

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Mr. Arnold White has been giving evidence before the House of Lords on the sweating system in the East-end, which no doubt will shock the respectabilities of the middle-class—for a little time; until in fact they forget all about it, and then to them these miseries will no longer exist. Probably the fact that the "sweater" is often as poor as or even poorer than the man he employs will come as a surprise to many who do not know the way in which the poor live. Now they know that fact might they not ask themselves the question, Who sweats the sweater? The question asked by a well-to-do person will have to be answered in the manner of the ancient Hebrew chronicler, *Thou art the man.*

Mr. Arnold White proposed remedies. We will not say that there are remedies, but there is a remedy, which Mr. White, it is to be thought would not relish, and that is the freeing of labour from privileged monopoly; all Mr. White can see as desirable to be done is to make a feeble attempt to stop foreign immigration, to crush out the small employer by a tax on workshops, and so forth, and then to stand by and see how much people would starve then—for they certainly would starve. What workmen should remember is that all this "sweating" is necessary in order to that "cheap" production of wares, which is still quoted as such a blessing to the working-classes (though scarcely I think with the same confidence as formerly). These cheap workmen must be cheapened down to their present misery in order that the more expensive ones may still be cheap relatively to the capital employed in buying them; so that this country may be able to compete with others, and other countries with this country; and in spite of all Mr. Arnold White's "remedies," this process will go on, and must go on until the whole cursed system breaks down—or blows up. The horror-stricken supporters of capitalism must not be so unreasonable as to expect to have an omelette without egg-breaking; or a capitalist without propertyless workers, the final expression of whom is this sweated East-end immigrant.

I should like, by the way, to ask of any of our friends that know the "industry" in question, whether Mr. White's confident assertion that all the sweaters are foreigners is strictly true?

Mr. Saunders is going to try the right of free speech by a civil action against Warren & Co., and some think that if the judges are anything but the creatures of reactionary bureaucracy, something ought to come of that: but as a matter of fact, that is just what they are. If they cannot find law for any piece of tyranny which our masters have a mind to, they are not worth their salt, and our masters should dismiss them. But surely they have already abundantly proved that they are worth their salt. They are expensive but necessary to our masters.

A report of a traveller in Siam says of the Nan slaves: "Every man of the lower orders must be enrolled as the slave of some master; but he is allowed to choose whom he will serve, and if he does not like one, he may enroll himself as the slave of another. . . . A slave is fed by his master while he is working for him, but at other times he must feed himself. No purchase money is paid for the slave by his master." Dear me! Siam is a long way off, and supposing one were travelling to see diversities of the condition of workmen, I for one should scarcely think it worth while to go through so much to learn so little as I should have to do if I were to undertake the journey. For the condition of the Nan slaves is just that of the London slaves; except, indeed that the latter do not find it so easy to shift themselves from one master to another as their Siamese brethren do; for there seems a certain flavour of compulsion on the masters to employ in the hotter and happier country. In fact the *Daily News* from which I extracted this good news of a better land, seems impressed by the fact, and says, "We can even imagine many of our less fortunate countrymen envying their prerogative." Would Mr. Arnold White like to take the place of agent for emigration to Nan-land? Or would he not think the workman too free there? The latter, I am afraid.

W. M.

Last week when Parliament discussed the affair at Ennis on the previous Sunday, the usual amount of bunkum was talked, and the result arrived at was of the usual kind—a majority for law'n'-order, and everybody pleased with themselves and angry with everybody else.

No new facts were brought out. The same old thing had happened; an "illegal" meeting, an unarmed crowd ridden down and beaten and cut about, and nobody to be responsible for it.

For once Balfour dropped his tone of flippant cynicism, and was as near seriousness as his soulless nature would allow. It is true that his seriousness only led to more careful lying than usual, though, careful as he was, not one of his excuses could stand examination. They were founded on the one-sided, warped, and worked-up version of what happened, handed in to him by his underlings in Ireland.

Stones flung after the bloody little drama had begun in the warehouse yard became the cause of all the bother; none was to blame but the "agitators," who called a peaceful public meeting, for the bloodshed that ensued; a meeting which had been held and was quietly dispersing became in his hands a "riotous and dangerous assemblage."

When one read all this in the next morning's paper one was quite prepared to see, as one *did* see, all his lies made clear in another day or two. In the enquiry the police could only produce, even from among themselves, witnesses to swear that two stones fell near Col. Turner, none being seen to strike him, nor did he bear a mark, and that these two were only seen after the soldiers had entered the yard. One police-witness even admitted, "I do not know of any policeman who was assaulted that day or struck!"

But Balfour was not content with what he had already done, and went on to assure the House, on the word of the doctor attending him, that Mr. Hill, the *Irish Times* reporter who was sabred, was not seriously injured. Whereupon the doctor denies that he has ever been communicated with about his patient's injuries by any one whatsoever.

It is almost certain, however, that Balfour is more a fool than a blackguard; that these lies that flow so glibly from his lips are prepared for him by the resident magistrates who do his bidding—and bend him to their will. These upholders of British power and pillars of the Constitution number 75, and in the official return of them published on the 11th it is said that 35 have no legal qualification at all for their posts.

They are good provocative agents, and ready at brutal repression when a chance occurs. Like Segrave of Mitchelstown, and many another, they have failed miserably in all decent endeavours at a civilised livelihood, but having graduated in bull-whacking and nigger-driving, make excellent underlings and tools to a Coercion Government.

Meanwhile, the unhappy country they keep under is "bleeding at every pore," as the newspapers put it; or pouring out its people at every port, as the fact is. Year after year they go forth to become the bitter unrelenting enemies of the British Empire, and yet the remnant left at home fight on as steadily as ever.

But it must be said that were the Irish people "on all sides of the sea" as united and resolute as they say, and as brave withal, they would have swept the world of the curse of English rule, and would not now be kept down by a sneaking cur like Balfour and the unscrupulous paid bullies who are at his back.

Two of the really brave men who stay for nothing in doing their duty, have once more been taken in the legal toils. William O'Brien and John Dillon will most assuredly be condemned by the satraps before whom they are to be tried. They must be carefully watched over or Balfour may carry out his alleged threat, and the inquest will duly result in a verdict of "suicide" or "natural causes" as others have done before.

In England is done by fraud what is done in Ireland by force. The *Pall Mall* recalls with apparent pleasure some words it uttered last year: "The Church has machinery by which every rectory might be made an emigration centre," and smugly remarks that the suggestion is being acted on. 1,000 emigrants so gathered sailed from Liverpool on the 12th for Halifax, and there are more to follow. Who pays the holy men's commission, and do they wait for death before they get it?
S.

MID LANARK AND SOCIALISM.

MID LANARK is purely a labour constituency, the majority of electors being miners, who receive sixteen shillings per week for producing one hundred and thirty shillings' worth of coal. The official wirepullers of the "great" Liberal party, when a vacancy was intimated, were of opinion that a fit and proper person to represent these hard-working men would be a youthful and effeminate ex-military captain with a hesitating utterance, but who is a special favourite with certain lords and ladies not connected with the constituency. But these officials had reckoned without their host. The schoolmaster had been abroad in the persons of our comrades of the Glasgow branch of the Socialist League, consequently they had subsequently to take a step back to pause and consider. The working men were determined to test the worth of Liberal professions, and they would not be controlled by the official Liberals' advice. They had a candidate of their own of sufficient ability and experience in labour questions, who was also sound in all the other planks of the Liberal platform.

When the darling pet of the aristocracy and the officials of the "great" Liberal party came to Cambuslang he was confronted by an old worn-out miner—John Forsyth, a member of the Socialist League—who put the following "staggerer" to him and his backers: As Mr. Sinclair is against the principle of perpetual pensions, will he explain wherein the perpetual legal but unjust right of the wealthy class to live in luxurious idleness off the labours of the working classes, because the former possess "capital," differs from that of the parasite pensioners who receive sustenance from the State without ever having in their persons rendered any services to the State? Mr. Sinclair replied he did not allow there was a perpetual legal right of the wealthy class to live in luxurious idleness if other people were starving; as to Mr. Forsyth's reason, he would like him to put it shorter, so that he could grasp it. Mr. Forsyth said, it means that all capitalists live off the labouring man. There is no use taxing the landlord or any other class, because it is the labouring man—the man who takes off his coat—who will have to pay the taxation.

Mr. Sinclair professed to be strongly in favour of the principle that as the capital in the possession of any individual, so should the taxation be proportionate: "is that the thing you want to be at?" No! cried Mr. Forsyth, I mean this: if the rich man has no work to do, if he lives off labour, there is no use taxing him, because he makes the worker pay for it. If you tax the butcher he will take it out of the consumer; and so with the baker, etc. Mr. Sinclair could not allow that there is only one sort of labour; there are lawyers, doctors, clergymen, members of Parliament, business men at hundreds and thousands of different employments who do not labour with their hands. Mr. Forsyth said, We don't take in those parties. Well, says Sinclair, I think the taxation of the working classes should be lightened. Our comrade left him to solve the problem how that could be done when, as he had demonstrated, the working class pay all taxes, those imposed on the rich as well as on the poor.

Another friend then tackled our worthy candidate with the following question: Would you vote for the relief of industry from all taxation, and meet the requirements of the State by a single tax on land and the revenue of mining royalties, both of which really belong to the State, and in justice can never be the property of individuals? Mr. Sinclair wriggled from the reply by saying that was not a practical question—"it is impossible it can happen in our lifetime." Ah, there's the rub! Our politicians are forced into the same position as if the parson were to say, "My friends, it is impossible to live a perfect life, therefore you need not try to be good." But is the consummation of this question impossible? Can it be in our lifetime? I answer yes, if all our comrades set to work to educate the workers in the manner of our friends in Mid Lanark by putting such questions to candidates at political meetings, which, no matter what answer be given, are sure to be impressed on the minds of those who hear them. What a field for propagandism is there if at next political meeting we can distribute leaflets explaining the difference between the collier's questions and the ex-captain's replies.

