

THE COMMONWEALTH

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

The swearing-in of the Specials will recall to some of the older amongst us the similar panic caused by the last great demonstration of waning Chartism in 1848. But the rush into the ranks of the amateur police was much more energetic then. A certain amount of fun was poked at these heroes by the *Punch* of the period, which though bourgeois enough was both funnier and less completely flunky than it is now. *E.g.*, one drawing of Leech's exhibited an unhappy little Special about to enter into conflict with a brawny and contemptuous drayman, and fortifying his courage by saying to him: "Now, you know, if I kill you it's nothing; but if you kill me, by George, its murder!"

It is much to be hoped, by the way, that the real police, who, as we have abundance of reason to know, are in a very bad temper, will not vent any of it on their amateur brethren; that they won't look upon them as "knob-sticks" and interlopers; that they won't in consequence hit them a knock on the sly when their badges are not very visible; that they won't detail them for warm corners amongst Socialists and Irishmen, and let them take care of themselves there, to find out by experience that "the policeman's life is not a happy lot." This would be spiteful and unpleasant of them, but so natural, that we are bound to hope that it won't take place.

On the other hand are the special constables all prepared to imitate the conduct of the police, now become so flagrant to all honest people? Is Sir Frederick Leighton going to knock down a woman; to scalp a tottering old man, some relic of '48 perhaps; to beat a man on the ground wherever the baton can be got in when he is held by three or four other defenders of law and order; to thrash a defenceless prisoner in the midst of his foemen; to insult a high-spirited and brave man in the police-cell, and to beat him into senselessness if he retorts by word or look? Because all this is Sir Charles Warren's view of the duties of the English policemen at present, and as long as they have to deal with unarmed men.

I can suggest another course of action which really might come well within the four corners of the oath which these British Lions have to take before they can be trusted with the baton and the badge. How would it be if they were to translate "keeping the Queen's peace" in this way?

"If I see the police attacking a procession of unarmed men going on their lawful errands, even if I don't agree with their political opinions, I shall feel it my duty to take their side and help to defend them from the police."

"If I see a policeman knock down a peaceful defenceless person I shall feel it my duty to arrest him and call on all citizens to help me."

"If any such horrors of cowardice come to my notice as beating and insulting prisoners, either when just taken or (still worse) in the police cell, I will pursue the wretches who practice such shameful atrocities to the utmost."

"If I am told off to prevent the people from making use of their own property, I will not prevent them, but will do all in my power to help them to keep the meeting orderly."

"In short I will do my best to keep the peace and to hinder peace-breakers even if they wear blue coats and numbers."

I offer these suggestions to Sir Frederick Leighton and the other military bourgeois now invested with the badge. But I confess I am afraid that they understand that the Government has called on them to *break* the peace and not to *keep* it. Yet even so I do still call upon them to act according to some of the hints above given. At least let them determine not to strike non-combatants, and not to maul men on the ground or insult helpless prisoners, and so be honourable enemies if they must be enemies. I admit that even if they go so far as this they will run some risk of finding themselves prisoners; for they will be expected to do the worst of all these things. Indeed it is for their own sakes and not for ours that I make this appeal to them; for I cannot think that they will be a very dangerous army. I wish them to spare themselves the dishonour of going down to posterity as the most shameful set of fools and poltroons that have ever disgraced English history—scoundrels as bad as the whores and pimps of Versailles in '71, or the cold and bloodthirsty cheats of Chicago to-day.

As to the professional police, what are we to liken them to? There is a story of the Wars of the Jews, I think in the book of Maccabees, of King Antiochus their great persecutor, and how he made his elephants drunk and then set them on a defenceless crowd. Just so has the Woman-queller Warren made *his* elephant, the police, drunk, opened the door of its cage, and bid it run amuck; and no doubt, being

a religious man, as I hear, thanks God for the victory thus won. So I think it is not so much the unhappy drunken elephant we can hate, though we must certainly defend ourselves against him, as the king who has set him on—if indeed we can hate even him, a lump of wood and pipeclay, inspired with military duty, so-called, to take the place of intelligence and conscience. How long are we to be forced to bear the dominion of the class which in its turn has made him?

Concerning the sentences of Ingham and Vaughan at their drum-head court-martial—their stupid iniquity; the gross flunkeyism which drew from Mr. Poland an elaborate apology to Mr. Burleigh for the same offence for which Oldland had a year's imprisonment allotted to him; the collapse of the prosecution against Mr. Saunders, and its idiotic comicality—what are we to say of all this, except that it reveals even to the simple and unsuspecting the foundation on which "Society" (so-called) is built—to wit, fraud and brute-force.

Cunninghame Graham has done his utmost to wipe off the reproach of the Radical M.P.'s. His conduct will be long remembered, one would hope, by lovers of freedom; but he must expect for some time to come to be a pariah among M.P.'s. To do him justice he is not likely to care much about that. W. M.

INSURANCE AGAINST MAGISTRATES.

THE meeting held in the Memorial Hall on November 18th will do good service if the protective League inaugurated by it keeps to its promise (as I see no reason for doubting that it will) of helping all persons without distinction of opinion who "get into trouble" in their endeavours to defend freedom of speech. Stewart Headlam in his speech on that occasion said nothing less than the bare truth when he said that no poor man had any chance of obtaining justice in a magistrate's court,—in which, by the way, he would doubtless have included the Middlesex Sessions if he had had any experience of Judge Edlin. No better instance of the necessity of some corporate protection for the victims of the law could be given than what happened on the morning of the meeting, when nine prisoners convicted by Ingham's drum-head court-martial were able to appeal against the unjust and malignant sentences pronounced against them by an ancient piece of incompetence, no doubt inspired by orders from headquarters. I believe none of these poor men would have been able to appeal but for the responsible bail provided for them chiefly through the efforts of Mrs. Besant, whose untiring energy and devotion throughout the whole affair will surely win her a place in the hearts of all working men. It has been stated in these columns before, but may as well be stated again, that no one can appeal from a magistrate's decision unless he can find two sureties who will bind themselves to pay the costs of the appeal if rejected;—where can a poor man find such sureties, who may have to pay £50 in case of failure?

The struggle for mere freedom of speech (whatever it may lead to) will certainly be a long and arduous one. Even the present idiotic Tory Government will not be easy to get rid of; and though it is possible that a Liberal Government would treat us better, at least for a while, because the Liberals may be forced to take the matter up and come in on it, yet such a trifle as a mere change of ministry will not cure the gangrene of the law-courts; nor will it have much influence on the reaction which is obviously setting in and which is the necessary accompaniment to the no less obvious progress of revolutionary ideas. The struggle will be a long one, and must be carried on by us in a manner which will mean steadily and pertinaciously harassing the apparently all-powerful executive on all sides. The League which the *Pall Mall Gazette* has set on foot will, if it performs its functions duly, take up one side of the attack, and will assuredly do good service. All Socialists will be glad to see Mrs. Besant's name on the committee as an earnest of due fulfilment of its promises; and although "votes of thanks" are not in favour amongst us, it would be unfair and ungenerous not to acknowledge the great services which the *Pall Mall Gazette* has done to the popular cause throughout this agitation. Well-to-do people especially should join this League, and help it both with their money, for a good deal of that will be necessary, and also by sending in their names as persons to be relied on for bail and sureties of the prisoners taken in the war for Freedom of Speech.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

PRISON LIFE IN ENGLAND.

(Continued from page 362.)

THE ordinary routine of prison life is very dull, and to any one in weak health would be very injurious, more especially to such an one who has been used to a luxurious home and living. For myself, I have during my lifetime had to "rough" it; I have known what it is to sleep in the open-air and be without food, I have experienced the treatment of the workhouse and casual ward, and have no hesitation in saying that I personally give the preference to the prison. The food is at least good, though coarse. It may be as well just to give a scale of the diet received by each adult male prisoner for the first four months of his term if over six months:—

BREAKFAST.

Gruel 1 pint, and bread 8 ounces.

SUPPER.

Gruel 1 pint, and bread 6 ounces.

DINNER.

Mondays	}	9 ounces of haricot beans and 1 ounce of fat bacon, with 8 ounces of bread and 12 ounces of potatoes.
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.		Soup 1 pint, and potatoes 8 ounces, with bread 8 ounces.
Fridays.	}	4 ounces of Australian beef, 12 ounces of potatoes, and 8 ounces of bread.
Wednesdays and Sundays.		Suet pudding (<i>alias</i> bran mash), with 8 ounces of potatoes, and 4 ounces of bread.

After four months, porridge made of barley meal or oatmeal will be given instead of gruel. I submit to any reasonable being if the above scale is not better than many (if not most) of the working-men of this country get. I may be asked why do some men look so ill on their discharge? To my mind it is simply fretting; I cannot account for it any other way. For myself I made up my mind that the officials should not hurt or break me down, and I succeeded, for I was in good health and weighed 12st. 7lb. the morning of my release, having only lost 4lb. during the nine months.

I will try and show the *Commonweal* readers what kind of personage they will have to deal with if ever they need the assistance of the medical officer. It was my misfortune to have to report myself sick once, owing to my bruising my back by knocking it against the cell table when scrubbing my floor. I was asked by the doctor what ailed me, and having described my ailment, a bruise, received a dose of "salts." I think you will agree with me that this was rather a curious medicine for a bruised back. Every prisoner on admission goes before the doctor to see what labour he is fit for, and he must be very ill indeed if he is excused the "wheel." Every Monday morning the doctor passes by the open cell-door of each prisoner to see if he is all right. I may also say that if a man is really ill (that is very near dead) the doctor will order his removal to the prison infirmary, where he will get an entirely different diet, consisting of rice pudding, etc., and chops or steaks, according to his condition. I have heard a prisoner, who was returned from the hospital to his cell again, and he told me he had never been so well off in his life as when in the hospital. As a rule, however, the medical officer is (at least was with me) both harsh and insulting, for on one occasion he asked me, when I complained of my back, if I would like a bottle of champagne, a free discharge, and £300 per year. My answer being to this insult that he was a coward to speak to me in that manner when I dared not retaliate. It is one more chalk, however, to wipe out from "his" class when the Revolution comes.

