

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S Oaths Bill has been carried at length, and Radicals are jubilant. That can hardly be wondered at, but the triumph looks a good deal smaller when it is remembered how the Social Question has come to the front during the five or six years that have passed since "Iconoclast" was flung out of the House by thirteen stalwart moral miracles, and how it has relegated to the background those forms and ceremonies over which men used to fight so.

Property needs all the aid it can get now to resist the onrush of "Spoliation"—otherwise resumption by the people of their own—and the vote of an Atheist is worth as much on a division as that of an Archbishop.

A delightfully old-fashioned air was given to the debate by some speakers, among them Mr. Sydney Gedge, who objected to the Bill because, among other reasons, "the common people were not afraid of a subsequent and problematical prosecution for perjury, but they were afraid of being damned; and it was to their interest to encourage this salutary fear of future punishment." We are used to this policy, but it is not often so frankly avowed.

When one remembers the Radical jubiliations over the Allotments Act, and the way in which our criticism was resented, it is interesting to note that our words are being found true. A meeting of agricultural labourers was lately held at Spalding, to consider the possibility of taking further action to put the Allotments Act in force in the district. The speakers stated that labourers had repeatedly and vainly applied for allotments to the local authorities and individuals. The meeting appointed a committee of six labourers to act on their behalf, and they have since addressed a letter to the Allotments Association declaring the Act a delusion and a sham, and expressing satisfaction that Mr. Jesse Collings, "who combined with the Tories to pass the miserable sham," had been removed from the chairmanship of the association.

Sir Charles Russell, leader of the English Bar and Liberal Attorney-General, who prosecuted Hyndman and others for their share in the riot of February 1886, is now so much further on as to demand that the State should undertake the responsibility of maintaining all the aged poor. Here are his words: He claimed that it was the duty of the entire community that had received the benefits of the youth and manhood of the men who ultimately became the subjects of relief, to recognise as an obligation resting upon them relief of those who had in their day and according to their measure, worked for the general good of the community; and further, that there should be no degradation or humiliation accompanying the receipt of relief out of the public taxation of the country; and also that such should have their full share of the help to which they had become entitled.

Of course, his utterance may mean anything or nothing, according to the way in which the political wind blows, but that the wily lawyer should speak so plainly marks which way it is blowing now. It is one of the straws that show how fast the Socialist movement is pushing along the people of all parties.

At the Middlesex Sessions on Saturday 10th Major Borrowes was found guilty of having assaulted Lord Howard de Walden, causing actual bodily harm. He was ordered by Mr. Justice Ed'in to pay a fine of £400 to the Crown, to pay costs and expenses of the prosecution, and to enter into his recognizances in £500, and find two sureties each of £250 for keeping the peace, especially towards Lord Howard de Walden, for twelve months.

It may be as well to recall the fact that what he is punished for is protecting a woman's life against her husband, who is in the "eye of the law" her proprietor and "natural protector," even when it happens that he is a drunken ruffian. The "sanctity of the marriage tie" must be preserved!

Contrast with this the "justice" meted by two Liverpool magistrates on the 16th to a woman for cruelly illtreating an orphan child aged thirteen. The girl had been an inmate of the Kirkdale Industrial Schools up to about eight months ago, when she was taken out by the

defendant, who kept a stationer's shop. After she had got into defendant's service, defendant began to beat her in the mornings, and send her out with papers.

One morning the girl got up at half-past five o'clock and opened the shop, but having been late up the night before, she fell asleep on the sofa, and the defendant beat her about the face and head, kicked her, and broke her arm. She ran out of the house, and a police-officer took her to the hospital. The medical evidence was that, besides the broken arm the child had two black eyes, and bruises on the head and various parts of the body. On paying £5 compensation to the child, and the costs, the magistrates allowed the defendant to leave the court.

You see, it was only an orphan pauper, and she a servant, so that while interference with vested rights in a woman's body must be atoned for by a heavy punishment, interference with the poor liberty of life and limb of a pauper may be cheaply paid for!

An exception to the general rule of ineptitude and brutality among those who "adorn the judicial bench" seems to be Mr. Justice Matthew, who in charging the Bristol grand jury, endorsed Mr. Justice Day's opinion that for minor offences against person or property sentences of long imprisonment were inexpedient. "They were unjust to the individual and impolitic from a public point of view. He trusted that the remarks falling from the bench generally on the subject would be attended to throughout the country."

Afterwards, in sentencing an old woman to one day for petty larceny, he said, "she had been frequently convicted for small thefts, and had been sentenced to seven and eight years' penal servitude for little offences. These sentences were unjust and absurd." We cannot hope that his brethren will follow his example, but it is interesting to note that he classed "person and property" together, and further that it was a theft he gave the small punishment for.

Most of his "learned brothers" give thrice the punishment for a theft that they do for a brutal assault, and reckon a dead worker at less than a stolen turnip.

Socialists who smoke cigarettes should look up a small society established by workmen for cigarette-making at 157 Houndsditch, E.C., about a year and a half ago. I smoke a pipe usually, and cigarettes very rarely indeed, and fear I must wait a good while before I can find a co-operative smoking-tobacco manufactory, and so feel that no capitalist is making a profit on my favourite weakness. S.

There is a sort of feeling of expectation in the air of something to happen in Germany, now that the ignominious old man who has so long filled the joss-seat has gone. Some hope that the new Emperor will go further than merely doing his best to keep the peace of Europe unbroken; that he will inaugurate "reforms" in Germany itself, relax the oppressive laws just re-enacted against the Socialists. An article in the *Pall Mall Gazette* dwelt on the solemn position of the Emperor Frederick, placed as he is between the new throne and probable speedy death, and seemed to think that his acts would be the more conscientious and beneficent for that reason.

I don't know: I cannot help thinking that he will rather feel himself an *ad interim* Emperor whose business it is to do nothing. Besides, I doubt the effect of illness as a stimulus to action: it seems to me that people who are ill and drawing near their death are rather apt to think more about their illness than anything else. It is from those who are vigorously alive that one expects vigorous action.

And after all, is it to be believed that it will be so easy for this one man and the clique in the Court that follows him to break through the strength given by the long years of the Bismarkian policy?

Finally, in no case, even if Kaiser Frederick lives and inaugurates the reign of reform, will it be good for the cause of the people or bad for it. May it not bring about a state of things not better but only more plausible? a state of things like that which we have so long "enjoyed" here; in which people are free—to starve; free also to speak—so long as their speaking does not annoy their masters too much. These are questions which we cannot help asking ourselves.

W. M.

## THE MAN IN THE OFFICE.

To assert that officials are persons of more than ordinary forbearance, is to assert that which no one except officials themselves believe. The popular conception of them is that they are heartless monsters. My own impression is that like other men they are neither all good nor all bad, and that among them are to be found the affable and sympathetic as well as the stony-hearted. But whatever my opinion may be, the general belief is that they are bad to a man. The reason for this belief may arise from the fact that the majority of mankind expect to find in the official the ideal man, and consequently one above the frailties of human nature, and, in short, the very incarnation of all the known virtues. But even if the popular view be correct, judging by my own experience as a man in office, when it is considered what trials and tortures officials are compelled to undergo, there is no cause for wonder even if they are all bad.

"Your experience!" says Mr. Sarcastic.

"Yes, my experience," I repeat. "Here am I as savage as a caged lion puzzling over the most extraordinary problems that ever beset the mind of man. Here, for example, is one that has frequently engaged my attention, and which I have given up in despair more than once. Perhaps Mr. Sarcastic can help me to its solution?"

"Dear Sir,—I am to deliver a lecture on 'Socialism' on Wednesday next, at K—. I intend to completely smash up its opponents. Please send me a list of the best arguments to use for that purpose, as I have not yet had time to study the question.—Yours in the Cause, "X—."

When I first took office, to make a *satisfactory* reply to this sort of thing was quite beyond me. I tried but invariably failed to do so. Whether I wrote short essays, sent packets of pamphlets, or referred my correspondent to the best known books on the subject, it was all one, I could not supply the right article. My correspondents seemed to have an idea that I was a small god, who on being applied to could supply them with a magic composition which they had only to repeat to completely outwit all who ventured to question the wisdom of their discourses. But the result proved them to be mistaken, and caused their estimate of me and my products to undergo a complete revolution. I usually learned this by receiving something like the following:—

"Sir,—I have to thank you for making me the fool you did last night. Your arguments (?) were knocked into a cocked hat. The audience could not understand them, and neither could I, though I did my best to defend them. What on earth do you mean by an 'economic revolution,' and such terms as 'bourgeoisie,' 'proletariat,' 'social equality,' etc.?"

"In your future correspondence with me I must request you to give a plain answer to a simple question.—Yours in the Cause, "X—."

These plain answers to simple questions I have already expressed my inability to supply, and although in the early days of my official career I manfully strove to do so, experience taught me that I was attempting the impossible, and that to ignore them was the only way out of the difficulty.

Although generally successful this expedient has sometimes failed, for a correspondent crops up now and then who will insist on having an answer, and about the third day after the receipt of his precious missive a post-card turns up with:—

"Sir,—I have received no answer to my enquiry of the —th inst. Reply per return.—Yours fraternally, "X—,"

written thereon. "Reply per return"! How the deuce can I reply per return as to:—

"What are the writings of Marx? Have they any reference to Socialism? and if so, what? Who are Proudhon, Lassalle, and Bakounine? What place, if any, have they in the Socialist movement? Is there a paper edited by a Mr. Morris called the *Co-operative Commonwealth*? If there is please send me a copy, and I will forward stamps for it on receipt. What are your views on the marriage question? Are you in favour of free love? Would not its adoption lead to the most disastrous consequences?"

