

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

The bourgeois press is very busy in making the least of the demonstrations of the unemployed in London and in telling us that the crowds who assemble to show themselves in the streets are composed largely of persons who would not work if they could. Now it may at once be admitted that there are such men among them, although the crowd is mostly composed of men only too anxious to work. But who makes these loafers loaf? That is the question. Everybody knows that when a manual worker has been long out of work he gets "soft." The terrible discouragement of having to look for work day after day with very slight prospect of finding it takes the heart out of him; and in time he loses all capacity of seeking for work, and is then the loafer whom false society has made, and whom she punishes for existing.

Also, trite as the observation is growing, one must really say that it ill befits a "society" that rewards some people so munificently for doing nothing, to insult and oppress the *poor* people who won't work to earn the semi-starvation wages which it offers them. Let us admit that it is a crime to live without producing, and accept the consequences that flow from that admission, to wit, that a society that will not allow men to work though they want to is the very essence of this criminality, and is of no good except to rebel against.

The police-onslaughts of Friday the 14th inst., and the following days, is of evil augury for the coming winter. They are to be, it seems, as ever, not the servants of the public, engaged in guarding peaceful citizens against accident, but the servants of a peevish and easily frightened minority, and the masters of all the rest of us whose arbitrary bidding we are to do under penalty of suffering immediate corporal violence, which as G. B. Shaw said at South Place, we may seek a remedy for *after* we have suffered it. Really if this is to go on we might as well live in Moscow—or Chicago. We might as well be Russian peasants—or American citizens.

The accompanying extract from the Chicago *Morning News*, shows how right the speakers were at the South Place meeting in their view that the prisoners were condemned not for their deeds but for their opinions:

"The address of A. R. Parsons, the condemned Anarchist, to 'the American people' is by no means unworthy of perusal. For the most part, it is quite as argumentative and dispassionate in tone as could be reasonably expected from a man who stands in the shadow of the gallows. We doubt not it will evoke sympathy from very many who are incapable of coping with the adroit reasoning of the author. Beyond the line covered by this special pleading, however, there remains the great, stubborn fact that Parsons cast his fortunes with the enemies of law and order; that the whole drift of his life during the two years which preceded the Haymarket horror was in the direction of anarchy; that his teachings, if they meant anything at all, were provocative of riot and murder. Such at least was the judgment of a jury of his peers. Such also was the judgment of the highest court of appeals. The law which Parsons sought to overthrow is rightly regarded as the great bulwark protecting the rights of the citizen. With scrupulous regard for his every equity the verdict has been made up. Nothing is likely now to alter his fate."

♣ A friend told me this morning that speaking to some American acquaintances on this subject they answered his expostulations by saying something like this: "Ah, but you forget that Most has published a most atrocious book against society." This is exactly the spirit of the Chicago trial. One man has written a book, so seven others are to be hanged for it. The American bourgeoisie are well known to be an inventive set of people; but surely this "short method of dealing with political opponents" is the cutest of all their inventions. Mr. Balfour had best learn from such passed masters in the art of suppression of free speech.

W. M.

At the Taghmon (county of Wexford) police-court on Friday twenty persons were prosecuted under the Crimes Act for using intimidating language. Sixteen were dismissed for want of sufficient evidence, but four—two young men, a lad of fourteen, and a girl named Lawlor—were convicted. The young men and the boy were sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment with hard labour. The chairman said the girl should find bail for her future good behaviour, as they "did not like to cast a stigma on her character by sending her to prison." She replied that it was "no disgrace to go to gaol for Ireland," and refused to give bail.

Disgrace! She has placed her name on record as an example of

pluck and self-sacrifice, and one cannot wonder that her counsel called her "the best little girl in Ireland, and a credit to her country."

"The further anticipated failures on the Stock Exchange have come, and amid circumstances which very much disturbed the markets. One defaulter, liabilities over £60,000, is said to have absconded, having misappropriated moneys and securities. An old member of Lloyd's was forced to stop payment, with unpaid differences amounting to £60,000. These, and other two small failures in the House as well as one outside, led to forced sales and to the demoralisation of the markets."

All which simply refers to the "division of the spoil," and affects the workers only as showing them how much of what *they* have produced is played with by these gamblers. *Every penny of it is unpaid labour.*

From Sydney, New South Wales, we have received copies of the *Morning Herald*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Echo*, giving accounts of the foundation of the Socialist League there by former members of our own organisation. This is cheering news, more especially as the organisation starts with fair chances of success.

Only the last-named paper notices the League editorially, and that does so with mingled sneering and abuse. Well, our comrades are, no doubt, fully prepared for that kind of thing and will persevere in the great work they have undertaken.

Is not the insanity or worse of our present society shown up strongly in the tremendous fuss that has been made over whether a certain speech was or was not made by the Grand Duke Nicolas of Russia?

This man is no orator able to sway multitudes by his fervid speaking, or great thinker whose utterance upon a subject will change the thought of thousands. No! but he is a despot and the son of a despot, able to wield a gigantic force against whom he will and to waste millions of lives to sate his lust of conquest.

Mr. Courtney, M.P., said last week that the police at Mitchelstown "may have acted indiscreetly"! Mr. Speaker Peel's tuition has evidently borne fruit, and we may now expect to hear bludgeoning a cripple called a "gentle remonstrance," and dainty phrases found for every governmental villainy. S.

## POLICE LAW IN ENGLAND.

POLICE rule in England is extending, the power of the police is rapidly increasing. The police of London, like the police of Ireland, is an Imperial institution under Imperial control. The Royal Irish Constabulary are not under the control of the people of Ireland, and the Metropolitan police are independent of the people of the Metropolis. And even where the police are under the direction and control of the local authorities, the power of the police is growing, and their increasing influence is everywhere felt. At times we hear a great deal about Socialism being un-English and of Continental growth, but the Government are undoubtedly introducing Continental ideas as regards the supremacy of the police.

The police everywhere claim to be over and above the people; their supremacy is becoming a recognised fact. They are everywhere organised as a semi-military force, they are a kind of omnipresent body, not so much for the detection of crime as to overawe the people. They are organised and drilled as a semi-military force, and the higher officials belong to the military class; their training and their military appearance does not make them a terror to the well-known thief, and to a great extent disqualifies them from dealing with ordinary crime. Every street urchin knows the policeman's step.

"The Police and the People," "the Police and the Public," are now very familiar phrases. Their absolute supremacy in Ireland has long been recognized by both Liberals and Conservatives, and many people thought that while their supremacy was confined to Ireland there was not much to grumble at. But why should Great Britain escape? We hear a great deal about Ireland having the same institutions as England, if so, why not England have the same institutions as Ire-

land, and if the supremacy of the police is good for Ireland, why not for England?

We now read that in the Metropolis the police are interfering with the right of public meetings, even with meetings belonging to the Liberal Associations; that they have gone so far (*Daily News*, September 29) as to demand the names of speakers and copies of the resolutions to be proposed. And we hear of indignation meetings to be held to protest against this tyrannical interference of the police. Such action on the part of the police is truly continental, whether Socialism is or not. One writer observes that Londoners may yet have to send the names of speakers and copies of resolutions to Scotland Yard for approval. It is quite possible such may be the case, even in this land of boasted freedom. Police supremacy will extend its influence, will increase through all the ramifications of society. The Liberal Associations of the metropolis are advised to refuse to give the police any information, either as to who the speakers are to be or the nature of the resolutions to be proposed at any meeting; also, if the police attend the meetings they are to be placed so as to be seen by all as the despicable tools of a detestable tyranny. These suggestions are very good, and I hope will be acted upon. But if good for Liberal meetings they are equally good for Socialist meetings.

It is true we are told the police have received no fresh orders; that they are only doing what they have a right to do, and what they have done on other occasions. And had they not interfered with the meetings of the Liberal Associations, but had confined their attention to Socialist meetings, there might not have been any outcry in reference to their present action.

But the Government has all the powers essential for a policy of coercion in England, without any special powers for such a purpose. From 1794 to 1806 the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended no less than seven times: in 1794 for nine months; 1795 for nine months; 1798 nine months; 1799 nine months; and in 1800 for nine months. Again in 1803 for a shorter term; in 1806 for six months; and in 1817 for nine months because of the agitation for radical reform. During all this period the private correspondence of suspected persons was regularly opened at the post-offices by order of the Government. And since 1837, by the written order of any one of her Majesty's Ministers, the letters of any suspected person can be seized and opened and the contents sent to the Home Office. Then in 1848 we had the Crown and Government Security Act, the third clause of which makes it felony to organise a movement for the abolition of Royalty or to bring pressure to bear upon either House of Parliament, or intimidate the same. And if extra powers were needed both Houses would be too glad to be called together to give almost unlimited powers to her Majesty's Government to preserve law and order, so essential for the plundering classes.

It is strange that even in this England of ours, the land of the brave and the free, while the franchise has been extended to every householder, all real power is being concentrated more and more in the hands of the Government; that with household suffrage we are falling under the rule of the *baton*; that while boasting of our freedom as a people and our glory as a nation we are becoming more helpless every day. Taking the old Radical notions the people to-day ought to be all-powerful, yet even with the vote they are still political nonentities, and under the present political system it cannot be otherwise. The evil lies in the very principle of government by representation.