GEORGE McLEAN.

THE CRY IS, STILL THEY GO!—The number of emigrants from Queens-town to America continues to increase. The town is full, a correspondent of the *Pall Mall* says, and unless special steamers are put on the exodus is likely to continue on a large scale into the summer months. The number for the present week is 2,650, or about 600 more than last week, and 1,930 more than the week before. Although Queenstown is the great port of departure large numbers take leave by liners calling at Londonderry, Larne, and Galway. Every one of them driven out of their native land by monopoly, without which they could all live there comfortably, and then folk are found who can be "astonished" at the hatred with which the Irish-American regards the Government that supported his oppressors with all its force!

LABOUR LEGISLATION.—Hitherto there has been a reluctance among all parties to interfere with "freedom of contract" between employer and employed. "Freedom," says Carlyle, "is a divine thing, but when it means freedom to starve it is not quite so divine." I would, therefore, support such legislation as would temper the laws of political economy with humanitarian principles. In mining legislation, for example, I would support an Eight Hour Bill; the establishment of an Insurance and Superannuation Fund, supported from Royalties; the setting up of Arbitration Courts, with power to settle disputes and fix a minimum wage; the creation of a Mining Department presided over by a Minister of Mines; together with all legislation tending to secure the health and welfare of the miners.—J. KEIR HARDIE, *Labour Candidate for Mid-Lanark.*

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING APRIL 28, 1888.

22	Sun.	1826. Sack of Missolonghi by the Turks. 1852. Collapse of a Strike of Engineers. 1875. Birth of "Organised Obstruction" in the House of Commons.
23	Mon.	1873. International Workman's Club formed in connection with British International Federation. 1885. Explosion at Admiralty.
24	Tues.	1731. Daniel Defoe died. 1861. Peasant Riot at Beydna in Kazan Government. 1887. Hyde Park Demonstration for Northumberland Miners.
25	Wed.	1599. Oliver Cromwell born. 1820. Volney died. 1852. Arthur O'Connor died. 1865. Georg Kmety died.
26	Thur.	1711. David Hume born. 1848. Chartist Demonstration on Clerkenwell Green.
27	Fri.	1803. Touissant L'Ouverture died. 1881. Emile de Girardin died. 1882. R. W. Emerson died.
28	Sat.	1513. Apprentice's Riots in London. 1789. Mutiny of the "Bounty." 1820. Fight at Oldham between Radicals and soldiers.

Engineer's Strike.—After a six month's struggle a strike against overtime, piecework, and scab labour collapsed, and the Society put forth a manifesto in which they "frankly and unhesitatingly make the avowal, that in the contest between capital and labour the latter has been defeated. Whatever hopes were entertained that the worker might successfully assert his rights by an open and avowed resistance to a tyranny of the most despotic kind, they have faded before the immense power of wealth and the determination of its possessors to be absolute and unconditional masters. . . . Our future efforts must be constantly directed to prevent the possibility of such a catastrophe again occurring. How shall we set about the work of preparation for a coming time? There is but one way—we must co-operate for production. The events of the last few months have directed the attention of working-men to co-operation, and inclined them to it more decidedly than years of prosperous industry could have done. . . . We have learned that it is not enough to accumulate funds—that it is necessary also to use them reproductively; and if this lesson does not fail in its effects, a few years will see the land studded with workshops belonging to the workers—workshops where the profits shall cheer and not oppress labour, where tyranny cannot post an abominable declaration on the gates, where the opportunity of working is secured without the sacrifice of all that makes work dignified and honourable." And the lesson was not learnt and nothing was done!—S.

Long life and good health to bowld Parnell and Biggar,
For they have not hearts like the heart of a mouse;
They're fighting for Ireland with courage and vigour,
And don't care a hang for "the tone of the House."

—T. D. SULLIVAN.

"Organised Obstruction" born.—On April 22, 1875, was born "Organised Obstruction," out of Coercion by Toryism, Joseph Biggar surgeon in attendance. Somewhat thus should have run the 'Gazette' notice of April 23, 1875. In 1868-74, the Tories had "spread themselves considerably" in the way of obstruction to such bills as that for Abolition of Purchase in the Army, by moving endless amendments, but not until Isaac Butt asked Joseph Biggar to speak "a pretty good while," which demand was answered by a four hour's speech, mostly of long extracts from Government reports, did the real Simon Puch come to town, and ye gods, what a sensation the new-comer made! Day after day each Session the press was filled with "More Scenes in the House," "Suspension of an Irish Member," "Suspension of Irish Members," until in 1877-8 it seemed that the whole Irish party would be suspended for good and all. Biggar and Parnell for their action in this crisis deserve the thanks of all future minorities. The "tone of the House," is even to-day too much of a fetish in the eyes of some to be well for the democracy, for while it is held "that a man should be a gentleman first and a patriot afterwards" there is small hope of stamping out the shameful jobs and underhand swindles that are worked in the House of Misrepresentatives, but which are not exposed because not "good form" to attack persons or indulge in personalities. As Junius says, "Gentle pressure is not fitted to the present degenerate state of Society. What does it avail to expose the absurd contrivance, or pernicious tendency, of measures, if the man who advises or executes, shall be suffered to escape? To attack vices in the abstract, without touching persons, may be safe fighting indeed, but it is fighting with shadows." It needed a Teufelsdröckh to deal with the House of Respectabilities' old clothes of "Forms" and "Tone," and he came in the person of a pork butcher; the very perfection of poetic justice, the work he did was not much inferior to that of the derider of effete forms who said "Take away that bauble." The effect on the modern House was terrific; well may the author of the 'Parnell Movement' dwell on the spectacle, "The Parliament that trampled upon every Irish demand for so many generations was seen raging in hysteric and impotent fury against the growing omnipotence of two determined men." It will not be well with England till another such piece of history is begun and carried through by some English members. Dr. Hunter once publicly pledged himself to "exhaust the forms of the House on behalf of the Crofters," but he faked, and they all do it except the Irishmen.—T. S.

Death of Daniel Defoe.—Born in London, 1663; died April 24, 1731. The most advanced man of his time, and the greatest prose-writer of his century. Every one knows him by 'Robinson Crusoe,' the first effort made in fiction to deal with the lives of common men, but few know his real greatness or are acquainted with his other writings. A short sketch of his life, prefixed to a reprint of his 'Captain Singleton' appeared in the Camelot Series last year, and his 'Essay upon Projects' in Cassell's National Library a month or two back. This latter has some lessons even for to-day, and when it was written was far and away in advance of the time. Defoe was imprisoned and pilloried and otherwise honoured for his opinions and political conduct. His works (over 200 there are of them!) attest the wonderful power of the man and his untiring industry.—S.

Death of Volney.—Constantine François Comte de Volney was the son of an advocate of Craon, in the province of Anjou. He was born February 3, 1757, and at the early age of seventeen he was put to his own resources; on the advice of his father, who had experienced some ridicule on his name of "Chassebœuf," he took the name of Bois-girais, and this he gave up when he began his journey to the East, taking the name Volney and making it famous. He received some education in the provinces, and having about £50 per annum inherited from his mother, went to Paris and studied medicine and physiology; studied Greek and made himself a good general linguist; wrote something about Herodotus. Was helped somewhat by Baron D'Holbach, and by him introduced to Madame Helvétius and Benjamin Franklin, which probably had to do with the American tour which Volney made later on. His great desire was to travel in the East, and on becoming possessed by legacy of some £240 he started on foot, provided only with knapsack, gun, and his cash packed round his body. On reaching Egypt he managed to get permission to enter a Copt monastery, where for eight

month he studied Arabic. He travelled the East for three years and then returned to Paris, publishing in 1787 in two volumes the 'Voyage in Syria and Egypt during the years 1783-85.' He was appointed by Louis XVI. to a State post in Corsica, and resigned when elected Deputy for his province of Anjou, 1789. In the National Assembly he proposed some useful motions—Nationalisation of all Church Property, and a motion against wars to increase territory. November 23, 1790, he was elected Secretary to the Assembly, and September, 1791, formally and most appropriately presented to the Assembly the original of his 'Ruins; or, a Survey of the Revolutions of Empires.' His 'Travels in Syria' was sent by Grimm to Catherine II. of Russia, and won for him a gold medal; and his appointment as Director-General of Commerce and Agriculture in Corsica was largely due to the same book; but the book by which he is, and will be best known, is without doubt his 'Ruins of Empires.' A magnificent indictment of all State-craft and Priest-craft—he was a Freethinker—such as might be expected from his position in the Assembly. Like Thomas Paine, however, he was not extreme enough for some of the Republicans, and was imprisoned. In 1792 he paid a second visit to Corsica, and became acquainted with Napoleon Bonaparte. On his return to Paris was for a short time Professor of history. In 1795 he went to America, and was accorded a flattering reception by Washington; in 1798 he returned to France, and was invited by Bonaparte to take high office but declined, and incurred the usurper's displeasure. In 1810 he married, and in 1820, on April 25, he died, and was buried with honours in Pere la Chaise. His works are many, one or two on "simplification of languages" have been cribbed from lately to perfect the revived idea of Volapuk or Universal Language; but for us the 'Ruins of Empires,' inspired by his visits to ruins of Eastern Empires, and quickened by the French Revolution, is the book to keep in mind and to study. "Remember . . . it is yourselves that cause the evils of which you complain; it is you that encourage tyrants by a base flattery of their power," chap. xxiii.—T. S.