To these queries I send a packet of pamphlets, and a short note recommending besides their perusal certain well-known books as the best answer I can give. But this method of treating the correspondent that will be answered does not satisfy, you are again reminded by him, this time by letter, that:—

"The pamphlets you send are not answers to the questions. What has 'Useful Work,' 'Organised Labour,' 'Plea for Socialism,' 'The Anti-Statist Communist Manifesto,' the 'Manifesto of the Socialist League,' and the 'Aims of Art' to do with them?"

"I don't want to buy Marx or Bebel's 'Woman,' nor any of the other books you mention. The paper you sent me called the *Commonweal* is a most revolutionary publication, and not what I asked you to get me. I return it with this post. Please send what I ordered. I do not wonder at the unpopularity of Socialism if mine is the treatment earnest enquirers receive. You either can or you cannot answer my questions; if you can't I shall know what to think of Socialism."

To tell him to think what he liked is what any one free from the trammels of office would do, but the man in office must not do so, but must answer his correspondent in the politest manner.

This forbearance generally acts as an inducement to the correspondent to exhibit to the full his prowess in the science of controversy, his superior intelligence completely pulverising that of the poor puny official. But as there are limits to human endurance, it sometimes happens that his "superior intelligence" is requested to take itself to a region where the temperature is reputed to be somewhat above that of the rest of the universe.

I think that examples enough have been given of the *simple* questions that the man in the office is called upon to answer by his numerous correspondents, but before leaving them I may mention that besides

these there are numerous other puzzlers which have to be dealt with, such as: "Was Carlyle a Socialist?" and "How can one best, taking into consideration the circumstances of to-day, act up to the Socialist ideal?"

There is, however, a class of persons that continually haunt the office, beside which the correspondent, to use a time-honoured phrase, pales into insignificance; and this is the "Caller." There are several orders of the class "Caller," for example:

1. Those you-are-all-wrong-and-I-can-put-you-right individuals.
2. Currency-mongers.
3. Editor-hunters.

Here is a specimen of the first-named order, addressing the man in the office:—

*Specimen of 1st Order:* "You Socialists are all wrong. All your talk about Social Revolution is nonsense."

*Man in the Office to Specimen:* "Well, nonsense or not, it is coming."

*S. of 1st O.:* "Yes, that's the confounded twaddle you agitators are always preaching! Now look here (*impressively*), if you people go on ranting about equality for a thousand years you will never bring it about. Its impossible; no two men are exactly the same size. Besides, even if you could realise your dreams, think what 'a beautiful continuity of sameness it would be,' in short, 'a divine monotony.' Just fancy now a state of society in which all the houses were built exactly the same height and shape, and where everybody ate the same kind of food and wore the same kind of clothes! Why, it's preposterous! And let me tell you this, that abuse the wealthy classes as much as you like they are the best friends the working-classes have. If you want their generosity you must leave off spouting about and abusing them; and I can assure you that your talk of revolution and equality is the very thing to make them button up their pockets and let you starve rather than help you. And serve you right!"

*M. in the O.:* "But we don't want their generosity. We want to get possession of the means of subsistence, and we shall before our agitation ceases."

*S. of 1st O.:* "You mean you want to rob the rich people!"

The Man in the Office endeavoured to explain what it was Socialists wanted, but all to no purpose, for the specimen rushed from the office exclaiming as he went, "A set of blockheads and rascals!" and left the man in the office—smiling (?).

Now, a specimen of the second-named order is a different kind of being altogether. He has usually written a book on the great "Currency Question," and this he will insist on explaining in the most detailed manner whenever he makes his appearance.

A novel specimen of this order turned up the other day; a shortish, thin, and excitable person he was. Red hot he bounced into the office and gasped out:—

"Are you Mr. —?"

I replied that I was.

"Oh," said he, "have you seen my book on the 'Currency Question'?"

"I have not had that pleasure," I answered.

"What a pity," he went on; "if you had I am sure you would see the necessity for the change it advocates; because it clearly shows that what is wanted is not Socialism but a proper system of currency."

"But," said I, "I don't see that a change in the currency system would do away with the necessity for Socialism. Because—"

"Ah!" he interrupted, "you haven't read my book. Look here, page 21 clearly proves that if the change I advocate were adopted, capital might be so employed that the men now out of work could be set to work and the employer at the same time reap a good profit. It's quite simple."

"But we Socialists," I answered, "don't believe in employers getting profit."

"But you surely don't mean that seriously?" he interrogated.

"I do," said I.

"But how are they to live then?" he asked.

"I'm afraid," I answered, "that you haven't studied Socialism. Here is a paper which will tell you something about it, and here are some pamphlets. Will you please read them?"

"Ah! well!" said he, "perhaps I will, but I don't see the use of doing so. Socialism may be all very well in its way, but what is wanted is the change in the currency system which I advocate."

"Well, I shall have much pleasure in reading your book or in handing a copy of it to our editor," said I, anxious to draw the conversation to a close.

My mention of the editor had an effect on the currency man which I did not anticipate. He wanted to know who the editor was, where he lived, would he grant him an interview, etc., etc. To all these questions I replied as best I could, and whether he has yet encountered the editor I know not. Having satisfied him as to the editor, I put out my hand and bade him "Good-day!" He grasped it firmly, and holding it in his he looked me straight in the face and said:

"Good-bye, you read my book and you'll soon come to the conclusion that its not Socialism that is wanted but the change which I advocate in the currency."

With this he bounced out and flew down two flights of stairs into the street in less time than it takes to write it.

The third named order of the class "Caller" is so well known that it is unnecessary to particularise; the editor is well acquainted with it, but not nearly so well as that unfortunate individual—the man in the office. He it is whom the numerous genera of the editor-hunting order besiege with a thousand and one enquiries—not the proverbial thousand and one—as to the editor and every conceivable thing connected therewith. But without going further I think it has been conclusively proved that the life of the sour-visaged man-in-the-office is not one of undisturbed serenity, but is full of care and anxiety. This being so it is not absurd to expect him to be "above the frailties of human nature and the incarnation of virtue?"

H. A. BARKER.

THE NEW YORK UNION CIGARMAKERS.—The strike of the union cigar-makers of New York against a reduction of wages and the tenement house system is still in progress. Extensive preparations are being made to effectually boycott Jacoby & Bookman, the firm who evicted a large number of tenants recently. The union's committee has a list of the firm's customers, and they will no doubt have some dealings with union committees which will not particularly increase Jacoby & Bookman's trade. An interesting feature of the prosecution of this boycott will be the distribution of lithographic reproductions of photographic views of the eviction of the twenty-two families by the greedy firm with the assistance of the organised capitalists' obedient servants, the notorious clubbers for which New York is famous. These pictures will be sent to labour organisations throughout the country with the boycott circulars and list of the scab firm's brands.—*Workmen's Advocate.*

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

BELGIUM.

On the 1st and 2nd of April, the Belgian Workingmen's Party will hold their annual Congress. The Federations of Verviers, Dison, Ensisval, Pepinster, Seraing, the Centre, Brussels, Louvain, Malines, Ghendst, Antwerp, Charleroi, and Mons will attend at the Congress, which is to be held this year at Liege, and the members of the party at Brussels seem to foresee that a reconciliation between the several fractions might possibly take place. The following questions are to be discussed:—1. Universal suffrage, and tactics to be adopted at electioneering time; 2. Minimum wages and reduction of hours of labour; 3. General amnesty. On the same date the Socialists of Seraing, near Liege, will open their new premises built on purpose for them.

It appears that contrary to the wish expressed by the Socialist fraction of the German Reichstag in their circular published in last week's issue of this paper, the Belgian Workingmen's Party intend to send delegates to the English Trades' Union Congress to be convened this year at London. At any rate they will be represented at the International Socialist-Congress of 1889 as well.

HOLLAND.

At the Hague the meeting held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the publication of *Recht voor Allen*, the Social Democratic organ of the Dutch workers, has proved a fair success. Domela Nieuwenhuis gave a vivid history of the paper, which at first appeared as a weekly, soon afterwards was published twice and since last year three times a week, and the Socialists are now looking forward to transform it into a daily organ. He pointed out specially that a very great part of the success was to be attributed to the energetic pushing of the workers themselves, who were indefatigable in selling it,—a hint to those who sell the *Week*. A considerable subscription was also made during the meeting for the strikers of Almelo, who had already received through the paper a sum of nearly three thousand guilders. The Socialist propaganda circles of the Southern Dutch provinces have decided to publish, from April the 1st a fortnightly paper which will chiefly deal with economical and social questions. It will be entitled *de Volkstem* (The Voice of the People) and is to appear at Middleburg. In that part of Holland, where the reaction has its strongest fortress, the new paper will do a considerable deal of good and we hope that its editors may be well supported by their more advanced friends of the Northern provinces, for the common benefit of Socialism in Holland.

FRANCE.

The *Parti Ouvrier* (Working-men's Party) of France issue a weekly organ, entitled *Le Proletariat*; they have a share in the editorship of a political daily paper, *Le Cri du Peuple* (the People's Cry); and they possess a fortnightly literary and artistic review, called *Le Coup de Feu* (the Gun Shot). They are now going to issue a monthly review, under the editorship of Henri Galiment. It will be entitled *Revue du Socialisme Scientifique* (Review of Scientific Socialism), and the first number will appear in the month of May.

Another weekly exponent of revolutionary Socialism appeared on the 18th inst. at St. Etienne (Loire Department), under the title of *Le Dshérité* (the Disinherited). Among other topics it intends to give every week a full record of the revolutionary events in all parts of the world, a quite new feature in French journalism.

A third paper will appear at the end of this month at Paris, and is to be entitled *Terre et Liberté* (Land and Freedom). This organ, published by the Anarchist groups of Paris, will also devote its careful attention to the international movement, and have original correspondence from several countries, both in Europe and in America. Besides, in order to represent as accurately as possible the opinions generally prevailing among Anarchists, the entrance to the editor's offices will be free to all combatants of the Cause, and everything will be submitted before its publication to the comrades assembled.