The work which I had to perform was making the officers' clothing. I had to work in what was known as the "condemned cell." I did not care, however, because I had a fire to heat my irons. I was ultimately moved (in April) to an association cell. I had a fire here also, and here it was in A. 3, 33, that I got my first punishment. I had been in my spare time making a pair of slipper tops for my wife, thinking possibly that I should be able to get them out of the prison, and I had got them nicely embroidered with "No Master" and "All for the Cause" done in the cloth with silk thread, when I was caught by one of the officers, who reported me, and I was brought before the governor, who put me back to oakum-picking and plank bed for 14 days.

Nothing particular occurred for a time after this until the 21st of June, when I was awakened by the church bells pealing forth their half-cracked notes to commemorate the Jubilee of Victoria Guelf, the proprietress of the gaol in which I was confined so I'm told. The duties of the prison were in no way interfered with, but at 8.30 a.m., we had to go to listen to a "Jubile service," when we were told that it was owing to the fact of our having such a good (*sic*) Queen we were enabled to boast of having advanced education, extension of the franchise, advanced wages, and goodness knows what other good things which we are supposed to have received at the hands of this person. It was a very hard struggle to sit and listen to such frightful misstatements and perversions of the truth; but the worst was to come when a special prayer was offered up for the celebrated hero of the Cole, Mordaunt, and Pimlico exposures, A. E. G., otherwise known as Prince of Wales and coming K—.

C. W. MOWBRAY.

(To be continued.)

"BROKEN CISTERNS."

(Continued from p. 371.)

LET us study political economy by all means; it will teach us what our present system is and how it works, and we shall be the better able to compare it with any one proposed to supersede it, and be the better qualified to answer the defenders of the present system, supposing we should be amongst those who want to change it for a better. But evidently, if we are not content to accept the present system and be ground to fit it, we must seek elsewhere for help.

Another agency which is trusted by many to bring better times is the moral elevation of the people; and here two things suggest themselves for our consideration—how far the moral improvement of the individual can go without first improving the system which is doing its best to grind him till he fits it, and how far the individual, supposing he can be morally elevated, could help evils which are brought on by changes and laws of the system under which he lives.

First, then, how far can the individual be raised morally under the present system. We are told that honesty is the best policy, and that therefore the system tends to make people honest: the church or chapel magnate who has made a fortune dilates upon this to the youthful members of the mutual improvement class. But what is this honesty which is said to be the best policy? If we come to examine it we shall find it is a mere following of some conventional rules which society takes for morality. It says you must not steal your neighbour's watch or rob his till, or gamble at cards or on the turf; it says in some cases you must pay your debts; you must, if poor, save money and not be extravagant, and feel too honourable to ask for relief if in distress; it says you must not steal turnips or leave a house without paying your rent, etc., etc. These and many suchlike conventional honesty requires; but we shall be able to form a more exact opinion of it if we look at a few things which it does not require. First, then, it does not say you shall not steal common land from the people or houses that others have built, nor does it say that you shall not take 10s. worth of labour and give 5s. for it. Nor does it say that your articles shall be as good as you say they are, or that when you sell cotton and the like that you shall not sell water with it to make up the weight, or clay or size to make up the look. It does not say that you shall not tell lies at street corners or in public newspapers about your own goods or those of others; it does not say that you shall treat those poorer than yourself with greater generosity and respect because of their harder lot; nor does it say that if a man trusts you in business you should treat him if anything better than one who looks upon you as a scamp and tries to get as much out of you as possible. These and many suchlike things conventional morality does not include; and I think we may safely say that modern trade tends to develop not honesty, but dishonesty, skilfully clothed in the appearance of goodness and legality.

But there is something behind morality which many think to be the only true basis of it, and which all agree to be essential to the truest morality, and that is disinterestedness, unselfishness, in its negative aspect, love of others, love of the common good in its more positive form. This love it is which forms the genuine part of all goodness, which declares many a man and woman, judged by society as vicious, to be good, and many a one praised by society as righteous and pious, to be anything but good.

What chance is there of fostering this spirit under our present competitive system? A child is taught that it's duty is to get on, to climb up the social ladder, to make a name greater than his fellows, to get more wealth and honour than his fellows, to look after number one first and if when he has raised himself into a high position he has still to spare then let him look round for some others for him to love—if indeed it be love which gives but that which is not wanted or missed! The man with his thousands of acres gives a bit here for a park and a bit there for a church or museum, and perhaps steals a piece of common-land twice the size of all put together, and the local papers speak of his philanthropy, which used once upon a time to mean the love of men. There is little deeper unselfishness than this taught by modern society; and if we come to industry and the production of wealth—and after all, modern society is based on wealth—things are still worse. If a man has shares which he finds out to be worthless, he seeks to pass them off on his neighbour as soon as he can, lest his neighbour should find out their true value too: perhaps by this a wealthy man ruins some poor widow or aged couple dependent on their savings for a living. This is the "honesty" which is "the best policy;" this is "good business faculty"; and this is the morality taught by our industry. Instead of teaching love of the good of others, it not only teaches love of self, but it crushes out all who will not learn its lesson. The greater need a man is in, the more is got out of him. The more a man needs to sell the less is given him for his goods; the more need he has to buy the more he is charged for what he wants. Stripped of all garnish, society represents a huge struggle or scramble for wealth and position, in which a few clambering over the bodies of the fallen and on the shoulders of the less fortunate, get to the top and have an easy time of it, while the majority have to continue to struggle for very life all their days. I am well aware that there are mitigating circumstances; custom still holds out to some extent against the inroads of competition, and human nature is not yet degraded enough to allow the scramble to go on quite unchecked; but I maintain that the present system is such a scramble, and the more completely it is developed the greater must be the struggle; for those who will not take the advantage

will be taken advantage of, and all must be forced more and more to fight for their own hand regardless of others.

In the midst of such a system as this, how is the moral tone of the individual to be raised? Every step he takes in the upward course makes it harder for him to hold his own. One is constantly being astonished at the utterly selfish and inconsiderate acts in business matters done by men who in private life are of the most unselfish dispositions: the system is too strong for them. And to the people who trust to improving the individual as a remedy of our social evils we must reply that if we want men to become less selfish and more considerate of others' welfare, we must change that system which is forcing them in the other direction.

The second point we had to consider was whether the individual, supposing he could be raised morally, could prevent the evils of our present system. We have seen already that men whose natures are most unselfish in private life have nevertheless to act most selfishly in business, and we must conclude that they are unable to help themselves in the latter case. And in fact it is so; the individual has very little power when face to face with a system.

I have shown in an article before how in a town the whole of one trade can be coerced by any one or two firms selling cheaper or adulterating or refusing to close for a holiday, and in numerous other ways. But our friends will not so easily give up their theory about honesty being the best policy. They will say that you can always find one or two shops or manufactories where none but good articles are made or sold and no advertising is done, and that these often do very well. This is true to a great extent, but does not disprove what I have said. I think it is one of those numerous cases where it is assumed that because one or two can raise themselves by a certain course of action, therefore all could. Like the question of temperance, a few teetotallers among a lot of drinking men may get higher wages because compared to the general set of men they are more valuable; but if all turned teetotallers they would lose their advantage over their neighbours and with it their higher rate of pay. It is in a similar way that the shops above-named get on. They have an advantage over their neighbours, and are to that extent lifted above competition. There are generally enough people who understand something about an article and can judge when it is pure to support one shop selling a good article, even at a higher price than it is sold elsewhere; but the public generally can never be good judges of all articles, and must in the majority of cases go by price and trust to the word of the tradesman. We must remember that had it been possible to do without all these dodges and tricks of trade probably we should have had much less of them, for there was a time when things were done honestly. All this has arisen with the system, and the individual is powerless to prevent it.

The system of competition allows to all freedom to go with the stream and to go at what rate they can in that direction, but if any tries to go against it he is swiftly overwhelmed. Mr. Thompson, of Halifax, said in a lecture that he had found it harder and harder to carry on business without using shoddy, but he had managed it, and he doubted if any other firm in the district could say as he could that they had never used it.

RAYMOND UNWIN.

(To be continued.)

SOCIALISTS AT CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.—Last Sunday the Dundee Socialists held large meetings in Hilltown, Barrack Park, and High Street, and several addresses were delivered by members. After the High Street meeting in the afternoon about 200 marched to East Parish Church and attended service, which was conducted by Rev. Mr. Mitchell, assistant to Rev. Colin Campbell. Their behaviour throughout was very orderly.

"SPOILING THE EGYPTIANS."—A general meeting of the shareholders of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank was held on the 16th, when it was stated that the profits for the past six months amounted to £27,862, 9s. 6d., of which the directors proposed to take £24,000 to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. this time. The average rate of interest for loans to the fellaheen had been reduced from 18 per cent. to 6 per cent.; the robbery under which they suffer is less by two-thirds than before, and yet the total of the spoil makes a "respectable" sum.

COERCION IN NORWICH.—The Norwich Corporation is applying to Parliament for new powers with respect to public meetings in the city. Amongst other clauses is one asking for authority to prohibit processions in the streets and meetings in public places. This is undoubtedly due in a large degree to the dislike with which most of the "respectables" of the city view the Socialist meeting in Norwich. Every week there are nearly a dozen open-air meetings in the city, all well attended and enthusiastic. The middle-class humbugs who drew up the Bill for Parliament are simply showing their own fright at the way in which workmen respond to Socialist ideas at these meetings.—F. H.