Arthur O'Connor.—Born July 4, 1767; died April 25, 1852; called to the bar 1788; returned to Irish Parliament 1790 for Philipstown by his uncle, Lord Longueville. In 1795 made a "violent" speech in favour of Catholic Emancipation, which led not only to the loss of his seat but to his uncle's disinheriting him—a loss of £10,000 a-year. Meanwhile he became a United Irishman, and one of the five who constituted their directory. Arrested November, 1796, for high treason and confined in Dublin Castle, but soon discharged for want of proof. The following month Hoche's descent on Ireland was made; after its failure O'Connor and another went abroad, and saw Hoche at Frankfurt. Returning, he was arrested at Margate, February 28, 1798, with James O'Coigly, a priest, Binns, and another. Tried at the following Maidstone Assizes, O'Coigly was found guilty and hung on Pevenden Heath. O'Connor was acquitted on the one charge but held on a warrant from the Duke of Portland. Some of his friends projected his escape, and the Earl of Thanet and Mr. Robert Ferguson were afterwards imprisoned for the attempt. Sent over to Ireland, when the whole thing had become hopeless, O'Connor and his friends gave up their plans to the Government and were allowed to retire to the Continent. O'Connor went to France, where in 1804 the First Consul made him General of Division, and afterwards Lieut.-General. Married about 1809. 1834 was allowed to revisit Ireland on private affairs of business. On his return bought Mirabeau's birth-place, the chateau of Bignon, from his heirs, and here he lived and died. Feargus O'Connor was his nephew.—S.

Death of Emerson.—Ralph Waldo Emerson, born in the capital of New England on the 25th of May, 1803, was descended from a whole host of the strong-minded ecclesiastical scholars, who have been one of the leading characteristics of the Englishmen of the New World. These religious teachers of New England have of necessity been men of eminent wisdom and accomplishments in order to sustain any position of respect in the community, since the New England colonists from the very first put their feet heavily down on priestcraft *per se*, sternly denying any respect to the mere germ of sacerdotalism, and demanding proof of intellectual strength in their preachers before they gave these preachers precedence, having previously stripped them of those functions which priestcraft seeks to assume to awe the vulgar, such as marriage sacraments and other social monopolies. Born of this parentage, Emerson himself one of the greatest scholars ever known, was destined to take a yet grander step in advance, to overthrow even the mental shackles which a really superior religious caste had imposed upon the people, and to proclaim the absolute independence of thought. Before we can have even dreams of social emancipation we must have mental freedom, and all reformers must for ever honour Emerson as the greatest mental emancipator of any age. He freed a whole Continent, which Continent is freeing the world. Although born in Boston, he early in life settled in that famous suburban village of Concord, where the first blood was shed for American freedom. The very air was laden with a love of liberty, and here Emerson, renouncing even his early thin veneer of sacerdotal personality, built up that famous "Concord School of Philosophy," which, though bantered and denounced for two generations, was yet all the while the beacon light to which every honest man feeling the "struggling pangs of honest truth" looked for courage and leadership. A dozen years since a gushing editorial writer of the *Daily Telegraph* having some occasion to gush over Emerson, and searching around for a reason said Emerson was the first to teach America that there was something else in the world besides big railroads, and other money-making monstrosities. A more ludicrous utterance never was recorded. The Yankees had scholars and poets galore before they possessed big railroads, and Emerson taught the bulk of the people nothing for he never reached them; what he really did was to clear the way for social reformers to tear down the stifling incubus of thieving stock-gamblers and cheating selfish profit-mongers, whose slaving mouthpiece the *Daily Telegraph* makes a pride of being.—L. W.

Oldham Riot.—Some dragoons were refreshing themselves in the afternoon at the Bull's Head Inn, where also there was a large company gathered, many of them Radicals. Over their dinner the Rad's drank "seditious" toasts, such as "May the skins of all Church and King men serve as drum-heads for the Raical armies." At length one of them began singing a song in praise of Hunt, whereupon one of the law-'n'-order men snatched his white hat and flung it on the fire. A free fight began, and the soldiers were driven into an inner room and held prisoners, save one who escaped in the confusion. Making his way to the barracks he procured reinforcements, who rescued their comrades after a hard fight, and by means of more fighting got back again to barracks. Loss—many wounds, bruises, and black eyes on both sides.—S.

FORBIDDEN TO LAND.—Eighteen Italian marble-workers, imported under a contract to work for Bowker, Torrey, and Co., quarrymen, of Boston, have been forbidden to land from the steamer *Rugia*, which has just arrived in New York from Hamburg. The importing firm and also the owners of the steamer are liable to pay a fine of 1000 dollars for each man imported, under the law forbidding the importation of foreign contract labour.

IT MOVES!—In the *Westminster and Lambeth Gazette* of April 14, 1888, is a report: "Norwood Ladies' Literary Society.—The March meeting was opened by a paper from Mrs. Brown, 'Do the Advantages of Socialism outweigh its Disadvantages?' Mrs. Stopes answered in the negative, and after a lively discussion the majority voted for negative." Socialism is evidently making itself felt when the subject is even considered necessary to discuss in such a place. Of course the "negative" was inevitable.—S. G.

THE INDIVIDUALIST APOLOGISES.

[AFTER MR. W. S. GILBERT.]

If you'll give me your attention, I will tell you who I am,
I'm a genuine philanthropist, all other kinds are sham;
No pauperising charity with harmful hand I fling;
No,—my benevolence is quite another kind of thing;
How ignorant and thriftless is our working-class we know;
I long to lead the labourer in the way that he should go;
But for all I do to educate the humble artisan,
He invariably considers me "a disagreeable man,"
And I can't think why.

I show the masses since their "business faculty" is nil,
They can't expect to get above the bottom of the hill;
Whereas the cool, the confident, the calculating few
Are sure to carry off the cake, whatever we might do;
And how that grand hypothesis is vindicated thus
The survival of the fittest, or, in other word, of us;
But although I try to make it sound as pleasant as I can,
I've got the reputation of a disagreeable man,
And I can't think why.

Their ignorant illusion I endeavour to destroy,
That they need no upper classes to provide them with employ;
For I show them quite conclusively their chances would be small,
If capital were scared away, of finding work at all;
And our working population being clearly far too great,
I implore them, with emotion, not to breed at such a rate;
But although I push Malthusianism with all the grace I can,
My reward is to be rated as a disagreeable man,
And I can't think why.

I dwell upon the wickedness of going out on strike,
And describe the dull dead level that the Socialist would like,
And to show that rich as well as poor of trouble have their share,
I enumerate the hardships we employers have to bear.
In competing with the foreigner I show him he must fail,
Till he drops his beer and lives upon a far less liberal scale;
But when'er I praise a diet on the Penny Dinners plan,
I'm called (it seems incredible) a disagreeable man,
And I can't think why.

C. W. BECKETT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT BILL

SIR,—I wish to call your attention to a fact which seems to have been overlooked by the promoters of this measure and by the public. The Bill assumes that it is just and right if we in the future deprive the owner of a public-house of his licence, and thus lessen the value of his property, we should remunerate him for the depreciation thus caused, and the Bill makes provision for that purpose. Ought we not therefore to receive from the owners of all future licensed property an amount equal to the increased value of their houses, caused only by our grant of license, and add the money thus secured to the county fund? To illustrate: if to do right we must pay to the owner say £200 for reducing the value of his property from £600 to £400, should we not receive £200 for increasing the value of his house from £400 to £600?—I am, etc.,
T. F. ARMSTRONG,
258 Shirley Road, Southampton.

PUSHING "COMMONWEAL"

I see that my suggestions as to the best means of getting the *Weal* circulated in London have brought forth a criticism from Nottingham. Criticism and work should go together; and when the London list of agents for *Weal* is supplemented by a provincial one, it is to be hoped that Nottingham will head it, and be so placed by the exertions of your correspondent.

London is not Nottingham, but even a smaller experience would give some relative idea of the kind of task in which I have been engaged. The list as it stands at present is no criterion of the number of shops that have to be visited and proprietors fruitlessly solicited to sell and display the paper. Mr. Thompson is greatly concerned lest the advice I gave to boycott hostile newsvendors would "foster narrowness and intolerance," and says in effect perish the *Commonweal* rather; and further, he dogmatically asserts we not only lose new converts, but deserve to lose them. I have not gathered whether Mr. Thompson is fearful for the loss of converts amongst the hostile newsgents, or the general public. If the former, I can only admire his simple faith, which I think would be rudely shaken if he trudged with me about this huge Wen, and met the insults and sneers of insolent gradgrinds, who would sooner sell indecent and thief literature than a Socialist publication. Perhaps W. Thompson will formulate some scheme for the conversion of obdurate tradesmen who tell you flatly not to bring "the rag" to them. I am engaged in reaching the general public, and if such as he block the way, I repeat my advice to subscribers to deal only with those newsgents who are in many cases Socialists or sympathisers and are willing to aid the circulation of this journal. The hostile vendor may be "as hopeless and as ignorant an enemy this time next year as he is to-day," but at all events he will not have received Socialist shekels, and the Socialist will be spared the mortification of having helped to keep his enemy. Two thousand years prior to the publication of this journal, the policy of turning the other cheek was formulated; but although London newsgents are for the most part nominal Christians, if it were carried out in their case it would inspire them with more contempt than respect; and as I am concerned to push the *Commonweal* against all opposition, I shall not inculcate such childish notions. I consider that we have as much as we can do to support and sustain our friends. Our enemies are in this case especially well able to take care of themselves: if your hyper-sensitive critic thinks otherwise, there is a wide field open to his philanthropic enterprise.

In conclusion, I ask your readers to supplement the efforts being made to push this journal by sending in to the Manager the names of all newsgents who are willing to sell.
F. KIRZ.



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

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

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.

Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

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

C. B.—A paper "On the Comparative Efficiency and Earnings of Labour at Home and Abroad," by J. S. Jeans, published Dec. 1884 in *Journal of the Statistical Society*, might give the figures you want.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday April 18.