We have been asked to reproduce the following appeal from the political prisoners now in jail at Paris to the working men of all Europe:

“Paris, Pélagie Prison, March 9, 1888.

“WORKING-MEN OF ALL COUNTRIES.—The Emperor William is dead; the Crown Prince, the personal enemy of Bismark, the only one who in Germany might have opposed the bellicose tendencies of the Chancellor, need hardly be counted among the living.

“At this present moment, the working-men in many lands are asking themselves with anguish in their hearts, What are we to expect, peace or war? and the masses answer, War!—so convinced are they in every camp that the ‘saviours’ of the people are already designated: here it is Moltke, there Boulanger, others elsewhere.

“Therefore we must not deceive ourselves; it is a very grave situation, and most assuredly the day is not far distant when the trumpet will sound summoning the gathering of innumerable human herds, which the ‘shepherds’ will devote to death, with this difference, that at the slaughter-houses they are bled by the butcher, while on the battle-field it is the victims who slay one another.

“Once again, Shall it be so? That depends.

“In Germany the Socialists of every shade number about a million and a half of men convinced in their creed, one-sixth of the adult population of that country.

“If they wish it, war will not take place; but for that purpose they must not satisfy themselves with mere protests, as in 1870. If war be declared, they must prevent it. Let them take up a decided attitude, and raise without fear or weakness difficulties for the Chancellor; let them agitate, and fight if necessary, to reconquer the autonomy and independence of the smaller States of the confederation; let them sow broadcast the seeds of the revolutionary idea; refuse to bear arms against France, while turning them without hesitation if needs be against their oppressors; let them vigorously propagate Socialist revolutionary doctrines, forget their dissensions between sects and schools, that they may be united to shake off the iron yoke that weighs them down, and the French revolutionists may be relied upon, at least we hope so, to neglect for the moment all doctrinal questions and turn their attention only to the social war.

“The Italian revolutionists, who are no way minded to assist Crispi, the cantankerous, in his adventures, would not be slow to follow this example and tie the hands of their Government in such manner as to render it incapable of intervening in favour of its master Bismark, if not to send him flying altogether one of these days.

“In this way the grave that is again being prepared to swallow up the

proletarian revendications, might not improbably be dug to put out of the way for evermore the privileged and their monstrous monopolies.

“Well now, comrades in every land, at this critical moment, in the face of this alternative of life and death, let us ask whether the time has not come to close our ranks and to prepare for a final effort? To that end should not all our theoretical disputes be put aside, to make room for fraternal feelings only? Is it not high time at last—and this we repeat without asking anyone to sacrifice his personal preferences—to bring about the union of all the Socialist revolutionary forces and to cease to annihilate one another by internecine strife?

“Is it not our duty the rather to bring together all our strength and all our energy for the struggle and the victory?

“Let the governing classes seek wars of extermination between the peoples, but at the same time let it not be forgotten that it is the duty of revolutionaries to meet such excitations by an agreement between the workers in all countries, that on the day when the despots would seek to lead them into the slaughter they may be prepared to answer the provocations of the so-called directing classes by the class war, a social war which is destined to free mankind!

“DEVERTUS, of the staff of the *Cri du Peuple*; A. BALL, saddler; E. ODIN, staff *Revolutions Cosmopolite*; P. PONS, manager of the *Revolutions Cosmopolite*; G. DEHERME, staff of the *Autonomie Individuelle*.”

ROUMANIA.

A rather strong Socialist movement is beginning in Roumania, but strange to say the recruits are mostly middle-class men, professors, teachers, functionaries, solicitors, officers in the army, pressmen, etc. The reason for this curious phenomenon is that the working-classes are, as yet, extremely ignorant, but of course this ignorance will gradually disappear; and it is to be hoped that here, as everywhere else, the emancipation of the workers will become the work of the labourers themselves. Anyhow, at the present time two solicitors of Bucharest, Mille and Ganesco, are endeavouring to organise the workers in various societies. They have formed unions of metal-workers, of wood-carvers, of shoemakers, and a general Labour Emancipation Union, “*Circle Muncitor*” (the Worker's Society), which has already its weekly organ, entitled *Desrobiera* (Enfranchisement). At Roman, another Socialist of the well-to-do class, comrade Mortun, has been elected member of the Roumanian Parliament. He is co-editor, in conjunction with a former professor at the University, of three papers, *Revista Sociala* (Social Review); *Contemporarul* (the Contemporary), a scientific organ; and *Muncitor* (the Worker), defending the interests of the labouring classes. All three are published at Jassy, the capital of Moldavia, and seem to have considerable influence all over the country. V. D.

SPAIN.

TARRASA.—A strike of about 500 men is reported here. A correspondent writing to a Barcelona journal, says that the sanitary inspectors of the town having made a visit of inspection to the factories, found the gas of such bad quality and so injurious to the weavers, that they at once ordered the suspension of work during the hours which would necessitate artificial light. The employers on seeking to make up for the loss of time involved by extra long hours when the light was improved, were met by a refusal from the workers, whereupon those who were foremost in refusing were dismissed. A strike was the result, and several meetings held among the workmen, resolutions drawn up and a strike fund set on foot, and so forth.

ITALY.

CATANIA.—An important demonstration has taken place in this town, in which the working-men have demanded food and labour of the municipality. This coming close upon the Roman agitation, is yet another among the many signs of the times coming on us.

MONZA.—Philanthropy is rampant in Monza, though certainly its workings are somewhat ludicrous. We hear that a certain influential firm in the town bethought them on a sudden of giving a small umbrella or parasol to every one of their work-people, to keep their poor heads from the ardours of the summer sun. Is this a reminiscence of the immortal burlesque electioneering scene at Eatanswill, familiar to faithful students of Dickens, where it will be remembered the town was flooded with green silk parasols as one among the several delicate and poetic means taken to bring over the populace to the Slumkey interest?

How history repeats itself! We hear, too, in this town of another labour-owner, who is quite the conventional type of high-handed autocratic Italian business man. One pay-day he handed to one of his employes something less than his stipulated wage, and on the man protesting threw the balance due on the table, and informed him that in his establishment the work-folk were to take what he chose to give them, and gave him notice that he might find work elsewhere. I only instance this little scene as a type of many, and as such not wholly insignificant.

ITALIAN POINTSMEN.—The pointsman (*deviatore*) on the Italian railways, that most responsible and important factor in railway organisations, living with eye and ear always on the strain—well, he is treated with an unjustifiable indifference (as it appears to me) by the companies, who, through him, are responsible for so much human life. For instance, one article in the *Service Regulations* lays down that “the duration of the day's service is so regulated that the pointsman may get ‘at least’ 7 hours uninterrupted rest, besides ‘at least’ 2 hours in the day during the interval of trains passing.” Now practically this comes to 17 hours work, for one may guess pretty well that the 2 hours extra repose gets usually absorbed in some unforeseen way, and, whether or no, an hour or so while on duty is not much help physically or mentally. For this arduous work about 50s. a month is an average wage for a man who has been in the service for a long while. The regulations also fix the amount of bonuses which vary between 12s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. per month. “But,” says the *Fascio*, “the regulations that are so short and concise as regards payment, are quite otherwise interminable when touching fines and punishments. Five pages are devoted to the classification of punishments to be inflicted on this unlucky staff, who while loaded by a liberal hand with so many benefits, should venture through overpowering hunger or sleep to be found wanting in their fulfilment of the duties prescribed by the Service Regulations. The fines begin at 1 lira and rise to 10 lira, without counting reductions, degradations, etc. Such is the largesse conceded by the railway regulations in action since Feb. 1st, 1888. But it farther seems that those entering the service since then will not be allowed to benefit by the pension fund instituted in 1867.” The *Fascio* concludes by urging all the railway staffs to unite for their own defence, and join the Socialist ranks for the furtherance of the emancipation of labour. M. M.



HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW: FIRST, FEW MEN NEED 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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**Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.**

#### Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday March 21.

<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>Boston—Woman's Journal</b>	<b>Brussels—L'Avant-Garde</b>
Die Autonomie	Chicago—Vorbote	Liege—L'Avant
Jus	Vorbote	SWITZERLAND
Leaflet Newspaper	Corning(Iowa) Revue Icarienne	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
London—Freie Presse	Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	ITALY
Leicester—Countryman	Fort Worth (Tex)—South West	Gazetta Operaia
Labour Tribune	Hammon(NJ)Credit Foncier	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Norwich—Daylight	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volkshlatt	Rome—L'Emancipazione
Railway Review	Faterson (N.Y) Labor Standard	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Worker's Friend	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	SPAIN
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	Coast Seamen's Journal.	Madrid—El Socialista
Adelaide—Our Commonwealth	Free thought	Cadiz—El Socialismo
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	GERMANY
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Madras—People's Friend	La Revolte	AUSTRIA
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Guise—Le Devoir	Arbeiterstimme
New York—Freiheit	<b>HOLLAND</b>	HUNGARY
Der Sozialist	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Truthseeker	<b>BELGIUM</b>	SWEDEN
Volkzeitung	Antwerp—De Werker	Malmö—Arbetet

## CELEBRATING THE COMMUNE.

THE London Socialists celebrated the seventeenth anniversary of the Commune of Paris by holding a meeting in Store Street Hall. In spite of the unfavourable weather, the hall was filled to overflowing with Socialists of all shades of opinion and of all nationalities. While the meeting was assembling the sale of literature was pushed in an energetic manner; large numbers of Walter Crane's "Cartoon," and of the 'Speeches of the Chicago Martyrs,' being put into circulation. One or two banners of the different organisations taking part in the celebration were displayed. The proceedings began with singing "No Master" by the Socialist League choir, after which the chairman—comrade Hyndman—explained the object of the meeting, and expressed his gratification at the fact of the general co-operation of all the Socialist organisations. Whatever personal jealousies may have existed or did exist, were sunk on the occasion, and that was an earnest of what would happen in the event of the Socialists of London being called to do more arduous work than that of demonstrating. Quite a shoal of letters and telegrams were read. In Britain meetings were held at Dundee, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Walsall, Norwich, and Dublin, all of whom sent greetings. A letter came from the New York workmen, expressing the solidarity of the American Socialists; another from the Workmen's Party of Belgium, and one from the workmen of Paris. These international greetings show that the spirit that removed the Vendome Column, animates the Socialists of to-day more than ever. The same feeling was shown in the selection of speakers, and none of the English representatives had better receptions than our Russian comrade Peter Kropotkin, or our Austrian comrade Kautsky.