What is government by representation? Its basis is the rule of the majority. The House of Commons is elected by and represents the constituencies. There sovereign power resides; there is deposited the concentrated wisdom and authority of the enfranchised millions. The House of Commons is supreme, is omnipotent. The majority of the Commons represent a majority of the constituencies; in that majority resides the concentrated wisdom and authority of a majority of the people. In that majority, then, is supreme power, is sovereign authority; that majority is omnipotent. The Government have the confidence of, and are sustained in power by, the majority of the Commons, therefore the Government is rightfully supreme, and in the Government resides the concentrated power and wisdom of a majority of the constituencies. This is government by representation, the supreme rule of the majority. If this rule be right, the Government is rightfully supreme, and its supremacy should not be called in question. When the people have delegated their authority to their representatives, when they have voted them supreme power and authority, why not trust their greater wisdom? Why not recognise their supreme authority? What need, what right, of public meetings to call in question the wisdom, or to condemn the action of the representatives of the majority, the rule of the majority being the basis of government by representation. It is not a question of eternal right, of equal liberty, but of the dominant majority for the time being. It is the system, and not the mere effects of the system with which we should deal.

Government by representation is the negation of the sovereignty of the people. It rests on the assumption that *will* can be represented, that rights can be alienated, that duties can be transferred. Under our modern representative system, government is virtually independent of and above the people. Such a government rests on the assumption that sovereign power can be transferred from the people to their representatives to be again transferred by them and centred in the Government for the time being, which practically becomes a centralised despotism. But rights can never be alienated, can never be transferred; the sovereignty of the people can never be abdicated.

No man can transfer to another his life, or his right to think, or speak, or his right of free association. These are inseparable from the individual and render all government by representation impossible, except as resting on usurpation.

We hear at times a great deal about the abolition of the State Church. But we never dream of the abolition of the State itself. Yet the State to-day is nothing more than a centralised despotism. All admit that the tyranny and corruption of the Church are the result—the inevitable result—of its connection with the State; but few regard the State as the seat of that tyranny and corruption. Nor is the State more sacred than the Church. The abolition of the State must follow the abolition of the Church. We do not accept the infallibility of the Church. Why should we accept that of the State? We do not recognise the omnipotence of the Crown. Why retain the omnipotence of Parliament? Government by representation must give place to the government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The people alone is sovereign. All else is but usurpation.

J. SKETCHLEY.

## FREEDOM OF CONTRACT.

(Concluded from p. 331.)

Now, it is admitted, even by Sir Thomas Brassey, that "Labour is the vivifying principle which preserves Capital from decay." This sounds very like the proposition of Adam Smith, namely: "Labour is the source of all wealth;" for, if it preserves it from decay, it must follow that re-creation is only a repetition of the act *creation*; therefore on this, as on the preceding proposition, wealth is due to Labour.

And here, it may be noted, Mr. B. did not tell his hearers what Capital was, but only used the bungled propositions of Sir Thomas Brassey (a representative of Capital) which deal only with the source of Capital.

Capital is both stored-up, and unpaid labour-results—at present monopolised by the few to the detriment of the many.

Now, as for the second proposition—namely, that the advance of wages depend on the increase of capital, a few facts and figures will not only contradict that statement, but will reverse the proposition.

According to Mr. J. Low, the income of the country in 1823 was £261,000,000; and, according to Mr. Mulhall, in 1882 it was £1,247,000,000. The total wealth of the country in 1823, according to Mr. Low, was £2,000,000,000; and, according to Mr. Mulhall, the total wealth in 1882 was £8,720,000,000. Here we see an enormous increase of capital, and, according to Mr. Bradlaugh's contention, wages ought to be very high and the condition of the labourers very good. Let us see.

If we take the actual number of workers at the following periods as near as can be obtained, we shall find the average value of the labour of each was as follows:—In 1823, £48. 6s. 8d.; in 1840, £80. 6s. 4d.; in 1871, £137. 10s.; and in 1878, £171. 9s.

"In 1883, in his paper before the British Association at Southampton, Mr. Mulhall estimated the wealth of the country in 1840 at £2,190,000,000, equal to £150 per head of population; in 1860 at £4,030,000,000, equal to £190 per head; in 1878 at £7,960,000,000; and in 1882, £8,720,000,000, equal to £249 per head of population. Taking, then, the returns for 1840 and 1882, while the population has increased 45 per cent., the wealth of the country has increased 394 per cent."—Sketchley's 'European Society.'

Let us see how this enormous mass of wealth is distributed. We turn again to Mr. Mulhall.

The higher classes, who number only 222,500 families, possess wealth of the value of £5,728,000,000; the middle classes, who number 1,824,400 families, possess £1,834,000,000; the working classes, who number 4,629,100 families, possess only £398,000,000.

Is there anything like equity here? The non-producing classes possess a total of £7,569,000,000 to £398,000,000, possessed by the working classes, by whose labour and skill the whole has been produced.

Truly, English society is one huge system of robbery!

"In dealing with the question of the income of the different classes in 1823, Mr. Low estimated the income of the working classes at £90,000,000 out of a total of £261,000,000. In 1866, Mr. Leone Levi estimated this income at £418,300,000, but he included then, as at a later period, a number of items which were quite inadmissible. From the same data, on which he founded his estimate, Mr. Dudley Baxter estimated their income at £325,000,000. From the same data, or nearly so, Mr. W. E. Gladstone estimated their income at £250,000,000."—Sketchley.

More recently, Mr. Leone Levi estimated the average wages of the principal classes of workers at 18s. 7d. per week. Magnificent remuneration!

One out of every three of the workers die either in the workhouse or hospital. "In 1885 the mean number of chronic paupers in England and Wales was 758,993; in Scotland, 97,504; in Ireland, 105,153; in all 971,595. Of the persons actually relieved from the rates in the course of a year, one in three, according to Mr. Mulhall, or one in three-and-a-half, according to Dudley Baxter, becomes a chronic pauper."—Reynolds.

Mr. Edwin Chadwick, C.B., states that the mean age of the gentry is 50 years; of shopkeepers, 27 years; of the wage-workers, 23 years; while in the case of these three classes, out of 100 children of the gentry 13 die under the age of five; of 100 children of the shop-keeping class 38 die under that age; and out of 100 children of the wage-earning class no less than 48 die under that age.

Dr. Lyon Playfair tells us that of the children of the upper class 18 per cent. die under five years of age; of those of the tradesmen class, 36; and of the working class, 55 per cent.

Mr. Bradlaugh quoted the speech of Sir Thomas Brassey, at the Industrial Remuneration Conference, on Capital. I therefore quote Frederick Harrison at the same Conference on the condition of the labourer:—"To me, at least, it would be enough to condemn modern society as hardly an advance on slavery or serfdom if the permanent condition of industry were to be that which we behold—that 90 per cent. of the actual producers of wealth have no home that they can call their own beyond the end of the week; have no bit of soil, or so much as a room, that belongs to them; have nothing of value of any kind except as much old furniture as will go in a cart; have the precarious chance of weekly wages which barely suffice to keep them in health; are housed, for the most part, in places that no man thinks fit for his horse; are separated by so narrow a margin from destitution that a month of bad trade, sickness, or unexpected loss brings them face to face with hunger and pauperism. This is the normal state of the average workman in town and country."—Quoted in *Reynolds*, August 14.

We are now able to see how true is the proposition that the wages of the worker advance with the increase of capital, and, at the same time, to see what are the conditions under which he "contracts."

If we were to first cut off the arms of a man and then tell him he was free to use his hands in his own defence, we should be doing on a small scale what is done on a large—in fact, what the present system of industry does to the working class.

"It is a long lane that has no turning," says an old proverb, and the day of awakening is at hand. Already Labour shakes his chains, to the terror of his oppressor, and is preparing to knock off the fetters that bind him. The worker is now beginning to understand that the more useful he is to society the less is his chance to live; the more wealth he produces the less he gets—in a word, the richer the nation grows the poorer he becomes. Until all this is reversed the workers must remain in their present condition of slavery, and any scheme which has not in view the changing of the present conditions from top to bottom is not worth attention.

H. DAVIS.

## SOCIALISM IN NORTH WALES.

On the 24th of September I set out for a few days' rest in Barmouth, North Wales. I spent a few days' in rambling round the neighbourhood; visited several small quarries in the district, notably that at Henddol, where I found some seventy men working for the benefit of a man who lived in a fine big mansion some few miles off. Of course everyone could understand that he owned the quarry, but, for a time, couldn't see how the men belonged to him. But immediately it was pointed out that while they got an average of 3s. a-day for working hard, and lived in tumble-down cottages, he did no work and lived in a mansion, and it was only by their working that he was able to live there; that they were compelled to sell their bodies to him in order to live, and the difference between the price he paid them and what he made out of them was his profit,—they began to see how it was. After this visit I decided to hold a meeting that very evening in Barmouth, and lay before such as chanced to listen the views of a Socialist. So at half-past six I took up a stand on the quay at Barmouth and began the first address on Socialism ever delivered there. It was soon evident that however new the ideas of Socialism were to those present, there was much that was in accord with their natural feelings as regards the duty of one man to another; that they as much disapproved of the present system of society as I did; for when it was proclaimed that the rich were getting richer and the poor getting poorer, and the difficulty of getting a job of work increasing day by day and the wages going lower and lower, it was earnestly emphasised. The assertion that there were two classes of idlers in the country, the idle rich and the idle poor, was sneeringly interrupted by a well-dressed young man, but approved by all others; and when I suggested that the said young man had better clothes than manners he was very wroth, at which I further observed that although better dressed than the working men around me, he hadn't near so much good behaviour. The upshot of this meeting was a request from some score working men to give a lecture in one of the public rooms on the question of Christian Socialism. Of course I gladly acceded to their request, and forthwith arrangements were set about. The minister of the Congregational Church was seen, and he cordially approved the idea. The deacons of his church were also consulted, and finally they kindly granted the use of the schoolroom free of expense.

