

# THE COMMONWEAL

## The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

### NOTES ON NEWS.

THE Government have withdrawn their Compensation clauses—if anybody except the teetotalers cares about that, unless it is from the point of view of "legitimate party warfare," as it is called, and which is so contemptible that one wonders how people can be found who can pretend to look upon it seriously. Not unlikely that they put the clauses in so that the public might have something to ask for and have granted to them if by any chance the clauses could not be carried without any bother. But they have managed the whole affair ill enough to rejoice the electioneering gentlemen on the other side. A plague on both their houses!

A great Liberal-Radical meeting at St. James's Hall, and the utmost enthusiasm displayed against coercion—in Ireland. Mr. Morley as eloquent as such a man can be, but having the effrontery to say if such and such things had been done in London, it would have been in a blaze: and just the same things were done in London—but where's the blaze? Is it possible that Mr. Morley hasn't heard of all this? of course not. The man passes as a "sincere" man; but no doubt he has long ago learned the lesson that a politician must only air his sincerity when it is convenient for practical purposes.

Lord Wolsley in fanning the somewhat cold ashes of the invasion-scare which is to put a job or two in the way of naval and military gentlemen and their friends, said one or two curious things. It was a matter of course that he would like a conscription if he could get it, so as to raise a really formidable army; and in order to make such a proceeding seem somewhat more useful to the ordinary civil mind, he dwelt on the physical advantages drilling would confer on the under-sized and stunted town population. All very well, my lord, but perhaps a little feeding from the cradle upwards would be of some use in the same direction, and a little better housing, and some more leisure: in short, to have a citizen-soldier you must have a citizen. But the army which Lord Wolsley would like to raise would be used chiefly for preventing the greater part of the population becoming citizens, for enforcing them to remain, slaves—i.e., persons to be used by "the country" and not allowed to use it.

Luckily he won't get much of an army after all. The innate dishonesty of "the shopkeeping nation" will compel them to have everything connected with the army and navy done at the greatest possible expense with the result of the least possible efficiency. That is too old a condition to be broken with before the pinch comes, and when it does come—well, let us hope that it will turn us into something better than a shopkeeping nation! After all, the terrified public (who do not care a twopenny damn for the whole business out of the newspapers) may be reassured. The reactionary military powers wouldn't ruin bourgeois England if they could; since they well understand that she is the greatest champion of reaction; all the more useful because of her cant over "liberty" as over other matters. W. M.

The Sweating Committee goes on its aimless way, and there are by no means lacking other people besides Socialists, to suggest that it is and was meant to be a farce with an ordained conclusion of whitewash and fireworks. It is, of course, the most natural thing in the world for such a Committee, though it makes outsiders blaspheme, to allow the getting-round of inconvenient facts and such practices to be as shamelessly carried on as they are.

For instance, there seems no hope of any settlement of the Maple problem. On the one hand it is declared that the Maple firm is angelically pure, with a halo of generosity around their head; on the other, we know that Mr. Maple was allowed to intimidate a witness before the committee by his presence, and there are dark stories about. Can the committee not secure itself against such things? Can it not find if they be true? Or does it neither wish to guard nor know?

Their mode of doing business, however, being under the public eye,

cannot be so cynically brutal as that, say, of the Irish "administration." In that happy country the other day a "private inquiry" was held in the house of a local landowner by a magisterial and landlord ring, which sent witnesses to prison for refusing to answer inquisitorial questions, and otherwise behaved as a gang of unscrupulous ruffians might be expected to do when they had their enemies in their power, and law-'n'-order at their back.

The Parliamentary Committee on the Army and Navy, although sitting in London, is made-up delightfully near to the Dublin Castle pattern. It is formed to sit upon the War Office and its ways of working, and has (therefore) among its members three ex-War Ministers and a subordinate War Office official.

Wolf try wolf is a good arrangement for the wolves, though the sheep are like to fare ill enough under it. How long the people will be content to play sheep is for them to settle.

The way in which "our good friends, the police," get up sham plots and prove their sagacity in "finding" them afterwards, would be ludicrous altogether but for a touch of the tragic now and then. With seven or eight undiscovered murderers and a large number of assorted wrong-doers going around among us, under the very noses of the moral-miracles, we are compelled to smile as we read of the Clan-na-gael dynamite plots, and the thorough knowledge the police have of the would-be executants. Suppose you catch the others, Messieurs the Omniscient, before you talk so loudly of your cleverness?

You are very proud just now of the capture of Jackson, who for weeks baffled and eluded you; but it was his own folly which thrust him into the trap, no thanks to your acuteness. Perhaps you will explain your failure in his case before asking us to believe in your success with the Clan-na-gael?

How many "plots" have you discovered that you did not first make? How many "infernal machines" have you and your Continental *confrères* not made, planned, and "found"? And while you have been doing this kind of work how many swindlers, thieves, and murderers have not slipped through your fingers? Known liars, and proved incompetents, unable to do the most ordinary part of your business, you yet expect to be credited with superhuman powers!

Perhaps the "British public," many-headed ass that it is, may believe in you; but to all sensible people you are a by-word and a scorn. Surely the decent-minded among you, and there are many such, must be beginning to feel this, and to be disgusted with the dirty work you have to do?

Hardly has the Pope responded to the cry of the Irish landlord with a plea for the high morality of rent-paying by compulsion, when he is to be asked for what in a lower rank of life would be called a legalisation of incest. As it is the brother of a king and the daughter of a prince, and the union is to produce an heir to a throne, it would be impolite to use such a word, and the whole thing is again in accordance with the higher morality reserved (by Divine Grace) for the great ones of the earth. S.

### THE EUROPEAN POWERS AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

To isolate France is to-day the great task of the League of Peace. Her isolation will soon be an accomplished fact, and the great conflagration draws near. It may burst forth during the present year, or it may be deferred till 1889. Before the close of the coming struggle it may be that more than one despotism will disappear. The despotisms of Germany, of Austria, of Italy, and most of the minor States depend on the fidelity of their armed legions. Though their

mercenaries number millions, they nevertheless tremble on their blood-stained thrones. They may isolate France, but the spectre of revolution will still be there. They may close their frontiers, but the spirit of the revolution will rise from the mountain-tops, it will roll through the distant valleys, and will penetrate the remotest villages. "Ideas will penetrate where armies cannot."