ENGLAND	Fort Worth (Tex)—South West	SPAIN
Freedom	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	El Productor
Justice	Newark—Arbeiter-Zeitung	Madrid—El Socialista
Leaflet Newspaper	San Francisco (Cal) The People	PORTUGAL
London—Freie Presse	Coast Seaman's Journal	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Leicester—Countryman	Freethought	GERMANY
Labour Tribune	FRANCE	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Norwich—Daylight	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	AUSTRIA
Railway Review	La Revolte	Arbeiterstimme
Worker's Friend	Journal du Peuple	Vienna—Gleichheit
NEW SOUTH WALES	Nimes—L'Emancipation	HUNGARY
Hamilton—Radical	Lille—Le Travailleur	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	HOLLAND	ROUMANIA
Adelaide—Our Commonwealth	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Vutoarl
INDIA	BELGIUM	DENMARK
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Antwerp—De Werker	Social-Demokrat
Madras—People's Friend	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde	SWEDEN
UNITED STATES	Liege—L'Avenir	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
New York—Volkszeitung	ITALY	NORWAY
Boston—Woman's Journal	Marsala—La Nuova Eta	Kristiania—Social-Demokraten
Chicago (Ill)—Vote	Cremora—La Faccia	
Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Rome—L'Emancipazione	

BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

WE are constantly told that England is the most enlightened nation in the world; that she stands at the head of modern civilisation; that her dealing with other peoples is the most just, and her influence throughout the world the most beneficent; that our wars of aggression are only to moralise the world; that we conquer only to elevate the conquered. And we are assured that this has been especially the case with regard to India; that there the people are happy because prosperous, and that these are the results of England's rule. It is true we are told by some parties that English rule is not so beneficent as the friends of the Government would have us believe, and that the people are not so happy and not so prosperous. But let us take the facts of the case as furnished by the Government itself. If we look at the Government of India, it is one of the purest despotisms; and when Englishmen condemn the government of Russia in Poland, they ought to remember that the government of England in India is not in the least better.

The Government of India consists of the Secretary of State for India and fifteen other persons, eight nominated by the Crown and seven by the Directors. These sixteen reside in England. In India it consists of the Governor-General and three or four others, one of whom is Commander-in-Chief, another has charge of the revenue, another the expenditure, and the other is the governor of the province where the Council happens to meet. These constitute the Council of India. The people have no voice whatever in the government. In 1835 Macaulay thus spoke of the powers of the Government: "No government in the world is better provided with the means of meeting extraordinary dangers. Five persons, who may be brought together in half an hour, whose deliberations are secret, can, at a single sitting, pass a law to stop every press in India."

It may be said that since 1835 things have changed, and changed, as they always do under English rule, for the better; that since then the Queen has been proclaimed "Empress of India," which of itself would add to the prosperity of the country. Well, her majesty was proclaimed empress of India on January 1st, 1877, and on the 5th of October the same year the *Tory Standard* thus spoke of the doings of the then *Tory* Government: "Henceforth a stroke of the vice-regal pen will suffice to dismiss a council, whilst his excellency declares through the wires his supreme will and pleasure. One consequence of the arbitrary régime enforced during the last eighteen months is very painful to those who remember the bold, self-reliant bearing of the civilians of the olden times. Everywhere timidity, obsequiousness, a bending back

and a protruding neck; nowhere that self-respect which gives to others what it claims for itself. The present is the most despotic government that has ever ruled in India." We thus see that despotic as it was in 1835, it had become more so in 1877.

In 1878 was given to India a press law as infamous as any that ever existed in any part of the world. Its aim was to crush at a single blow the whole native press of that country. By clause 3 every printer and publisher was to give a bond to such amount as the Government might think fit, "not to print or publish in any newspaper any words, signs, or visible representations likely to excite disaffection to the government established by law in British India," etc. And clause 10 reads as follows: "When any book, pamphlet, placard, broadsheet, or other document printed wholly or partially in any Oriental language in British India contains any words, signs, or visible representations which are of the nature described in clause 3, or when any such book, pamphlet, placard, broadsheet, or other document has been used or attempted to be used for any purpose described in the same section, clause (b), all printing presses, engines, machinery, types, lithographic stones, paper, and other implements, utensils, plant, and materials used or employed in or for the purpose of printing or publishing such book, pamphlet, placard, broadsheet, or other document, or found in or about any premises where the same is printed or published, and all copies of such book, pamphlet, placard, broadsheet, or other document, shall be liable to be forfeited to her majesty." And clause 11 provides that any such book, pamphlet, etc., printed elsewhere and brought into British India shall be forfeited to her majesty.

Take also the following, now forming part of the Penal Code of India (sec. 121): "Whosoever by words spoken or intended to be read, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise, attempts to excite feelings of disaffection to the Government established by law in British India, shall be punished with transportation for life, or for any term, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment for three years, to which fine may be added." Only think of the glories of British rule!

And why this Imperial despotism, this supremacy of ever-rampant tyranny? And why this suppression of the freedom of the press with every outward manifestation of feeling hostile to the Government? Why? The same as in every part of the world, British rule means the suppression of liberty, to facilitate the work of wholesale plunder. Yes, wherever the British flag is carried, to whatever part of the world, there our only aim, our only object, is the enslavement of the people for the sake of plunder. But let us look at a few plain facts.

In 1840, the revenue of India was £20,124,034. In 1858, when it was taken under the mercies of the Crown, it was £31,706,776. In 1870, it was £50,598,253; in 1874, £56,412,370; in 1878, £61,873,651; in 1880, £68,373,843; and in 1882, £75,144,601. We must remember too that India is an extremely poor country, and that seventy-five millions there means something very different to a like sum in England. On August 14, 1878, during the debates in Parliament, the late Professor Fawcett stated in the House that while a 6d. income tax in England would give £12,000,000, equal to 7s. 3d. per head of population, in India it would give only £1,200,000, equal to only 1½d. per head of the population.

But great as has been the increase of taxation, it has not been enough. The debt has increased in an equal ratio. In 1840, it was £34,484,997; in 1858, £69,473,484; and in 1883, £159,270,000.

We hear at times a great deal about the evil effects of absenteeism in Ireland, because four or five millions are taken annually from that country; but in India it is far worse. Taking the *Statistical Abstract*, we find that more than fourteen millions of the revenue of India is spent in England. At page 55, we find that during the ten years ending 1883, while £14,065,104 were spent in England on stores, £46,820,073 went in the shape of interest on railway stock, pensions, etc., and £76,237,446 on other charges, the particulars of which are not given; total, £137,122,625. Revenue received from England, £8,713,596; loss to India, £129,409,029.

Again, take what are termed Council Bills drawn on the different Governments of India. Taking Parliamentary paper, No. 3,229, 1882, these are stated at, for the ten years ending 1870, £121,258,000; and for the ten years ending 1880, £172,290,000; total for the twenty years, £293,548,000. And these are increasing every year. Thus in the five years, 1866 to 1871, the total was £30,603,196; five years ending 1876-7, £60,279,340; the five ending 1881-2, £67,279,306; and in 1882-3, £33,532,950 (*Statistical Abstract*, page 74).

Another source of plunder is by exchange through the depreciation of silver. This, too, is increasing at a rapid rate. From 1862 to 1866 the loss to India was only £145,749, and from 1867 to 1871 £1,285,328. But from 1872 to 1876 the loss was £4,395,560, and 1877 to 1881, £12,885,767. In 1882-3, it had gone up to £27,263,644.

But let us look at the plunder of India as shown in her exports and imports. In all countries the imports should exceed the exports, because to the imports are added the cost of freightage and every other charge. Taking them in round numbers, see how the matter stands with the following countries, and with India, 1861 to 1880, a period of twenty years:—

	Twenty Years ending 1880.	Imports.		Exports.		Excess of Imports.
		£	...	£	...	
United Kingdom	6,415,000,000	...	4,907,000,000	...	1,508,000,000	
France	2,650,000,000	...	2,490,000,000	...	160,000,000	
Germany	2,690,000,000	...	1,950,000,000	...	740,000,000	
Belgium	869,000,000	...	689,000,000	...	180,000,000	

Now take India and Egypt, two countries that are being rapidly

ruined by the curse of usury. For these we must reverse the order of imports and exports:—

Twenty Years ending 1880.	Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Exports.
India	1,115,000,000 ...	661,000,000 ...	454,000,000
Egypt	320,000,000 ...	125,000,000 ...	195,000,000

See how the matter stands with regard to India:—

	Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Exports.
	1,115,000,000 ...	661,000,000 ...	454,000,000
Deduct for freightage 12 per cent. from Imports		78,220,000 ...	78,220,000
		Total loss to India ...	532,220,000
Taking the three years, 1881-2-3, Excess of Exports ...			83,999,906

Total loss to India in 23 years 616,219,906

And these exports and imports include specie of every kind as well as merchandise.

Here we have the plunder of the people on a gigantic scale. Here is the secret of the poverty of the workers. This is why Imperial despotism reigns predominant, why rampant tyranny rules supreme. And these items only represent the plunder that goes from India, and not that taken by the swarms of English, etc., who are in India, and who there grow rich on the plunder of the natives ere they return to Europe, still to be pensioned on the revenues of that country.

J. SKETCHLEY.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

Comrade Jules Guesde, formerly editor of *Le Socialiste* at Paris, is now at Lille (North Department) editing *Le Cri du Travailleur* (the Worker's Cry).