The resolution was moved by Kitz, who pointed out how the real significance of the Commune was gradually dawning on the working-classes. The upper classes have known all along that it meant free labour and social equality, and hence their bitter and virulent attacks upon it; but in spite of the lies of hireling journalists, and the mouthing of political hacks, the action of the Paris workmen of 1871 is becoming better understood every year.

John Burns pointed out to those people who thought that the horrible carnival of blood which closed the Commune would not occur in this country, that the recent behaviour of the police and military in Trafalgar Square, the present brutality of the Government in Ireland, and the Scottish Highlands, showed that the privileged classes of England were prepared to act exactly like the plutocrats of France, and if need be drown in a sea of blood all who denied their right to live in idleness and luxury at the expense of the toiling masses.

Kautsky pointed out how the Commune was but one of a series of attempts on the part of the workers to rend their chains, and how time after time brute force had been called to the aid of the plun-

derers. The people did not forget how their fathers were slaughtered, and were not prepared to be put off with fair words. Now the people in the provinces of France understood better the political juggle, and every year the education of the proletariat in the social question advanced with rapid strides—so that in the event of another rising, the men of the provinces would be with the workmen of Paris, and would fight to the bitter end; because, not mere dynastic or political reforms would result from victory, but real freedom and social equality.

Mrs. Wilson told how heroically many of the working-women of Paris behaved. She insisted that it was not the mere election of a democratic town council that made her celebrate the Commune, but the fact that it was an attempt on the part of the people to be really free in the full sense of the word.

Mrs. Aveling delivered a most eloquent speech, and showed how real an immortality the martyrs of the Commune have,—how the heroism of Delescluze still lives in the memory of the masses, and how all are urged on to do nobler deeds, because of the devotion of those dead ones.

Comrade Morris declined to call the Commune a failure. There is a time, he said, when men must be prepared to fight for their principles, and most certainly the time most suitable for the proclamation of the social republic and the solidarity of nations was when those principles were being trampled under foot by the hordes of the privileged ones of the earth in 1871 before the intellectual capital of the world. We had progressed since then, because of the action of the men of the Commune. What a blank there would be in history were there no Commune of Paris! Gradually the veil was being torn down, and the oppressors and the oppressed were coming to look one another in the face. The beginning of the end was perhaps not far off; the revolution was not something to come, we were in the midst of it.

Sparling pointed out how the Communists laid down their lives in the cause of humanity, and told the people that while it was very likely many present would be ready to fight bravely, he was afraid that they were lacking in the steadfast everyday devotion necessary for educating and organising the masses.

Kropotkin showed how the time had come round for another revolution in France. Seventeen years had come and gone since the Commune, and dynasties seldom lasted longer in France. When it comes, he hopes the people will seize the means of production, and not allow themselves to be cheated with mere political tinkering.

Mrs. Hicks dwelt on the necessity of the Socialist party organising all its forces, moral and intellectual as well as physical.

The speeches were listened to in the most attentive manner. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed. This was markedly manifest during the singing of the "Carmagnole," and one could easily see that the sentiment of "the republic of humanity" pervaded the minds of all; even the detectives once or twice were carried away by the enthusiasm, and vigorously applauded, in spite of themselves. After the speeches were over, the vast audience stood up and uncovered in memory of the dead. The meeting was closed with three cheers and one cheer more for the social revolution.

A. K. DONALD.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The working-men the civilised world over have been this week celebrating the Paris Commune. This is evidenced by the fact that at the Store Street Hall on Monday night, telegrams and letters of sympathy and greeting were read from Brussels, the National Committee of the French Workmen's Party, Paris; the Socialist Labour Party, New York; the Federation of Socialists, Paris; Ireland (two); Glasgow, Dundee, and Edinburgh; Ryde, Isle of Wight, Birmingham (two), Hull, Norwich, Bolton, Nottingham, and others. Altogether in England there has been some 20 celebrations.

The grand meeting at the Store Street Hall was organised by the S.D.F., S.L., F.S., and F.G., and is the first occasion that a distinctively English celebration has been held. We notice in consequence of it the London press has changed its manner of attack; formerly the celebrations were sneered at as the incoherent ravings of foreign refugees. This dodge, however, would not do this year, and so we find the *Press* devoting itself to a criticism of the cut of the clothes of the speakers. Even the organ of the great Radical Party, the *Star*, sent a reporter with a tailor's eye, for it is perfectly evident from the report that he concentrated almost all his attention on the *dress*, etc., of the speakers. He did, however, allow himself to wander once from the clothes. He attempted to estimate the number present, and his method of calculation appears to have been based on the assumption that twice two are one—a very different method to that usually adopted by the same journal when reporting Home Rule meetings.

However, whatever the press may say—and the *Echo*, *Evening News*, *Star*, and others, all devote considerable space to it—the phenomenal success of the meeting marks the beginning of a new era of Socialism. Numerically and financially it exceeded the most sanguine anticipations. It was truly a meeting of the working-men of London, so much so that from out of their pockets they paid its cost.

**Receipts:**—Collected at Store Street, £7 1s. 8d.; C. J. F., 2s.; P. W., 2s.; H. R., 2s. 6d.; R. Molero, 5s.; and Raymond Unwin, 1s. Total, £7 14s. 2d.  
Complete Balance Sheet next week. H. A. BARKER, Secretary.

MADRID.—*El Productor* says: "Distress reigns in Madrid side by side with opulence, although it has not the same power of manifesting itself. For example when at every moment the press offers for our reading notices of grand parties and banquets among the aristocracy and bourgeoisie, there appears once a week such a notice as the following: 'To-day there passed through several of the streets of this capital a crowd of men numbering a hundred or so, in demand of work. Their attitude was entirely peaceful.' Decidedly Madrid has not yet become Socialist. And again: 'The men at work on the National Library in course of construction, declared themselves on strike the other day, demanding, it appears, a rise in wages. The strikers retired quietly to their respective dwellings.' There is, however, nothing to be disquieted about in this news, for we read next day that the strikers got back to their work under the same conditions as before."

M.



## A Speech from the Dock.

OUR comrade John Burn's speech before Mr. Justice Charles has been printed in full. It is one of those documents which will one day be eagerly sought after as illustrating a remarkable period in the Social Revolution in which we are now all of us taking a part. It is called a speech in defence of the defendant, but in point of fact, considering the nature of the evidence brought forward in support of the ridiculous charges made against our friends Burns and Graham, no defence was needed, except against the legal quibble by which the defendants were found guilty of illegal assembly and sent to jail for having committed this crime. Under these circumstances Burns' speech really took the form of an indictment against the society which had been terrified by the meeting of a few of its victims under the name of the unemployed; and which in its terror, egged on by the bourgeois press, eager to make a sensation of anything that came handy, and the tradesmen of London who pretended to think their trade was in danger, got the meeting of the 13th November proclaimed and manufactured the riots of Bloody Sunday.

Socialists may well be glad this speech has been printed, in which Burns has clearly shown that this fear of the unemployed was the genuine cause of the closing of Trafalgar Square, since it has been the fashion of the half-hearted Radical, and no-hearted Liberal M.P.'s who have been driven to take up the matter, to dwell on the point that the meeting on the 13th was a genuine political meeting and was on a different footing to those that had been held there before during last autumn. Whatever significance there was about that meeting was given to it by the previous meetings and the treatment they had met with; and I repeat that a meeting merely to protest against Irish wrongs would not have been proclaimed. Burns and Graham went to jail on behalf of the unemployed, and for the matter of that for the employed also; those who are employed to produce wealth which their employers and not themselves enjoy. Our comrade did well then to keep their case so stoutly before the court, and to take coolly whatever might befall him from the partisan judge who tried him. All Socialists should be well acquainted with their comrade's defence, not of himself but of them.

W. M.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### ABOUT METHODS.

As Socialists, we must look to it that sectarianism does not get amongst us. We all have practically the same ideal, but there is room among us for honest differences of opinion as to method. There is, however, no room for sarcasms about "penny whistles" or "not being able to see beyond one's nose." This kind of horse-play is apt to lead to worse.

With our aim acknowledged to be the same, why cannot each throw himself into the work that lies nearest to his hand, remembering that the work of others may not be the same as his? If he must gain recruits for his own particular regiment, let him try to draw them from outsiders. Instead of preaching to his fellow Socialists, let him visit the surrounding heathen, and he will have plenty to do there.

We all seek the most effective way of realising our ideal. "Political" say that to do this we must send men to Parliament; that though they be as voices crying in the wilderness, yet they act as propagandists. "Non-politicals" believe the disadvantages to more than outweigh this. The fact of such a difference of opinion existing proves that the time is not yet ripe for concerted Parliamentary action. Until we see clearly that such action is the nearest way to our common goal, then it is not the nearest way for us.

Socialists must remember that they are not mere political reformers. Reforms they have every opportunity to assist in, in their capacity of citizens and voters, and such reforms will be more readily attained if Socialism is kept out of sight. Numberless reforms have been failures, and there is no reason why Socialism, as such, should interfere, perhaps to its discredit, with what is really not Socialism at all. Though we are reformers, we are revolutionists first, parliamentary or otherwise. Let us educate and agitate ceaselessly, for there is a wide field of work before us. Then when we find that parliamentary action is clearly and unquestionably the shortest course to our goal, there will be no need to urge Socialists to political action.