Previous to this meeting (Friday the 30th) I decided to hold another outdoor meeting. So on the Thursday evening I again took up a position and held one of the most fervent meetings that ever I addressed or witnessed; for despite a drenching downpour of rain, the audience stood throughout, and even after it was over congregated in groups.

An amusing incident occurred through these outdoor addresses. The day after the first address I went into one of the tradesmen's shops, and he commenced to tell me about this stranger who had been holding a meeting on Socialism, and he innocently enough asked, "What is a Socialist?" and straightway proceeded to analyse the term in the following manner: "Socialism—assosin; Socialist—assosin." I then asked him what "assosin" meant in Welsh, thinking of course that it was perhaps a Welsh term. To my surprise, he told me it was English.

I then tumbled to it that he meant "assassin"; and I commenced a soliloquy as to what I should be taken for next—me, the peace-at-any-price man! Of course I soon relieved him on the point, but refrained from making myself known to him on that occasion at all events. I met him afterwards, and we had a good laugh over it. I told him that I forgave him freely, but forget him I never should. He now thoroughly approves the Socialist ideal, and his brother is a most active and intelligent supporter.

The indoor lecture was a thoroughly successful one, and I think will bear good fruit. That a complete revolution of the present system of society is absolutely necessary for the removal of the existing evils was admitted by every one present; and that it was within the reach of man and thoroughly practicable in the opinion of all present was aptly illustrated by the enthusiastic manner in which they applauded my remarks when referring to the capturing of political power and the formation of a great Socialist Labour Party whose only aim should be the taking possession of all the means of labour and the using of them only in the interest of all who worked. "Yes," said one, "if we would only be as enthusiastic and self-sacrificing for the establishment of Socialism as we are for our ordinary politics and religion, it could soon be brought about; and when brought about it would be practical application of all the best teachings believed in to-day." The same speaker also pointed out to me that there is a great amount of Socialism carried out in the different religious bodies, and instanced the manner in which they clung together for the good of all, and the equality that is insisted on.

One great difficulty in the propaganda is that whilst nearly all can understand a fluent English speaker, very few can read English books. Still I have every confidence that North Wales could soon be successfully organised.

HAYDN SANDERS.

## A PROCESSIONAL HYMN.

TUNE—*St. Gertrude*—SIR A. S. SULLIVAN.

"Onward! Christian Soldier."

TOILERS of the nations,  
Thinkers of the time,  
Sound the note of battle  
Loud through every clime!  
March ye 'gainst the tyrants  
Headless of their steel,  
Be a band of brothers,  
Speed the Common Weal!

Onward! friends of freedom,  
Onward! for the strife,  
Each for all we struggle,  
One in death or life.

Seamstress in the hovel,  
Women of the mill,  
Low indeed ye grovel,  
Tame ye are and still.  
Come like the Walkyries  
Beauteous in your might,  
Sing us songs of valour,  
Nerve us for the fight!

Chorus.

Teachers of the people,  
Priests beside the shrine,  
Men of light and leading,

Edinburgh.

Speak the word divine;  
Gather us together  
In a holy band,  
Sworn to help each other,  
Pledged both heart and hand

Chorus.

Toil we now no longer  
For another's gain;  
While our wives and children  
Pine in want and pain;  
Grieve we now no longer  
At another's good,  
Let us all be brothers,  
Let us all have food!

Chorus.

Come, then, worn and weary,  
Come, then, stout and brave,  
Join this noble army  
Sworn our land to save,  
From the power of tyrants,  
From the curse of greed—  
Down with the destroyers!  
Crush the serpents' seed!

Chorus.

J. G.

## THEIR CRIME.

Down deep in the slough of human misery they delved and brought to the light of nineteenth century civilisation the cruel results of man's inhumanity to man.

Over the pathway trodden by the burden-bearers of this land they travelled, and, finding it strewn with the bleaching bones of their fellow-toilers—Wrong's victims—cried aloud, and bitterly, against the miserable system that caused it.

Into the maw of the beast of competitive industry they threw the light of scientific investigation, and, finding it the grave of human hopes and happiness, vowed it should die.

Out into the darkness of Labour's long night they thrust a loving arm and sought to bring the wandering prisoner of poverty into a higher life, a nobler ambition.

Guided by the impulse of tender hearts they sought to break the chains encircling the limbs of Labour—poor sightless Sampson that he is—and drive Shylock from the temple of man's hopes, ambitions, and higher development.

And this hath been the height of their offending; this the reason that they are called anarchists; this the reason they are sentenced to be hung.—(Denver) *Labour Enquirer*.

I have never hesitated when I have seen my way clearly according to my lights, to follow it. I have always endeavoured to hew to the line, let the chips fall where they would. Some people do not do that. That is what is the trouble with the world. A great many people ask, when they find what their duty is, does it pay? If it pays they will follow it, and they care not where the payment comes from.—*Samuel Fielden*.

I am an internationalist. My patriotism covers more than the boundary lines of a single state; the world is my country, all mankind my countrymen. That is what the emblem of the red flag signifies; it is the symbol of free, of emancipated labour. The workers are without a country. In all lands they are disinherited, and America is no exception. The wage-slaves are the dependent hirelings of the rich in every land. They are everywhere social pariahs without home or country. As they create all wealth, so also they fight every battle, not for themselves but for their masters. There is an end to this self-degradation. In the future labour will fight only in self-defence and work for itself and not for another.—*Albert R. Parsons*.



"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.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LEARNER.—The lectures by Wendell Phillips, the great American reformer, are published by Lee and Shepard, 47 Franklin Street, Boston, U.S. Prices—'Relations of Capital and Labour,' 25 c.; 'The Scholar in a Republic,' 25 c.; 'Eulogy of Garrison,' 25 c. His speeches, letters, etc., delivered before 1863 are published in one volume by the same firm at 2 dols. 50 c.

Acknowledged with thanks—J. W. (Liverpool).

H. N. (S. Hackney).—Your project has been considered and found impracticable.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 19.

ENGLAND	N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate	ITALY
Justice	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	Gazzetta Operaia
Norwich—Daylight	Hammonon (NJ) Credit Foncier	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Worker's Friend	San Francisco (Cal) The People	MADRID—SPAIN
Labour Tribune	Albina (Oreg.)—Weekly Courier	Madrid—El Socialista
Jus	Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	GERMANY
INDIA	Buffaloer Arbeiter-Zeitung	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Madras—People's Friend	FRANCE	BRUNN—AUSTRIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Brunn—Volksfreund
Adelaide—Our Commonwealth	Le Socialiste	Vienna—Gleichheit
UNITED STATES	La Revolté	HUNGARY
New York—Der Sozialist	Lille—Le Travailleur	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Truthseeker	Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil	ROUMANIA
Leader	Ghent—Vooruit	Jassy—Lupta
Union Advocate	HOLLAND	DENMARK
Boston—Woman's Journal	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Social-Demokraten
Chicago (Ill.)—Labor Enquirer	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts	SWEDEN
Vorbote	SWITZERLAND	Malmo—Arbeter
Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksbiatt	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	
St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole		
Altruist		

THE CONDEMNED MEN AT CHICAGO.

ON Friday, Oct. 14th, South-place Institute was crowded to the doors, and beyond, by an enthusiastic audience; who vigorously applauded the points made by each speaker, and unanimously passed the resolution which follows:—

"That the English workers in this meeting desire earnestly to urge on their fellow workers in America the great danger to Public Liberty that arises from suffering citizens to be punished for resisting attempts to suppress the rights of Public Meeting and Free Speech, since a right that the people are punished for enforcing is evidently thereby made no right at all, but a crime. That the fate of the seven men now under sentence of death for holding a public meeting in Chicago, at which certain policemen were killed for attempting forcibly to disperse the people and silence the speakers, is of deep concern to us as English workers, because their case is the case of our comrades in Ireland to-day, and is likely to be ours to-morrow unless the workers from both sides of the Atlantic declare with one voice that all who interfere with the rights of Public Meeting and Free Speech act unlawfully and at their own peril. We cannot admit that the political views of the seven condemned men have anything to do with the principle involved; and we protest against their sentence, which, if carried out, will practically make the holding of meetings by working-men in their own interests a capital offence throughout the United States of America, since it is always possible for the authorities to provoke a crowd to reprisals involving danger to life. We look to our American comrades, of all shades of political opinion, to demand the unconditional release of the seven men in whose persons the liberties of all workers are now in peril."

In opening the proceedings the Rev. Stewart Headlam, who took the chair, laid great stress upon the fact that in this meeting were gathered together men of very varied opinions, Socialists and Radicals, some of them anti-Socialists, but all resolved upon maintaining free speech for themselves, defending it for others as far as in them lay. While he was not an Anarchist, regarding, indeed, the doctrine of Anarchism with aversion, he demanded for its expounders as full or fuller liberty than that he himself enjoyed. As a priest of a Christian Church it was his clear duty to defend for all the right of serving truth by speaking it as they saw it, and the more they differed from him the more imperative this duty became. In the name of his Master and of Humanity he demanded the release of these men.