COMMITTAL OF MR. DOUGHTY—EXTRAORDINARY SCENE.—At Ennis Court-house on Friday 18th inst. Henry B. Doughty, the London working-men's delegate to Ireland, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment under the Crimes Act. An extraordinary scene followed, and one which has not been witnessed in an Irish court of justice for some considerable time. Mr. Doughty, who sat beside his solicitor, was directed to be taken into custody. Standing up suddenly, he raised his hat in the air and called out "God save Ireland!" There was a wild response from the crowded audience in the court, and the soldiers of the Leinster Regiment who filled the gallery were the most demonstrative in cheerily answering the prisoner's appeal. About seventy of this regiment had been marched over from Clare Castle in the morning to do duty at the court-house, and having piled their arms in front of the building, a guard was placed and the rest of the men allowed to enter the court and listen to the proceedings. The military, in full marching order, occupied the gallery fronting the magisterial bench, and when the cheers arose from the people in answer to Mr. Doughty's challenge, the military seized their helmets and waved them frantically, while shout after shout went up for Ireland.

DE LUNATICO.

RAVINGS OF A PRESS CENSOR IN PRISON.

(By FERDINAND FREILIGRATH. Translated by J. L. JOYNES.)

ONE chamber has not yet been shown;
A single grating gives it light;
Stiff like a statue carved in stone
Its inmate stands, a woeful sight.
Nought haps to rouse his fury here;
He struggles face to face with death;
His glassy eyes are fixed in fear;
So gazed on Banquo's ghost Macbeth.

There!—What was ice is turned in-
stead
To flame. He starts.—What is't he
sees?
Whence comes and why the vision
dread,
That stirs his hair and shakes his
knees?
He clasps his hands against his face,
To shut from sight avenging swords;
He hides his head and begs for grace,
And groans and grovels on the
boards.

And hark! he cries, "Was mine the
knife
That stabbed ye? Mine the noose
that caught?
Who hounds ye on to hunt my life,
Ye pale blood-boltered ghosts of
Thought?
Who bade ye bridge the backward way
That leads from limbo up to light,
Old scores at last in full to pay,
And with ill visions vex my sight?"

"I mowed ye down by legions; dumb
Ye fell like ears of garnered grain:
I little thought the time would come
When your pale ghosts would rise
again,

To haunt with horror this abode,
Wherein it likes me else to dwell—
By Royal favour 'twas bestowed
For service wisely done and well.

"No finer place the country boasts,
And yet 'tis cursed, as all may see—
Avaunt, ye swarms of angry ghosts,
Athirst for blood, why haunt ye me?"

Your knitted brows are pale and bleed,
Yet courage lights your eyes in sooth;
Two noble forces your forces lead,
'Tis Freedom, as I think, and Truth.

"'Tis they indeed! For them have ye
Sprung forth full-armed from teeming
brains,
To haunt and hunt and torture me
Despite of penalties and pains.
Full at my heart ye aim your blow,
-As if 'twere murder ye would do;
Off, off, ye scoundrels, let me go,
And I will come to terms with you.

"Fair terms—but how?—the devil
knows!
Hold—have not I the knives for-
bidden?
Ye hem me round in ranks and rows—
I thought the dead in hell were
hidden.
Bow down to earth beneath my tread,
That I may crush ye where ye lie:
Alas! ye only shake the head,
And say 'The Spirit cannot die.'

"Ye mock me, knaves? I bid ye fall
And bite the dust, or turn and flee.
God's cruel curse upon them all!
The scoundrels are too strong for me.
Truth strikes me sternly in the face,
And Freedom clenches hard her fist;
Swift subtle Thoughts press on apace;
God curse them all! they still resist.

"Have mercy! Sure 'tis truly said
That scores of Censors farther stretch
The law than I"— He strikes his
head—

A warder grasps the raving wretch.
Stout straps and cords his fury cool;
He trembles, see! in every limb.
The man was nothing but a tool!
We do not damn, but pity him.

TRAMWAY STRIKE IN CINCINNATI.—NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—Intelligence from Cincinnati states that the drivers and conductors of the Consolidated Street Tramways Company, in that city, have struck work, demanding the discharge of the manager. Traffic is thus temporarily stopped on one hundred miles of tramway, and six hundred men are idle.

The poets have always spoken of panic as diverse, many-sided, and the like. One sees the truth of this in the very different forms it takes at different times in our midst. The bitter cry of outcast London is the standing terror of us all. We try to stifle it, as we try to stifle other forms of evil conscience. Last time the panic took the form of a Lord Mayor's fund; this time it is to be embodied in special constables. The one remedy will be as futile as the other. A diseased society can no more lay its spectres by special constables than by special charity.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

LANDLORDISM IN LONDON.—At the Thames Police Court last Thursday, a poorly-dressed woman applied to Mr. Lushington for advice. She said that she owed 12s. rent and the landlady put in the brokers, who distrained on her goods. On Wednesday evening a man came to her and said he had an order from that court to take out the door and windows from her room. She told him that her children were very poorly. He, however, took out the windows, but left the door. The children had been in the room all night with the windows out and the fog coming in.—In answer to the magistrate, the applicant said the man in question was employed by the landlady.—Mr. Lushington said an officer of the court would go with applicant to the landlady and tell her that it was a monstrous act, and that if an action were brought against her she would have to pay heavy damages.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE READERS OF THE 'GLOBE.'—This is a sample of a leader which filled a column of the *Globe* of the 17th inst.: "The mobs who have gathered near Charing Cross are protean. One day they call themselves the 'unemployed'; when that does not serve they masquerade as Radicals seeking to affirm a common right; and then they turn out as Socialists, braying for the Millennium. But the true character of the whole body of disturbers is that they are nothing more nor less than Communards and Anarchists. They belong not only to the 'rebel and obstructive conspiracy,' but they are next of kin to the hordes who murdered the 'hostages' and burnt down so much of Paris in 1871. It is neither liberty of public meeting nor freedom of speech which they want; it is a reign of terror and liberty to plunder and destroy." Seventy or a hundred thousand "Communards and Anarchists" for London alone is by no means bad.

JUSTICE'S INJUSTICE!—Mr. "Justice" Day is a good specimen of his in-human class. At Liverpool Assizes on the 16th he sentenced a solicitor to twelve years' penal servitude for forging a cheque for £1000 and obtaining goods by false pretences. The judge denounced the heartless frauds of the prisoner, especially in reference to the cruel way in which he had victimised poor clients. On the same day a woman aged 69 was sentenced by him to seven years' penal servitude for stealing a pair of drawers. The prisoner, who presented a melancholy picture in the dock, and kept her hands in the attitude of prayer, dropped down like a person shot, and was carried away by two warders. He also sentenced a man to five years' penal servitude for fraudulently obtaining a shilling under the pretence that it was for a charitable object! Compare these sentences and then ask, if any one of them be just, what are the others?



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.

J. A.—Walter Crane's lecture on "Importance of the applied Arts and their relation to common life" was printed in the *Journal of the Society of Arts* for June 3 (Bell and Sons, 6d.). It was of course written from the Socialist point of view, and plainly worded.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday November 23.

ENGLAND	Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	ITALY
Croydon Echo	Hammonton(NJ)Credit Foncier	Gazzetta Operaia
Die Autonomie	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	
Jus	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	SPAIN
Justice	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	El Productor
Labour Tribune	N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate	Madrid—El Socialista
Norwich—Daylight	Albina (Oregon)—Weekly Courier	
Railway Review		PORTUGAL
NEW SOUTH WALES		Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Hamilton—Radical	FRANCE	
	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	GERMANY
INDIA	La Revoltue	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Lille—Le Travailleur	AUSTRIA
UNITED STATES	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Arbeiterstimme
New York—Der Sozialist	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts	HUNGARY
Truthseeker		Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Backer Zeitung	Serang (Oregon)—Le Reveil	ROUMANIA
Volkszeitung	Ghent—Vooruit	Jassy—Lupta
Boston—Woman's Journal	Brussels—L'Avant Gardc	SWEDEN
Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	SWITZERLAND	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
Labor Enquirer	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	

THE LIBERAL PARTY DIGGING ITS OWN GRAVE.

For months past the Gladstonian Liberals have been protesting loudly against Coercion in Ireland, and the speeches of the "distinguished" amongst them have been filling columns on columns of the papers. They have just had a splendid opportunity of striking a great blow against Coercion in Ireland by coming forward to protest against Coercion in London. We need not ask how they have used that opportunity, that would be a joke; but it may be profitable to point out some possible consequences of their gross stupidity in throwing it away. It is their business as political Liberals to get the working-classes to believe that if they come in again some benefit will result to the workers above what the Tories have to offer them. They have, in fact, to win the vote of the ordinary working-men, not only those who professedly take interest in politics, but especially those who stand aloof from them, and that in Britain rather than in Ireland (since Ireland through its native leaders is theirs already), and especially in London, where there is so much to win. Now as long as the meeting in Trafalgar Square was "a genuinely political meeting," that is a mere home rule affair, their presence and support was of little importance, since their good-will towards it might have been taken for granted. But when it became, as it did some days before the meeting, a protest against the repression of free speech, and was, whatever may be said to the contrary, a protest also on the part of the "respectable" working-men of London against the maltreatment of their unemployed brethren, their support became of very great importance, at any rate to the future of the Liberal Party. It would have been accepted as a token of their sympathy with the popular cause, and would have gained them many thousands of votes which will now either be cast in favour of some Conservative of the "dishing" kind, or will never be cast at all. In short, they would have won whatever of London could be won by them under any circumstances, and they would have lost nothing at all; for they may be quite sure that they have no chance of the votes of the shopocracy big or little; they have done enough to lose that, while they have done nothing to win what was to be won.