Those French Socialists who have started at Paris the "Republican Society of Social Science," under the influence of Benoit Malon and other contributors to the *Revue Socialiste*, have decided to organise an International Congress of Social Science, to be held during the feasts of the centenary of 1789, in all probability in the month of September 1889. The programme of the International Congress runs as follows: 1. The moral and social condition of modern proletariat; 2. Account and summing-up of all the Socialist ideas, doctrines, schemes, from the Revolution of 1789 down to the present day; 3. Account of all the essays of social reform (societary and communistic colonies, co-operative stores, state-socialist institutions, etc.); 4. Economical phenomena and tendencies of modern society; 5. Study of such measures as are actually possible towards the amelioration of the conditions of work in all countries; International relations between the working classes; 7. Ways and means for the complete transformation of society. All communications, documents, proposals, etc., concerning the above-mentioned congress should be sent to Elie May, administrator of the Society of Social Science, 17 rue Béranger, or to Henri Neven, general secretary of same, 11 rue Tournefort, Paris.

GERMANY.

The readers of the *Weal* already know what kind of sham amnesty has been granted in Germany by the dying Kaiser. A few dozens of Socialists, sentenced to weeks or in some instances to a few months of jail for having distributed forbidden papers or pamphlets, have been set free. And on the very day when that generous amnesty was granted fifty or sixty Socialists were arrested in several towns of the blessed Fatherland and charged with the offence of distributing a leaflet answering the imperial proclamation of Frederick! The prisons have made an exchange of their inhabitants, that is all. In order to puff the amnesty bill, full pardon was granted to all those who had tried to blow up the State buildings, the Reichstag, the hotels of the ministers, and so forth—but there has never occurred one single instance where an "offence" of that kind has been traced. The bourgeois must be proud of the generosity of their new master.

Max Kayser, formerly Socialist member of the German Reichstag, died at Breslau a fortnight ago, after a cruel throat disease which lasted more than eighteen months. He was only thirty-six years old. From 1871 to 1873 he worked very hard for the cause of Social-Democracy at Berlin; in 1874 he went to Dresden, where he became editor of the *Volkboten* (the People's Messenger). In 1878 and again in 1881 and in 1884 he was returned as Socialist member to the German Reichstag, where he represented the 9th and the 22nd Saxonian districts. He has always been one of the most moderate members, even among Social-Democrats, but nevertheless has been very much prosecuted all through his political career. For his share, he had to undergo some twenty months of imprisonment, and he has been expelled from nearly every place where he had wished to settle; so, for instance, in turns from Dresden, Zwickau, Breslau (his native place), Elberfeld, Barmen, Remscheid, Solingen, Lennep. Even in the last period of his disease, wishing to die in the place where he was born, he could only return there by the authority of the German police. Such is the shameful character of the anti-Socialist laws in that cursed land of bigotry and despotism.

Last week the Socialist deputy Schumacher, who lives at Solingen, was searched by the police and all his letters confiscated. Sixteen persons were arrested at Elberfeld, amongst whom were comrades Hüttenberger, Barthel, Emile Muller, Kösser, and Schem. Perquisitions were made at the lodgings of over two hundred Socialists in the region of Wupperthal. In Elberfeld and Cologne, the same proceedings took place. The reason for all this seems to be that Puttkammer wants to arrange a new monster trial for secret conspiracy.

HOLLAND.

A few weeks ago we announced the publication of the first volume of the posthumous works of our good old friend A. Gerhard, who has been one of the most active and most intelligent forerunners of the Socialist movement in Holland. We now announce the forthcoming of the second volume, which contains the following essays: 1. "Capital and Labour"; 2. "What do the Socialists aim at"; 3. "Legislative Bodies"; 4. "Authority and Liberty, Soul and Immortality"; 5. "Parliamentarism and Legislation." Each of these essays will also appear separately.

RUSSIA.

During the year 1887 there have been, according to an official document issued at St. Petersburg, 4 direct attempts on the life of the Czar, 9 essays of attempts discovered before actual commission, and 707 attempts on the lives of public officers. The police have found out and confiscated 7 secret printing offices; 2850 arrests of Nihilists have been made. What amount of propaganda on the part of the heroic Russian revolutionaries these police prosecutions mean we need not say, and every one knows under what terrible difficulties they are working and struggling to get rid of the abominable autocracy which reigns supreme there over one hundred million people.

V. D.

ITALY.

FLORENCE.—A provisional committee for the foundation of a society of social studies has been formed in Florence, which society will undertake also the translation and publication of foreign works likely to be useful to Italian students of sociology. The principal scope of this institution will be to spread Socialist doctrines of every school as much to the partisans as to the opposers of Socialism, furnishing only the materials for study, and abstaining from any demonstration of opinions, political or social. The aims of the society seem to us excellent ones, and deserving of all success, as it is absolutely necessary for any Socialist or student of sociology to have easily accessible materials—growing yearly more numerous—for this study. The committee earnestly request authors and editors to help the society by sending copies of their works and journals, etc. We hope this request will be taken notice of in England as well as in Italy. Such donations to be made to Il Dott. Alfredo Salvestrini, via Cavour, No. 27.

OSTIGLIA. A note reaches us of a little incident that happened at Ostiglia last autumn. A proprietor wanting to get his labour cheaper, imported hands from the province of Venice. This proceeding exasperated the natives in their extreme need of work, and they showed their feelings by "demonstrating." As usual, force was called in to oppose them, and ten of the townfolk were arrested, among them two women. One of the latter and seven men were sentenced from three to six months' imprisonment and fines.

SPAIN.

BILBAO.—At a meeting of the Socialist Labour Party here the other day, a very favourable report of the growth of the party in this town was made by the chairman, and the rapidity with which its ideas have been spread in a short space of time. The object of the meeting was to explain as fully as might be the views of the party, which was done by several of the members.

BARCELONA.—Two strikes, one after another, among the workers in two shoe-factories have taken place here, terminating, *El Socialista* says, to the satisfaction of the strikers. Their labour-association has proved of great use to them in their resistance to the capitalists.

We read a list of 27 Groups of the Labour Party in Spain, of which *El Socialista* is the recognised weekly organ. M. M.

Lo when we wade the tangled wood,
In haste and hurry to be there,
Nought seem its leaves and blossoms good,
For all that they be fashioned fair.

But, looking up, at last, we see
The glimmer of the open light,
From o'er the place where we would be
Then grow the very brambles bright.

So now, amidst our day of strife,
With many a matter glad we play,
When once we see the light of life
Gleam through the tangle of to-day.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the first week of the current month was 109,153, of whom 59,889 were indoor and 49,264 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 9,426 over the corresponding week of last year, 11,238 over 1885, and 19,325 over 1883. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 1,299, of whom 1,150 were men, 135 women, and 14 children under sixteen.

"ANTI-VACCINATION."—With medical matters we don't meddle in these columns, and on that side of the question say nothing. But it strikes me as funny that nigh every one of the arguments against compulsory vaccination is based on the old familiar "Mayn't I do what I like with my own?" The other day there was a meeting at which a Mr. Hopwood made a furious oration, in which he came again and again to "the right of the parent" and "every man to do with his child what he wishes," etc., etc. Now, if there be one thing more abominable to me than another, it is that a helpless member of the community should be handed over absolutely for making or marring in mind and body to two chance individuals, because it has been born of one and begotten by the other. That the rights of citizenship begin even before birth is acknowledged now by the law, and every citizen has an absolute claim upon the highest knowledge of the community. If that tells against vaccination, Society should protect the helpless babe from vaccination, but if it tell for it there is an equal duty of seeing that all are vaccinated. There is no other ground on which the question can be argued; parental right is a savage superstition.—S.

This world is not a very fine place for a good many of the people in it. But I've made up my mind it shan't be the worse for me if I can help it. They tell me I can't alter the world—that there must be a certain number of sneaks and robbers in it, and if I don't lie and filch somebody else will. Well, then somebody else shall, for I won't. I will never be one of the sleek dogs—I would never choose to withdraw myself from the labour and common burden of the world; but I do choose to withdraw myself from the push and scramble for money and position. Any man is at liberty to call me a fool, and say that mankind are benefitted by the push and scramble in the long run; but I care for the people who are alive now and will not be living when the long run comes. I prefer to go shares with the unlucky.—*Felix Holt* (George Eliot).

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

Nearly eighty men have struck work on the Ship Canal works, Acton Grange, near Warrington, because their demand for more wages was refused.

The Scotch coal trade continues in a depressed state, there being few collieries working anything like full time.

Instructions have been issued by the Admiralty for a reduction in the chief contractor's department at Sheerness dockyard, owing to slackness of work in the repairing department.

Preparations are being made to restart the New Pit, Choppington. A good many men have left the district, but those who will return to work at the colliery will submit to a reduction of 1½d. per ton.

The rivetter holders-on in the Caledon shipyard, occupied by Messrs. W. B. Thomson & Co., Limited, struck work on Wednesday for a rise of ½d. per hour.

The strike of weavers at Higherfield Shed, Barrowford, has been settled, terms having been offered, after prolonged negotiations, which although not all that could be desired by the Weavers' Association committee, they yet think it advisable under the circumstances to accept.

A strike has occurred among the moulders at Hull for an advance of 2s. per week. The number of men striking is small, but the lachrymose report states that "the inconvenience is great." Small wages, too, cause great inconvenience.

The furnacemen in the employment of the Eglinton Chemical Company's work at Irvine, to the number of 40, have come out on strike for an advance of wages. The original demand was for an increase of 6d. per day, ultimately modified to ½d. per hour.

An attempt at compromise with the riveters presently on strike at Greenock, has failed. The men demand an advance of 1s. per 100 rivets. The employers at a meeting with a deputation from the workmen offered 3d. advance, but this was declined, and the strike therefore continues.

The Cheshire salt trade during the month of March has continued in a very depressed state, the exports having been 69,439 against 84,474 tons for the corresponding month of last year. Stocks are very large, and prices are so low that several works are entirely stopped, while others have effected considerable reductions both as to numbers of men and rate of wages.