Letters of adhesion and sympathy were read from many associations and individuals in various parts of the country.

Mrs. Wilson, in moving the resolution, detailed step by step the events that led up the Haymarket meeting and that occurred there. These men, she said, amid great cheering, were not to be hanged for

any crime but that of having been prominent advocates of the cause of the toilers; for having dared to reveal to the slaves the causes of their slavery. They were men of spotless character, the most vicious organs of "public opinion" had been unable to vilify them; their whole lives had been traced with minute care in the vain hope of finding some offence which could be flung at them.

William Morris seconded the resolution, saying that the evidence which was taken as sufficient whereon to condemn these men was surely the very reduction to absurdity of the legal chicanery that obtains in such matters. He pointed out how the law had been strained and the furious prejudice shown by the court.

George Standing, delegate of the Hall of Science Club, as an Individualist, and a known advocate of a doctrine the very reverse in most respects of that for which these men were to suffer, would not, he thought, be suspected of being moved by anything but the desire of free thought and speech for all in protesting against what he considered a judicial murder.

Stepniak said that in Russia, Germany, or other confessedly despotic States, such behaviour as that of the Chicago Court would almost pass unchallenged, it was so naturally part of the system. A tyrant maintained himself by the strong hand and treachery; these were the weapons of despotism, and in countries that he knew were a matter of course and so accepted. But to him, and those like him, who living under the shadow of despotism had been from their youth up taught to look to England, and, it might be even more to America, as the home of freedom and the model toward which they should work; to them it was unnatural and strange when they saw the old familiar methods employed in what were called "free" countries. It showed, at least, that under every form of class-domination lay the same spirit; and when roused it was manifested in much the same way. He was delighted at the manifest interest in the question shown by the English workers.

Mr. George, by permission of the chairman, described to the meeting an instance of police brutality that has just occurred that day, in the clubbing of the unemployed who were marching peaceably through the streets.

Peter Kropotkin described the Chicago affair as a retaliation upon prisoners taken in the virtual civil war that was going on between the two great classes. Against this idea of retaliation we must constantly protest; it inevitably led to cruelty and injustice. It was unavoidable that as the struggle grew more keen this kind of thing would recur more frequently. The people of no one country can afford to neglect the affairs of another; the essence of the workers' movement is its internationality, and the wrongs of one part are the wrongs of all; and while they cannot counsel revenge and so follow their "rulers" into wrongdoing, the workers of each country should encourage the workers of others to resistance of such things as this Chicago affair.

H. B. Tarleton, as a delegate of the Hammersmith Liberal Club, spoke of the failure to prove any connection between these men and the "crime," so-called, for which they were suffering, and said that the sentence if carried out would justify any reprisal that might be made.

James Blackwell, of the S.D.F., was in the States when the affair occurred, having gone over there in order to watch the great strike of May 1886, and report thereupon to the workers of England. He described the situation, and characterised the "riot," etc., as bourgeois devices to get hold of the men who had made themselves dangerous by the clearness with which they stated the Labour problem.

George Bernard Shaw (Fabian) disclaimed any sympathy with Anarchism or Anarchists, but emphatically supported the view that this was a question alone of freedom of speech and opinion. The case of these men to-day, to-morrow might be that of any one of us, of any political sect or party, who made himself obnoxious to the Government of the day.

Annie Besant (Fabian) classed this Chicago affair with kindred events that were happening nearer home. By intense effort and constant struggle, that had cost kings their thrones and many men their lives, we had won a certain measure of freedom; we held this at the price of eternal vigilance, and whether in America or Ireland, or anywhere else, if we allowed encroachments upon it to pass unchallenged, by so much did we sacrifice it.

A cablegram was sent from the meeting to the Leader, New York, of greeting to the demonstration there with the same object on Saturday.

£3 5s. 5d. was subscribed at the doors for the expenses of the hall and the literature that has been distributed on the question.

At a mass meeting on Sunday in Victoria Park the same resolution was also carried. Many meetings are being organised by Radical clubs, etc., with the same object.

DIDN'T KNOW ENOUGH.—"I am not a Socialist," reiterates Mr. Terence Vincent Powderly. This reminds us of the small boy who, when asked why he had not risen above the primary class, replied, "Because I don't know enough."—American paper.

To-day as the beautiful autumn sun kisses with balmy breeze the cheek of every free man, I stand here never to bathe my head in its rays again. I have loved my fellow men as I have loved myself. I have hated trickery, dishonesty, and injustice. The nineteenth century commits the crime of killing its best friend. It will live to repent of it. But, as I have said before, if it will do any good, I freely give myself up. I trust the time will come when there will be a better understanding, more intelligence, and, above the mountains of iniquity, wrong and corruption, I hope the sun of righteousness and truth and justice will come to bathe in its balmy light an emancipated world.—Samuel Fielden.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## SOCIALIST CO-OPERATION.

SIR,—The subject matter of the Co-operative lecture of the 21st is so little touched by friend Tarn's letter, that it would hardly be necessary to reply were it not that we hope to make that meeting the preliminary to a serious attempt to carry out the views then laid down, and it would, therefore, be a pity to allow any misconceptions to pass unnoticed.

Comrade Tarn's letter is a practical admission that he and those who thought with him were unable in their speeches to explain their ideas to the meeting, and I am glad that he recognises this. But I am afraid that his letter has only increased the haziness which hangs over whatever may be the reasons for their opposition. But his letter reveals one other fact, not perhaps flattering to me, namely, that I was not able to make my position understood by the whole of the persons present. As this was the first attempt I had made to lecture to an audience of the kind, this is scarcely surprising, and I can very well be satisfied that the bulk of the audience seemed not only to understand my proposals but to sympathise with them, and that many have pledged themselves to assist in putting them into practice.

Comrade Tarn opens by stating that the object was for a group of people to start a co-operative store for their *own benefit*. Now, if this were really the case, their object could be more easily attained by joining one of the existing Co-operative Societies. But I think it would be best here to state what were the exact proposals made.

First, then, it was proposed to raise funds by bonds of say 5s. each, and with the money thus raised to open a store, and sell to the members such commodities as they require and are at present purchasing elsewhere; selling them, however, at prices as near cost as was compatible with the safe conduct of the business, and which would be fixed too low to enable the ordinary shopkeeper to sell at and make a profit for himself. At these low prices a fair trade should easily be got together. But, owing to the greater economy at which Co-operative Societies are able to work through concentrating the trade of a dozen shops under one establishment, and thereby saving the rents, gas, etc., of at least nine of the other shops, and further saving expenses of advertising, and the thousand and one ways by which tradesmen attempt to distance their rivals, there would still, as experience abundantly shows, be a surplus left at the disposal of the society.

Mr. Tarn sneers at this saving as *profits*, but it does not represent what is usually understood by that term. By profits we usually designate any surplus resulting from a trading transaction between two separate persons, and which really mean that A has got more value from B than he gives to B, and which surplus he appropriates for himself, *i.e.*, profits represent unequal exchange. But the transactions of this society would not be as between separate individuals, but really mean that the persons concerned have combined for the purpose of supplying their mutual wants without the intervention of a profit-making trader at all.

The surplus proposed to be made by this society does not represent the profit made by the ordinary trader (that is, to be given to the purchaser with each purchase), but merely the saving effected by a more economical system of distribution; and this surplus, or profit if you will, is not to become the property of any individual at all, not even of the persons who establish this society, for THEIR OWN BENEFIT, but is to remain as a common fund to be used only in extending the benefits of this method of self-supply.

Further, we know from the experience of the co-operative movement that this fund would soon be more than sufficient for distribution, and it would then be used for the employment of the members in the production of the commodities sold in the stores, employing them in factories which should be under their own control, and from which no profits should be sought to be made.

Comrade Tarn protests that this is the ordinary competitive method of trading, but I think any reader will see that there is a great gulf fixed between these two systems of supplying our daily wants, both as to method and results aimed at. He also alleges that we represented this would of itself bring about Socialism.

Now it was not put forward as a complete measure of Socialism at all, although the writer believes it capable of such *expansion* as will keep pace with the growth of public opinion in the direction of Socialism; so far, that is, as the management of the production and exchange of ordinary commodities are concerned, but it is obvious that it makes *no attempt to deal* with the wealth inherent in the land, that which has been produced by former generations on such works as railways, canals, etc.

But it is seriously contended that it is *Socialistic*, and I think even Mr. Tarn will admit that its three main points, viz.:

1. The abolition of usury,
2. The practical abolition of individual profit-making,
3. The capitalising for *common use* of the savings rendered possible by *common action*,

would be three great practical steps towards Socialism.

Comrade Tarn then makes a complaint that sounds strange from a Socialist, that this system would kill out the shopkeeper. What then? Is it not one of the aims of Socialists to abolish the classes who live on profits? I am unable to see any "sneaking" about this. What does my critic mean by killing in a straightforward way?

But I must remind him that we cannot save the shopkeeper even if we would. He is at present being rapidly and mercilessly exterminated by the larger capitalists. But we *can* determine whether he shall be replaced by the Maples, Peter Robinsons, and Whiteleys, with the Rothschilds at their back, or absorbed by the growth of some such Co-operative effort as we propose. Besides, all those really engaged in *actual* distribution would find a place to fill under the new conditions.

It is then asserted that we should commence with Co-operative production. This seems to me attempting to drive in the wedge by the thick end. The first necessity for success would be a ready prepared market, and I am sorry that our friend should consider an honest attempt to secure this as not straightforward.