Their conduct gives a good measure of the utter political incapacity of the Liberal Party. It is quite likely that they may plead that their "great and noble leader" is hard to move, that is, quite devoid of any perception of a dramatic situation; that at every crisis he has done all he could to discourage his friends and encourage his foes, but that is no excuse worth putting forward. The oracle of the Great

Panjandrum was not needed to speak; even the next greatest panjandrums might have been dispensed with, i.e., Morley and Harcourt, and such like. If some dozen of Liberal M.P.'s of the more respectable kind had given by some means their open support to the business, it would have been enough, and the assent of the "leaders" would have been inferred, and the trick would have been done.

All this is now a thing of the past, and as a first consequence all people who can think at all must clearly see that the political Liberals look upon the Irish question simply as a mechanical matter to get them into office again. It is equally clear that freedom of speech for the people in general is no concern of theirs, except so far as they are afraid of the consequences of it if they were in power. No less clear that they do not care a button for the unemployed so long as they can be kept quiet; and finally, that they have no foresight or plan for the future and determined to shut their eyes resolutely to it. The result of all which will probably be, unless some blessed accident turns up to help them, that they will be exposed at the next election as the mere dregs of a beaten political party, a set of men afraid to proclaim themselves either Radicals or Reactionists; afraid of revolution, and (perhaps) ashamed of open reaction.

"Well, but what does all this matter to us?" a Socialist may say. Well, it is a matter of importance that the people should learn to know their friends from their foes; the people whom we still have to win over to our side—nay, whom to a great extent we still have to get to listen to us. Those Liberal members who have been crying out so loud about the wrongs of the Irish peasants and are so wholly blind to those of the London workmen, which are no less than those of their Irish brethren, have been teaching the lesson in question to the people sharply this time. They will understand that these champions of liberty are really saying, "There is no political capital to be made of you, so we don't heed you: nay, since you are at our very doors, and are beginning to look dangerous, we are at heart glad that the muzzle is being clapped on to you."

This is the meaning of the Liberal members standing aloof from the struggle for free speech in London; and used as people are to official politronery, they must see something of this meaning in it, and a heavy blow will be struck at the hope which some simple people still have in a change of ministry—it is called a change of parties, but it hardly amounts even to that. The people will in consequence begin to cry out for a party which does at least aim at being a popular one; which, however partially and ignorantly, does admit that the welfare and progress of the workers is the one necessary thing to be aimed at. In short, the orthodox Liberal party will visibly melt into the great reactionary party, and that very soon now in all probability; and though there will scarcely be a solid democratic party, yet at least there will be a great mass of ever-growing discontent. Both that of people who are increasingly suffering in their own persons from the progress of economical events and also of people of honest democratic instincts to whom all oppression is hateful when they see it, under whatever name it goes. This body of discontent it will not be difficult to penetrate with Socialist ideas, since it will no longer be able to hope anything from the vague bundle of makeshifts and evasions that passes under the name of a Liberal policy.

The gain, therefore, of the renunciation of the defence of freedom of speech by the Liberal leaders and their henchmen is all ours and the loss is theirs. The only possible reason for wanting a Liberal ministry in again is that the Irish question might be settled for the time. Against that possible gain is to be put the certainty that the longer the question is delayed the more revolutionary the change will be. Nor is it so sure either that the Liberals would do much to settle it if they were in office, on the one hand, or on the other that the Tories may not dish them at last by doing pretty much the same as their opponents would do.

Anyhow the education of the Radicals ought to go on pretty fast, now that a strong Liberal minority pledged up to the eyes to resistance to coercion, and looking forward, rightly or wrongly, to winning at the next election, has stood by and looked on with half-approving eyes while the Tories were taking away from the people the right of meeting in open spaces in London with a high-handed violence worthy of the times of Castlereagh.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

The efforts of the people to overthrow the system, doomed and cursed as it is, of wage-slavery are called "anarchy" by the powers that be, and they foolishly, blindly seek to strangle those efforts by dropping from a scaffold the bodies of seven preachers of an idea. Vain hope! stupendous delusion! The shock of the descending bodies of our seven martyrs will jar the world and shake the props from under wage-slavery in every land.—Denver *Labour Enquirer*.

It is as well to be frank, and those of our friends who are attempting, with great display of ingenuity, to draw many elaborate distinctions between Mitchelstown and Trafalgar Square are wasting their time. Of course no one pretends that the circumstances are identical. The *Daily News* points out, for instance, that at Mitchelstown the police tried to thrust their reporter through a public meeting, whereas in Trafalgar Square they merely bludgeoned every man who tried to make his way through the Square. Our sapient cotemporary might also have pointed out that the people shot at Mitchelstown spoke with a brogue, whereas those ridden down in Northumberland Avenue had a cockney accent. But notwithstanding all these minor details, the fact remains that in approving as "admirable" the bludgeoning of the people who came to meet in Trafalgar Square as has been their wont ever since the Square existed, and after the Home Secretary expressly declared political meetings would be permitted, our leaders have spiked their most effective Irish artillery. We regret this as much as any one. But the fact is there, and there is no blinking it.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE UNEMPLOYED.

BY ONE OF THEM.

DURING the last three or four weeks the neighbourhood of Trafalgar Square has been in a state of continual turmoil. The police have daily assembled there on horse, on foot, and in private clothes. Sansculottism has met in multitudinous numbers there to demand work or bread, and the Patrolotic myrmidons of law and order—i.e., lawlessness and disorder—have also thronged thither with the object of either aweing the workless many into quiescence, or in default of that, belabouring them from the streets with their batons. Sir Charles Warren has far exceeded his duties as Chief Commissioner of Police to silence the cry of the unemployed; and finding brutality ineffective to achieve his purpose, has begun to try benevolence and usurping the functions of a commissioner of the Poor Law, doled out free tickets for food and lodging to starving outcasts. An alderman has—most remarkable to relate—turned political economist,—or rather, attempted it; and a certain parson, the Rev. Mr. Kitto, has surprised the world with a new phase of Christian charity by distributing refreshments to the barbarous limbs of the law tired out with bludgeoning wretched men whose only crime was that they had cried out for work. Meanwhile the shutters of the large West-end emporiums of shopocratic sweating and swindling have been hurriedly closed daily, and Timidas Plutus has stood shivering in the cellar while the demonstrations of the unemployed have surged tumultuously along the streets in the wake of banners black and red.

The motives of the men who formed these demonstrations have been so often misrepresented of late, and the honesty of the speakers at them so often questioned, by the scurrilous sheets of lies, nonsense, and advertisement called daily papers, that I feel myself compelled to pen this, with the intention of laying before the public, or at least the Socialist public, the truth anent the unemployed.

Returning from a meeting held early in October to protest against the murder of our Chicago comrades, four Socialists had occasion to pass through Trafalgar Square; and one of them, moved to indignation by the presence of so much misery and so many squalid homeless wretched on "the finest site in Europe," suggested that meetings should be at once started and conducted by those in our ranks who happened to be out of work. The suggestion was at once taken up, and the first meeting was held next morning, the speeches being delivered from one of the seats and beneath the shadow of a black banner upon which the words "We will have work or bread" were inscribed in large white letters. The result of this meeting was a series of daily assemblages in the same place to ventilate the same grievance. Day by day the sansculotic workless multitude met, marched, and spoke, and daily their numbers increased and their cry became more clamorous. The press, which at first had ignored us, at length began to notice the meetings, but it noticed them only with sneers and sarcasm. We were styled loafers, vagabonds, and paid agitators by the foul-mouthed and abusive Thersites who dwells beside the filthy Fleet Ditch. The abuse of the press was seconded by the ruffianism of the police, who, acting under the instructions of that bloody-minded arch cut-throat Sir Charles Warren, whose only reply to the vehement demand of Sansculottism for bread is that he instructs Patrolotism to apply the baton, frequently dispersed the demonstrations in a most savage and barbarous manner.

Upon the occasion of the first of those unwarrantable interferences a significant incident occurred, symbolical in its way of the manner in which the demands of the lower orders are always met by authority. The processionists were proceeding towards Stepney Green *via* Strand and City when, opposite Charing Cross Station, the police suddenly pounced upon them, seized and smashed up their black banner, and dispersed the procession. Strange to say, though, the red flag remained, and from that day till quite recently was borne before the procession. The black banner, representing the dark prospects of unemployed workmen, and borne in our parades as an appeal to the commiseration of the wealthy and a symbol of despair, was torn from us, broken, and thrown away. They would not be appealed to, refused to pity, and contemptuously rejected our peaceable pleading. But the red flag, the emblem of sturdy revolt, remained with us, and henceforth we marched in the wake of the flame-coloured flag.

The deputations appointed to wait upon the different responsible governmental officials met with much the same treatment as the demonstration which paraded the streets. Some refused to receive them altogether; others received them simply to either return in answer to their complaints the usual sempiternal official *non possumus*, or, to avoid returning answer to them by telling what turned out upon investigation to be the most deliberate and barefaced falsehoods. A good example of the former was the reply returned by the official at the Home Office who represented Mr. Matthews in his absence to the deputation which waited upon him. This official, with a lengthy title which reminds one of Dickens's "Circumlocution Office"—viz., the Under Secretary to the Chief Secretary of the Secretary of State—told the representatives of the unemployed, in the usual official sorry-to-disoblige-you manner, that he could do nothing for them. The reply vouchsafed by the Metropolitan Board of Works, on the other hand, turned out to be, when enquired into, nothing more or less than a lie. They stated that the Board was already employing a large number of men, and that one of their undertakings alone was employing 2000 men. When we enquired into the truth of these statements, it transpired that the latter "fact" was untrue. The extensive under-

taking was found to mean certain works in connection with Barking Dockyard, which was in the hands of a private firm—that of Mowlem and Co.—and not directly undertaken by the Board of Works.