We are told that France is the embodiment of the revolution, and is therefore a danger to surrounding nations; that the Exhibition of 1889, to celebrate the centenary of the Revolution, is an event of which no monarchical government, or one with dynastic sympathies, can approve; that as 1789 was followed by 1792-3, so may the Exhibition of 1889 be followed by other events of anything but a peaceful character; that no monarchical government can wish for its subjects to visit France during the period of such Exhibition, where their minds might be contaminated by revolutionary ideas, or their sympathies roused by the traditions of 1792-3. The despots know, too, that great as were the revolutionary achievements of those years, the aims of the coming revolution will be greater still. Hence their determination to boycott France and ruin her by isolation.

Take a few of the things that followed August 4, 1792; and let us not forget the state of the other European countries at that time, as well as the state of France, and then judge of the changes accomplished. The revolution abolished serfdom and forced-labour for the benefit of the nobles. It abolished the jurisdiction of nobles and their exclusive right to hunting and fishing. It swept away the state church, applied its wealth to national purposes, and abolished the payment of tithes. It established equality of taxation and abolished all exemptions. It put an end to the purchase of offices, and to all pensions held in connection with titles. It established equality with regard to all civil and military offices. It accomplished the reform of all corporations, trade monopolies, etc. It abolished the octroi duties between towns and provinces, and thus established the unity of the country. And in February 1794 it abolished slavery in the West Indies. But going back to 1792, September 21 it abolished royalty, thus following the example of England in the seventeenth century.

Those measures, small as they may seem to-day, were great at the time they were accomplished. Each of those measures was a blow at the aristocracy and the priesthood, and shook to their foundations the thrones of the surrounding despots. The coalition of the European powers, instead of crushing the revolution spirit, developed it, and forced the revolutionary parties further than they otherwise would have gone. It was thus well for France, well for Europe, and well for the world that that coalition took place. In celebrating the year 1789, which was only the prologue to the years that followed, you inevitably call to mind the work of those years, the glorious spirit of the masses which set at defiance the allied despots of the earth, who failed to destroy what the revolution had accomplished.

It is true that to-day France is hastening to another revolution. Of that there is not the slightest doubt. Hence we have another coalition, another alliance of the despots, with measures of compression and isolation, and insults of the most contemptible character. The press, the pulpit and the platform are all at the service of the despots. But compression will fail and isolation in this age of steam and electricity is impossible. Nor will the lies of the press, the curses of the priest, or the thunders of the platform, prevent the revolution. The sympathies of the millions of every country will be with France; and the despots, with all their alliances, with their countless legions of mercenary cut-throats, will be hurled from their blood-stained thrones amid the rejoicing of the liberated peoples.

But to be successful, the revolution must be international. The war against her will be international. And the revolution itself must be thorough. There must be no compromise with tyranny. No half measures. No mere expedients. But war against tyranny at home and abroad; war against corruption, against oppression in all its forms and through all the ramifications of society. The war against France, against the revolution, will be a war of extermination, a war for her extinction as a first-class power. She will succeed only by carrying the war into the enemies' camp, by proclaiming a holy war for the freedom of the oppressed peoples, by organising the social revolution throughout the European continent.

At home, the revolution must be thorough. It must sweep away the financial aristocracy as the revolution following 1789 swept away the old feudal aristocracy. It must destroy for ever the curse of usury, free the rural population from the burdens that crush them to the earth, and thus win them to the revolution. It must destroy the agrarian evils that afflict the peasantry and declare the land public property. It must restore to the workers the instruments of production, and with a national currency and the organisation of credit, render possible the organisation of labour and the exchange of commodities on the basis of equivalents. It must break with the Papacy and win the confidence of the people of Italy. It must take from the priest the direction of education, free the youthful mind from the idle hopes and childish fears engendered by ignorance and superstition, and fill the human soul with dignity and independence. Abroad, France must grasp the hand and give help to every people prepared to struggle for its freedom. Its motto must be war against every tyranny, freedom and independence for every people. True, the task is a great one, the difficulties may appear insurmountable; but the revolutionary party, united and master at home, if true to itself, true to the glorious principles of the social revolution, sure of the sympathies of the toiling millions and the active support of tens of thousands of every country, will triumph over every obstacle, and lead the peoples on to the realisation of justice and liberty.

J. SKETCHLEY.

## BUBBLES.

BUBBLES are airy nothings with a watery circumference which cheat the senses. They are varied in form, colour, and kind. The soap bubble is very beautiful and harmless, affording innocent amusement to the blower. The "bubbles" blown for pay by the press, and other interested parties, are very frequently beautiful while they are being blown or "floated"; they afford occupation to the crafty and disaster to the confiding. There is more soap in some bubbles than in others. The "South-Sea Bubble" of last century was composed simply of the wind of the promoters and the tears of the shareholders. When the wind could not any longer be held together and the thing dissolved itself into tears only, it was thought that bubbles of that kind could never be floated again. We have had some bubbles, and still have them, which have a striking family resemblance to the South-Sea Bubble. We have others which are peculiar to our age and civilisation. Of such are the pious pretensions which, like the Canadian woodman, expect a livelihood for the "axing"—confidential advertisements and the disinterested opinions of the press run on commercial lines.

The pious pretension of an "up-grade" young man advertised itself the other day in an American paper in a manner characteristic of his class. This is the advertisement: "A pious young man desires to be received into a respectable family, where the excellence of his example and superior morality might be considered an equivalent for board and lodging." That advertisement offers a splendid chance to simple sinners—if that be not a contradiction in terms—but I hope, although such "bubbles" still float, this generation shall not pass away until they are burst.