THE TRUCK ACT.—GOVERNMENT PROSECUTION.—The Lord Advocate has directed the Procurator-Fiscal for the Western District of Fife to raise a criminal prosecution against a local coal company for alleged contravention of the Truck Act by retaining miners' wages in lieu of house rent during the recent strike among the miners.

REDUCTION IN WAGES.—The workmen employed at a branch of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company's works, Wednesbury, have received fourteen days' notice to terminate existing contracts. It is the largest works in the town, and the shopkeepers are considerably alarmed at the outlook, as their welfare depends much upon the success of the works.

SELF-HELP MANUFACTURING COMPANY.—An attempt is being made in Nelson to form a Self-Help Manufacturing Company. F. Wilkinson & Co., Limited, are offering the looms in Netherfield Shed for sale. A meeting was recently held in the warehouse addressed by a manager from a Self-Help Company in Burnley, and a committee has been formed to enquire into the matter and report to another meeting.

STRIKE OF NUT AND BOLT MAKERS.—The strike of the nut and bolt makers connected with D. Harper's works, Darlaston, has now lasted thirteen weeks, and there is no probability of a settlement, but on the other hand a general strike of the trade may be shortly resorted to. The Smethwick section of the trade favours a general strike. The Darlaston gunlock fliers are about to ask their employers for an advance of wages on their present miserable average of 7s. per week. A trade society has been formed and membership is satisfactorily increasing.

THE DISPUTE AT THE RICHMOND IRON WORKS.—As notified last week, the advice of the Secretary of the Iron Trades' Association has been sought with regard to the dispute. His services were also called into requisition at a private meeting of ironworkers held at Brierley Hill, where resolutions in favour of an advance in wages and the re-establishment of an automatic system of regulating wages were passed unanimously. The basis for the system is to be the books of 12 firms. Mr. Capper counselled increased organisation before taking any action.

BOILERMAKERS AND IRON SHIPBUILDERS SOCIETY.—The annual report of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron-Shipbuilders is just issued. Last year the society had 21½ per cent. of its members unemployed. The total income was £70,551; out of this the sum of £22,165 was paid to unemployed members, £17,165 for sick benefit, and other large payments were made. The society has now 214 branches, and 24,860 members, a decrease of 1,600 on the year. The sums paid for sickness averaged 13s. 8d. per member, for funerals 2s. 6½d. per member, and to members out of employment the payments averaged 17s. 8d. per member. The number of members out of employment at the end of 1887 was 4,516, or 221 fewer than at the end of the previous year.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.—The general secretary thus expresses himself. Referring to the condition of trade and the means of improving it, he says: "The remedy I most approve is the one which emanates from ourselves, and consists of a reduction of the hours of labour and the abolition of all systematic overtime and piecework where practicable. All these could be speedily accomplished if working men were but united and true to each other, and it is to this end we must continue steadily to devote our labours." According to the report for the present month, "there is a large preponderance of opinion in favour of a 48 hours week, to be enforced by an Act of Parliament."

THE IRONFOUNDERS' SOCIETY.—The annual report of the Ironfounders' Society shows that the unemployed members of the society numbered 2,104, and during the year 18 per cent. of the membership was the average of the unemployed. There are at present 11,718 members of the society, which exhibited a slight reduction as compared with the previous year. The iron trade is stated to have been very bad for the last four years, and regret is expressed that "improvements in machinery and appliances should always be the means of throwing workmen on the unemployed market." Those interested in the question of the displacement of labour by machinery please note this; the very existence of the present form of trades' unions depends on the question being boldly faced.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.—In Berkshire agricultural labourers' wages are stated to be 9s. per week, and in Huntingdonshire 10s. per week. These figures represent a decline within the past ten years of 15 to 20 per cent., and at least an equal fall in farm labourers' wages is observable even in the northern agricultural counties. Added to low wages is the scantiness of employment and the large number of men who are either entirely without work or are able to obtain it only now and then. Many labourers are out of employment, and those that have worked scarcely getting sufficient to live upon, wages being so low. In the border counties a hind's wages—in money and in kind together—have fallen from £38 to £31, 8s. a-year.

THE SPINNERS' WAGES QUESTION AT OLDHAM.—Respecting the agitation for an advance of wages now causing considerable stir in the cotton districts, the *Cotton Factory Times* says: "An advance of wages in Oldham means an advance throughout the country in the cotton trade, and although a 5 per cent seems but a trifling sum to a spinner and his piecers, yet, calculated upon the number of members forming the Amalgamated Association, together with their piecers, it increases their incomes by upwards of £110,000 per year. This sum is worth looking after, as it is capable of affording additional comforts to the toilers who create the wealth. Employers will just be on the same footing as now if the 5 per cent becomes general, only the operatives will be a little better off, instead of the middle-men and the large merchants swallowing up the profits which are being made."

THE CHARACTER-NOTE SYSTEM IN NEWCASTLE.—A meeting was held in Newcastle last week to take steps for raising an agitation in the city and district against this system. There was a large attendance of representative workmen, and complete unanimity was shown in condemning the system, which is stated to be growing up on Tyneside, and which in America and on the Continent is extensively resorted to. It was resolved to raise a fund for the support of sacrificed men, and a committee was chosen to carry out this object, and to take steps for holding a public meeting for pushing the movement. It will be proposed that the unions be asked to alter their rules so as to protect their members against the character-note system. Members from the coach-builders, boot-riveters, bricklayers, boiler-makers, machinists, engineers, metal-planers, and other unions were present.

THE WORKMEN OF STOKE PRIOR SALT WORKS.—Mr. J. Corbett, M.P., of Stoke Prior Salt Works, has issued a circular to his workmen, in which he notices that several of his workmen are in the habit of getting into debt, notwithstanding that they receive good wages. He therefore gives notice that "any man or men who expend their wages in drinking or otherwise, instead of paying their lawful debts, are no men for these works; and I do hope that any such men will take advice, intended with the best feelings for their good and the comfort of their families." A correspondent writes, "Can't say what are the 'good wages' of men, but the women in 1886, according to Inspector of Factories' Report, kept themselves 'respectable' on 10s. per week." I hope some of the employés will let me know their opinion on the above circular, which forms the text of some insolent remarks concerning the workpeople in a local journal.

AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION OF OPERATIVE COTTON SPINNERS.—The Annual Report for 1887 is very creditable to the Society. The number of members is 15,416, and the accumulated funds now reach £51,746 7s. 8d., constituting it the second wealthiest society in England with over ten thousand members. This result is due to the almost unprecedented devotion to the cause of unionism displayed by the members. In spite of the very high levies, which made the contributions during the year amount to very nearly 70s. for each member working full time, there has been no falling off in the membership. The special levies, however, put on after the Oldham strike of nearly three years ago, were taken off at the end of the year. Like almost every other trade union, the Cotton Spinners have had to meet a large increase in the out-of-work pay. The amount paid under this head was £15,885 7s. 10d., being £1,397 13s. 6d. more than in 1886.

MIDLAND COUNTIES TRADES FEDERATION.—On Wednesday night (April 11) a special delegate meeting was held at Wednesbury to consider the advisability of getting a uniform list of prices in the spike-nail trade. Mr. Price, of Halesowen, was in the chair. The Halesowen delegate said the workmen in his district had come to the conclusion to co-operate with the spike nail makers at Sedgley with the view of getting a uniform list, the present list of prices being in their opinion a very unfair one. Mr. Higgins (Sedgley) said that the employers at Sedgley admitted that the existing list was a very unfair one, as no spike-nail maker could earn a living when in full work. Mr. Juggins (secretary) advised them not to run into a strike, but to do all they could to bring the employers and workmen together. Eventually it was moved by B. Winwood (Blackheath), and seconded by W. Miller-chip (Walsall), and carried unanimously, that the secretary invite all the employers in the spike-nail trade in Halesowen, Sedgley, and Dudley, to meet a deputation of spike-nail makers at an early date with a view of mutually agreeing upon a list of prices for the regulation of the trade in future and obviating the necessity for strikes.

A DOOMED INDUSTRY.—The old-established firm of Messrs. S. T. Cooper and Co., of the Leeds Iron Works, have decided to relinquish business, and the month's notice served upon the men in their employ expired with the end of last week. This step, which had long been in contemplation, gives emphasis to the decay from which the best Yorkshire iron trade has been suffering for many years, and is the more significant from the fact that the firm was the first that was founded in Leeds for the manufacture of what is universally known as best Yorkshire iron, after the discovery of the valuable ore in the neighbourhood of Low Moor, over half a century ago. At one time, when the best Yorkshire iron trade was at its zenith, Messrs. Cooper were the leading manufacturers in the Leeds district, employing several hundred hands, and of course making large profits. The introduction of steel, however, has had its effect, and the growing demand for the more durable metal has pushed iron out of the market to a large extent.—This is one of the effects of the introduction of improved machinery in the manufacture of steel. The displacement of these workers is not temporary, and skilled workers in this industry will probably have to accept work as labourers. Of course youths will not learn a decaying trade, and the last of the industry will terminate with the lives of the present workers.

A NICE CO-OPERATIVE MILL.—A mass meeting of weavers was recently held in the Co-operative Hall, Longridge, to consider the best means of assisting the weavers now on strike at the Co-operative Mill. The statements made as to the tyrannical conduct of the manager show the utter fallacy of the idea that the condition of the workers can be improved by promoting co-operative enterprises based upon dividend-making. These concerns are in reality only joint-stock corporations with "neither bodies to be kicked nor souls to be damned," and as a consequence the workpeople are often treated with less consideration than if they were working for the profit.

of an individual capitalist. For instance, in the aforesaid mill, in addition to the list prices being cut down, the weavers were refused leave of absence under the most pressing circumstances, even in case of marriages or deaths. "He did not go to his father's funeral," the manager is reported to have said. "If a weaver asked off for a few hours in consequence of having important business to attend to, they could not understand a weaver having any important business." Then, too, male weavers were discharged as not being subservient enough, and in order that by the substitution of cheap female labour, the manager might obtain a "first-class" reputation "by being able to pay a big dividend out of the operatives' wages." The chairman of the local association, who presided, said there were 552 looms stopped, and only a little over 2000 in the village. With outside help they calculated that 3d. per loom would suffice to carry on the strike. The meeting adopted a motion that this sum should be paid.

