchist. Be off!—*Denver Labour Enquirer.*

## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

## FRANCE.

The eighth annual conference of the confederated workers of the centre of France has been held from the 7th until the 14th inst., in the Commercial Hall, 92 faubourg du Temple, at Paris. Four hundred and fifteen delegates were present, representing together sixty-one various societies of social science (Cercles d'Etudes sociales) and seventy-eight various trades' unions (chambres syndicales). Toffrin acted as chairman, assisted by Picans, Collas, Hauptais, Regnier, and Delaporte, secretaries. Five committees were appointed for the examination and classification of the reports sent in to the Congress: (1) committee of class war; (2) committee of public services; (3) committee of progressive income-tax; (4) committee of organisation of labour, sanitary questions, professional schools; (5) committee of public relief, assistance, etc. The first question, that of the struggle of the workers against all other classes of society, was certainly the most important of all, as affecting directly the policy to be pursued in future by the proletariat, and we are glad to state that it has been resolved in the most revolutionary way, that is to say, every connection of the workers with any other class has been strongly opposed and totally condemned, and further, that the workers, being internationally oppressed by the bourgeoisie, must more and more become internationally organised themselves, all sense of nationalism, patriotism, jingoism, etc., being a hindrance to their final emancipation.

At Laon, the trial of our comrades has ended in a most draconian manner: Devertus has been sentenced to four years' imprisonment and a fine of 1000 francs; Massey to one year and 100 francs. They had pronounced "inflammatory" speeches at a public meeting—that is all! Things are going on downwards in "republican" France.

At Dijon, the Anarchists Naudet and Moudou have been acquitted from the charge of threatening to kill the State prosecutor. The charge, we must say, was a mere farcical one.

## BELGIUM.

Small Belgium, once so proud of its "political liberties," becomes more and more the vassal of Germany. Bismarck already governs it as if it were a mere province annexed to the German empire, and we must say that the Belgians seem to be ready for slavery, for they accept with resignation all that Bismarck commands their legislators to do. Last week the Minister of Justice, M. Devolder, brought in a bill completely sweeping away the freedom of press and the freedom of speech. Not only henceforth will the provocation to commit a crime, followed by its actual commission, be punished, but the mere provocation, *without any consequence whatever*, shall entail for the writer or for the speaker a condemnation varying from six months' to three years' imprisonment, with a fine ranging from 50 to 3000 francs. More even than that: a design, a caricature, either printed or penned, and showing a tendency to ridicule the institutions of the bourgeoisie, will be dealt with on the same rigorous line. The government there is in the power of the clerical-ultramontane party, and we know that the respect of these people for liberty has always been very small; but the "liberal" party in Belgium is exactly as rotten as the first-named, for none of its members has thought it convenient to protest against this scandalous bill, which was carried through in the twinkling of an eye!

But, fortunately enough, this bill, directed against the Socialists, will do no harm to Socialism, for it is not so much the Socialist press which make revolutionists as the institutions of the bourgeoisie that force every man who has a sense of righteousness and justice to become a Socialist.

In our next issue we will give the result of the Working-men's Congress at Mons. We can only tell our readers to-day that the transactions were far from being orderly and quiet, that there were two camps—that of the followers of Defuisseaux, and those who hold with the Executive Council—and that finally each of the parties met in a separate conference.

## GERMANY.

From January 1st to July 31st, 57,181 German wage-slaves have left their country and its police-blessings, emigrating mostly to America. Last year, in the same period, 40,597 turned their back on their "motherland."

At Leipzig, two compositors of the firm of Seebach, comrades Ch. Frey and Ed. Bauer, have been expelled from Saxony because they are Socialists, or rather because they worked at Seebach's, where anti-Socialist work is performed, and they ought not to know it beforehand!

On the 14th of this month August Bebel will be released from prison, where he has been since the 15th of November last. Auer will be released on the 15th. The other comrades convicted at the Freiburg trial, Vollmar, Frohme, and Viereck, will be set free a few days afterwards, and Ulrich at the beginning of October.

## SWEDEN.

We have received this week the first number of a new weekly Socialist paper, entitled *Arbetet (The Worker)*, published at Malmö, under the editorship of Axel Danielsson, formerly one of the chief contributors to the *Social Demokrat*, of Stockholm. Socialism makes great progress in the northern countries of Europe, especially during the last two years. We wish every success to our new colleague of Malmö.