Besides being lied to and put off with *non possumus* in this manner, these deputations were sometimes referred to the union or treated to long and nonsensical dissertations anent Socialism and political economy by persons who evidently knew little or nothing about either. Sir Henry Knight—that cross-breed between a Dombey and a Bumble, with all the failings of both and none of the redeeming features of either—told an unemployed deputation the astounding lie that the luxury of the few tends to the enrichment of the many—a theory by far too absurd even to come from an alderman. A certain journal, erroneously thinking it possible for an alderman to study the elementary principles of political economy, recommended to this incarnation of capitalistic cupidity and stupidity the perusal of Mrs. Fawcett's 'Political Economy for Beginners.' Strange that the *Pall Mall Gazette* should offer such advice to such a person, in the face of the admitted fact that an alderman's discretionary powers are centred in his belly. Aldermen are undoubtedly authentic authorities upon the respective qualities of turtle soups and expensive wines; but anything in the shape of sensible science is entirely out of their province.

The brutality of policemen towards the unemployed, and the sneers of pressmen at them, have, however, been ameliorated by a most benign and heavenly manifestation of Christian benevolence and charity on the part of Rev. Mr. Kitto. A certain individual once compared the condition of the working classes at present to the parable of the Good Samaritan with the good Samaritan left out. This may be considered by some an exaggeration; but for my part, after recent experiences in the Square, I am rather inclined to think that not only was the comparison appropriate, but that it understated the attitude adopted by wealthy hypocritical ecclesiastics towards their more unfortunate humble brethren. The brutal vicar of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields not only, like the Levite in the parable, passes by his prostrate neighbour, but he refreshes with coffee and sandwiches the ruffians who have succeeded in batoning his neighbour into senselessness. The Good Samaritan does appear upon the scene, but instead of assisting the poor and wretched outcasts who long have found a bed upon the cold hard stone, and who have nightly slept exposed to all the bitter inclemencies of the weather, with the grey chill sky for a roof and a stone for a pillow; but when, determined to starve no longer, they came forth to demonstrate, he then doles out food and good cheer to scoundrels worn out in the performance of a duty which he should be the first to condemn. Nothing was given from the over-filled larder of this well-paid parson to starving homeless men, but Christian charity at once prompted him to feed the heartless and willing tools of authority gone mad. This is Christianity according to capitalistic interpretation. The gospel of the Lord according to Mr. Kitto.

There are many I know among Socialists who disagree, and very rightly too, I think, with the claim of the unemployed as being insufficient to permanently improve the condition of the workers. This I admit is the case; but still I submit to people who entertain such opinions that workmen who demand work from responsible officials and are told by such officials that they can do nothing, are doing good in exposing the absurdity of a state of society under which expensive ministers are maintained who frankly confess in the event of important social emergencies like the present that they are powerless. By so acting they bring the authority of the predominating classes into contempt, and prove to the satisfaction of all thinking men who participate in such agitations the necessity not only of the commencement of relief works for the unemployed to enable them to tide over temporary trouble, but also the urgent requirement for a readjustment of social affairs on a more manly and sensible basis.

JAMES ALLMAN.

LITERARY NOTICES.

'Remember Trafalgar Square!' (*Pall Mall Office*, 1d.) is a concise and striking account of the civilising influences brought to bear upon the crowds of the 13th. Copies may be obtained for distribution at 100, 6s.; 500, 30s., carriage free.

No. 4 of the *Humanitas* pamphlets, 'Vittime e Pregiudici' (Victims and Prejudices) contains observations on bourgeois life, the family as it is and should be, prostitution, and similar social questions, written in simple and direct language, which will render it a very useful little work for propaganda. 'La Vendetta Sociale,' by Paolo Valera, is a collection of a few articles rather sensational on prisons and corporal punishment in England. It will give a good deal of information to Italian readers of a somewhat slight description. English slang terms are profusely scattered over the articles, well translated in the text and mostly correctly printed.

Only by making the ruling few uneasy can the oppressed many obtain a particle of relief.—*Bentham*.

The white men drove the Indians towards the setting sun and dispossessed them of their land because they had more than they could use. Civilisation demanded more room. Now that humanity demands more room, are land monopolists to be permitted to hold millions of acres which they will not and can not use?—*Craftsman*.

"PROGRESS."—Here are the figures of ten years progress in New Zealand:

Year.	Population.	Revenue.	Shipping.	Railways.	Telegraphs.
				Miles.	Miles.
1875	375,856	2,813,928	783,050	542	3,156
1885	575,226	4,096,996	1,032,700	1,654	4,163

During the same period there has grown up a large "unemployed question"; "labour and capital" behave as in other countries; and all the well-known conditions are repeated. Yet the resources of the country are not nearly exhausted. Is there a possible explanation of it all outside Socialism?

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

At every colliery in Leicestershire, with the exception of one, the men are handing in their notices for an advance in wages, this week, and have every prospect of being successful.

STRIKE OF CARTERS.—Last week about 50 carters in the employment of Alexander Scott, contractor, Mearns Street, Greenock, struck work against a reduction of wages. It was sought to reduce their wages by 1s. per week.

The directors of the new British Iron and Steel Company, Congreve, Staffordshire, and owners of collieries and works at Swansea and Ruabon, have decided to wind up the company, owing to the badness of trade. This will cause from 4,000 to 5,000 hands to be out of work.

THE YORKSHIRE MINERS.—At a conference of miners held on Saturday at Barnsley, on the question of restriction of working hours, a majority were in favour of the resolution, and the delegates were empowered to attend the Newcastle conference and vote accordingly.

SCOTTISH MINERS AND LONDON POLICE RIOTS.—At a meeting of the Scotch Miners National Federation held in Glasgow on the 21st, it was agreed that if Mr. Cunningham Graham is imprisoned the working classes should proclaim a great strike until he was released. The meeting considered that he had been brutally ill-treated by the London police.

NOTTINGHAM CIGAR-MAKERS.—The dispute in the firm of Robinson and Barnsdale has been settled. The women and girls who have formed a branch of the union, offered to work short time until stock was reduced, but would not accept reduction. A deputation waited upon the firm, and after discussion, these terms were agreed to. Branch now numbers 280.

REDUCTION OF WAGES.—A notice has been posted at the Newton Works of the Steel Company of Scotland, intimating that on Saturday week all existing contracts with workmen will terminate. Formerly such notices have always preceded a rearrangement and reduction of wages, and the present one, the workmen believe, will be no exception. The intimation has come as a great surprise. Already the men in several departments are speaking of resistance. They consider that a reduction is unwarranted.

THE LATE MIDLAND STRIKE.—The Central Committee thankfully acknowledge the receipt of £40 for general distribution. The men still find it very difficult to obtain employment, consequently the number out reduces very slowly. The returns to hand this week show the number out to be about 260. The committee are glad to note that men going abroad are now able to obtain a clear character, minus the term "Left on strike."—*Railway Review.*

PROPOSED LIMITATION OF THE OUTPUT OF COAL.—During the week the miners in nearly all parts of the kingdom have been supplied with ballot-papers to vote on the question as to whether they shall limit their production of coal by working only five days a week or not. This course appears to have been adopted so as to secure the co-operation as far as possible of the non-unionists, who outnumber the members of the various associations by four or five to one.

AN EARLY CLOSING CONGRESS.—The board of management of the Early Closing Association have determined to hold an Early Closing Congress; to consider the provisions of the bill introduced in Parliament by Sir John Lubbock, and to receive amendments and resolutions in respect thereto. Important proposals will be made respecting the machinery for promoting the bill. The Congress will be held in London on Wednesday the 8th and Thursday the 9th of February next. Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Cameron Corbett, and other parliamentary supporters of the bill, will be present.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS.—At a delegate meeting of the Northumberland miners on Saturday it was announced that a motion in favour of the adoption of the restriction of the output of coal had been arrived at, and that it was intended that the subject should be fully discussed at the adjourned conference of the Association in Newcastle on Tuesday. The question of the payment of the salaries of Messrs. Burt and Fenwick it was after much discussion resolved to submit again to the miners for their consideration.

NAILMAKERS.—At a meeting of nailmakers at Bromsgrove, Mr. Roberts, who presided, said they had now got the advance, and must do all they could to keep it. For his part, he would willingly pay 6d. a-week rather than have 1s. reduction from his wages.—Mr. Powell (secretary) said some men at Catshill were still on strike, as their employers refused to pay the price agreed to by the others. He thought it would be better to let those men work, and buy the work from them, rather than pay them to play, and that would start a joint-stock warehouse at once.

OVERTIME IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE.—On Saturday night a meeting of workmen connected with the engineering trade of Tyneside was held in the Lecture Room, Newcastle, to consider the best means of minimising the overtime worked in that trade. Mr. Howitt presided, and there was a large attendance. A resolution was adopted that in the opinion of the meeting systematic overtime is detrimental to the workers, and that meetings of the men of the various workshops in the district be held to appoint delegates who could be instructed to arrange a meeting with the employers, with the view of restricting overtime and of giving employment to some of the unemployed.

LONDON TRADES' COUNCIL AND THE UNEMPLOYED.—The Tories, Toadies, and Tricksters who do the wire-pulling for the London Trades' Council, met on Monday night to consider the question of the unemployed. Needless to say, the proceedings were of the prosiest and paltriest character. Mr. George Shipton maintained the reputation he has acquired as Flunkey-in-Chief by proposing to "approach" the Lord Mayor (on his belly I presume) to ask him to be treasurer of a fund to be dispensed by the Council to the "deserving distressed population." He also made some drivelling remarks about the recent agitation of the unemployed, and appears to be very much shocked at their partiality for the Phrygian cap, etc., and their want of reverence for the "Glorious Constitution" (including the Prince of Wales and the Pealers).