The advertising "bubble" is made a fine art by Messrs. Pears. They recognise the fitness of things, when they can make it profitable to pay £2,200 for a picture of a boy blowing bubbles with a pipe, and to spend £40,000 per year for advertising. This expenditure enables them to float their particular "bubble" so that 6d. can be got for a tablet of their soap which, if the expense of blowing the "bubbles" were deducted, could be sold, at a profit, for 2d. It may be here noted that while medicine men get 6d. for the tablet—that price is stamped on it—grocers sell the same for 3½d. The medicine men get the former price because they trade on the bubbles peculiar to their own trade. The £40,000 per year spent on advertising by Pears adds nothing to the quality or quantity of the soap produced by them; it all goes to the "bubble" blowers. How many of our starving poor could it feed? Yet such diversions of large accumulations of wealth, which has been produced by labour somewhere and sometime, never disturb, it would appear, the "stream of tendency" which is the Alpha and Omega in, and through, which society has its being. Competition, we see, does not always fix the value of commodities in accordance with the cost of production; it often leaves a margin sufficient to make bubble-blowing profitable.

The bubbles blown by a disinterested press, run on commercial lines, when seen through the transactions of M. de Lesseps, have a peculiar colour. It is reported in the press that he spends over one million pounds per year in advertising his various schemes. The *Figaro*, it is stated, receives £25,000 every year, the *Garlois* about the same, the *Nation* £10,000, and the *Petit Journal* £50,000 per year. The probabilities which these papers create in the imaginations of those who are desperate to get something for nothing are sufficient to make "bubbles" recoup this outlay. Whatever else the Panama Canal may be, it will never be the profitable concern for which the capitalists have advanced their money. But in all likelihood the capitalists got the money easily, and "what comes with the wind goes with the water" is true of more kinds of "bubbles" than one. The Panama bubble will not likely dissolve in water, but it will in malarial mud.

Our social structure is at present floated on "bubbles," and when the workers who sustain it with useful work come to an understanding of the analysis of them all, the "bubbles" will not be worth an hour's purchase. The London correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald*, in writing about Mrs. Campbell of Craigie, throws some light on Society "bubbles." He says: "First introduced to the *beau monde* with Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck and the Countess of Cork as her social sponsors, she was soon enabled to fly alone, and for some years her Sunday dinners, her little suppers for Royalty, and her balls have been the best done things of the kind in London. She was distinguished by the lavishness of the presents which she bestowed upon her guests in the cotillions which terminated her dances, and on similar occasions. Last winter in the Riviera she had a cotillion for the Prince of Wales, when the presents were of unprecedented magnificence. Her popularity is extensive and genuine." Now anyone can see at a glance that her popularity is based on her magnificent presents, and that they are not her own products, or exchanges for anything she has done personally. The presents are altogether a chance possession—or property—and if she had no wealth showered on her by others, where would have been her popularity? Seeing her presents cannot be her genuine property, in the real sense of the word, how can her popularity be genuine? No; her popularity is just a Society "bubble," and when everyone gets their own such "bubbles" will not be able to "fly alone." Our political, social, and religious "bubbles" only need to be seen aright to be despised and—burst.

GEORGE McLEAN.

ITALY ABOLISHES CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—The Italian Chamber of Deputies on the 8th, approved almost unanimously of the abolition of capital punishment.

## COLD-BLOODED ENTHUSIASM.

Concluded from p. 178.)

London moved latest and slowest, but when fairly moved Drury Lane Theatre could hardly hold the crowds at meeting after meeting during March, April, and May 1843. After Drury Lane, Covent Garden was taken. At the first meeting held there, September 28, 1843, the accounts for the preceding year were read. Total receipts, £50,290, 14s.; expenditure, £47,814, 3s. 9d. In, among other things, 9,026,000 tracts, etc.; salaries of fourteen lecturers, etc., etc.

The London papers, with the exception of the *Sun*, boycotted the League; and even the *Sun* was paid a very large sum. Country papers required orders for a large supply of copies before giving any specially long reports. When, however, the £100,000 fund was called for, the *Times* sent down reporters to Manchester, and was forced to admit that the League was "a great fact"; and the other papers also had to pay attention.

In 1842, a bazaar was held in Manchester which realised £10,000; and in 1845 Covent Garden Theatre was taken for a bazaar, which was attended by some 125,000 persons and which realised over £25,000, 400 ladies volunteering to conduct the sales. Speaking in Covent Garden Theatre June 18, 1845, George Wilson said with respect to the £100,000, on December 31, 1844, the public receipts in favour of that fund amounted to £86,009, 7s. 5d.; since received, £5,632, 5s. 2d.; bazaar, £25,046, 10s. 11d.; making a total of £116,687, 13s. 4d. The bazaar lasted seventeen days.

In October 28, 1845, at meeting in Free Trade Hall, 8,000 present, it was decided to call for £250,000; to open it at public meeting on December 23; and on that occasion was presented a scene which defies description; £60,000 at once subscribed, and this sum was more than enough to complete the whole of the work, for on July 2, 1846, at the Town Hall, Manchester, the final meeting of the League was held. At that meeting Cobden said they had "been spending during the last three years at the rate of £1,000 per week." The earnestness of those concerned can be fairly estimated by the meetings, council and public, attended by all concerned. This enthusiasm, moreover, did not go off in one fizzle, for in 1852, on a hint of Lord Derby and his Government going for Protection, the League was revived and £70,000 subscribed in less than one month.

Now for a change come to the present. I have not reliable figures as to income and expenditure of the Socialist organisations pure and simple.

The Cobdenites spent from £200,000 to £250,000 in seven years to abolish a tax of say about £2,500,000 per annum. Say 10 per cent.

The annual national income is about £1,300,000,000.

Col. Perronet Thompson scoffed at the semi-barbarous notion of finance which is expressed in the twenty million pounds' worth of gold stored in the vaults of the Bank of England; "for twenty millions would be £100 apiece to 200,000 men—the finest prize-money offered since the creation." But great as that prize is, what is that in comparison with the £1,300,000,000 which the Socialist hopes to control and redistribute more in accord with ideas of justice than now obtains?

The Cobdenites raised £250,000 to attack a monopoly of £2,500,000. I am not simple enough to suggest the remotest hope of raising ten per cent., or even one, or even one-hundredth per cent. on the gross—one-hundredth per cent., which is, roughly, 2½d., would give £130,000.