We now come to friend Tarn's own proposals as to what should be done. He commences by an assertion that the work of the League (and I presume he means by that other Socialists,) must *ever* consist in promoting international union. Not being intimately acquainted with the future I am unable to judge as to the accuracy of this; but it appears to my less extended view that there is also other good work to be done. But I am really unable to entertain the idea that we should attempt to heal the wounds of

humanity with free concerts or even free evening schools. This is "Rose-water for the Plague" with a vengeance.

I believe the maintenance of the present state of society is only possible through the existence of a large middle-class, who believe it is their interest to maintain it, as Morris says, speaking of the aristocracy and monopolists generally: "They are scant of numbers, and have no power of their own, but depend upon the support of the class next below them—the middle-class."

It is this class that I wish to destroy; it is this class that I have tried to show we *can* destroy, and I would appeal for the help of all Socialists, and even of all social reformers to bring down this great prop of the existing order of society, whose fruits are misery for all, even of the fortunate who *can think and feel*, and for the masses degradation and death.

ALFRED CLARE VARLEY.

## THE MINERS NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

THE four days' sitting at Edinburgh has been rather a barren one. The easy-going way in which these workmen's representatives take their labours is rather disgraceful. A four days' conference of men sent at great expense from all parts of the three countries to transact most important business gets through its work in this way:—First day: sits from 10 to 12.30; hears a weak, halting, and pointless speech from Mr. Burt, though at one point the honourable gentleman, in a sudden spasmodic burst of revolutionary ferocity declares that the House of Lords is an "anachronism"; this from T. Burt, M.P., astonishes the delegates and exhausts Mr. Burt himself; so after electing secretaries and doing some formalities the conference languidly adjourns. Second day: sits from 10 to 4; discusses about a score of motions and passes none; result of discussion is that a "general sentiment," as the chairman, Mr. Burt, calls it, is evolved and a committee appointed to boil down the score of motions into one which shall include all the first ones and the "general sentiment" besides. These unhappy men, instead of sinking beneath their task, coolly report at the next sitting that they have not held a meeting yet. This report occasions no surprise; perhaps it is regarded as a splendid imitation of parliamentary ways. Third day: another sitting from 10 to 4; energetic discussion, with the magnificent result that one clause of a resolution is carried. Fourth day: the conference actually begins work at 9 a.m. This extraordinary affair, however, is easily explained. The purpose of beginning *one* hour earlier is to stop *several* hours earlier, on the principle that an hour in the morning is worth two in the afternoon. This also proves that the British working-man's delegate has not thrown off his historic laziness.

On the whole, the conference must be a sickening disappointment to the miners throughout the country who looked to it for some help and guidance in their present difficulties. The men of light and leading meet together at great expense to their associations. They proceed to talk over a few things in the most leisurely way, as if meanwhile all was well enough. The miserable sterility of their deliberations is made the more exasperating by their splendid self-satisfaction. It is surely time that the mass of the miners in the country hurried these fellows up a bit and sharpened their wits for them.

However, the situation was not without an element of hope. The conference was valuable as the first occasion on which a new departure in trades-unionism was distinctly noticeable. There were two distinct sections in the conference—the official gang of Burt and Co., and a more advanced party, prominent amongst which were Messrs. J. Keir Hardie (N. Ayrshire), Chisolm Robertson (Stirlingshire), Wm. Small (Lanarkshire), John Wilson (Broxburn), and other Scotch delegates. Some of the English delegates were also with the advanced party; but it was curious to notice that the Scotch delegates were distinctly in advance of the English. It is a pity that the miners were represented by such weaklings as their discredited M.P.'s. The hottest work was over the Eight Hours Bill. The advanced party were for parliamentary interference. The others aired the cant about the miners' independence of the State which they learned from Mr. Bradlaugh last session. Wm. Small moved for legislative interference, and in spite of the opposition of Messrs. Burt, Fenwick, and the whole official gang, it was carried by an overwhelming majority.

The Eight Hours motion is of course a matter of no vital importance; in itself it is chiefly interesting as the first motion carried against the orthodox party. Any awakening of the trades-unionists is too valuable to be despised, and if they once begin to go forward they may go a long way before they stop.

Mr. R. B. Cunninghame Graham, M.P., made a most interesting and valuable speech, in which his formal adherence to Socialism was declared. Having been challenged by Mr. Haldane, M.P., to say how far he agreed with Karl Marx's theories, he replied: "Mr. Haldane had asked him, did he (Mr. Graham) go in heart and soul with Karl Marx's theories, and did he know what he pledged himself to regarding this mining question? His answer was, absolutely and entirely." As appearances go at present, there may soon be a Scottish Labour Party formed, of which Mr. Cunninghame Graham will be the chief. This party may not be definitely Socialistic, but it will be a great advance on the old methods.

J. L. MAHON.

EARLY CLOSING.—A traders' conference was held last week at the Craven Hotel, Lavender Hill, Mr. Richard Phillips in the chair, to bring about the practice of earlier closing of all shops in that district. After a long discussion, in which the fullest sympathy was shown with the proposals made by the Early Closing Association, it was agreed to adjourn the conference for a week with a view to obtain the support of the few firms who have not yet given in their adhesion to the movement.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

### BRITAIN.

**CLOSING OF COLLIERIES.**—Arrangements are in progress for closing twelve collieries in the Ettingshall district, near Wolverhampton. This result is said to be due to the impossibility of making them yield a profit under the operations of the Mines Drainage Commissioners.

**EXTENSIVE LOCK-OUT.**—On Saturday 2000 men were locked out at the Landore-Siemens Steel Works, Swansea, owing to a strike amongst the melters. These men, only forty in number, have been on strike nine weeks against a reduction, and as it is impossible to go on without them, the lock-out was resorted to, with the result that on Tuesday the melters waited on the manager and announced their surrender.

**WEAVERS.**—At Preston the dispute at Messrs Owtram and Co.'s mills still continues, the firm refusing to discharge the hands who remained at work during the strike. In the same town the weavers employed by Mr. J. Humber have also turned out against the employment of a "tackler" whom they object to. At Barnoldswick also the strike continues, although the employers have engaged fresh hands to fill up the vacancies; and a strike in the cotton trade is feared at Blackburn.

**GALSTON—MINERS' STRIKE.**—Some four weeks ago the miners employed in Goatfoot and Burnbank pits, numbering in all about 350, struck work in consequence of the proprietor allowing six men to work on the weekly holiday. After coming out the men resolved not to resume work until an advance of 6d. per day was obtained. On Tuesday morning the men, including all the oncost men, who have hitherto worked at the employers' terms, joined their fellows on strike.

**THE BOLTON STRIKE.**—On Friday afternoon the joint-committee of men submitted proposals for the settlement of the dispute, which has now extended to 23 weeks, and which proposal it is generally understood is accepted by the employers, who have been consulted as to the construction of the proposals. The men agree to take the Oldham list of wages as the basis of settlement, and will resume work at once at the rate of wages in force before the strike commenced. Should it be found that the Oldham list is above the Bolton list, the advance to date from January 1. Nothing is said about the imported men lodged at present in the works affected.

**REDUCTION OF SCAVENGER'S WAGES.**—At the monthly meeting of the Walsall Town Council on Monday, Oct. 10th, it was decided to reduce the wages of a number of the scavengers from 18s. to 16s. per week. The explanation given for this cheese-paring policy is that most of the men whom the reduction will affect are old and infirm men, without families, and no longer able to do heavy manual labour, therefore these wage-slaves are to be paid at a rate which will not supply food in return for their work. There is likely to be considerable agitation in the town about the matter.

**THE BROXBURN MINERS.**—The struggle of the shale miners with the Oil Companies is more fierce than ever. All except the Broxburn men resumed work at the full reduction, and now the fight is confined to Broxburn. The evictions instead of making the men more despondent has made them more determined. They are being fairly well supported, and will fight on for another two months if necessary. As will be seen from another column, the shale miners by the resolution have acknowledged that the means of production must be made the property of the community. Further details of the struggle will appear next week.—J. L. M.

**THE STRIKE IN THE NAIL TRADE.**—The largest meetings of nailers that have been held since the commencement of the present strike, took place on Friday at Bromsgrove and Halesowen. The masters offer of the 1879 list less a discount of 30 per cent. off hobnails, and 10 per cent. off all other nails was unanimously rejected, and resolutions were passed to continue the strike until the 1879 list is conceded in its entirety. The operatives in the Black Heath and Rowley districts have unanimously decided not to return to their employment until the list claimed is paid. *Later.*—Two meetings were held at Halesowen on Monday, at which the Rev. A. O'Neill, of Birmingham, announced that he had issued an appeal for funds, and several friends had responded to it. It was resolved to play on. A number of the operatives in the Sedgley and Coseley districts, it is said, took out iron on Saturday at the employers terms. In the Halesowen, Old Hill, and Rowley districts, the operatives remain firm, and refuse to take out iron under the 1879 list of prices.

## THE CONDITION OF THE WORKERS.

### HAMPSHIRE—FAREHAM AND DISTRICT.

**Occupation.**—This district is almost exclusively agricultural. There is a little ship-lading at Porchester, where lighters come for chalk, but the number of men employed probably does not exceed a score.