## DENMARK.

During September, the Danish Socialists will hold an International Exhibition of Socialist newspapers, reviews, pamphlets, and magazines of the whole world. Besides, a considerable number of Socialists from Germany, Holland, Italy, France, and other countries have promised to come over to Copenhagen, so that there will be an interesting international *fete* too. Socialism is very strong in Denmark; Copenhagen is the centre from whence the revolutionary ideas are spreading all over the country. The paper, *Social Demokrat*, which is published at Copenhagen, was the first Socialist organ in the country. It was started in 1871 as a weekly journal. In 1872 it became a daily organ of great size. In its weekly career, from June, 1871, to March, 1872, its circulation was about 709,150. Since it has been a daily paper, the average number of copies printed per week has been as follows:—From April 1872 to May 1874, 55,200 copies; from May 1874 to June 1875, 69,535; from June 1875 to March 1876, 77,280; from March 1876 to October 1877, 90,382; from October 1877 to April 1879, 62,524; from April 1879 to June 1882, 79,120; from June 1882 to November 1882,

82,726; from November 1882 to September 1883, 120,560; from September 1883 to March 1885, 149,760; from April 1885 to July 1887, 168,168 copies.

The whole island in which Copenhagen is situated is filled with Socialists. The east coast of Jutland is almost wholly Socialistic. Viborg, Alborg, and Nikolnig, are strong fortresses of the coming revolution. In Tionsi and Staaland, excellent organisations exist at Rodby, Maribo (Laaland), Diclum, Swendborg, and Faaborg (Fionia). D.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

**Library.**—The Library is open to members of the Socialist League and affiliated bodies. LIBRARY CATALOGUE, containing the Rules, 2d. D. J. NICOLL and W. BLUNDELL are the Librarians.

**Co-operative Store.**—The Committee attend at the offices at 8.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. All Groceries can be had at current store prices. Orders over 10s. will be delivered carriage paid in London.

## BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League) to June 30. Clerkenwell, Mitcham, Walsall to July 31.

## "COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Hammersmith Branch, collected July 31, 4s. 9d. K. F. (weekly), 1s. C. J. F. (weekly), 2s. J. L. (weekly), 6d. P. W. (weekly), 6d. W. B. (3 weeks), 1s. 6d. D. N. (2 weeks), 6d. Liednub (2 weeks), 1s. Per R. Unwin, 5s. 6d.

P. WEBB, Treasurer, Aug. 16.

## THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

A Medical Student, 1s. For Mrs. Moulray—A Few Fabians, per Annie Besant (weekly), 10s. J. LANE, Treasurer.

**Midland Strike.**—Collected: Regent's Park, 4s. 6d.; Hyde Park, 3s. 2d.; St. Pancras Arches, 5s.

## REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, August 10, P. Barry lectured on "Scientific Boycotting for Trade Combination." Good discussion followed. On Sunday, August 14, an open-air meeting was held on the Green, addressed by Blundell and Underwood. In hall, Fredk. Verinder lectured on "The Bible and the Land Question." Fair sale of literature.—A. T. and W. B.

HACKNEY.—On Tuesday last the monthly meeting was held, and the following officers were elected for ensuing month: A. Barker, treasurer; T. R. Cooper, secretary; H. Graham, steward; and E. Lefevre, librarian. A deputation from S.L. was introduced, and a discussion took place upon the position of our club and branch, the *Commonweal*, and the League generally. A good meeting was addressed by H. Graham and J. Allman, at Broadway, London Fields, on Wednesday. On Sunday evening in our club-room, a discussion was held upon "Will Socialism benefit the English People?"

HOXTON.—On Thursday evening, a well-attended meeting was held opposite Hoxton church, comrades Jas. Allman and J. Pope who spoke getting a good reception. On Sunday morning, a very large outdoor meeting opposite the church assembled. Comrades Wade and Pope addressed the meeting. Large sale of *Commonweal*. On Sunday evening in the hall, H. A. Barker lectured, subject, "Evolution and Socialism." At the close questions were asked, and a lively discussion followed.—C. J. Y.

MILE END AND BETHNAL GREEN.—Sunday last, H. Davis addressed a large meeting in Victoria Park. Two members enrolled. Fair sale of *Commonweal*. All willing to work in the formation of a Branch in this district are requested to communicate with H. Matthews, 95, Boston Street, Hackney Road, or attend if possible at meeting to be held on August 26th. See other column.—H. M.

NORTH LONDON.—At Ossulston Street on Tuesday, usual meeting addressed by Cantwell, Allman, Brooks, and Turner. On Sunday morning, the meeting in Regent's Park was devoted to the Midland strike, Cantwell, Brooks, Nicoll, and Lane speakers. 4s. 6d. for the strikers.—T. C.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday, Ward and Pollock were very successful with their meeting in Cambuslang, great sympathy and attention being shown by the audience. Another good meeting was held in Jail Square, Glasgow, on Sunday; Pollock and Warrington were the speakers, and were received with the usual good-will accorded to our comrades. In the evening a number of our members attended to distribute leaflets and *Commonweal* at a meeting of railway employees.—A. M.K.