Instead of reckoning any percentage upon the gross, as the immediately greater part goes to those who do not earn it, and dealing only with that small portion which is allowed to remain with the workers, even then there is a sum on which any exceeding small toll would raise a fund which in a year or two would be repaid tenfold. Deal only with the 400 millions which are allowed as the reward of labour, and a tax of under 2½d. per £100 would produce £40,000 per annum. A sum which would enable such a propaganda to be carried on that all the monopolists of the earth would tremble. A sum which would send lecturers, journals, and pamphlets into every corner of the land and which would return tenfold to the subscribers in a very short time.

That there is warrant for this is proved by such a movement as the "National Agricultural Labourer's Union." This organisation began its work in February 1872, and at a public meeting at Leamington, June 14, 1873, the chairman, Geo. Dixon, M.P., said the effect had been that the aggregate rise in wages was no less than £1,000,000 ('Revolt of the Field,' Arthur Clayden). This was no bad bit of business for some half-million men to do on 2d. per week, and I claim, proves the absolute "£ s. d." value of enthusiasm.

Take another case of what is done, what should be done, and what would be the result of doing it. The English Land Restoration League has been doing its work on some £200 per annum, a pitiful sum with which to attack "Castle Rack Rent" and its two hundred millions of revenue. The total annual value of lands, houses, tithes, etc., as assessed for income-tax in 1884-5 was £194,375,167, not including rents of mines, quarries, ironworks, gasworks, canals, fishings, shootings, markets, tolls, etc. It will be quite safe to assume, taking such evidence as the Commission on the Housing of the Poor and the Sweating Commission, that a full half of the above two hundred millions is paid by those who earn under £2 per week. A subscription at the rate of one-hundredth per cent., or say 2½d. in the £100, would produce £10,000 per annum. In *Scribner's* some ten or twelve years ago appeared a novelette by Henry James, jun., with the catch-

ing title "The Ghostly Rental." As soon as the payers of the hundred millions above referred to fully appreciate the "£ s. d." value of enthusiasm, and sympathise with the troubles of others as much as they expect others to sympathise with them, and so soon as they sympathise to the extent of 2½d. per £100, they will put "Castle Rack Rent" in the position of depending on "A Ghostly Rental."

So long as Socialists "enthuse" over nothing else but the vaguest of generalisations and abstractions, and having "enthused" loudly, subscribe not at all; so long as they stand to swap horses in the middle of the stream; so long as they allow their own organs to die while they support some peddling bourgeois paper rather than lose their day's news,—so long will Capitalism laugh to scorn those who

"like sticklers of the war,  
First sought to inflame the parties, then to poise  
The quarrel loved, but did the cause abhor,  
And did not strike to hurt, but make a noise,"—

the people who never do anything but cavil at everything that is done, or left undone.

A traveller after a bad night in some not over cleanly quarters, said if the bugs and fleas had only been of one mind at one moment they could have dragged him out of bed,—suggesting that united action, even of vermin, can accomplish a great work which infinite sub-division fails to do.

THOMAS SHORE, jun.

## FIDDLE DE DEE.

HEY diddle diddle, come read me my riddle.

What is to be done with those goods in the store,  
Which the hands cannot buy, howsoever they try!

Some say, "All we want is a jolly good war."  
But that no better way from the wood there should be  
Is fiddle de diddle de diddle de dee.

HEY diddle diddle, come read me my riddle.

What on earth is the use of the stock-jobbing crew?  
Do these drones in the hive help us workers to thrive?

"Oh, they circulate money; else how would you do?"  
But to say that two shillings by shuffling make three  
Is fiddle de diddle de diddle de dee.

HEY diddle diddle, come read me my riddle.

Why should Labour's reward be less honey than sting?  
Some people cry, "Oh! you can take it or go!"

Oh! freedom of contract's an excellent thing!  
But to say that a man who is starving is free,  
Is fiddle de diddle de diddle de dee.

HEY diddle diddle, come read me my riddle.

Instead of two classes, why can't we have one?  
Some reply, "We feel sure there will always be poor;"

It's the will of the Lord, and His will must be done."  
But such proof the proverbial schoolboy can see,  
Is fiddle de diddle de diddle de dee.

HEY diddle diddle, here's the clue to the riddle.

All wealth must belong to the makers alone;  
Those who toil not nor spin then will have to begin;

Want, worry, and war soon will hardly be known.  
Perhaps we may grow too contented and fat,  
Though a good many people won't grumble at that;  
But to say we can fail to be happy and free,  
Is fiddle de diddle de diddle de dee.

C. W. BECKETT.

## SIC VOS NON VOBIS.

Thus ye—but not for you!—oh birds, those nests contrive;  
Thus ye—but not for you!—oh flocks, those fleeces breed;  
Thus ye—but not for you!—oh bees, that honey hive;  
Thus ye—but not for you!—oh farms, those oxen feed.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

COMRADES,—I should like to suggest to the readers of the *Commonweal*, residing in or near London, the desirability of forming a Ramblers' Club. An association of this description for say Saturday afternoon trips to High Beech, etc., would, I think, be useful for propaganda, and would also lead to more social intercourse between Socialists of the various schools now in existence.—Yours, etc.,  
London, June 6, 1888.

Labour-saving machinery? No, not that, for what invention of them all has really resulted in the production of a labour-saving machine? Wages-saving machines we have in plenty, but of labour-saving machines none will ever be made till the wage system is extinct. While the machinery of exchange and the source of production are monopolised and the means of production owned by capital, Labour must toil on in the Egypt of its slavery, and no machine it can invent, will serve to diminish its tale of bricks.—  
*Canadian Labour Reformer.*



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

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 15 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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

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Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 15 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

COMMUNICATIONS—will be used: R. U. Unsuitable: S. S. ("Success").  
 J. L. (Aberdeen).—Report too late; have managed announcement.  
 M. B. W.—You do not give address of lecture-room.  
 TOM O'C. (Plumstead).—*Ca Ira*, 111 Rue Montmartre, Paris. 8 fr. per annum.  
 R. (Montrose).—We know no pamphlet lately written that will give what you ask for. A good one by Veron, *Les associations co-operatives*, was written about 1866 or 1867. The *Sozialdemokrat* (Zurich) has not been suppressed at all, and goes on the same lines as before. Address, Volksbuchhandlung, Hottingen, Zurich. Subscription 8 fr. a-year.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday June 13.