**Farm-Labourers.**—The usual wage of this class of men is about 15s. per week, out of which they pay half-a-crown for a cottage. Sometimes they are provided with a cottage on the farm, when the wage is 11s. per week. Carters get about 16s. Labourers do not as a rule keep a pig, the farmers generally objecting to this. A constant hand—that is, a labourer always on the farm—gets 25s. a-week during the month of harvest. The driver of the threshing-machine gets about 20s. per week; the "feeder"—that is, the man who puts the corn into the machine—about 18s.

**"Commons."**—All the "common-land" has been filched. There is a common at Penbrok, but the landlord of the adjoining property has laid claim to it, and no one seems to object.

**Landlord.**—The great landlord here is a man named Thistlethwaite. He is very wealthy, and a hard, cruel landlord. I could narrate numerous cases of his brutality, but I am afraid they would take up too much room. He got £95,000 as compensation from the Government for confiscated rights of property, and he has obtained possession of nearly the whole of this property again.

**Remarks.**—One sees very few old agricultural labourers, the majority of them being in the workhouse. There is a strong inclination among the young ones for the navy. They are becoming very dissatisfied with the way in which they are living, and Socialism would soon make great headway among them.

CA IRA.

## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

We have received the first number of a new Austrian paper, devoted specially to the baker trade's interests—the *Bäcker-Zeitung* (the Bakers' Organ). The publishers are A. Kreuzer, W. Nemetz, T. Tobola, members of the bakers trade union; the editor is K. Gargula. The paper will appear on the first and on the third Thursday of every month. Among others, their programme includes the following: 1. Federation of all the bakers' associations in Austria-Hungary; 2. Reduction of the hours of work; 3. Abolition of all night work; 4. Discussion of all corporative, economical, socialistic and scientific questions of the day.

After a long interruption, a new number of the *Arbeit* (the Work) appeared last week at Linz. It was at once confiscated by the police.

### BELGIUM.

At the municipal elections of last Sunday, 16th inst., all the candidates of the *Parti Ouvrier* (Worker's Party) have been beaten everywhere. That is the just reward they deserve for their ugly mingling with Liberals and bourgeois of all kinds. Even at Brussels, the headquarters of the Party, not a single candidate has been elected.

### ITALY.

The Socialist papers of our Italian friends are confiscated nearly every day, but Socialism nevertheless is increasing very rapidly among the workers. Last week, as states the *Gazzetta Operaia* (the Workers Journal), the police has suppressed the first issue of *Sempre avanti* (Always A-head) at Livorno; the eighth number of *Fiaccola rossa* (Red Torch) of Florence; the twenty-first number of *Humanitas*, of Naples; the first issue of *Il demolitore* (the Destroyer) of the same town; and *La Lotta* (the Struggle) of Mantua.

At Venice, a new Anarchist-Communist paper has been started under the title of *Ottanta nove* (the Year 1789) and at Livorno, a corporative organ, *Panatiere italiano* (the Italian Baker).

### DENMARK.

The Danish Socialists publish at the present moment five important organs: *Social-Demokraten*, at Christiania, edited by comrade Sabroe; *Demokraten*, at Aarhus, edited by E. Marrott and Harold Tensen; *Reform*, at Lolland-Falsten, edited by Th. and Chr. Hansen; *Randers Folkeblad*, at Randers, edited by P. Sabroe; and *Nordjyllands Arbejderblad*, at Aalborg, edited by Christensen. Socialism is making considerable progress in Denmark, specially among the organised bodies of workmen, who formerly only occupied themselves with mere co-operation, if not saturated with Socialist ideas, is only another form of bourgeois competition.

**STRIKE OF MINERS IN SOUTH INDIANA.**—New York, Oct. 13.—Two thousand five hundred miners in South Indiana have struck for an advance of wages.

**RENT AGITATION IN SOUTH DEVON.**—The whole of the tenant-farmers on Lord Devon's estate at Salcombe, Marlborough, and South Huist have signed a petition to the manager, stating that unless their rents are reduced they will quit at Lady Day. The rents average about 22s. 6d. per acre, and the farmers say that unless there is a reduction they must be ruined.

**A LONDON HOUSE-RENT CAMPAIGN.**—A "House-Rent League" is the title of a movement which a number of working men in the East-end of London have formed a committee to carry on somewhat on the lines of the Irish National League. Some private meetings have been held and enquiries made in St. George's-in-the-East, Wapping, Shadwell, and other parts, by the local committees, as to the amounts at which houses are assessed and also the amounts at which they are let, and the committee allege that in some cases nearly double the assessed rent is obtained by the landlords. The committee of the League have issued a manifesto, and they will carry on their agitation in the winter by meetings, and propose to adopt similar tactics to the Irish League—namely, the appointment of responsible trustees to receive the tendered rent if not accepted by the landlords.

It is characteristic of the age in which we live that while processions and demonstrations of the starving people of London receive a few lines of small type in the daily press, the announcement of a new burlesque at a theatre can have a very prominent position, with wide-spaced type. How true it is that one half of the world knows not how the other half exists. It will be well if there is not a rude awakening for many people in London who are both thoughtless and careless as to the human smouldering volcano.—*Labour Tribune.*

The Northumberland coal-miners in England have supported in parliament two men as their representatives for years. The two men, Burt and Fenwick, were real good conservative fellows, who had grown fat and contented on their £500 per year paid them by the miners. Fat and contentment are not the starting or initiative forces of reforms, consequently Burt and Fenwick sought more to keep the poor, miserably paid miners contented than to mark out a line of advance. The English Socialists saw the condition of things and sent speakers into the mining hamlets of bleak Northumberland. They did their work well. Burt and Fenwick are looking for another fat job of keeping working men content. And the best of it is that the miners will, from all accounts, elect two Socialists in their places.—(Denver) *Labour Enquirer.*

Trade unions, then, have two classes of opponents. On the one hand, miscalled Conservatives, or opponents of progress, who, in fancied security of possession of abnormal privileges, revile all who protest against their sufferings, and treat with disdainful contempt all who do not complain; on the other hand, miscalled Radicals, recruited from all classes of society, who, in their blind zeal for progress, would destroy all organisation, and organisations, the good with the bad. The blind fatality of action, or rather inaction, of the first-named class, the opponents of progress, is tending toward the most terrible social disturbance the world has ever seen. The second-named class, practical opponents of all order, are powerful only for destruction, since no two factions of that class possess half-a-dozen ideas in common.—*The Painter.*

This that they call Organisation of Labour is the Universal Vital Problem of the World. It is the problem of the whole future for all who will in future pretend to govern men.—*Thomas Carlyle.*

LETTERS FROM AMERICA.

III.

In the case of the seven Anarchists in Chicago, General Pryor is preparing the writ of error, which he expects to have ready about the 10th of October. Meetings of workmen belonging to all the different organisations are called every day, passing resolutions in favour of the men. Only the ultra-conservative element in the ranks of organised labour does not look favourably upon any expression of sympathy with the condemned, and to the best of my knowledge the decision of the Court has immensely helped the cause of Socialism.

Public affairs are fast becoming Russianised in the States. Even the shadow of the right of free meeting has disappeared, as the following case will amply prove to the readers of the *Commonweal*.

Last Sunday, Oct. 2nd, a meeting was convened at Union Hill, North Hudson County, New Jersey State, by the Local Assembly 1864 Knights of Labour, composed of silk weavers; the local union of the American Order of Carpenters and Joiners, one of the most conservative unions connected with the building trades; and the local union of the International Cigar-maker's Union. To these bodies of organised labour was added a small section of the Socialistic Labour Party, consisting of about 40 men. The conveners of the meeting had issued a circular calling upon the workmen to assemble in the Skating Rink, Union Hill, and to protest against the proposed judicial murder in Chicago. The hall was decorated with red flags. At about one o'clock it became known the police would attempt to prevent the meeting being held. In the morning the Corporation counsel, one Smith, had declared that the display in a hall of red or black flags was an act of treason. He had ordered the meeting to be suppressed by force.

Police were gathered from other towns to the number of sixty. Special officers were sworn in, the sheriff being also summoned; a large posse was sworn in. The fire company was prepared for action, and the members of a Grand Army Post are reported to have armed themselves for action.

A cordon of police formed a circle around the doorway, and waited for the procession of the workmen. It was nearly 3 o'clock before the procession headed for the rink, and by that time the whole town had turned out. The men carried no flags in their ranks, and on their arrival they tried to enter the hall. The police brutally pushed them back, and at once began to use their clubs without stint. Henry Tzeber, one of the men, got a severe clubbing from two policemen. The crowd tried to rescue their friends; the police, however, knew no mercy, and clubbed right and left; and out of the affair emerged what was once Richard Wohlmann, with a badly beaten and swollen head that was scarcely recognisable, the blood issued freely from deep cuts. Four of the men were carried off to the jail. The police by this time began to attack in most brutal fashion everybody standing around, and gradually succeeded in dispersing the crowd. Colonel Hinton, an editor of the *Leader*, and one of the announced speakers, remonstrated with a dirty wretch who seemed to be the man in authority, and who turned out to be the chief detective, but of course it was of no use. Wohlmann is a little better to-day. The police boast loudly that an indictment will be found against the men for so much for free speech in the land of manhood suffrage, annual parliaments, payment of members, etc.

Henry George is at present stumping the State. Nobody could describe more graphically and more truthfully the evils resulting from the present system than this caretaker of "number one," but as soon as he comes to an analysis of the cause or to a remedy, his logic becomes of the same shoddy quality as British woollens are in our day. In spite of all this, I expect he will poll about 200,000 votes.