Those who in their prophetic vision see no place for parliamentary action, do not, I think, recognise the many-sided aspects of the struggle. They see that mere evolution can never bring health to the body politic. Disease is on us, and its evolution is Death. As evolution is not always an advance, so evolution of our present society means degradation and retrogression. The conclusion drawn that legality must be thrown aside and only physical force used is unsound. If parliamentary action is to be rejected for ever, then ultimately a line of bayonets will have to be faced. A good general always tries to take the enemy in rear, and with a majority in Parliament we will have got behind the line of steel, and by holding the purse-strings can make the figure harmless. The final struggle will perhaps be in Parliament, and then the babble of legislators pretending to rule will sink into much desired and everlasting silence, and the new era will have begun.

W. A. CARLILE.

[This letter must close the discussion.—Eds.]

### CARDINAL MANNING ON THE WORD "PROLETARIAT."

SIR,—Reading the other day a pamphlet by Cardinal Manning, entitled 'The Rights and Dignity of Labour,' I came across the following passage descriptive of a term in almost constant use at all Socialist and kindred meetings when the workers are spoken of:

"There are some people who are trying to force into the mouth of Englishmen a very long word—the *proletariat*. I have no doubt you have all heard it and all read it. When I see it in a book, I suspect the book at once. When a man says it to me, I doubt whether he is an Englishman. Our old mother-tongue has

a great many more monosyllables than polysyllables in it, and I love it all the more for that, for I think our old Saxon monosyllables have the strength of a strong race in them. Now, I had ten thousand times rather be called a working man than a proletaire. I will tell you my reasons against the name of proletaire. It is pedantry; it is paganism; it is false; and it is an indignity to the working man. It is pedantry, because it was dug up out of the old Roman law by certain French writers, chiefly in or about the time of the first French Revolution; and that accounts, perhaps, for its paganism in its revived state, and I will tell you why. The population of Rome was distinguished into classes. There were those who were called in legal phrase *capite cens*, or men told by the head. They were mere numbers; they possessed nothing; they were nothing; they could do nothing; they had two eyes and two hands and two feet, and they were entered in the poll-tax by the tale. These were the lowest of the Roman population. Next to them were *proletarii*, or men who had homes and families—if you call a home a roof or shelter where a man could lie down—but they were destitute of property. They had nothing but their children. They could only serve the State by themselves and by their children in military service, or something of that sort. Moreover, they were slaves, or to a great extent they were slaves. They were the greatest of idlers, and the most profligate and the most dependent of the Roman populace. They lived on alms; or what is worse, they were the followers and flatterers of those who had anything to give them. Well, now, I ask whether it is not an indignity to English working men to call them *proletaires*?"

Certainly if this description holds good it should not be a difficult matter to hit on a word already formed, or for the matter of that to coin one, which would be more in harmony with the idea our comrades would like to be formed of them. Perhaps some comrade may be able to give another and better description of the abused proletariat, in case the Cardinal has misread the meaning of the word.

E. W. ANDREWS.

[It seems to us that the Cardinal has proved too much for his own case. Is not the present system forcing the working-class into the position which he describes as that of the *proletarii*?—Eds.]

### MR. THOMAS KIRKUP AND "FREE ENQUIRY."

COMRADE,—Those critics of political Socialism (as distinct from its active colour-bearers) who attempt to deal with the question of forces and methods of attainment—perhaps often from personal pusillanimity, sometimes from a plethora of half-science, mostly from painful innocence of the common-places of the life of live men and women—very generally betray the serious fault of ignoring the *literal* truism of the evils they can expatiate about on paper with so much dignity. Removed in the latter case from conditions they therefore cannot correctly analyse, they only perceive things, as through a glass, very darkly. Indeed the arm-chair Socialist "don't know he's living," and current existence—except in its philistine phase—has for him much more of romance than realism. The quasi-scientific revolutionist, in his anxiety to be very largely within the mark, fails to do justice to his case. As an instance in point, is his wretched superstition *re* "free enquiry" and its grasp on revolutionary propagandist work; as to the rude real business of which work, they are as intelligent as sucking-babes. If it were a harmless superstition, it would suffice to allow the gentle hands of time and experience their legitimate province in washing the colour out of it—but it isn't. It is distinctly misleading to those who are as green as its apostles, and, since it means the ignoring of that sort of facts which reverse premises, it is also unscientific. Mr. Kirkup merely records a bourgeois fetish that is infinitely too popular when he remarks with quite pathetic conviction, in connection with a paragraph on militant Socialism ('Inquiry,' p. 116), "In our country happily this discussion is an idle one. We have long enjoyed the right of free enquiry"!! Even if he meant merely legal toleration, he is sufficiently inaccurate, and on the other hand I suppose it is satisfactory—in spite of the Greek sage—to think that, socially, so amiable a writer has never personally felt the dismal variance of realities with the almost cynically comfortable creed confessed in these words. Mr. Kirkup does not repudiate (p. 113) the necessity of violent policy in certain (Continental) conditions, "where free enquiry and discussion have been mercilessly repressed," and he sympathetically admits the plausibility in the nature of things that "the violent forms of Socialism have flourished chiefly where free discussion and the reasonable right of combination among working men have been prohibited." Believing him to be sincere, it is only conceivable that the writer of the above enjoys a personal inexperience of the average Britisher's life that is altogether phenomenal. In comparatively modern politics at most it is but a question of degree. Take what I and every Socialist propagandist in the country (outside the atmosphere of well-furnished studies) know to be an every-day illustration of the falsehood of the "free enquiry" fad: I am pretty intimate with a young Socialist who has been "sacked" from successive situations four times within three years—that is to say, deprived of the means of life—simply for his by no means riotous expressions of opinion. This person happens to be fortunate enough to have so far escaped, more or less, that vengeance of labour-competition which, however, wrecks itself every day on thousands of less lucky others—dismissed, gagged, ostracised, or, if they are not crocodiles, made miserable, as a reward for the practice of the "free enquiry and discussion" which Mr. Kirkup's fancy sketch gratuitously vouchsafes us. Maybe all this is not "merciless repression." But if not, I have yet to learn the meaning of language. Then as to the myth of "free discussion and reasonable right of combination," I need not remind any student of contemporary history of the significance of Mitchelstown, Trafalgar Square, Chicago, etc., even if such a student be blind to the circumstance that the legally theoretic affirmation of these liberties is hourly belied and mocked at by the absolutely dictatorial economic powers that be.

LEONARD HALL.

What is holy? what is sacred? I reply that human happiness is holy, human rights are holy. The body and soul of man—these are sacred. The liberty of man is of far more importance than any book—the rights of man more sacred than any religion, than any scriptures, whether inspired or not.—*Ingersoll*.

Call ye that a society where there is no longer any social idea extant, not so much as the idea of a common home, but only that of a common over-crowded lodging-house? where each, isolated, regardless of his neighbour, turned against his neighbour, clutches what he can get, and cries "*Mine!*" and calls it Peace, because in the cut-purse and cut-throat scramble, no steel knives, but only a far cunninger sort can be employed—where friendship, communion, has become an incredible tradition, and your holiest sacramental supper is a smoking tavern dinner, with cook for evangelist? where your priest has no tongue but for platelicking, and your high guides and governors cannot guide; but on all hands hear it passionately proclaimed, *Laissez-faire!* Leave us alone of your guidance—such light is darker than darkness—eat your wages and sleep.—*Carlyle*.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

### BRITAIN.

**STOPPAGE OF TIN WORKS.**—The Abercarn Tin-plate Works (with the exception of a water mill) are closed until further notice. The works have been kept going on day to day contracts for some time. Hence only 12 hours' notice to cease work was required.

**THE EIGHT HOURS' DAY.**—The whole of the members of the Perth branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, with one exception only, have unanimously given their votes in favour of the eight hours' limit; and by a majority of three to one have declared in favour of Parliament enforcing the eight hours' limit; and by a majority of three to one have declared in favour of Parliament enforcing the eight hours' day by law.

**MORE TRAMPS.**—Instructions have been received at Sheerness Dockyard for an extensive reduction to be made in the boiler-making department, where work has been slack for months past, on account of the determination of the Admiralty not to refit the obsolete sloops and gun-vessels lately returned from foreign service. New ships are being built to replace them, but as their machinery is supplied by contract, no work is provided for the boiler-making staff.

**THREATENED STRIKE IN THE BOTTLE TRADE.**—The glass bottle-makers of Lancashire, chiefly in St. Helens and Newton districts, are disputing with their employers as to the rate of remuneration, and a strike is threatened. Owing to depression two years ago the wages were reduced 2s. per week and 3s. for overtime, and the men say there was a promise that the reduction would be removed when the state of trade warranted it. They now apply for an advance, and the masters have offered 2s., but refuse the 1s. overtime.

**STRIKE OF BOLTON COLLIERIES.**—There are about four hundred colliers out on strike at Darsy-Lever Coal Company's pits, Bolton. The manager alleging that the men were sending up excessive quantities of dirt in the tubs, had at examination, and knocked sixty pounds' weight off every waggon coming up. This made a difference of nearly four shillings per week in the earnings of some of the men. They resisted the reduction, but the manager remained firm, and the men have struck work in consequence.

**THE SWEATING SYSTEM IN NEWCASTLE.**—The committee of the Newcastle branch of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors have issued a circular dealing with the "Sweating System, and the Spread of Contagious Diseases." In this an appeal is made to the public to consider not only the evils entailed by the system on those obliged to labour under it, but the danger to those wearing the clothes made. A public meeting will be held under the auspices of the Newcastle, Gateshead, and District Trades Council, in the Central Hall, Hood Street, Newcastle, on Wednesday, March 21st, at which the Mayor of Newcastle will preside, "in order to expose the above most obnoxious and degrading system."