INDIGNATION MEETING OF MINERS.—At a meeting of miners held at Irvine last week Mr. Robert Smillie, Larkhall, referring to the importation of Russian Poles by Messrs. Merry and Cuninghame, said the system was a secret to the miners of Lanarkshire until exposed in the *Daily Mail*. There were far too many men idle in Scotland without sending to Russia for Poles, and if Merry and Cuninghame were to be allowed to continue their evil ways for the purpose of bringing down the wages to 12s. per week, he did not know what it would come to. The following resolution was carried unani-

mously: "That this meeting views with indignation the importation of Russians to the district, and calls on the authorities to have them removed at once, as their presence is a menace to the health and morality of the place, and is besides being used to reduce the already too low wages earned by the workmen."

THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.—Work has now seriously commenced on the ship canal at Eastham, and the excavations are proceeding, a staff of some 350 men being at present employed. The principal work now going on is that of preparation for future operations. At the works on Thursday a large number of persons assembled who had come from all parts of the country to seek work. Only five men could be taken on. It was a bitterly cold day, and some of the men had walked twenty miles to arrive at the works by nine o'clock in the morning. On an average a thousand men a-week are personally applying for work on the canal. The huts for the accommodation of the navvies are not yet constructed, and the cottages of Eastham and the neighbourhood are crowded with lodgers—so much so that in some cases the nuisance inspector has had to turn men out of houses that were overcrowded.

LONDON COMPOSITORS.—It is indeed a painful sight to turn out of busy Fleet Street at noonday and encounter the crowd of anxious faces of the men who assemble daily to sign the unemployed book. Dreary, weary, and demoralising is this waiting at the gates of the vineyard for a "call," and some of these labourers never, I am afraid, recover the self-respect and independence they lose while thus hanging listlessly about for the chance of a casual job. Yet what can they do? To seek for employment by walking from office to office is almost a farce; besides it is appetising, and men out of work must not get very hungry. There are some hundreds of compositors belonging to the London Society in this position to-day. They have been similarly circumstanced for weeks. There seems no prospect of a speedy revival of trade that will re-employ one-half of them. What's to be done?—*Scottish Typographical Circular.*

NORTHAMPTON SHOEMAKERS.—The Northampton Shoe Manufacturers' Association have determined on a lock-out of all their boot and shoe riveters and finishers, and notices to that effect have been posted in the factories. This decision will affect five to six thousand hands, and if the lock-out is persisted in for any length of time the whole of the shoe operatives of the town—eight or nine thousand more—will be necessarily thrown out of employment. The manufacturers have resolved upon this step in consequence of their inability to settle a dispute, which led to the men employed at Messrs. Cove and West's factory coming out on strike last July. The men objected to alleged reductions in prices paid for making and finishing boots. After the strike had existed for some months the matter was referred to arbitration, but the Arbitration Board broke up on the refusal of the manufacturers to refer an important question to a referee. Subsequently the employers compiled a statement of wages for the whole of the town, but the Trades' Union refused to accept it.—On Tuesday riveters and finishers in over 200 factories commenced a strike. Several large manufacturers withdrew notices. Meeting 4000 operatives determine to enforce their terms.

THE GLASGOW TRADES COUNCIL.—At a meeting held last week strong resolutions were passed protesting against the action of the Government in attempting to suppress the right of free speech. Mr. R. C. Grant, in seconding the resolution, said it was certainly his duty to protest against the attempt presently being made to curtail freedom of speech. If allowed to go, we cannot know how soon trades meetings might be interfered with. He felt sure that farmers in Ireland had as much right to meet to try to get fair rents as we had to seek fair wages; and it was only because it was opposed to the interests of the landlord class that they were determined to put down free speech both in Ireland and now in London. Mr. Tait, in supporting the motion, said the Council was quite consistent in this matter, seeing that they protested against the passing of the Crimes Bill because it made such things possible. He said that the present system of espionage in London would be a disgrace to the most despotic government in the world, and he thought it to be the duty of every man to raise his voice against it.

RURAL LABOUR NOTES.—In many villages in Hertfordshire and Cambs the wages of agricultural labourers are not more than 10s. per week, and I have heard of some cases of 8s. How our workmen's wives do as much as they do with such sums is a marvel in the way of finance. In one village near there are 26 men out of work and in great distress. This parish (Steeple Morden, Cambs) contains 3,767 acres, and is rated at about £6,000 yearly value. This extent of land should produce abundance for the population of 1,000, but yet there is want. Lord Hardwicke is the largest landholder, and his creditors yearly take thousands of pounds value from this and neighbouring villages. How long will the men who produce this wealth stand by and starve while their subsistence is absorbed by idlers? Other villages are in much the same condition, here 20 men out, there 30 and more, and so on. A fruitful and pleasant country, but held back as by magic from the people's enjoyment. At St. Neots (Hunts) a large paper manufactory has lately been closed. When in full work this factory employed nearly 400 people, mostly women. The business has been sold to another paper maker, who says he can supply all the paper for the St. Neots business with his present plant and hands. Four hundred more added to the "margin." A good many may find work elsewhere, but to most of them this is well nigh impossible.—P. C. W.

THE UNEMPLOYED.—What's to be done? This is the social problem that, let what may stand in the way, will have to be solved. It is a question that grave men are asking day by day, for the depression is general and widespread, and meanwhile disaffection is growing apace. It is folly for our newspapers to ignore it, useless for them to point to a great cheering crowd at a royal progress or civic procession and try to delude their readers by telling them that the heart of the people is loyal and contented to the core, and that only a handful of advanced Radicals and mad Socialists are at the bottom of the discontent. Working men could convince them otherwise if they were open to conviction; but the dignity of the press will not allow leader-writers to seek information where it is best to be obtained. So our great dailies continue to talk of "idlers" and "loafers," and profess to believe that the distress cannot be very widespread, because the tens of thousands of unfortunates have not joined the less discreet contingent which has been rendering itself so obnoxious to West-end and City respectability lately. Yet doubtless this advanced guard—despite the ruffian element which is common to all large gatherings—somewhat represents the horny-handed sons of toil" whose "honest, upturned faces" and "hearty British cheers" the newspapers are so fond of picturing on occasions when they are invited to "assemble in their thousands" to support a popular politician in "potting" a political opponent. But they must not "demonstrate" on their own account. That is wrong, and constitutes them *sansculottes* at once.—*Scottish Typographical Circular.*

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

On the 10th of this month, Eugene Pottier, member of the Paris Commune, and one of the best poets of the Social Revolution, was buried by his colleagues of the Commune, the various Socialistic organisations of Paris, and a great mass of people. As soon as the red colours were displayed the police, under the command of one Honorat, made a rush on the assembled people and succeeded in stealing the banner away. They charged the crowd, knocking down every one they could get hold of, severely wounding women and children, in one word, behaving themselves in a most brutal manner, recalling to mind the most sinister days of the Empire. Municipal councillors, our friends Vaillant and Lavy, were trampled down, the deputy Clovis Hugues was very much hurt, and Joffrin, the Paris councillor, was even arrested. Since the affair at Péré la Chaise, no such scandal has been witnessed by the people of the revolutionary city. But on the following day the Paris Municipal Council made a sharp interpellation to the Prefect of Police, the same Gragnon who has now been superseded on account of the Caffarel-Wilson scandals, and as his answer was as bad as possible the council passed a resolution condemning the action of the police, urging the dismissal of Honorat, and of all those agents who acted in the same dastardly way, and further deciding that until the administration of the police has been made by the Government responsible for its doings before the Municipal Council, they cease to have anything whatever to do with that administration, and refuse to deal with any matter in which the police are concerned.

HOLLAND.

One of the ablest contributors to the Dutch organ of Social Democracy, *Recht voor Allen* (Right for All), S. W. Roorda van Eyzinga, has come to an untimely end lately at Clarens, in Switzerland, where he lived as an exile from his native country. He had been a high official in the service of Holland, in Dutch India, where he could witness the frauds, the injustice, the rapine which are incessantly committed there by Dutchmen against the poor Indians. He publicly denounced this system of enriching Holland at the cost of India, and was obliged to resign. Afterwards, no more than Buen Husket, than Multatuli, he could remain in his "dear Fatherland" and went to Clarens, where he died. He was also a contributor to the *Revolte*.

Last week our comrade Cohen was on his trial at the Hague, on a very "serious" charge indeed. On the 16th of September last, the King of Holland, William III. (and we hope the last) came back from Amsterdam to his well-beloved Hague, and defendant cried out: "Hurrah for Domela Nieuwenhuis! Hurrah for Socialism! Down with the Gorilla!" Now, the charge against him is one of insulting the king by giving him names. The Public Prosecutor made a most dreadful statement, saying that Gorilla must absolutely mean his Majesty the king, because of the fact that really his glorious master has unmistakably, although unfortunately, the face of an ape! I am afraid that honourable Public Prosecutor has for ever broken his career. The tribunal will deliver judgment next week.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

At Innsbrück, in Tyrol, a new Socialist paper will be started on the 1st of next January, to be called *Volkstimme* (Voice of the People). It intends to deal specially with the Catholic population of ultramontane Tyrol, and to convert them to Socialism. We wish good luck to our new colleague; Catholicism is a mortal plague, and must before all other things be eradicated out of man's mind.

At Vienna, the new *Arbeiter Kalender* (Almanack of the Workers) for the year 1888 has just been issued, and contains some very interesting matter, as for instance, a biographical sketch of Frederic Engels, with a bibliography of his writings, a short history of the social and political events of the year 1887, a clever article from Andreas Scheu, a good deal of poetry, notes, statistics, etc.