"I once saw a smart little woman who could earn nearly £6 a week," says Mr. Lakeman (see article "More Concerning Work and Wages.") Once! Yes, Mr. Lakeman, we don't think you would see such a fortunate lady twice.—*Labour Tribune*.

In the matter of the Mid-Lanark Parliamentary election, and the attempt of the political caucus to ride rough-shod over the wishes of the working-classes, Mr. T. R. Threlfall, secretary of the National Labour Party, desires to make an appeal to the readers of the *Labour Tribune* for subscriptions towards Mr. J. Keir-Hardie's election expenses in fighting the "money-bags" of the Liberal party. That appeal will come as a flash of enlightenment to many a Tribuner who may happen to think that so-called Liberals love working-men as such. Far too many of the party make the same use of the workman as the workman does of his tools. The Caucus needs teaching a lesson or two to show them that money is not always king. Subscriptions should be sent to Mr. Threlfall, 19, Sussex Road, Southport. Labour shall be king.—*Labour Tribune*.

TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDUE.—The attitude of the official Liberals makes it unmistakably clear that they care nothing for the interests of Labour, except in so far as they can be made subservient to those of the middle-class. Liberals are eager to use our political power as a weapon against Tory landlords, but they are afraid that, in the hands of consistent and independent men, the same weapon may be turned against the social injustice of which Labour is the prey. We do not intend any longer to be merely tools for political tricksters. As the Irish have, by opposing them, forced Liberals to hastily find "political salvation" as to Home Rule, so we can, and will, convert them to a belief in the direct representation of Labour, and the addition to their official programme of measures which will benefit the class to which you and I belong. If Liberalism will not accept our co-operation on fair and reasonable terms, then Liberalism must in the future reckon with our hostility.—J. KEIR HARDIE, *Labour Candidate for Mid-Lanark*.

PECULIARITY OF FACTORY CLOCKS.—In prosecuting a manufacturer recently at the Rawtenstall police court for employing women and children during prohibited hours, Mr. Osborn, the inspector, said, "These cases were very difficult to deal with, but it was important that correct time should be kept, out of justice to the large number of employers who were scrupulous in carrying out the Act. It was manifestly unfair that any one manufacturer should have an advantage over anyone else in these matters, because five minutes taken at every starting and stopping entirely recovered the half-hour which was taken away when the hours of labour were diminished in 1874. It was their duty to prevent any part of that time being recovered. It was supposed that that reduction of the hours meant a loss practically of 5 per cent. on the invested capital of employers, and they would see that a few extra minutes each day meant a considerable difference, if persisted in." Alluding to the time-worn "clock" argument that had been used for the defence, the inspector said, "There might have been some mistake in the mill clock, but his experience was that these clocks were always fast in the morning and slow at night. He had never found them the other way."

PAROCHIAL ADULT TRANSPORTATION.—A discussion took place at the Clatterbridge (Cheshire) Board of Guardians relative to a proposition to grant £5 per head towards a fund for assisting four young men to emigrate. The board had appealed to the Local Government Board to know if such an application of the funds would be legal, and the Board replied in the affirmative.—Mr. Lloyd accordingly moved that such a sum should be voted, and suggested further that £100 should be raised by a special penny rate for the purpose of promoting emigration.—An animated discussion followed. Mr. Thompson moved a direct negative, and said the moment an Englishman left the country a Polish Jew came into his place. There was now a population of 36,000 Polish Jews, creating low wages and starvation wherever they went.—Ultimately the resolution to assist the emigrants was rejected by a large majority. It may surely be reckoned a sign of progress when a board of guardians pronounce so decisively against the emigration fraud. It is high time that the shameless shuffling to and fro of the victims of Capitalism was put an end to, and that the rascals who advocate the exportation of the workers in the interest of the fleecers should receive their due reward.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS AND THEIR M.P.'S.—The labour papers, bossed or inspired by the labour representatives, are weeping over the attitude of Mr. Cowen and the *Newcastle Chronicle* with regard to the recent vote. The following is from the *Weekly Chronicle*, and fairly states the question:—"The voting of the Northumberland Miners in respect to the stipends of Messrs. Burt and Fenwick has left matters in a very unsatisfactory condition. When a society is so evenly divided as the Miners' Union appears to be, there is generally very great difficulty in preventing a rupture. As for the hon. gentlemen whose means of sustenance were involved in the voting, their position can hardly be considered pleasant, or even comfortable. Mr. Burt, especially, must feel acutely the change which has lately come over the sentiments of the miners. Moreover, the facts disclosed by the vote must seriously impair the moral influence he formerly exercised as the political representative of a large body of workmen. . . . So far as Mr. Burt is personally concerned, the thing to be regretted is, not that the miners have now lost faith in him, but that they did not indicate this decline of confidence two or three years ago. It may be taken for granted, I fancy, that the vote which has just taken place practically means sooner or later the abrogation of the political policy which the Northumberland miners have pursued for the last fourteen years." Mr. Cowen is a veteran democrat, and evidently fully understands the present aspect of the labour movement. The best thing the "very respected" M.P.'s can do now is to amend their ways, and find out what are the requirements of a real labour representative. T. BINNING.

THE SWEATING SYSTEM.

A considerable representation of victims of the sweating system appeared on Friday in the Committee Room of the House of Lords, where Lord Dunraven's Committee took further evidence on the subject. The sweaters were distinguishable by their poverty-stricken and dirty aspect, their tattered clothes, and worn, wan looks. Evidence was given by Mr. Arnold White, author of 'Problems of a Great City,' who stated that he had investigated social questions at the East-end, and was acquainted with the sweating system. The sweater was a man who "grinds the face of the poor"—a man without capital, skill, or speculation. He was almost invariably a foreigner, who had been sweated himself. Sweating prevailed mainly in the boot trade, but also in tailoring and shirt-making, and, in a lesser degree, in cabinet-making and upholstery. In the boot trade, out of every four shillings received from the manufacturer the "knifer" or cutter—usually the sweater himself—received 2s. per dozen, while three finishers received only 8d. each. These men worked eighteen hours a-day for four and a half days in the week as long as the work lasted. They could not make a living on twelve hours' work a-day. They could not combine for restricting hours or increasing pay, or registering workrooms—which was what they most wanted—because they would be dismissed if found out and their places taken by "greeners," or foreign paupers, chiefly from Russian Poland. They came largely from Minsk and Odessa, and were induced to come in the belief that London streets were paved with gold, and that they would be better off here than at home. The Foreign Office had been frequently urged to disabuse them of this notion, but for political reasons they refused to carry out the suggestion. He was convinced that if the immigration of foreign paupers was stopped the system would cease. Mr. White displayed to the committee a piece of dry hard coarse bread, which he said was the staple food of the sweater, eaten at his bench. He exhibited also a pair of women's half-cloth elastic-sided boots made by the sweatees, with paper inserted between the soles and uppers. These were atrociously bad goods, and were sent chiefly to the colonies. The men were pertinaciously industrious, and were well-behaved as regarded morality, and very fond of their children, but in regard to cleanliness, abominable. They knew no amusement, they had no pleasure in the past, no hope for the future. They were old men at forty, and their children, though very intelligent, were physically degenerate.—Samuel Wittman, one of the sweated witnesses brought forward by Mr. White, stated that he came ten years ago from Austro-Hungary, where he was a teacher, but was unable to gain a living. He was three months in London without employment, and then went to a boot and shoe shop, where he was told he could learn finishing in a month. He worked from five in the morning till half-past twelve at night for about 15s. 8d. per week, out of which he had to live and pay rent. After some years he joined a trade society. He declined to state the name of his employer, a sub-contractor, because he might lose his work. In the best times a man could earn 28s. per week, and in the worst (December and January) 13s., if he got any work at all.—Mayer Fielwil, native of Russia, stated that he was turned out of town after town in consequence of being a Jew, and at last made his way across Europe to this country, where he arrived three weeks ago, with 3s. in his pocket. He is now doing a month's apprenticeship as a finisher, receiving only a cup of tea or a cup of coffee from his employer.

LANDLORDISM IN AMERICA.

MILLIONS OF ACRES OWNED BY BRITISH NOBLEMEN.

The landlord (says the *St. Louis Republican*, which is only an ordinary "respectable paper") is rapidly becoming an American institution. It was fondly believed for a long time that the landlord was an adjunct of aristocracy, an offshoot of the feudal system, and that he could neither flourish nor take root in the free soil of the great Republic. This belief is being gradually dissipated. Already landlordism is flourishing to a troublesome extent in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, California, and Colorado, and the system has been planted in other States and territories, and will be seen and felt in the near future if something is not done to check its growth. Under this system the agriculturists are quasi-slaves, and the cultivators of the fields little more than peons. All are familiar with the results of landlordism in Ireland. The story has been told a hundred times, and few Americans withhold sympathy from the people of Ireland struggling to shake off the baneful grip of the landlord. But while we pretend to abhor the system on the other side of the Atlantic, it is rather strange that we shut our eyes to its propagation and growth right here at home. Millions of acres in Texas, California, and Colorado are owned by British noblemen, and these vast estates are being peopled with hardy agriculturists, who will cultivate the fields, build houses, and increase the value of the property without any corresponding benefit to themselves. As fast as they increase the value of the lands their rents will be increased, and when they refuse to pay exorbitant prices the courts and sheriffs will be called to the landlord's assistance and the tenant will be driven from his home with all the anguish and ceremony attending evictions in Ireland or Scotland. Already evictions have become familiar in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. Landlordism is the seed of poverty and discontent. It begets anarchy, socialism, communism, robbery, and murder. It is not a native of this country, nor can it ever be made to harmonise with American institutions and American ideas.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

Annual Conference.—The Fourth Annual Conference of the Socialist League will be held at 13 Farringdon Road, on Whit-Sunday, 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.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.—1887: Hastings, Nottingham, Pelsall—None. Croydon, Glasgow, Ipswich, Leeds, Merton, 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, Walham Green, Wednesday—to end of October. —1888:—Marylebone—to end of January. Hammersmith, Leicester—to end of February. Acton, Bradford, Clerkenwell, Hackney, North London, Oxford, L.E.L. (Hoxton)—to end of March. Mile-end—to end of April.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

"Well-Wisher," 6d. W. B., 6d. C. J. F., 2s. 6d. K. F., 1s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d. Oxford Branch, 2s.