ENGLAND Leaflet Newspaper London—Freie Presse Norwich—Daylight Worker's Friend NEW SOUTH WALES Hamilton—Radical INDIA Bankipore—Behar Herald UNITED STATES New York—Jewish Volkzeitung Boston—Woman's Journal Liberty Chicago—Knights of Labor Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung Fort Worth (Tex)—South West Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt San Francisco (Cal) The People	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole Altruist FRANCE Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Le Ca Ira Journal du Peuple En Avant Havre—L'Idée Ouvriere HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen Amsterdam—Voorwaarts BELGIUM Ghent—Vooruit Liege—L'Avenir ITALY Milan—Il Fascio Operaio Rome—L'Emancipazione	SWITZERLAND Zurich—Sozial Demokrat SPAIN Madrid—El Socialista Cadix—El Socialismo Barcelona—Tierra y Libertad PORTUGAL Lisbon—O Protesto Operario GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune AUSTRIA Arbeiterstimme Wien—Gleichheit ROMANIA Jassy—Municipalul SWEDEN Malmö—Arbetet
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THE SKELETON AT THE FEAST.

THE consolation dinner to Mr. Jesse Collings was rather a comical business in so far as it was a party coddling-up of the poor well-intentioned feeble gentleman who got practically turned out of the society which he himself had planted and watered so carefully; and the speeches delivered at this queer celebration would afford amusement enough to a cynical man with a good memory for things not worth remembering—to wit, the politics of the last three years. In days which people who have serious work on hand are forgetting speedily, Mr. Collings manufactured a sort of stage landscape of a happy village, over which, as in other stage landscapes, shone a fatuous moon in the shape of three acres and a cow, a long way off: which (heaven knows why—or perhaps the election agents!) was so enticing to a great many members of parliament that rather than disturb it they gave an adverse vote against the then Tory Government and turned it out, it would seem to the great grief of Lord Hartington.

However, as might be expected, this beautiful scene became of little importance when the Outs had become Ins, and it was carried off to the lumber room—acres, cow and all. But again the Outs became Ins, and the new Ins with commendable prudence remembered that there would be another general election some day, and the votes of the field-labourers would then be of great importance to them; so they got up a new illusion scene, of which all that can be said is that it was somewhat more honest than the other in proclaiming itself an illusion; which, however, was not the reason why the Gladstonian Liberals turned their backs on it. Doubtless Mr. Jesse Collings friends were right in asserting that the Gladstonians treated the whole matter from an electioneering point of view; and also doubtless their own impudence in implying that they were not at that very moment treating it in exactly the same way would be enough to stagger people not used, as unluckily we are, to parliamentary dodgers. Well, to go on with this stupid story, the Gladstonites turned Mr. Collings out of the Allotments Association, and the Rural Labourers League (how many rural labourers are there in it, I wonder!) received him into its bosom, and there he sat the other night hugging his grievance, and drinking in the flattery of the friends of the ejectors of the Irish, and the Scotch crofters, perhaps at that moment the happiest man in Britain; probably not much disturbed at the fact that a French nobleman, turned on for the occasion, told him pretty plainly that his three acres and a cow was all rubbish, and that wholesale emigration was the real remedy

for the diminishing numbers of the English field-labourers, as well as for the discontent of the Irish "rebels"; while Mr. Chamberlain promised him another ally, a Yankee Tory, one Mr. Hurlburt, in his magnanimous hatred of the Irish peasant.

This is a scurvy story; and the worst of it is that I believe Mr. Collings was once in real earnest in wishing to do a good turn to the English field-labourers; but parliament knocked all that out of him and at last has dragged him through the mud, and stuck a fool's cap on his head, while it has been using his poor little foolish scheme, of making the field-labourers work double tides to pay their own poor-rates, for electioneering purposes, not heeding him or anybody else in playing its Bedlamite game.

To think of it, that while this banquetting flavoured with the keen amusement of the game aforesaid is going on, there are the field-labourers actually existing! Rubbing through life toward the work-house and the grave on ten shillings a-week. Go through the lovely country now in this "leafy month of June," and if you turn your thoughts from the mere beauty of the earth or the memories of past history which the external aspect of the old buildings help you to, can you, if you think of it, even if you are not a Socialist (if any one but a Socialist ever thinks about these things at all), help feeling that everything there is padlocked against the use of man—the men who have made it of use. These are the men whose forefathers built our cathedrals, wrote our poems for us, fought for our liberties (such as they are!), kept alive the history which links us to the past: and they themselves if they had had anything approaching to decent treatment would have done as much or more. And then look at them, working in their allotments if you please, pinched and heavy and vacant-looking, too poor to look anxious even; forbidden to think or to hope; losing all the arts of life which used to make their lives endurable; grown to be mere appendages to the great centres of population which will swallow up so many of them. To the parliament gentry at St. Stephens, what are they? Votes,—otherwise inconvenient, and to be emigrated out of the way if possible. And will either of our factions or all of them together do anything to unpadlock the wealth of the land for them? Certainly not; it will not; nay, it cannot. It is they themselves, with their brethren of the towns to help, who must knock off the padlock—or else what will happen? Sir Henry James, at that dismal tragic-farce of a consolation banquet, spoke of "the danger in which our inexperienced democracy [O Lord! inexperienced!] stood at this moment." What is the danger? He would say "disruption of the empire," or some such twaddle; others would say "revolution." Is it not rather "Starvation"? That is the skeleton sitting by the guests at the Whig feast.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

BRAZIL'S FUTURE WITHOUT SLAVERY.