**"THOSE WHO WOULD BE FREE."**—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers state that the heavy claims upon its funds makes it impossible at present to make grants to any other trade society engaged in disputes with their employers. Neither can they recommend a levy upon their members, already overburdened owing to the high rate of contributions. Perhaps this will help to make unionists realise the necessity of federating and of establishing a common fund, instead of relying, as is too often the case at present, upon precarious subscriptions from outsiders. The begging system is a very poor basis upon which to fight. If the workers won't pay to create sufficient funds to support them in their struggles, then they must put up with the consequences.

**THREATENED STRIKE OF STEELWORKERS.**—The workmen engaged in the steel smelting department of the Gowerton and Panteg works are now working their notice. This course has been taken by the workmen in order to get back the last two reductions. When the last reduction was made, it is stated that Mr. Wright, one of the partners in the firm, promised that whenever tin bars rose 2s. 6d. in price, he would give back the reduction without being asked for it. Tin bars since that time have risen in price at least 7s. 6d. per ton. The request for an advance has been lodged with the firm by the general secretary of the British Steel Smelters' Association, on behalf of the workmen employed in the above department. Recently a general all-round advance of wages took place all over the steel trade in Scotland and the North of England.

**CRIBBING TIME.**—The raid by the factory inspectors in the Rochdale and Oldham district is producing excellent results, as evidenced by the squealing of the culprits, who are loudly complaining of "officiousness," etc. The operatives' leaders are acting heartily in conjunction with the inspectors, and the alliance is striking terror into the culprits. In some cases, unfortunately, the workers themselves connive at these breaches of the law, and it is found necessary to proceed against them. This happened lately at Bradford, Manchester, when Inspector Platt summoned Messrs. Marsland and Co., cotton-spinners, for employing two young persons for cleaning persons during meal hours. The firm summoned an operative in their employ as the actual offender, and eventually the case against the firm was dismissed and the man was fined £1 and costs in one case and 10s. in costs in the other. Often, however, the workman has no option but to break the law or to lose his place. What the workers ought to do, therefore, in order to safeguard themselves, is to agitate for an alteration in the law whereby the whole responsibility shall be laid upon the shoulders of the employers.

**AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.**—The annual meeting of the members of the Kent and Sussex Agricultural Labourers' Union was held last week at Canterbury. Mr. T. Pilcher, of Folkstone, presided, and about two hundred and fifty of the branches of the organisation were represented. In presenting the sixteenth annual report, the Executive deplore the continued severe depression in agriculture and trade, and the fall in the rate of wages in several districts. The executive think a measure for the establishment of small holdings and a Compulsory Cultivation of the Land Bill are urgently needed to bring back the labourer to the soil and land into more active cultivation. Where voluntary arrangement for the acquisition of land cannot be effected, compulsory powers should be enforced, and the executive would urge upon land reformers a more general extension of this system. During the past few months the executive have done much to encourage and assist members to put into force the Allotments Act of last year, but they say the results are rather disappointing; as the local authorities, more especially the Poor-law Guardians, which are composed principally of farmers, appear to have a desire to evade the Act, rather than afford labourers the benefit it provides. The Act, it is urged, is too permissive in its character, and certain local bodies shelter themselves behind its provisions to prevent or delay the labourer from being placed upon the soil.

**THE NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS.**—In the circular which he has issued on the subject of the payment of members of Parliament Mr. Burt says: "I was elected when we were on the crest of a wave of prosperity unprecedented in our history. Wages were higher than ever they had been before, or than ever they have been since. From that time till now trade has gone from bad to worse, until, with low wages and irregularity of employment your struggle for life is at present of the keenest kind. During this prolonged depression repeated reductions in your wages have been demanded and enforced. In the condition of trade, resistance meant suffering, misery, and disaster. It also meant defeat, the acceptance at last of worse terms than were available at the beginning. I was often bound, therefore, to do what is, and always must be, unpopular with workmen, namely, to advise you, as the less evil, to submit to a reduction." This fact, no doubt, to some extent explains the attitude of the miners. The present representatives, however, though no doubt very good officials (in times of peace), and well able to manage the affairs of a trade-union on the orthodox lines, are absolutely without initiative, and too weak-kneed to push on to towards a radical change in the condition of the workers. The status quo of master and servant is taken as impossible of alteration. No hope of any change is held out to the struggling miners but the Micawberian possibility that "something may turn up."

**SWEATING BY GOVERNMENT.**—We draw our readers' attention, says the *Star* of the 16th, to a remarkable case of sweating in which the Government are the culprits. On 13th February last a number of tenders were sent in contracting for the keeping of Government offices in London in repair. The contract was eventually given to Messrs. Brass and Co., it having previously been held by Messrs. Perry, who had enjoyed the contract for the last three and a half years. Before the Messrs. Perry came Messrs. Mowlem held it for three years, and we are correct in stating that during a long period the prices of this work have been steadily going down. It is the custom of all contractors to offer large discounts on the nominal prices sent in, and this discount has been gradually increasing. Messrs. Perry, for instance, the former contractors, allowed 15½ per cent discount. How this affected the wages of their men can be seen by a reference to the schedule of prices. For instance, the standard rate of wages for ordinary plumbers is 10d. per hour. In their schedule Messrs. Perry fixed the rate of plumbers' wages at 11d. per hour, but they allowed a discount of 15½ per cent, which reduced the rate to considerably below the standard. Now, however, the tenders have, as we have said, fallen into the hands of Messrs. Brass and Co., who have offered a discount of 16½ per cent. upon the nominal tender, or 1 per cent. more than their predecessors. This reduces the wages of plumbers still lower, and makes the drop a very considerable one. The point is that, according to our information, several officials connected with the Office of Works openly expressed their belief that the work could not be properly executed for the price tendered by Messrs. Brass. On this point we express no opinion. All we say is, that the Government in accepting the tender have made themselves parties to the lowering of the rate of wages of a large body of working men considerably below the ordinary standard.

**THE WAGE-FUND BOGEY AGAIN.**—Mr. Bradlaugh has been down to Newcastle again, where he talked an "infinite deal of nothing" on the labour struggle. The following almost incredible bit of nonsense is from a report in the *Labour Tribune*, a journal devoted to the deification of Mr. Bradlaugh and other so-called labour leaders. Speaking against the movement for an eight-hour working day, he said: "If a man worked nine hours a-day at tenpence an hour, he got nine tenpences. If tenpence was taken off his wages how was he to be better off? The unemployed could not be absorbed more than the tenpence worth. At the best, there could be no change except that the men who got formerly nine tenpences would only get eight, and that one tenpence would be taken from each eight of these and given to another. To make a change it would be necessary to provide a new employment, and not to divide employment already existing. Strikes had not done any good in the past, and would not do any good in the future." It seems almost a work of supererogation to analyse such stuff as this. But unfortunately there are so many men who "put out their thinking," and receive as gospel the utterance of any quack if he blows his trumpet loudly enough. In the above instance the speaker, in his new capacity of an advocate for the capitalists, has overshot the mark. If there is any validity in the reasoning that wages must necessarily fall, and in the same ratio with the decrease of the hours worked, then surely that is what should have happened when the nine-hour system was adopted. Yet there must have been many amongst Mr. Bradlaugh's hearers whose personal experience proved the fallacy of his assumption. In my own calling, that of compositor, as in many others, not only was there no decrease of wages following the adoption of the nine-hour day, but on the contrary in several instances, owing to the absorption of surplus labour, the employés were able to enforce better terms. Even, however, should a diminution in wages follow from a decrease in the hours of work, there is to be set off against this the greater security of employment, and also the lessening of the tax for the support of the unemployed, to say nothing of the saving of labour-force; and surely if the workers are anything more than mere wealth-producing machines, their leisure-hours should be worth something for their own sake. It is quite conceivable, after all, that a man might have tenpence taken off his wage, and yet not be a loser. Mr. Bradlaugh appears to have arrived at the conclusion that the present rate of wages are absolutely perfect, and any change will only upset the delightful equilibrium at which we have arrived. He argues from the ridiculous theory of a fixed wage-fund. That is to say, the "margin for profit" or the difference between, say, 15 and 5 per cent. dividend on tramways, match-making, etc., is sacred, and cannot be utilised in employing those out of work or in lessening the toil of those working 12, 14, and 15 hours per day. In other words, the bulk of the workers must be content to be fleeced and overworked and the remainder to become paupers, tramps—outcasts of society. As to the concluding sentence as to strikes, it is constantly urged by Socialists that strikes are costly, cumbersome, and ineffective remedies, as a solution of the labour question; but in the unqualified way in which Mr. Bradlaugh speaks, I as a worker can only say the statement as reported is an absolute lie.

T. BINNIE.

One monster there is in the world—the idle man.—*Carlyle*.

To live on, the unpaid labour of other men—that is blasphemy. To enslave your fellow-man, to put chains upon his body—that is blasphemy.—*Ingersoll*.

Give the people food and justice, and the trade of demagogue is at an end.—*Ernest Jones*.

Access to what is necessary for the well-being of all should never depend on the self-interest of one. No man has a right to take more from society than the value of what he confers on society.—*Ernest Jones*.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 24, 1888.

25	Sun.	1812. Alex. Herzen born. 1879. Attempted Execution of Drenteln.
26	Mon.	1848. Insurrection at Madrid. 1869. Memorial Meeting for Ernest Jones in Trafalgar Square.
27	Tues.	1820. Hunt and others tried for their conduct at Peterloo. 1875. Edgar Quinet died.
28	Wed.	1757. Damiens Executed. 1883. Ten Members of the Irish "Patriotic Brotherhood" sentenced. 1884. Socialist Congress at Roubaix, France.
29	Thur.	1875. John Martin died. 1879. Lock-out at Pimlico Army Clothing Factory. 1884. Riots at Cincinnati.
30	Fri.	1135. Maimonides born. 1870. Negro Suffrage in United States. 1874. Rochefort escapes from New Caledonia. 1881. Arrest of John Most and committal for trial, seizure of <i>Freiheit</i> plant, etc. 1882. Execution of Strelnikoff at Odessa.
31	Sat.	1883. Sentries posted at New Law Courts, Somerset House, etc., hitherto unguarded.