John Swinton, on the ground of ruined personal affairs, has declined to run as the candidate of the Progressive Labour Party. The "ticket" of that party is now composed of: I. Edward Hall, machinist, for Secretary of State; Herbert A. Barker, Cigarmakers' International Union, for Comptroller; Henry Emisch, secretary of Furniture-makers' Union, for Treasurer; Thaddeus B. Wakeman, councillor-at-law, for Attorney-General. There are now five parties in the field—viz., the Republicans, the Democrats, the Prohibitionists, the United Labour Party, and the Progressive Labour Party. The game at politics will be lively this fall, and this Punch and Judy show will last till the asses, fools, and sentimentalists are dodos of the past.

To-morrow the Convention of the Knights of Labour will meet in Minneapolis. A lively time is expected. A large number of Knights are at last discontented with Powderly's administration, and general secretary Litchman will be accused of misappropriation of funds. Powderly, under the circumstances, will not be content with a simple vote of confidence, but will place himself before the convention in such a manner that a test vote of his popularity will be unavoidable. The conservative element in the order will never allow him to be dismissed by the radicals. Unfortunately, if they succeed Powderly will be stronger with the order than ever. Should Powderly be victorious, he will at once, it is understood, propose a plan for the entire reconstruction of the executive department of the organisation. The members of the General Executive Board, according to this new idea, instead of being elected by the General Convention, will henceforth be appointed by the General Master Workman, and will be known as members of his cabinet. This amounts to a *coup d'état* of the vilest description, which would make Powderly as absolute as the Tsar of all the Russians, and which would prove to be the *coup de grace* of the organisation known as Knights of Labour. Within the last two years, owing to Powderly's high-handedness, the order lost 400,000 members, which joined the American Federation of Labour.

STRIKES.

The strike at the American Ironworks in Pittsburgh, 3000 men, against the employment of non-union men, has ended favourably to the strikers.

The strike of weavers in the woollen mills of Louisville for an increase of wages, which began two months ago, has failed.

The strike of coal-miners at Etansville and the vicinity has assumed serious proportions; about 2000 men are now out, and as the supply of coal is short, prices have advanced about 10 per cent.

A dispatch from Pittsburgh says: "The strike of the window-glass workers has been averted and operations will be resumed in all the factories of the west as soon as the furnaces can be heated, about ten days. Instead of an advance in wages of 10 per cent. and pay for extras, the workmen agreed to accept a 5 per cent. increase, and the manufacturers promised to bring all outside factories into the association. The settlement of the strike will give employment to 7000 men who have been idle since the beginning of June, although a strike had not been officially declared."

LIST OF STRIKES FOR SEPTEMBER.

Number of strikers, Sept. 1—Sept. 23	38,100
New York City—builders, against employment of non-union plumbers, Sept. 26	400
Cincinnati, Ohio—waiters, for advance, Sept. 26	300
Hazleton, Pa.—labourers, for advance, Sept. 28	150
New York City—piano-workers, for advance, Sept. 27	60
New York City—pressmen, against reduction, Sept. 28	15
Cambridge, Mass.—plasterers, against reduction, Sept. 28	35
Brooklyn, N.Y.—carpenters, against employment of non-unionists, Sept. 28	30
Total number of strikers for September	39,090

New York, October 5, 1887.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

"THE TABLES TURNED."

On Saturday at Farringdon Hall, at a concert in aid of the *Commonweal* Printing Fund, was produced "a Socialist interlude" by William Morris, with the following cast: Mr. La-di-da (found guilty of swindling), H. Bartlett; Mr. Justice Nupkins, W. Blundell; Mr. Hungary, Q.C. (council for the prosecution), W. H. Utley; Sergeant Sticktoit (witness for prosecution), James Allman; Constable Potlegoff (witness for prosecution), H. B. Tarleton; Constable Strongthoath (witness for prosecution), J. Flockton; Mary Pinch (a labourer's wife, accused of theft), May Morris; Foreman of Jury, T. Cantwell; Jack Freeman (a Socialist, accused of conspiracy, sedition, and obstruction of the highway), H. H. Sparling; Archbishop of Canterbury (witness for defence), W. Morris; Lord Tennyson (witness for defence), A. Brookes; Professor Tyndall (witness for defence), H. Bartlett; William Joyce (a Socialist Ensign), H. A. Barker; Usher, J. Lane; Clerk of the Court, J. Turner; Jurymen, Interrupters, Revolutionists, Neighbours, etc. The play was well received and much applauded. So many people were unable to obtain admittance that it was decided to repeat the performance this Saturday (Oct. 22), when the same tickets will be available. Performances are also being arranged for Hammersmith and Bloomsbury; and it was further announced that any Radical Club or branch of the League or S.D.F. possessing a stage and willing to aid in the raising of the *Commonweal* Fund, could arrange with the manager to have the same company, scenery, etc. Songs, duets, and instrumental music were also given by Miss V. Paul and John Burns, Miss Miles, Miss Rose Sutherland, Harvey J. Miles, G. Brocher, and Mr. Beber, who sang Morris's "March of the Workers" to his own music. "The Tables Turned; or, Nupkins Awakened" has been printed, and can be had at the *Commonweal* Office, price 4d. A very favourable report of the performance appeared in the *Pall Mall* on Monday.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

**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.

**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.

Unemployed Question—Resolution of Council.

That the Socialist League do maintain officially the continuance of that policy of non-intervention pursued up to the present by the League; and though it can prohibit no individual member or members of that body from participating in unemployed agitation, it cannot undertake to support, either morally or pecuniarily, any member whose participation in any such agitation leads him into difficulties.

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Hammersmith, Mitcham, Walsall to July 31. Bloomsbury, Clerkenwell Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Hull, Mile End, Wednesbury, to Sept. 30.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Per R. Unwin—R. U. and J. Gill, 3s. 6d. C. Walkden, 13s. 4d. *Weekly Subscriptions*—K. F., 1s. C. J. F., 2s. Oxford Branch, 2s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d. W. B., 6d. P. WEBB, Treasurer.

MOWBRAY TESTIMONIAL.

*Collections, Norwich*—Oct. 2nd, Gordon Hall, 7s. 3rd, St. Augustine's School, 11s. 6d. 6th, Ber Street, 1s. 6d.; Market Place, 7s.; Gordon Hall, 4s. 14th, D. J. N., 3s.; Fred Henderson, 1s. 15th, Collected A. S., 7d.; Ipswich, 7s. 2d. 16th, Market Place, 19s.; Proceeds of Social Meeting at the Gordon Hall, £1, 10s.; C. Nobbs, 6d.; A Friend (1), 2d.; A Friend (2), 2s.

A. T. SUTTON and F. C. SLAUGHTER, Secs.

REPORTS.

**BLOOMSBURY.**—On Thursday, A. C. Varley lectured on "Socialistic Co-operation." A business meeting was held previous to the lecture, at which Utley gave in his resignation as secretary of the branch.—U.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Wednesday, Oct. 12th, no lecture. Sunday good lecture by A. C. Varley on "Socialistic Co-operation."—A. T. and W. B.

**FULHAM.**—Good meeting addressed by Tarleton and Morris. *Commonweal* sold well. Two members made, and 3s. 6d. collected for branch.—S. B. G.

**HACKNEY.**—Sparling, Allman, and Barker spoke to a good audience at the Broadway, London Fields, on Wednesday evening.

**HAMMERSMITH.**—Sunday morning meeting at Starch Green, Broadway, at ten o'clock, Tochat, Smith, and Mordhorst speaking; leaflets were freely distributed, and kept the meeting up three hours; 15 papers sold. In the evening, Sidney Olivier lectured on "European Peasant Revolts." Two new members.—T.

**HOXTON.**—Last Sunday evening in the hall, Rev. H. D. Headlam, B.A., lectured on "Christian Socialism;" lively discussion followed. Good meeting on Sunday morning.—C. J. Y.

**MERTON.**—Successful meeting at Haydon's Road in morning, addressed by Eden, Gregory in chair. *Commonweal* sold well.

**MITCHAM.**—Good meeting on Fair Green on Sunday morning, addressed by Hardesty and Allman. In the evening, by Fuke and Allman. 46 *Commonweal* sold.—R. C.

**STAMFORD HILL.**—A very large meeting was held here on Sunday evening, W. B. Parker speaking. Three new members.

GLASGOW.—On Tuesday evening, comrade Gaskell, of Bradford, gave a very interesting lecture in our rooms. On Saturday, Pollock, Downie, and Gilray spoke at Cambuslang. Sunday forenoon good meeting at Jail Square. In the afternoon, Bullock, Gilray, and Paterson held successful meeting at Paisley Road Toll, and in the evening Bullock again spoke to a large meeting at corner of Watson Street. In our hall at 8, Watson Street, Gilray lectured with much approval, and an interesting discussion followed. Members are requested to turn up in large force on Sunday at Paisley Road Toll, 5 o'clock.—J. M. B.

IPSWICH.—A successful meeting was held on Saturday evening in the Co-operative Hall to welcome comrade Mowbray. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting desires to express its sympathy with the workers of every country in their struggles to maintain the right of free speech, and especially with reference to the seven men condemned at Chicago for defending the right of public meeting." Sunday morning and afternoon meetings were uncommonly good, addressed by Morley, of Norwich, assisted by J. Thomas, of Ipswich. Literature sold well.—J. R.

LEICESTER.—On 6th inst., Barclay lectured at Hinckley on "A Socialist's View of Rent, Profit, and Interest." The rooms of the Liberal Club were thronged, and the audience very attentive. A hot and interesting discussion followed.—B.