The workers of Hungary have done the same as their Austrian comrades. Their annual *Allgemeiner Arbeiter Kalender* (General Almanack of the Workers), which has just appeared, is very interesting. It contains among other articles, a thoroughly well-written biography of Johann Philip Becker, who recently died at Geneva, and who has been all his life through a valiant revolutionist; the history of the Peth high treason process of 1871-72; several Socialistic novelettes, etc.

SWITZERLAND.

Our readers are aware that the chairman of the Social Democratic Congress, recently held at St. Gall, has been murdered, and that it was at first thought that party politics had somewhat to do in the ugly business. Now it appears that a clown of the Circus Wulf, of Berlin, has been arrested by the St. Gall police as being one of the murderers of comrade Saluz. Afterwards, it was ascertained that this miserable clown is an international secret police agent in the pay of Prussia.

RUSSIA.

A few days ago an extensive house search was ordered by General Gresser, the actual governor of St. Petersburg. The police ransacked over four hundred houses, and arrested one hundred and forty persons. A secret printing press was found, also an immense lot of revolutionary proclamations. Amidst the written documents possessed by a group of Socialists, were some bearing witness to the relations of some of the members of that group with the German secret police. Unfortunately, these documents are now lost. As I said a fortnight ago, the German police penetrates everywhere: In Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, France, England, and Russia. Bismarck has done his work well enough indeed, but we sincerely hope that, after him, it won't last long. The Germans will not everlastingly be so patient as they have been until now; such a kind of patience bears, in the long run, quite a different name. Go ahead! Get up, Lazarus!

BELGIUM.

On the 16th inst., Octave Jahn, who was arrested at La Louvière some months ago on account of the disturbances which occurred there during the coal miner's strikes, was tried by the Court of Assizes at Mons, and sentenced to two and a-half years of imprisonment. He was accused of having maliciously and publicly attacked the laws of the country and provoked people to disobey them; further, of having by means of an inflammatory speech in a public meeting, caused the hotel called Hotel du Commerce to be blown up by dynamite; and lastly, of having had in his possession pro-

hibited arms, such as a dagger and a revolver. Octave Jahn is only eighteen years of age, being born in 1869 at Cherbourg, France. He was for four years a telegraph boy at Paris, but resigned on account of an injustice done to him by his chiefs. Then he organised the famous strike of all the telegraph boys of Paris, which was so much talked of at the time. He also was the founder of the French League of the Anti-patriots, which in a very few months' time succeeded in getting several thousand members all over the country, and made an extensive work of propaganda among the younger workers and the soldiers of the French army.

V. D.

ITALY.

We have received a communication from the editors of *Humanitas*, from which we learn that their offices have been lately visited by the censor of Naples and the last number of the paper confiscated while yet in proof:—"To the censor of Naples and his police we present our hearty thanks for having publicly belied what he in his cowardice affirmed in private, i.e., that *Humanitas* was not worth his notice, and in our turn we assure him that we shall abide by our promise that *Humanitas*, published and distributed in the dark, shall yet disturb the monotony of the careless lives of him and his kind. To these gentlemen our greeting is 'Au revoir!' . . . A few words to our friends: *Humanitas* in its 25th number is forced by official command to stop its publication, but intends to appear all the same though *sub rosa*. Next January will see it again lively as ever. . . . There are debts of 1500fr. owing to the paper by its retailers; as for the subscribers it is better not to speak of them, as unluckily not all are able to pay a subscription, but he who takes upon himself the sale of papers and keeps the money for his private wants, we know not what name he merits. It is beyond doubt that many Socialist periodicals have died by means of these 'parasites of Socialism.' But we trust that honest subscribers will pay their accounts and continue their aid. . . . Forward, then, in the name of the Social Revolution!—For the editors of *Humanitas*, Emilio Zuccarini, Alfredo Cantiello."

M. M.

SOCIALIST DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

A BRIEF account of the work of this Association is due to the readers of the *Commonweal*.

The Association was formed in consequence of poor men, concerned in the unemployed agitation, being condemned, unheard and undefended, on police evidence alone. The first case defended was that of Alfred Oldland, who was prosecuted for "assaulting the police," i.e., for defending himself against unprovoked attack. He was committed for trial, and despite overwhelming evidence that he only struck in self-defence and was brutally beaten by the police, Mr. Edlin, at the Middlesex Sessions, sentenced him to twelve months' hard labour, six months for each blow. The next case taken up was that of J. Allman, prosecuted for seditious language; bail was refused, but the Secretary of the Association visited Mr. Allman in Holloway Gaol, and arranged that he should be defended; on the second hearing of the case bail was granted, and on a third hearing the case was further remanded for lack of evidence. If there had been no defence, our truthful police would have sent our comrade to gaol; as it is, he will apparently get off scot free. Next, J. Knight was incarcerated; we offered bail, but it was refused; on hearing, Mr. Thompson, by much pertinacity, forced the magistrate to accept bail, but it was fixed at the monstrous figure of £400. The bail was given, Mr. Knight was freed, and, on hearing, the charge against him was dismissed, overwhelming evidence having been collected of the falsity of Inspector Shepherd's sworn statement against him.

The members of the Association have come forward to give bail in the most admirable way. Bail for nine men was wanted last Friday, and a crowd of good Socialists presented themselves at 10 a.m. at Bow Street, having received their summonses only by the first post that morning. As Secretary, I do not offer grateful thanks to all these good men and women who came so promptly to the aid of the helpless, because the service is its own reward. But I must venture to say one word of special homage to the Rev. S. D. Headlam and Thomas Bolas, who, during the last three weeks, have shown an absolutely selfless devotion, and have sacrificed time and taken trouble without ever courting personal cost. Thanks to the Association, thirteen men have been released on bail, in addition to the cases previously cited. When I say that in three of the cases in which appeals have been lodged, witnesses for the defence were kept out of court by police violence, it will be understood how useful has been the work of freeing the men for appeal. I say nothing of the touching gratitude of poor men unexpectedly rescued, that has been the one bright thing in these sad days. Thanks to Mr. Stead, who gave us the money, eleven men have been released on payment of fines.

Now as to funds. I do not want any more subscriptions at present. Subscriptions had better be sent to Mr. Stead. But I want some more people who will serve as bail, and I want another fifty who will guarantee to respond to calls up to £2 2s. 0d., if the money is wanted. The Law and Liberty Defence League is now paying all costs of defence, and I ask only for guarantees from Socialists in case of need.

ANNIE BESANT,

63 Fleet Street, E.C.

Hon. Sec. Defence Association.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

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

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

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

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

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Donation by "Noddit," £1. *Weekly Subscriptions*—K. F., 1s. C. J. F., 2s. Oxford Branch, 2s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d. W. B., 6d.

Ph. W., Treasurer, Nov. 21.

Fund for the Provision of the Wives and Families of the Martyred Anarchists.

Under this heading we shall be pleased to acknowledge donations for the above object.

Hoxton (L.E.L.), 4s.

H. HALLIDAY SPARLING, Treasurer.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday, T. E. Wardle lectured at the Communist Club, 49, Tottenham Street, W., on "Society, Present and Future." On Sunday morning, very large outdoor meeting at the Arches, St. Pancras. Wardle, Walker, Spenser-Howell, Springfield, and Loban, H.R., spoke. *Commonweal* sold out before close of meeting.—D.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Nov. 16th, W. H. Utley lectured on "The Iron Age." Sunday evening, an enthusiastic audience listened to Wm. Morris, the subject being "The Coming Society." Lively debate at each meeting. Will members of the branch turn up at a special business meeting on Sunday, Dec. 4th, 7 p.m., to consider winter propaganda, ways and means, and appoint managers for the year 1888?—B.

FULHAM.—Meeting on Sunday morning opened by Tarleton; Turner, Morris, and Mahony followed. Some opposition, using worn-out argument of "over-population" and advocating emigration as panacea. Mahony answered, easily disposing of these fallacies. Fair sale of *Commonweal*.—S. B. G.

HAMMERSMITH.—Usual meeting at Starch Green on Sunday morning. Tochetti, C. Smith, and Maughan speakers. Meeting kept up three hours. Fair sale of *Commonweal*.—T.

KINGSLAND GREEN.—A large meeting was addressed here on Sunday morning by W. B. Parker.

NORTH LONDON.—Regent's Park Sunday morning, meeting held by Cantwell and Nicoll. Resolution condemning recent police action carried unanimously, and 6s. 1½d. collected for Prisoners' Defence Fund.—C.

STAMFORD HILL.—Only a short meeting here on Sunday evening owing to fog.

GLASGOW.—On Thursday, Nov. 17th, discussion class met. Brown opened debate on "The Unemployed." Saturday general meeting of the branch held, arrangements made for Rev. Headlam's meeting. Sunday at 1 p.m., new out-door station opened at St. George's Cross, Pollock, Glasier, and Bullock speakers. Immense success, *Commonweal* being eagerly bought, and our supply sold out. At 5 p.m. meeting addressed by Bullock and Downie at Paisley Road Toll. In hall, Watson Street, at 7 p.m., Mr. Richard McGhee, a local apostle of Georism, endeavoured to prove it preferable to Socialism. McLaren easily controverted. General discussion adjourned.—J. A.

LEICESTER.—At Secular Hall, on Nov. 13th, Rev. Stewart Headlam, and Graham Wallas Nov. 20th, lectured to large audiences. Feeling in favour of Socialism very evident. Headlam dealt with "Christian Socialism," and Wallas with "Why Socialism is now Practicable." Excellent discussions.—J. F.