*Death of Edgar Quinet.*—Edgar Quinet, philosopher, poet, historian, and politician, was born at Bourg (Ain Department), February 17, 1803; died at Versailles, March 27, 1875. In 1823, he published his first work, 'Tablettes du Juif Errant' (Notes of the Wandering Jew), and two years afterwards he translated Herder's 'Ideas on the Philosophy of Universal History,' opening it by a masterly introduction, which was enthusiastically received and recommended by Goethe. In 1827, he went to Germany in order to study philology, and became acquainted with Niebuhr, Schlegel, Tieck, Uhland, Daub, and Fr. Creutzer. As a result of his studies he wrote an 'Essay on the Works of Herder,' and a book entitled, 'Origin of Gods.' On his return he was sent to Greece by the French Government, and assisted in the resurrection of that heroic little folk; 1830 he published 'Greece in its Relations to Antiquity.' He warmly acknowledged the Revolution of July in France, and began to write his first political works, continuing therewith his literary and philosophical writings. Successively appeared: 'Revolution and Philosophy,' 'Philosophy in its Relations to Political History,' 'Germany and the Revolution,' 'Political System of Germany,' 'The Bohemian Epopees,' 'The Genius of the Epic Traditions of Northern Germany,' and 'Art in Germany.' These were followed by a wonderful work, 'The Unedited Epopees of the XII. Century,' revealing to France three centuries of its literary history. In his 'Warning to the Monarchy of 1830' he affirmed his democratic and republican ideas, prophesying seventeen years beforehand the decay and the fall of the bourgeois kingdom and the coming of the Republic of 1848. In his work on 'The Future of Religions' he concluded at the annihilation of all the old religious dogmas, and put forward justice and freedom as sole creed worthy of mankind. Then came 'Ahasuerus,' a somewhat nebulous poem in prose; 'The Poets of Germany,' 'Homer,' 'The Latin Epopee,' 'Epic Poetry,' 'French Epopee,' 'Indian Epopee,' 'Unity of Modern Literature,' 'The Genius of Art,' and 'History of Epic Poetry.' On April 10, 1839, he was elected professor of foreign literature at the Faculté des Lettres of Lyons, and in July, 1841, the minister Villainain created purposely for him the class of meridional literature at the Collège de France at Paris. There, in conjunction with Michelet and Mickiewicz, the Polish exile, he fought bravely for the cause of religious and philosophical freedom, and experimented in energetic and masterly language the deadly mortal influence of the Jesuits upon the peoples of Southern Europe. His book, 'The Jesuits,' which appeared in 1848, was an event of European importance, and was soon translated in every tongue. The professor was denounced by reactionaries all over Europe. In 1842, he edited the 'Genius of Religions,' and the following year, after a visit to Spain and Portugal, 'The Inquisition and the Secret Societies in Spain,' and in 1844 'Ultramontanism, or Modern Society and the Roman Church.' In 1846, Guizot ordered his lessons to be suppressed. On the revolution of February 24, Quinet was soon a soldier, and entered armed to the Tuileries. The Parisian voters elected him to the National Assembly by 55,000 votes. He behaved himself very courageously during the insurrection of June. Being elected again to the legislative Assembly, he predicted the dictature and the *coup d'état* of December, 1851. As a matter of fact the new Emperor proscribed him, and he lived an exile at Brussels from 1851 to 1858, and in Switzerland at Vevey from 1858 to 1871. In Belgium he wrote his 'History of the Foundation of the United Provinces,' 'Marnix de St. Aldegonde,' the 'Philosophy of the History of France,' and afterwards an autobiography entitled 'History of my Ideas.' In Switzerland he wrote 'Merlin the Enchanter,' the 'History of the Campaign of 1815,' 'Poland and Rome,' 'France and Italy.' In 1868 appeared 'The Revolution,' which provoked numerous political and historical controversies, to which he answered successfully. In February, 1871, Paris elected him by 200,000 votes. His last years were not very eventful. As poet he was mediocre, as philosopher somewhat nebulous and mystical, but he was a prominent historian and a far-seeing politician, and fond of justice and freedom. As a mere author he is a poetical, warm, eloquent, and vigorous writer.—V. D.

*Death of John Martin.*—John Martin, Nationalist M.P. for Meath. Like his friend John Mitchel, Martin was of Ulster; by religion a Presbyterian, and one of the men of '48 who was by force of events driven to take a course which brought him in conflict with the representatives of law and order, and secured for him transportation. In a fortnight from Mitchel's trial was issued the *Irish Tribune*, and a fortnight after that appeared one of the ablest of the papers produced to advocate the Irish cause, this was the *Irish Felon*. Its editor and proprietor was John Martin, a quiet country gentleman of County Down; he had hitherto been one of the quiet steady workers in all the national movements, but the scandalous proceedings of Mitchel's trial, and the fever of the times had affected Martin as most others. The Government adopted similar tactics to those lately tried by Balfour the Brave (?), the police had orders to seize the vendors and stop the sale anyhow, the offices were raided, presses seized and type smashed, and papers and documents taken. On August 14th, Martin was sentenced to 10 years' transportation; as also was O'Doherty of the *Tribune*. In 1858 he returned to Ireland, and for some time took very little part in public matters; in 1864 he was busy helping to form the National League, with the idea of effecting by open and constitutional means the reforms which were necessary, and which the Fenian organisation headed by Stephens hoped to effect by secret and forcible methods. On December 8th, 1867, Dublin was the scene of an immense funeral demonstration in memory of Allen Larkin and O'Brien, hanged at Salford for the Manchester rescue business; for taking part in this John Martin, A. M. Sullivan, J. J. Lalor, and T. Bracken were summoned as being seditious persons, and only after a severe fight were freed by disagreement of the jury. In December, 1869, Martin was put forward as Nationalist candidate for Longford, in opposition to Mr. Greville Nugent, and although Martin was badly beaten (he was in America), it was one of the most important election fights on record, as it was a fight against priestly dictation as well as for a seat.

In May, 1870, Martin took part in the formation of "The Home Government Association of Ireland." At this meeting Isaac Butt proposed the great resolution, and from then became the Irish leader. At the bye-election, 1871, Martin was returned M.P. for Meath, and at the general election of 1874 he was re-elected, and sat until his death, which was hastened if not caused by his affection for his life-long friend, John Mitchel. Martin was in London exceedingly ill when the news was received of Mitchel's illness. In spite of the protests of friends he left for Ireland, followed Mitchel to the grave, and before a week he, like his elder revolutionist, was done with revolution. He died aged 63, deeply respected by even his opponents and loved by his colleagues. Into his place stepped Charles Stewart Parnell, a similar rebel only more so.—T. S.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

God save me, great John Bull!  
 Long keep my pocket full!  
 God save John Bull!  
 Ever victorious,  
 Haughty, vain-glorious,  
 Snobbish, censorious,  
 God save John Bull!

O Lords, our gods arise!  
 Tax all our enemies!  
 Make tariffs fall!  
 Confound French politics,  
 Frustrate all Russian tricks,  
 Get Germans in a fix,  
 God bless them all!

Interview with regard to the Report drawn up by a leading Member of the Disorderly House Committee, and presented to the Vestry of St. George's, Hanover Square.

For ten weeks had we waited for Warren's reply  
 You'd have thought this would settle the question, but no,  
 To the letter we wrote,  
 Not a bit of it, Sir;  
 Looking eagerly out as the postman went by  
 For no sooner than Matthews had turned him to go,  
 And brought never a note.  
 This incurable cur  
 "How is that for politeness?" said Hobhouse and I.  
 Gat him back to his vomit, if I may say so.

It was not as if nothing had happened before  
 And since all we are offered for bread is a stone,  
 That could make us expect  
 My Lord Hobhouse and I  
 That the man on good manners would think it best for the Vestry to let it set little store;  
 alone;  
 For one must recollect  
 For it's useless to try  
 He'd behaved like a Bruin whose head-piece is sore.  
 To get anything out of Sir Charles, we must own.

You'll remember he suddenly altered the plan  
 He pretends what we ask for is not in his heat;  
 That with never a break  
 And it surely were hard  
 Had been working for years with success, and began  
 For unfairness elsewhere to find ought to compete  
 Such excuses to make  
 With our own Scotland Yard.  
 As had taught us to measure the mind of the man.  
 Dublin Castle henceforth, Sir, must take a back seat.

So we sought Mr. Matthews, and begged him to say  
 But the wrath of the public is now on the swell,  
 If he really supposed  
 For Sir Charles has supplied  
 It was right to let Warren go on in this way;  
 By his own good intents a new pavement in hell.  
 And the interview closed  
 And ere long will its tide  
 With a snub that his worship was bound to obey.  
 Sweep himself to perdition and Matthews as well.

J. L. J.

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.

**London Members.**—The London Members' Meeting will, owing to Easter Holidays, be held on Monday April 9th.

**Branch Subscriptions Paid.**—1887: Hastings, Nottingham, Palsall—Nov. Bradford, Croydon, Glasgow, Hackney, Ipswich, Leeds, Marylebone, Merston, North London, Norwich—to end of March. Edinburgh—to end of May. Mitcham—to end of July. Walsall—to end of August. Hull—to end of September. Bloomsbury, Waltham Green, Wednesday—to end of October. Leicester—to end of November. Clerkenwell, Hammersmith, Hoxton, Mile-end, Oxford—to end of December.

Annual Conference.