NORWICH.—On Thursday last, we held a meeting at Great Yarmouth, addressed by Henderson, and Curl in chair. On Sunday morning, good meetings were held at North Walsham by Darley and Morley, and at Wymondham by Henderson and Houghton. In the afternoon at Lowestoft, by Slaughter, Moore, and Morley. In Norwich Market-place, Henderson spoke, and a resolution was passed without dissent condemning the action of the police and calling for the release of our comrade Pole, now undergoing sentence because police-constable Endacott owed him a grudge. In the evening Henderson lectured in the Gordon Hall on "Civilised Nations."

MIDLAND STRIKE MEETINGS.—Meetings were held by the Socialist League on Sunday last in support of the strikers against the oppressive action taken by the directors of the Midland Railway Company. At St. Pancras Arches, Bartlett, Lane, Hart, and Turner spoke, Dalziel in the chair. At Regent's Park, Lane, Cantwell, Brooks, and Nicoll spoke, and in Hyde Park in the afternoon Lane and Brooks spoke. Collections were taken up at each meeting, the amount of which has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. At each meeting a resolution was passed sympathising with the strikers, and condemning the greed of the Company. No dissent was manifested at any time, and in every case the speakers were listened to with applause.

WOOLWICH.—On Sunday evening, Scheu spoke to a good audience at the Arsenal Gates, and made a marked impression on his hearers. A Radical, who is a mad Bradlaughist, objected to Scheu preaching Socialism in England, but approved of the chairman, a wandering Scot, doing it, which gave great amusement to all present. 3s. 7d. collected for propaganda. A large amount of literature sold.—R. B.

CLAY CROSS AND DISTRICT SOCIALIST SOCIETY.—A meeting was held on Tuesday August 2nd, comrade Smith in the chair. Several new members joined, and addresses were given by the chairman, Haslam, and Unwin. A meeting was also held on Tuesday August 9th, when it was decided to ask the Council of the Socialist League to allow us to affiliate. Several questions arising out of former addresses were asked, and some discussion followed. The next meeting will be on Tuesday August 23.—R. U.

DUBLIN.—On Sunday August 7th comrades Keegan and Coulton took advantage of a large crowd at a band promenade in the Phoenix Park, and got up a good meeting. Keegan fully explained the aims and principles of International Socialism. Towards the close of the meeting there was a good deal of horse-ply carried on by some well-dressed rowdies in the crowd.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

A business meeting was held at the office, 4 Park Street, on Thursday. Arrangements for Dundee propaganda made. Demonstration for Shale-miners locked out was postponed for a week in consequence of miners' speakers being engaged in London about the Mines Bill. A committee to carry out the arrangements was appointed. Organising secretary's report given and approved. Formation of new branches sanctioned at Hawick and Cowdenbeath. Full powers given Mahon to form a branch in Dundee. It was agreed to send for Glasier to address several meetings on Saturday and Sunday. The meetings held this week were as follows:—

Hawick.—Monday Mahon lectured at the Tower Knowe to a good audience. Collection and sale of literature good, and new member enrolled. Galashiels.—Second meeting held Tuesday last. Questions and discussion followed the address, and the meeting was a thorough success. The first collection was very good, and several names given in to form a ranch.

West Calder.—On Wednesday last Mahon addressed a large meeting of the shale-miners on strike and other workers. A local miner presided, and the address was listened to with attention. Arrangements for another meeting were made and a branch will soon be formed. Good sale of literature.

Cowdenbeath.—A meeting of the Branch was held in the Gardener's Hall. There was a good attendance. Mahon gave a short address on organisation. The cards of membership were then given out and a secretary appointed. Some new names enrolled. This branch, consisting chiefly of miners, is now in good working order.

Dunfermline.—Meeting had to be given up in consequence of the bad weather. Meetings will be held in future in the Co-operative Hall. The Dunfermline Journal has given fair reports of our meetings.

Edinburgh.—On Sunday morning Bruce Glasier and Smith held good meeting on the Quayside, Leith. Good sale of Commonwealth. In afternoon Glasier and Tuke spoke to about 100 in the Grassmarket. This was the first Socialist meeting ever held in the Grassmarket, and judging from the attentive hearing we received, we shall be able to make our principles popular. In the evening in Queen's Park, Smith, Glasier, Gilray, and Tuke addressed over 500. Fair sale of Commonwealth at the Park Gate. At 8 o'clock Glasier addressed a good meeting on the Mound. Smith, Gilray, and Tuke spoke here also. Good meeting, with exception of some slight interruptions by Princes Street fops. Good sale of literature. Very fair collections made at all our meetings.