LEEDS.—On Sunday morning, Corkwell, Sollitt, Hill, Taylor, and Maguire spoke. In afternoon, Maguire spoke at meeting called in support of Free Speech. A resolution condemnatory of the action of the Government was carried. At night our room was crowded to hear debate between J. G. Fisher and Maguire on "Individualism v. Socialism." 6s. 10½d. collected. During month five new members enrolled.

WALSALL.—Sanders lectured Monday last on "Toryism and Radicalism v. Socialism." Good discussion. Outdoor meeting Sunday top of Stafford Street, attentive audience, increases each time.—J. T. D.

WEDNESBURY.—Donald spoke here Thursday evening. Good attendance despite inclement weather.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

Arrangements for Champion's lecturing tour complete. He will speak on Dec. 10th at Kirkcaldy, 11th Dundee, 12th Edinburgh, 13th Aberdeen, 14th Carnoustie, 15th Arbroath, 16th Dumfermline, 17th Lochgelly, 18th Glasgow. Large halls have been taken, and advertising on a big scale gone into. Mahon is preparing to open up new ground, and goes to Glasgow and the mining districts of Lanarkshire next week.

EDINBURGH.—Three most successful meetings on Sunday. In afternoon, 2,000 people in Meadows to protest against Trafalgar Square outrages. Christie presided, and Tuke, Noble, and Mahon spoke. Resolutions passed with enthusiasm. At 6 p.m., successful meeting in High Street, and at 6.30 Mahon lectured to about 700 in large hall, Trades' Buildings, on "The Unemployed and the Coming Revolution." A course of Monday evening lectures in the Free Tron Hall have been begun. Political Economy Class going on successfully.

Notice to Branches of the S. L. L. L.

Branches desiring literature apply to D. K. Mackenzie, librarian, 163 Pleasance, Edinburgh.

North of England Socialist Federation.

On Monday evening, the Rev. John Glasse, of Edinburgh, opened a week's campaign in Northumberland by addressing a meeting of about 900 in the Nelson Street Hall, Newcastle. Tom Mann occupied the chair, and in a vigorous speech, with special reference to the unemployed, introduced the lecturer. Mr. Glasse spoke for about an hour and a quarter on "Poverty, its Cause and Cure," and after considering the causes brought forward by the abstainers and the Malthusians, showed their insufficiency to account for the present condition of our industrial classes. The reason of their poverty, notwithstanding the growing wealth of the nation, he found on the contrary in the monopoly of the means of production and distribution in the hands of the capitalists. After dealing with the cures professed by the church, with its mission-halls and regenerated humanity; by trades' unionism, with its recognition of the essential justice of capitalism, and by co-operation, with its maimed doctrine of self-help, the lecturer concluded they were mere, if

not miserable, palliatives, and declared that nothing short of Socialism was an adequate remedy for the necessities of the case. The various points of the lecture were well taken up by the audience and heartily appreciated. The questions were of the usual order, and the only opposition came from some teetotalers, partly because they misunderstood the drift of the remarks made upon the drink question, and partly because they were annoyed that so little commendation was given to their paltry panacea. A most successful meeting was brought to a close by a call from the chair to give a ringing cheer for the Social Revolution.

On Tuesday evening, Mr. Glasse went to Blyth, and in spite of very disagreeable weather an audience of nearly 300 came together to hear an address on "Christian Socialism." The lecture was simply an exposition of ordinary doctrines, enforced not merely by illustrations drawn from our social condition, but also by the teaching and practice of the Christian Church. The schoolroom was crowded on Wednesday evening at Seghill, and the concluding meeting among the miners was held at Seaton Terrace. The lectures were everywhere listened to with interest and sympathy. The circumstances of the miners in Northumberland are extremely favourable to the spread of Socialism, and the most sanguine hopes may be entertained of their almost unanimous adhesion to our principles at no very remote future. There is much privation from irregular employment, and little is needed to commend our cure to their superior intelligence.

A meeting at North Shields on Friday night brought the engagement of Mr. Glasse to a close. Here the same friendly reception was given to Socialist doctrines by a good audience. This town seems also a promising place for our work. The members of this branch are distinctly enthusiastic, but complain about a want of speakers. The best results might be expected from a propaganda carried on for a protracted period in Northumberland.

(The above report held over from last week.)

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Nov. 24, at 7.30, business meeting; at 8.30, lecture by Edward Carpenter, "Peasant Life in Italy." Athenaeum Hall, Tottenham Court Road, on Thursday December 1, at 8 p.m. William Morris, "The Coming Society."

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

Fulham.—Committee meets Wednesday evenings, 8 o'clock, at 4 Werlery Avenue, Dawes Rd., Fulham. **Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday November 27, at 8 p.m., Annie Besant (Fabian Society), "Socialism: Old and New."

Hoxton (L. E. L.).—Concert and Draw Committee meet on Saturday evening at 8.30, at 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road.—On Wednesday November 30, at 8, at the Globe Coffee House, 227 High Street, Mrs. Annie Besant (Fabian) will lecture on "The only Path to Freedom for Labour."—Saturday evening December 10, Grand Concert and Draw at Farringdon Hall, to raise funds for the purpose of forming a Socialist Club in the East-end.

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

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—James Leatham, secy., 15 St. Nicholas Street.

Arbroath (Scott. Sect.).—High Street Hall. Meeting Friday evenings. W. Smith, 12 Maule St., secy. **Bradford.**—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.

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

Cowdenbeath (Scott. Sect.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., secy. **Dublin.**—Saturday Club, Central Hall, 12 Westminster Street, every Saturday at 8 p.m. Free debates on Social and Political subjects. All friends invited. **Dundee** (Scott. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Political Economy class, 11 a.m. Lecture at 6.30.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. "Das Kapital" class every Thursday at 7.30. Members requested to pay weekly subscriptions on that night. Sunday evening lectures, Trades Hall, High Street, 6.30. Free Tron Hall, Chambers St., Mondays, 8. **Galashiels** (Scott. Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., secy. **Gallatovm and Dysart** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatovm Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Glasgow.—34 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Music and Shorthand Classes. Tuesday at 8. Choir Practice, Wednesday at 8. Discussion Class, Thursdays at 8 (on Dec. 1st Downie will open debate on "The Need of Moral Courage"). **SPECIAL LECTURES.**—On Sunday November 27, Rev. S. D. Headlam, in Waterloo Halls, at 7 p.m.—subject, "Trafalgar Square Riots." J. L. Mahon will commence a week's campaign in the Glasgow district on the same date. On Sunday Dec. 18, H. H. Champion will lecture in Waterloo Halls—subject, "What Socialists Want."—Saturday Nov. 26, at 8, meeting of branch in rooms, to arrange for Rev. S. D. Headlam's lecture, also Mahon's tour.

Hamilton.—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Thursday, 7.30. **Leeds.**—17 Chesham St., Sweet St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Sunday Nov. 27, at 7.30, M. Sollitt, "Temperance." **Leicester.**—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8. **Lochgelly** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (pro tem.), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.

Norwich.—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures every Sunday at 8. Business Meeting Monday at 8.30.

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

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

Walsall.—Temperance Hall. Meets every Monday.

West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 27.

10.30...Starch GreenHammersmith Branch
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and BallGraham
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Lane
11.30...Kingsland GreenBrookes
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road.....The Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenThe Branch
11.30...Regent's ParkParker
11.30...St. Pancras ArchesWalker & Wardle
11.30...Walham GreenThe Branch
3 ...Hyde ParkGraham
7 ...Stamford HillParker
7 ...Clerkenwell GreenNicoll

Tuesday.

8 ...Mile-end WasteDavis

Wednesday.

8 ...Broadway, London FieldsGraham

Thursday.

8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Wade & Pope

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—St. George's Cross: Sunday, 1 p.m.

Paisley Road Toll: Sunday, 5 p.m.

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.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

Sat. 26—*Kirkcaldy.* Port Brae, J. L. Mahon, 6.30.
Sun. 27—*Kirkcaldy.* Mahon will speak at Port Brae at 6, and in Hall at 7.

" *Dumfermline.* Public Park, Mahon, at 3.
Edinburgh. Trades Hall, High Street, 6.30

Mon. 28—*Edinburgh.* Rev. S. D. Headlam in Free Tron Hall on "Christian Socialism," at 8

" *Dumfermline.* J. L. Mahon, Co-operative Hall, "The Aims and Methods of Socialism," at 8 p.m.

Mahon will also address a series of meetings for the Glasgow Branch from 28th Nov. till 6th Dec., and will address the Lanarkshire Miners for a few days afterwards.

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

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.—*Yarmouth*—Thursday, on the Quay, at 7.30. *Carrow*—Friday, at 1.30. **Norwich**—St. George's Plain, Saturday, at 1.15; Haymarket, Saturday, at 8; Market Place, Sunday at 11 and 8. Ber Street Fountain, Sunday at 3.

Y. M. LITERARY AND TRAINING SOCIETY, Mornington Chapel, Hampstead Road, N.W.—Monday Nov. 28, T. Shingles, "Socialism Practically Considered," 8 pm

NELSON AND BOROUGH OF STRAND RADICAL CLUB, 2 High Street, Bloomsbury.—A short series of Lessons in Political Economy are being delivered on Sunday mornings by L. E. Fraser, at 11.30. No Fees.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE LECTURE SECRETARY requests all London lecturers of the Socialist League who have not already sent in the titles of their lectures to do so without delay. THOS. CANTWELL.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday Nov. 27, at 4.30 p.m.—*Business:* To draft a Declaration Form of membership.

NUPKINS AWAKENED.

On Saturday December 3rd the above Dramatic Sketch will be performed,

IN AID OF "THE PRISONERS' DEFENCE FUND,"
AT 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

FACTS FOR SOCIALISTS.

(THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH IN ENGLAND)

16 pp., One Penny.

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