Propaganda Fund.—H. Samuel, 1s.

REPORTS.

ACTON.—At Turnham Green, Front Common, 11.30, good meeting, Catterson Smith opened; Fry also spoke, Tochatti and Maughan supporting. 14 *Commonweal* sold.—J. T.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday, at the Communist Club, 49, Tottenham Street, W., F. Henderson lectured here on "What Socialists should do." Good discussion. On Sunday, at St. Pancras Arches, a very large meeting was addressed by Donald, Chambers, and Bartlett.—W. W. B.

CLERKENWELL.—Owing to wretched weather last Sunday evening, open-air meeting was abandoned. In hall, F. Henderson lectured on "Municipal Action." Lively debate.—B.

FULHAM.—Tuesday evening, opposite Liberal Club, Tochatti and Groser held meeting. Sunday morning excellent meeting addressed by Mahony, Morris, and Turner; 3s. 3d. collected for branch. In evening, Rev. S. D. Headlam lectured in rooms to large audience on "The Sins that Cause Poverty." Many questions and good discussion; 3s. 2d. collected; 45 *Commonweal* sold during the day.—S. B. G.

HACKNEY.—Lane and Charles addressed the first meeting of the season at the Salmon and Ball on Sunday morning. Moderate audience and fair sale of *Commonweal*.

MILE END AND BETHNAL GREEN.—Lane, Charles, and Davis spoke in Victoria Park last Sunday evening. Sale of *Commonweal* good. Tuesday evening we opened our new hall, when speeches were given by Donald, Henderson, Barker, and Blundell, who also sang "The Starving Poor of Old England."—H. D.

MITCHAM.—The first meeting of the open-air season commenced here on Sunday, when an audience of 300 persons were addressed by Kitz, Eden, and Parker. Very good sale of *Commonweal*.

NORTH LONDON.—This branch has been revived, and with the beginning of the fine weather resumed open-air propaganda. A very good meeting was held on Sunday morning in Regent's Park. Branch prospects are decidedly good.

BIRMINGHAM.—Tuesday evening, J. Sketchley lectured at Summer Row Coffee House on "Socialism and Anarchism." Sunday evening, Tarn lectured at Baskerville Hall on "Robert Owen."—A. T.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday, McCulloch, Brown, and Glastier went to Cambuslang to hold a meeting, but on arrival they found the only available space for meetings occupied by the supporters of one of the many candidates in the Mid-Lanark contest, so they had to be content to sell literature and *Commonweal* in the already formed ground. The weather prevented our other outdoor meetings on Sunday. A general meeting of the branch was held in the rooms at 6.30.—S. D.

LEEDS.—On Sunday morning, Hill, Paylor, and Sollitt addressed a large crowd in Vicar's Croft.—P.

NORWICH.—On Friday last paper read by comrade Poynts, entitled "Why I am a Socialist"; several joined in discussion. Sunday morning, two good outdoor meetings addressed by Mowbray, Morley, and Utley (London). In afternoon large meeting held in Market Place by Mowbray and Utley. In evening another good meeting was held in Market Place by Mowbray. At Gordon Hall, Utley lectured to large and sympathetic audience on "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." Morley and Mowbray also spoke. Good collections and good sale of *Commonweal*.

WALSALL.—Monday last Sanders and Deakin dealt with a Fair Trade manifesto, largely circulated of late in the district. Good discussion followed, their views meeting considerable support from audience. Outdoor meeting Saturday held by Sanders; no opposition of any moment.—J. T. D.

L.E.L. CLUB AND INSTITUTE.—On Sunday evening A. K. Donald lectured to a large audience on "Crime, its Cause and Prevention," an interesting discussion followed. The new venture is making satisfactory progress.

EDINBURGH.—Indoor meetings discontinued. On Meadows, 8th inst., John Smith had a long debate with Job Bone. Smith's vigorous and well-directed onslaughts carried the large audience with him. On 15th, Smith, Bain, and some of the S.D.F. spoke, Job forming the opposition.

JUNIOR SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.—Saturday evening, April 14, Mrs. Aveling read a paper on "Woman," at 65, Chancery Lane.—H. W. F.

DUBLIN.—At the Presbyterian Association, Upper Sackville Street, April 9, Mr. I. A. Cree read a paper on "Aspects of Socialism in England," in which, after an impartial description of the progress of the movement, he advocated a mild form of State Socialism. An interesting discussion ensued, comrade Fitzpatrick knocking the Individualist opponents into a cocked hat. Mr. Jas. Walker (Saturday Club), and several others spoke.

Mrs. Wardle will supply Branch Subscription Cards at 9d. per doz. Leaflet Press, Cursitor street.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Wednesday April 22, at 3.30 p.m.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

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

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road. Thursday April 19, at 8.30, H. A. Barker, "The Labour Struggle." April 26. Business meeting—all members requested to attend.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday April 22, at 8.30, Mark Manly, "How to Advance Socialism." Wednesday 25, at 8.30, H. A. Barker, "The Moral and Economic Bases of Socialism."

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday April 22, at 8 p.m., William Morris, "Socialism."

Hackney.—SPECIAL NOTICE—The next meeting of members will take place on Sunday evening next, at 5.30, at 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick. Tea provided before business meeting. —On Tuesday April 24, William Morris will lecture on "Socialism, its Aims and Methods" at the Morley Coffee Tavern Lecture Hall, next to Morley Hall, Triangle, Mare Street, Hackney. Chair taken at 8.30 prompt by W. B. Parker.

Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday April 22, at 8. William J. Bull (Hammersmith Constitutional Club), "An Historic Socialism."

Hoxton.—Labour Emancipation League Club and Institute, 1 Hoxton Square (near Shoreditch Ch.). Sunday April 22, at 8 p.m., H. Halliday Sparling will lecture on "The History of Radicalism."

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.

Mill-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. A special meeting of the members of the branch will take place on Thursday April 19.

North London.—Next business meeting will be held Sunday April 22, 7.30, at 109 Cavendish Buildings, opposite Holborn Town Hall. Nelly Parker, secy. Members specially requested to attend.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—Sunday night meetings in Baker Street Hall, at 6. Secretary, J. Leatham, 15 St. Nicholas Street.

Birmingham.—Summer Row Coffee House.

Bradford.—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivegate. Meets Tuesdays 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

Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Discussion every Thursday at 8. April 26, "How is Socialism to be Realised?" May 3, "Is Socialism merely an Economic Change?" May 10, "Relation of Socialism to Christianity."

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

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

Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily.

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.—Friday next, at 8.30, a paper will be read by comrade Beare. Sunday at 8, lecture. Monday, Entertainment at 8. Tuesday, Members meeting at 8.30. Wednesday, Ways and Means and Literary Committees at 8.30. Thursday, Band practice and Troupe rehearsal at 8. Friday, Debating Class at 8.30—all comrades ought to attend. Saturday, Co-operative Clothing Association.

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.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 22.

11 ...Acton—the SteyneThe Branch
11 ...Turnham Green—Front Common...Ham'smith
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and BallMainwaring
11.30...Hammersmith—Beadon RoadThe Branch
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Wade & Pope
11.30...Merton—Haydons RoadKitz
11.30...Mill-end WasteTurner
11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenFredericks
11.30...Regent's ParkNicoll & Parker
11.30...St. Pancras ArchesBartlett

11.30...Walham GreenFulham Branch
3 ...Victoria ParkCharles & Lane
3.30...Hyde ParkParker
7.30...Clerkenwell GreenBlundell
7.30...Stamford HillCharles & Parker

Tuesday.

8 ...Mill-end WasteMainwaring & Davis

Friday.

8.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street ...N. London Bh.

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Saturday: Cambuslang, at 6.30. Sunday: Jail's Square, at 1 p.m.; Paisley Road Toll, at 5; Infirmary Square at 7.

Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, at 11 a.m.

Norwich.—Sunday: Ber Street Fountain at 11.45; Market Place at 3 and 7.30.

MILE-END AND BETHNAL GREEN BRANCH.—H. H. Sparling will lecture on Tuesday 24, 8.30, at the Working Men's Radical Club, 108 Bridge Street, Burdett Road—subject, "The Blind Samson."

UNITED RADICAL CLUB AND INSTITUTE. Kay Street, Goldsmith Row, Hackney Road, E.—H. A. Barker will lecture on Sunday April 22, on "The Aims of Socialists."

A Concert and Draw will take place on Sunday April 29 at the Communicative Working Men's Club, 49 Tottenham Street, W., in aid of Adam Weiler, who has been ailing in health for a considerable time. Tickets, price 6d, may be had at the above-named Club; and at 181 Queen Victoria Street, S.D.F. office; F. Lessner, 12 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square; and the offices of the S.L.

Admission by Programme, price Threepence each.

The weekly Entertainment

In aid of the Strike Fund

will be given next Saturday, APRIL 21, in the
Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd.,
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