Dundee.—Mahon's mission to Dundee proved a great success. Large audiences attended all the meetings, a good number of names were given in to form a branch, and good collections were made. Comrades Carr and Cameron rendered valuable assistance. An indoor meeting will also have been held before this number of the Commonwealth is published, and the branch will have been got into working order. The meetings held were four—on Saturday night at the Green Market and on Sunday at the Green Market, West Port, and foot of Hilltown. Arrangements for continuing a vigorous propaganda in Dundee are now being made. Some friends from Lochee attended the Dundee meeting, and arrangements for holding meetings there also were made.

CHAS. WM. TUKE, sec.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Aug. 18, Thos. J. Dalziel, "Communist Art." 25. Business Meeting. Sept. 1. Fred. Lessner, "Socialism on the Continent." S. Edward Aveling, "The Value of Brain Work."

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday August 21, at 8.30 p.m. Thomas Shore, "Land Nationalization." Wednesday Aug. 24, at 8.30. William Morris, "The Policy of Abstinence from Parliamentary Action."

Hackney.—23 Audrey Street, Goldsmith Row. Club Room open every evening from 8 till 11.30; Saturday, 7 till 12.30; Sunday 11 a.m. till 12 p.m. Members Business Meeting every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. Debating Class every Thursday. Lecture on Sunday August 21, at 8.30—James Allman, "Production and Distribution."

Hammer-smith.—Kelm-scott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday August 21, at 8 p.m. a lecture.

Hoxton (L.E.L.).—Globe Coffee House, 227 High St., Hoxton. On Saturday evening, Aug 20, at 8 o'clock, a CONCERT will be held in the Hall of the above Coffee House. On Sunday Aug. 21, at 8 sharp, William Morris will lecture on "Monopoly." Members will please take notice the Hall is open every Saturday evening from 8 to 10.30.

Merton.—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Club Room open every evening. Committee every Thursday. Discussions held every Sunday morning at 11.

Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11. Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business meeting Friday Aug. 26, for election of officers and other business.

North London.—Branch meets at 32 Camden Road, N.W., for reception of new members and other business, on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock, until further notice. H. Bartlett, sec.

PROVINCES.

Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.

Dublin.—Irish Labour League, Carpenters' Hall, 75 Aungier Street, every Thursday at 8 p.m. Discussion on all subjects connected with Labour Question.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. (prompt) to transact business. Discussion Class at 8.30.

Glasgow.—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily.

Hamilton.—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Every Thursday at 7.30.

Hull.—Merrill's Dairy, 56 Walker Street. Mondays, at 8 p.m.

Lancaster.—Addresses every Sunday morning on the Quay Jetty.

Leeds.—17 Chesham Street, Sweet Street. Club and reading room open every evening. Business meetings every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Leicester.—Office of Hosiery Union, Horsefair Street. Fridays at 8 p.m.

Norwich.—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures every Sunday at 8 p.m. Business Meeting, Monday at 8.30. Speakers' Class, Sunday mornings at 10.30 and Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. Social Evening, Saturdays at 8.

Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 21.

- 11.30...Hackney—"Salmon and Ball".....Turner
11.30...Hammer-smith—Beadon Road.....The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Ch., Pitfield Street.....Nicolll
11.30...Kingsland Green...Flockton, Lane, Jn. Allman
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green.....Sparling
11.30...Regent's Park.....Barker
11.30...St. Pancras Arches.....Morris & Davis
11.30...Walham Green.....The Branch
3...Hyde Park.....Lane
3...Stamford Hill...Flockton, Jas. Allman, Brooks
6...Victoria Park.....Morris & Davis
7...Clerkenwell Green.....Wade & Turner

Tuesday.

- 8...Ossulton St., Euston Rd....Flockton & Allman
8...Mile-end Waste.....Brooks

Wednesday.

- 8...Broadway, London Fields.....Lane

Thursday.

- 8...Hoxton, Pitfield Street.....The Branch

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Saturday: Jail's Square, at 8 p.m. Sunday: Jail's Square, at 1; Paisley Road Toll at 5.

Cambuslang.—Saturday: 6 o'clock.

Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, 11; Vicar's Croft, 7.30. Friday: Corner of Christ Church, Meadow Lane, at 8 p.m.

Norwich.—Sunday: Market Place at 3; Agricultural Hall Plain at 7.

Dis.—Sunday, at 11 a.m.

Dereham.—Every Wednesday, Market Place at 7.

Yarmouth.—Every Thursday on the Beach at 7.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

4 PARK STREET, EDINBURGH.

Fri. 19.—Edinburgh. Mahon.

Sat. 20.—Edinburgh: Demonstration in aid of Shale-miners locked-out, Queen's Park at 5 p.m.

Leith: Demonstration in aid of Shale-miners, Giant's Brae, Links, 7 p.m.

Sun. 21.—Edinburgh, Queen's Park at 6.30.

Mon. 22.—Hawick branch meets.

Tues. 23.—Galashiels.

WOOLWICH.—Arsenal Gates, Sunday August 21, at 7 o'clock—G. B. Shaw.

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