IT is, I suppose, an item of the advanced Radical creed that slaves should be freed. Any Radical, however, who will look at an article in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of June 2, might very well be excused for being put in doubt thereby. He might be puzzled to explain in what way the slaves of Brazil will be better off when they are free, that is free in the sense of the M.I.C.E., whose views are expressed in that article. The Pope gives his blessing, it appears, and as has lately been shown elsewhere, the help even of Antichrist is welcomed in preserving our "large stakes." The Member of the Institute of Commercial Enterprise waves his hand graciously at the "humanitarian aspect" of the question. We do not expect a commercial gent to understand any but his own peculiar language, or we might ask him whether this is what is to be done away with "when the serious aspect of slave emancipation is entirely dissipated." The editor of the paper in another article of the same date says, "interest—i.e., family interest—counts for a good deal in our Indian Empire." But there is an interest which comes much more home to us than any "merely sentimental interest," the interest of our loans, which amount in Brazil to something like a hundred millions sterling. "In view of such a tangible fact,"—I must repeat that I cannot be responsible for the language of this *Mens Insana in Corpore Edurato*—"In view of such a tangible fact, the question of the transference of labour in Brazil from the condition of serfdom to freedom must naturally affect Englishmen, apart from its humanitarian aspect." I hope he misrepresents Englishmen; but he certainly may claim to be a typical Member of the Interested Classes of Employers, and would not "let go his hold upon the country" on any account. "The future of Brazil may be a matter of moment," but let us leave that to silly people who will persist in looking for something more than "tangible facts." A little consideration will lead "to the conclusion that the abolition of slavery in Brazil can only be a blessing to that country financially,"—our teacher waves his hand graciously, and ends his sentence with "and socially." But we had perhaps better give a little more consideration to this part, particularly as we are not quite sure what "social blessings" may mean in his language.

We are, however, not long left in doubt. The slaves having become free, were apparently about as free to cultivate the ground as ours in England, and "wandered about homeless and foodless," and so in a short time came back to their old masters and "turned to and became sturdy labourers." Dear me! did they indeed? Yes, "and in consequence of the abolition and the increasing immigration, labour became far more plentiful and cheaper." Poor immigrants! "A healthy field hand who was a slave must have cost the planter £45 a-year, allowing for interest on cost, sinking fund, and maintenance; whereas in the



North any quantity of free labourers can be obtained for £20 per annum." Moreover, "if you know how to handle Brazilian workmen, it is really surprising what an immense amount of continuous hard work can be obtained from them. They will do what would astonish the European labourer, and think of it as only in the ordinary course of things." £20 a-year does not seem a large sum for such an astonishing amount of labour, not so large at all events as the £45 which the labourer "cost the planter" so long as he was a slave. Perhaps the slave wasted some of the £45, that is like enough; any form of amusement is highly wasteful in one out of whom has to be got "continuous hard work." But though the £45 has sunk to £20 already, it will probably sink lower, for "there can be no disputing that in a new country high wages are co-existent with progress and prosperity." Apparently then, the "financial blessing" that has resulted from the abolition of slavery, is that the large Brazilian planter now gets done the same amount of labour for less than half the cost. And he may expect to have more financial blessings of the same kind, as immigration increases and the country ceases to be new. The "social blessings" somehow seem to have disappeared from the programme of this Mischief with his Itinerant Commercial Energy. He may have travelled "three thousand miles through Brazil," but he has looked at it only through the spectacles of finance. It can only be such eyes as can see "any credit to the Brazilian planters for an act which emancipated five or six hundred thousand slaves," and at the same time saves the pockets of the slave-owners certain millions of pounds every year. To financiers anything that saves the pockets of their class seems good; "its humanitarian aspect" may be left apart. The London Chamber of Commerce, no doubt, listened with pleasure to all the talk about speculation, financial stability, and the substitution of free for slave labour, with which the article concludes. The Chamber might start at the mention of Co-operation, but would be soothed again when it was assured that the Muddled Imbroglia of Co-operative Exploitation would still yield the usual "net profits." C. J. F.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

### GERMANY.

The sixth conference of the German "Carpenters' Union" has lately been held at Hanover. There were thirty-three delegates present, representing 86 localities with 5948 members. The income from the 1st July 1887 to the 30th May 1888 amounted to 19,613 marcs 50 pfennige, the expenditure to 17,974 marcs 39 pf., leaving a balance of 1639 marcs 11 pf. Up to the present time the various local unions had to support the trade paper, *Zeitschrift der Zimmerkunst* (Review of the Carpentery), published at Hamburg; the conference have resolved that the paper shall henceforth be supported by the general fund of the Union.

The carpenters' strike at Solingen has ended. At Halberstadt 60 cabinet-makers are still striking, and 1500 at Hamburg. This last struggle has already cost 24,000 marcs, chiefly collected in Hamburg itself. In the same town the engineers have struck, and are, up to now, well supported by their Berlin trade comrades.

At Leipzig the stonecutters have been on strike for twenty-three weeks, and they intend to go on as long as they possibly can. They express great hope of victory in the final result of their struggle against capitalism and exploitation.

In the first days of July, twelve Socialists will have to stand their trial at Kopenick for having secretly conspired against dear Fatherland. It is interesting to note the kind of witnesses who have been chosen to charge our friends: criminal detective Schöne, communal detective Schückholz, soldier Poseler, non-commissioned officer Hubner, police sergeant Rusbild, police constable Beckelman, and police constable Jacob. With such a gang of selected defenders of law and order, it would be hardly necessary to go through the farce of a trial; the magistrates might as well send them all to jail at once!

Comrade Emil Jacob Jost has been sentenced at Pforzheim to three months' imprisonment for distribution of forbidden literature. It has been proved and admitted by the tribunal that Jost has only given his personal copy of the *Sozialdemokrat* to read to one single worker in his workshop, and that is what German law calls distributing and propagating prohibited papers!

At Leipzig 27 persons have been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment for having largely distributed a leaflet entitled "On the 18th of March." Only two have escaped the vengeance of the rascals who style themselves judges, and have been acquitted.

Puttkammer, the shameful Minister of Police in Berlin, the man who covered Switzerland, Belgium, England, etc., with police spies and agents provocateurs, has been sacked by the emperor. For once, let us cry Hip, hip, hurrah, Frederick!