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Socialist League will be held at 13 Farringdon Road, on Whitsunday, May 20. The attention of Branches is particularly referred to (1) Rule V. on the subject of the annual conference, pp. 3 and 4 of Constitution and Rules; and (2) that all branches wishing to be represented at the Conference must pay their subscription up to the 31st March by May 1st.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Raymont, 2s. 6d. Weekly Subscriptions—Omitted on March 10th: C. J. F., 2s. 6d.; K. F., 1s.; Langley, 2s.; P. W., 6d.; Oxford Branch, 2s. For March 24th: C. J. F., 2s. 6d.; K. F., 1s.; Langley, 2s.; P. W., 6d.; Oxford Branch, 2s.; W. B., 6d.

## REPORTS.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Sunday, March 18, we held a very successful Commune celebration, short speeches being given by Mrs. Schack, J. Turner, J. Pope, Dan Chatterton, H. A. Barker, and W. Blundell. Songs and recitations, interspersed with music, were given by members and friends. The singing of the 'Marseillaise,' and three cheers for the Social Revolution, concluded a pleasant celebration.—B.

**HACKNEY.**—For several weeks past some members of the Hackney branch have been attending at Swaby's discussion rooms, Mile End Road. As a result, G. Cores was invited to open a discussion on the "Land Question" on Sunday evening last. No real opposition was given, the audience being very sympathetic. Comrades W. and E. Lefevre also spoke. Some pamphlets were sold, and a good number of leaflets distributed. The discussion is to be continued next Sunday evening by a Land Nationaliser.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—The French and English Socialists celebrated the Commune on Monday evening by a dinner, with speeches, the 'Marseillaise,' and other songs. This is the first celebration held in Birmingham, and we intend carrying it out on a larger scale next year.—A. T.

**LEEDS.**—Sunday last we commemorated the Paris Commune. Speeches delivered in English and Jewish. Comrades from Huddersfield paid us a visit.

**LEICESTER.**—Sunday last, 23 sat down to tea at 26, King Street. After tea a short address on the Paris Commune was given, and Barclay, Robson, Fowkes, Warner, Holmes, and others joined in discussion. Several ladies and Nottingham friends were present, and names and subscriptions were taken towards the formation of a Socialist club.

**GLASGOW.**—The heroic effort of the workers of Paris in 1871 to rid themselves of the domination of the selfish and privileged classes, was celebrated on Saturday in our rooms. Many appropriate songs and speeches from comrades and friends. On Sunday, by the holding of three very successful outdoor meetings at St. George's Cross 3 p.m., Paisley Road Toll at 5, and Infirmary Square at 7, the speakers being Gilbert, Glasier, Pollock, McLean, and Downie.—S. D.

**NOTTINGHAM.**—Celebration of the Commune on Saturday very successful. After tea Wame took the chair and gave a good account of the Commune. Proctor followed, and moved that the resolution in *Commonweal* be sent to papers; Doleman seconded. Songs, etc., during the evening by Messrs. Osborn, Dunn, and Drinkwater, and Mrs. Dunn closed with her 'Marseillaise.'—W. D.

**NORWICH.**—Large meetings at Ber Street in the morning and in the Market in afternoon, addressed by Mowbray and Mark Manley (of London). In Gordon Hall in the evening, Manley lectured on the Commune. Resolution which appeared in *Commonweal* carried unanimously. On Monday, successful tea in Gordon Hall, after which speeches, interspersed with revolutionary songs and music by the branch band.

**WALSALL.**—Monday night, Sanders lectured on "The Meaning of Socialism." On Saturday we celebrated the Commune, Sketchley (Birmingham) delivering address; Sanders and Guillemard (a French comrade) also spoke; Deakin in chair. An open-air meeting was held previous to indoor one.—J. T. D.

**LONDON PATRIOTIC CLUB.**—Last Sunday evening, some members of the Socialist League choir attended at this club, and sang revolutionary songs in commemoration of the Paris Commune of 1871.

**DUBLIN.**—The Dublin Socialist Club celebrated anniversary of the Commune last Sunday, at 2, Bachelor's Walk. Large attendance; T. Fitzpatrick in chair. Addresses explaining the principles and aims of the Paris Commune by chairman, King, O'Gorman, O'Connor, Swords, and Coulon. At close of meeting Coulon sang the 'Marseillaise' in French. A telegram of greeting from the Socialist League, London, was read amid great applause.

**EDINBURGH.**—On 18th, Tuke lectured on "The Religion of Socialism." Brisk discussion, in which the indefatigable Job Bone, a pillar of capitalism well known to Socialist lecturers, was severely handled.

**SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS.**—Monday the 12th, met at St. Barnabas Club-room, when Raymond Unwin lectured on "Socialism and Happiness." After the lecture a question referring to co-operative manufacture very ably replied to.—M. A. M.

## LECTURE DIARY.

## LONDON.

**Acton.**—17 High Street, Acton, W. (adjoining Purnell's Dining Rooms). Sunday March 25, at 8 p.m.

**Bloomsbury.**—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road. Thursday March 22, Special Business Meeting for Branch only.

**Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday March 25, at 8.30, A. K. Donald, "Punishment and Prevention of Crime." Wednesday 28, at 8.30, H. H. Sparling, "The Last Revolution."

**Fulham.**—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday at 8.

**Hackney.**—28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick. \*SPECIAL NOTICE.—All members are requested to attend at Berners Street Club at 9 p.m. Important business.

**Hammermith.**—Kelmecott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday at 8.

**Hoxton (L. E. L.).**—New premises, 1 Hoxton Square. C. J. Young, 8 Dunloe St., Hackney Rd., Secretary.

**Mitcham.**—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evenings from 7.30 till 11. W. E. Eden, 12 Palmerston Road, Wimbledon, Secretary.

**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).**—Sunday night meetings in Baker Street Hall, at 6. Secretary, J. Leatham, 15 St. Nicholas Street.

**Birmingham.**—Meetings at Summer Row Coffee House every Saturday evening at 8.

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

**Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).**—Meeting every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. H. M'Cluskey, Millar Street, Secy.

**Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sec.).**—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec *Dublin.*—Saturday Club, Central Lecture Hall, 12 Westmorland Street.

**Dundee (Scot. Sect.).**—William Morris will lecture in the Barrack Street Hall on Tuesday 27th.

**Edinburgh (Scottish Section).**—4 Park Street. Every Thursday at 8, class for study of Marx's 'Capital.' On Friday 23rd, 8 p.m., William Morris will lecture in Assembly Rooms, Constitution Street, Leith, on "Monopoly"; and on Monday 26th, 8 p.m. in Trades Hall, 142 High Street, Edinburgh, on "The Society of the Future." Admission 1s., 6d., and 3d.

**Galashiels (Scot. Sect.).**—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec *Gallatin and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).*—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatin Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

**Glasgow.**—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. On Sunday March 25, at 7 p.m., William Morris will lecture in the Waterloo Grand Hall, on "Art and Industry in the Fourteenth Century." Tickets 3d., 6d., and 1s. Those desirous of meeting comrade Morris will be in Rooms at 12 o'clock on Sunday.

**Leeds.**—Lady Lane. Open every evening. Business meeting Fridays at 8. Address all communications to T. Paylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.

**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. Monday at 8, Entertainment by the Manstrel Troupe, on behalf of the funds of the lock-out men—tickets, 3d. Tuesday at 8.30, Members meeting. Wednesday at 8.30, Ways and Means Committee. Thursday at 8, Band practice. Friday at 8.30, Literary Committee. Saturday, open from 8 till 10.30.

**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.**—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.

**West Calder (Scottish Section).**—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder. William Morris will lecture on Saturday 24th, at 7.30 p.m., in Peoples' Hall.

## OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

## LONDON—Sunday 25.

11 ... Acton—the Steyne ..... Acton Branch  
11 ... Turnham Green—Front Common... Ham'smith  
11.30... Hoxton Church, Pitfield St. .... Nicold  
11.30... Merton—Haydons Road..... The Branch  
11.30... Regent's Park ..... Parker  
11.30... St. Pancras Arches ..... Bloomsbury Branch  
11.30... Walham Green ..... Fulham Branch  
3.30... Hyde Park ..... Mainwaring and others  
7 ... Acton—Priory ..... Acton Branch

## PROVINCES.

**Norwich.**—Market Place, at 3 every Sunday.

**The Strike Fund.**—Entertainments will be given on Saturday evenings in the Hall of the League, at 8 p.m., in aid of the above Fund. Friends wishing to assist with songs, recitations, instrumental music, etc., should at once communicate with W. B. Parker, at office of League. First Entertainment, March 24th.

**East-end Socialist Club.**—A Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert will be given in Hall of League, at 8 p.m., on Easter Monday, April 2nd, in aid of funds of projected East-end Club.

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**—The members and delegates of the East-end Branches will meet on Sunday evening the 25th inst. at 1 Hoxton Square, Hoxton, 6 o'clock.

**PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION, Penton Hall, 81 Pentonville Road.**—Sunday March 25, at 7 p.m., Rev. Stewart Headlam, "Sins that Cause Poverty."

**LEYTONSTONE WORKING MEN'S CLUB, 1 Cathall Rd., Leytonstone.**—Sunday March 25, 11.30 a.m., H. Halliday Sparling on "What Socialists Want."

**INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEN'S EDUCATIONAL CLUB, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road, E.**—On Tuesday March 27th a Grand Concert and Dramatic Entertainment will take place at the above in aid of

the *Workers' Friend*, on which occasion the *Commonweal* Company will perform "The Tables Turned, or Nupkins Awakened," by Wm. Morris. Programmes, 6d. each, can be had of the Secretary of the S. L. and at the Club.

**SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.**—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday March 25, at 3.30 p.m.

## THE TABLES TURNED.

## ENGAGEMENTS.

Tuesday March 27... 40 BERNER ST., COMMERCIAL RD.

Applications for engagements to be made to the Manager, H. A. Barker, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C.

## NOW READY.

## A

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By FRANK FAIRMAN.

Socialism as it is—The Moral Basis—The Economic Basis—Current Fallacies—Objections—Quack Remedies for Poverty—Methods and Future, etc.

With Preface written by WILLIAM MORRIS.

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