LEEDS.—Last Sunday, Paylor gave an address at our rooms on "The Lesson of the Trades' Congress." Discussion followed.

NORWICH.—On Sunday, an immense demonstration took place on the occasion of the release of C. W. Mowbray. Previous to the arrival of the train, which conveyed our comrade from Ipswich, a meeting was organised by Henderson, C. Reynolds, and others, and a strong detachment awaited the incoming of the train. Thousands thronged the way on all sides. Mowbray delivered a short speech, and the crowd dispersed to re-assemble at three o'clock. A numerous assemblage thronged the Market Place, and its approaches was a sea of faces. Speeches was delivered by Reynolds, Mainwaring, Kitz, Nicoll, Henderson, Mowbray, etc. In the evening, a crowded meeting was held in the Gordon Cafe Hall. Songs and speeches were given by comrades Kitz, Moore, Darley, Slaughter, and numerous other comrades.

DUBLIN.—At the Labour League, on Thursday, Oct. 13th, the new Manifesto, a highly Socialistic production, was read by McCarthy, and after being discussed by King, Gabriel, Fitzpatrick, Ellis, Coulon, and others, was directed to be circulated. Arrangements were made for carrying on an effective propaganda during the coming winter.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.—Nicoll and Henderson spoke at Carrow on Friday, and Henderson in Haymarket on Saturday evening, and Market Place on Sunday morning and evening. Yarmouth was dropped on account of the rain, and St. Faith's on account of the meeting of the branch to welcome Mowbray.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS.—At a meeting of the above last week, a resolution was put and carried unanimously protesting against the execution of the seven condemned Anarchists in Chicago, and at the Hall of Science last night it was put in a large meeting of Secularists, every hand being held up in favour of the resolution, except two. Last Monday, 17th inst., Mr. Jeffries lectured on "Fair Trade," very interesting discussion followed, in which several friends joined.—M. A. M.

BIRMINGHAM.—Good meetings at Bull Ring and Council House on Sunday.

HANDSWORTH.—Donald addressed Tangye's men Saturday afternoon as they left work.

WALSALL.—Large meeting addressed by Sanders, Donald, and Elson, on Saturday at 4. The meeting was called to protest against a reduction of wages which is being enforced upon some labourers in the service of the town.

WEDNESBURY.—Meeting in the Market-place on Thursday, addressed by Donald and Sanders.

WEST BROMWICH.—Sanders addressed a meeting on Saturday evening.

COVENTRY.—Large meeting in the Market-place on Monday. Ultimately the police endeavoured to suppress the meeting, but before we closed our hearers were advised that they should insist on the right of free speech.—A. K. D.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

EDINBURGH.—On Sunday evening, Mahon spoke to a large audience in the Trades' Hall. His subject was "Mr. Haldane's Objections to Socialism." His method of refuting Mr. Haldane's objections frequently evoked applause. We were told at the end of the meeting that it was one of the best lectures ever delivered on Socialism.—C. W. T.

DUNDEE.—C. L. Fitzgerald lectured on "Home Rule and the Duty of the Workers" in the Comedy Theatre. A resolution was passed in favour of Home Rule for Ireland and Scotland, and of the people settling the Land Question in their own way after they had got Home Rule.

BROXBURN.—The evicted miners and others crowded the Town Hall. Mr. John Wilson, the miner's secretary, advised the men to hold out for another six weeks. Cunninghame Graham supported amid great enthusiasm. Mahon in supporting the resolutions, reminded them when the Broxburn labour dispute was settled the great Labour Struggle would still remain, and urged them to combine for realising the national-

sation of the means of production. Intense enthusiasm was shown.

DYSART AND GALLATOWN.—A meeting was held last week in the new branch rooms, and preparations made for winter propaganda. Land Nationalisation and Socialism were discussed.

KIRKCALDY.—Mahon and six members of Dysart branch held an open-air meeting at Port Brae Saturday night. Good audience and fair amount of literature sold.

ARBROATH.—This branch is still making steady progress, and is increasing in membership. On Friday night, there was a lively discussion on the present Parliamentary system. On Saturday, J. Duncan, of Dundee, lectured at the Fountain to a large audience, who seemed to agree with all that he said. Sale of Commonwealth good.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Oct. 20, G. Porter, "Living Socialism of To-day." Oct. 27, Business Meeting.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Free Lectures every Sunday and Wednesday at 8.30.

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.

Hammersmith.—Kelmcott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Oct. 16, at 8 p.m. Sydney Olivier (Fabian Hoxton (L.E.L.)).—Globe Coffee House, 227 High St., Hoxton. On Sunday 23, at 11.30, a Demonstration will be held at Hoxton Church to protest against the sentence of death passed upon the Chicago Socialists. In the Hall, at 8.30, W. H. P. Campbell, on "The Whereabouts of Utopia." Special Notice.—A conference of the members of the L.E.L. will be held in Farringdon Hall on Friday evening, Oct. 28, to consider what action shall be taken to enable the L.E.L. to continue its good work, having met its meeting place.

Milham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11. Mile-end and Belchal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business Meeting every Thursday at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after Business Meeting.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—James Beatham, secy., 12 Short Loanings.

Arbroath (Scot. Sect.).—High Street Hall. Meeting Friday evenings. W. Smith, 12 Tavle St., secy. On Friday next, a Debate.

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

Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Secretary pro tem., D. M'Donald, East Path.

Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sect.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur St., secy.

Dublin.—Irish Labour League, Carpenters' Hall, 75 Aungier Street. Meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Dunfermline (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday at the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Forenoon, Business and members' discussion; evening, lecture and discussion.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park St. Business Meeting Thursdays at 7.30. Discussion Class 8 p.m. Sunday night lectures, Trades Hall, High Street.

Galashiels (Scot. Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., secy.

Gallatons and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatons Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Roslyn St.

Glasgow.—34 John St. Reading room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Choir Practice, Wednesday at 8. Music and Shorthand Class, Tuesdays at 8 o'clock. In the Hall, 8 Watson Street, Gallowgate, lecture on Sunday 23, at 7 o'clock, by John Adams, "The Paris Commune."

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

Leeds.—17 Chesham St., Sweet's St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m. On Sunday October 23, at 7 p.m., T. Braithwaite, "The National Loaf: who Earns and who Eats it."

Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8. Lochee (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Secretary (pro tem.), P. M'Donald, 16 Mercer Street.

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

Nottingham.—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.

Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25 1/2 Pembroke Street. Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m.

Walsall.—Temperance Hall. Meets every Monday.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON.—Sunday 23.

- 9.30...Starch Green.....Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and Ball.....Samuels
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.....Demonstration
11.30...Kingsland Green.....Wardle
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road.....The Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green.....Sparling
11.30...Regent's Park.....Mainwaring
11.30...St. Pancras Arches.....The Branch

- 11.30...Walham Green.....The Branch
3...Hyde Park.....Lane and Mainwaring
7...Stamford Hill.....Allman & Cores
7...Clerkenwell Green.....Mainwaring
Monday.
8...Polygon, Somers Town.....Bloomsbury Branch
Tuesday.
8...Mile-end Waste.....Davis
8...Ossulton St., Euston Road.....Allman
Wednesday.
8...Broadway, London Fields.....J. J. Allman
Thursday.
8...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.....Wade & Pope
Woolwich.—Arsenal Gates, Sunday October 23, at 7 o'clock.

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Jail's Square: Sunday, 1 p.m.—Downie, Gilbert, and M'Kechnie. Paisley Road Toll: Sunday, 5 p.m.—Glazier, Bulloch, and Paterson.

Watson Street: Sunday, 6.30—Bullock.

Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, 11 a.m. Norwich Branch.—Sunday: Market Place at 3; Agricultural Hall Plain at 7.

Dereham.—Every Wednesday, Market Place at 7.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP. Yarmouth.—Thursday, on the Quay, at 7.30.

Carrow.—Friday, at 1.30.

St. Faith's.—Sunday, on the Green, at 3.30. Norwich.—St. George's Plain, Saturday, at 1.15. Haymarket, Saturday, at 8. Market Place, Sunday at 11 and 8.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

- Sat. 22—Kirkcaldy. Port Brae, 7 p.m.
" Burntisland. Afternoon.
" Arbroath. Brothock Bridge, 7 p.m.—Duncan of Dundee, and Dempster.
Sun. 23—Edinburgh.—Trades Hall, High Street, at 6.30—J. L. Mahon, "The Means of Realising Socialism."
Mon. 24—Edinburgh. High Street, 7 p.m.
Tues. 25—Edinburgh. Corner of High Street, 7 p.m.
Thurs. 27—Edinburgh. The Rev. Mr. Stubbs will lecture in Old Greyfriars Church on "The Social Creed of the Church."
Particulars of Mahon's next northern tour will be given next week.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS. Commonwealth Café, Scotland's Street, Sheffield.—Discussions or Lectures every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Free.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE.—Meeting at Commonwealth Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday October 23, at 3.30 p.m. prompt.

"COMMONWEAL" CONCERTS.

Arrangements have been made for repeating the Dramatic Sketch, "THE TABLES TURNED; OR, NUPKINS AWAKENED," at 13 Farringdon Road this Saturday (October 22); at Bloomsbury (Athenaeum Hall) on October 29; and at Hammersmith on November 5th.

Now ready. 32 pp., in Wrapper.

THE TABLES TURNED; Or, Nupkins Awakened.

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