### RUSSIA.

Our comrade Peter Lavroff, who has rendered to the cause of the Social Revolution the most eminent services, and whose name is closely connected with the development of the Socialist movement in Russia, has commenced the publication of a very considerable work, which no doubt will constitute the scientific testament of the great philosopher and truth-seeker. It will consist of five volumes, entitled, 'Essay of the history of thought in modern times.' The first volume will deal with the functions of the history of thought; the second is to contain the historical development of thought in modern times; the third and fourth volumes are devoted to the dualism in State and in science; the fifth to sociology and Socialism, the duties towards the future forming its general conclusions. The two first instalments of the first volume have just been issued, and have the following contents:—I. The problems of history: a. The elements of thought of the modern time and their periods of transition; b. The historical life; c. History as a science; d. The history of thought and its divisions. II. Pre-history: a. The history of man's development; b. Cosmic and geological development (matter—universe—solar system—geological processus). III. The forms of the geological evolution: a. Geological classification; b. Primordial and primary formations; c. Secondary formations; d. Tertiary formations; e. The follow-

ing formations. IV. Evolution of the organisms: a. Life; b. The development of the functions of life; c. The development of the organic forms; d. Development of man as living being. V. Development of conscience and of social tendencies: a. Conscience and social tendencies in nature; b. The principal forms of conscience.

We earnestly hope that the new work of the learned author of the 'Historical Letters' may soon be entirely before the public, and also that the Occidental countries of Europe may as early as possible be enabled to read it, as we feel almost sure that it will be translated into more than one language.

### FRANCE.

Last week, at last, General Boulanger, fearing to be forgotten if he did not come forward, went to Parliament and delivered himself of an oration prepared by senator Naquet out of the speeches which Louis Napoleon, thirty years ago, with impunity spat in the faces of the so-called representatives of the people. But let it be said at once, we prefer Prince Napoleon, who at any rate made his speeches himself, to Boulanger, who wants to be wound up by that hunchback renegade exactly as he has been begging the literary services of a starving Jew in order to bring about his "story" of the Franco-German war. That he is nothing more or less than a Bonapartist would-be dictator, in spite of his "republican" phraseology, is becoming clearer every day. The Bonapartists are very well aware of that; hence their support. So, for instance, at a meeting held in the Salle Levis by the followers of Prince Victor Bonaparte, M. Robert Mitchell, who acts as a kind of demi-god in that camp, declared openly for Boulanger, amid the enthusiasm of his hearers, who cried, "Vive l'Empereur!" and "Vive Boulanger!" alike. "The Bonapartist leaders know what Gen. Boulanger's opinions and intentions are," concluded M. Robert Mitchell, "and our party will give useful aid at the proper time to those who are ready to overthrow the Republic," and these remarks again were received with immense applause. We don't care very much for the further existence or for the overthrow of the present Republic, which is entirely based on monarchical institutions; but certainly Boulanger's régime, which would be a military dictatorship with imperialist institutions, is worse than anything else that could be imagined. Boulanger thinks that France is not "governed" strongly enough; he wishes for his country a really strong government, with an all-powerful chief of the State, and a set of ministers only to be responsible to that dictator. As he doesn't think that times are ripe enough to suppress Parliament altogether, in spite of the rotten condition of parliamentarism in France, he condescends to its further existence, but reduces its rôle to that of a kind of Constituent Assembly, the decisions of which would be subject to the famous right of veto which proved so fatal to the monarchy of 1789. That is altogether imperialism of the worst kind, and it is really not to be believed that there should be any considerable portion of the French working-classes who intend to follow that nefarious soldier. France doesn't want at all a "strong" government, but rather a "little" government as possible, until the day comes when it shall get rid of every kind of central government.

### SPAIN.

The first number of a fortnightly Communist-Anarchist paper has made its appearance at Barcelona, under the heading of *Tierra y Libertad* (Land and Freedom). It is the first Spanish Anarchist paper that follows entirely the lines of *La Révolte* of Paris, and is likely to do a great deal of good work, besides the monthly review *Acracia*, and the weeklies *El Productor* and *El Socialismo*, which have succeeded in gathering around them important groups of workers all through Spain.

### SWITZERLAND.

*La Critique Sociale* (the Social Critic) has made its appearance at Geneva as a fortnightly Communist-Anarchist paper, the only one of its kind in the Swiss "Republic." The first number is very ably written, and we wish our new colleague good luck and speedy success.

### HOLLAND.

Domela Nieuwenhuis' work, 'The Normal Work-day,' a French translation of which we announced in our last issue, is now also being rendered in German. V. D.

## LITERARY NOTES.

Our comrade Kropotkin's articles, which are appearing in the *Nineteenth Century*, should be eagerly looked for and attentively read by everybody who takes interest in social and economical matters.

*Our Corner* keeps up to the high level at which it has maintained its position so long. The present number continues Bernard Shaw's article "A Refutation of Anarchism," which is well worth close reading by all Socialists. Even those who do not agree with all his views must admit the close reasoning and clear statement which this clever writer has applied to the subject. We hope that this monthly will continue its useful existence, as we can ill afford to lose any advanced periodical which is open to the discussion of Socialism from various points of view, especially one conducted with the ability which has always characterised *Our Corner*.

'PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY,' by H. S. Salt (Swan Sonnenschein and Co.).—Of late it has rained Shelley books. Everybody has been reading either Jefferson's rancorous and philistine two volumes—"Caliban on Ariel," as Swinburne called them—or Professor Dowden's authorised version, or one of the many smaller biographies. The latest of these is H. S. Salt's sketchy little book. Mr. Salt has already written 'A Shelley Primer,' containing, besides some slight criticism, all manner of facts about Shelley records, Shelley biographies, the dates of his poems, his friends, etc.—an accurate, useful book. He is a Socialist, and makes the justification of this new Life his sympathy with the social and political theories of Shelley, all previous biographers having held with established things. Yet after all he has not much to say on these matters. On the other hand, it is pleasant to find no carping or cheap irony. As to the troubles and enigmas of Shelley's life, he avoids discussion by calling him a changeling; the real son of Mr. Timothy Shelley, landlord and Whig, was carried away, he supposes, by some thieving goblin of Sussex. On the whole, we have here a very readable though desperately sketchy little book. There are many books on the man Shelley: when will someone give us a history of his mind and poetry, his progress from materialism to extreme idealism, and the elaborate symbolism he loved in later times? Todhunter's 'Study,' the only book of the kind, though very valuable, is hardly in my opinion final.—Y.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

On Wednesday 6th, a number of men employed in the construction of new sewers for the Corporation of Limerick, struck work. They were being paid 2s. a day, and were refused an increase of wages.

A strike has taken place in the Sheffield saw trade. The workmen employed by Messrs. Slaak, Sellers and Co., have struck against the proposal to increase the working hours from fifty to fifty-four per week.

In accordance with the arrangements at the conference between employers and operatives, the wages of the spike-nail makers in Old Hill, Blackheath, Rowley, and Hales Owen district will be increased 25 per cent.

The master cotton-spinners in the Ashton district, which includes Stalybridge, Dukinfield, and Mossley, have conceded to the workpeople 5 per cent. advance in view of the arrangement to regulate the scale of wages according to the rates in the Oldham district.

The services of fifty shipwrights are to be dispensed with at Sheerness Dockyard; but if the men are willing to be transferred to Chatham Dockyard work will be found for them there. Work is brisker at Chatham, as the Admiralty have just ordered a powerful fast cruiser of 9000 tons displacement to be built at that yard.

The London cabdrivers' strike is ended. Some of the principal proprietors have lowered their terms. The men, however, are badly organised, and the selfishness and apathy of a large number has prevented anything like a satisfactory settlement. If the cabdrivers wish to better their condition or even to prevent themselves being still more shamefully exploited, they will have to prepare at once for a much more determined stand before long.

**WOMEN'S TRADE UNIONS.**—A most desirable movement is in progress at Walsall to organise women into trade societies. A beginning will be made with the women engaged in the saddle trade in the town. A public meeting was held last week in furtherance of this object, and a committee has been formed to inaugurate the society. Afterwards an endeavour will be made to unite the women engaged in other trades.

**LONDON UPHOLSTERS AND THE SWEATING SYSTEM.**—At a crowded meeting of upholsters, held on Saturday evening at the Upholsters' Club, Euston Road, a resolution was unanimously passed upholding the evidence given before the Sweating Commission by Mr. Brown, a respected member of the trade, and denying the accuracy of the statements made by Mr. D. Imlay, the foreman of Messrs. Maple & Co., who has been busily endeavouring to prove that the aforesaid firm are model employers.

**KENT AND SUSSEX LABOURERS' UNION.**—The annual demonstration of members of this Union was held at Ashford, Kent, on Saturday, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was a large gathering. At the usual meeting, Mr. Fisher, of Folkestone, presided, and said there never was a time in the history of the Union when there was a greater necessity for the labouring classes to combine together. Mr. Beale, the general secretary, read the annual report, which deplored the continued severe depression in agriculture and trade generally, which had been very acutely felt by the members. As a consequence, the rate of wages had fallen in several districts, and thousands have had a difficulty in obtaining employment, whilst the prolonged winter had prevented many others from being fully employed. Among the members the scarcity of work had produced a difficulty in keeping their contributions paid regularly, and, further, imposed upon them a severe struggle to provide even the bare necessities for maintaining themselves and families. During the year the number of members who had received sick benefit had been 2,792, and the amount paid had been £8,150 8s. 7d. The income from members' contributions had been £11,640 18s. 1d., a decrease of £35 9s. 2d. compared with 1886. This reduction was mainly owing to the number of members in arrears with contributions. During the sixteen years of the society's existence there had been expended in protection to locked-out members £13,600, and in assisting members to emigrate £2,077.—The report was unanimously adopted, and a resolution was carried urging the necessity of a reform in the land laws, to give compulsory powers to local authorities to acquire land for the establishment of small holdings, in order that labourers may have a direct interest in the cultivation of the soil, and so prevent a great deal of the poverty in large cities and towns through the emigration of labourers from the rural districts.

**METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.**—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the fourth week of the past month was 93,943, of whom 55,650 were indoor and 38,263 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 2,584 over the corresponding week of last year, 3,375 over 1886, and 7,721 over 1885. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 1,136, of whom 900 were men, 206 women, and 1,136 children under sixteen.

The 2,075 non-fatal accidents which occurred to railwaymen during the year 1887 were of the following nature:—Amputations: Legs, 31; Feet or Hands, 15; and Fingers, 11. Fractures, 138; Dislocations, 21. Crushes: Legs or Arms, 87; Feet or Hands, 270; Body, 52. Scalds and Burns, 35; Sprains, Cuts and Bruises, 584; Severe, 140; Shaken, 42; Slight, 72. Unspecified Injury: To Head, 119; Body, 132; Legs or Arms, 174; Feet or Hands, 149; Miscellaneous, 3.

**THRIFT!**—There was a terrible sentence in the *St. James's Gazette* of last night. "In some strata of society," it says, speaking of the sweating system, "thrift and temperance are worse enemies than drunkenness and sloth." There is a frightful truth in this—it is a kind of motto written over the brazen gates of our Social Hell in London. The virtues of the sweated—their determination to live down to the very narrowest margin of subsistence—simply mean so much more profit to the sweaters' till.—*Star*.

**THE PRICE OF HUMAN LIFE.**—The Board of Trade inquiry at Cardiff into the loss of the *Caarau* with all hands, on the voyage from Bilbao to Newport, has fined the owner £100 for fixing the load-line in an unsafe position. As he probably made about five times that amount profit on the voyage, this won't hurt him very much, but it will serve to show how "sacred" human life is held when property is to be considered! Mr. Chamberlain might keep his compensation hand in by bringing forward a measure to compensate sailors' families for the loss of their bread-winners. At the same time we notice that the Government has given £25,000 to Major Watkin, R.A., of Woodwich, for his "position finder," an invention which has been found useful in increasing the effectiveness of artillery. In connection with the same invention Major Watkin has also been granted a retaining fee of £1000 a year for ten years. This is for destroying human life and may be well read with the other.

## REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING JUNE 23, 1888.

17	Sun.	1637. Trial of John Hampden begun. 1775. Battle of Bunker Hill. 1810. Ferdinand Freiherrgrath born. 1830. Chorley "outrage." 1882. Seizure of arms in Clerkenwell.
18	Mon.	1643. Battle of Chalgrove Field; John Hampden mortally wounded. 1835. William Cobbett died. 1864. William Smith O'Brien died. 1881. Most sentenced to sixteen months' imprisonment. 1884. Explosion at Madrid.
19	Tues.	1843. "Rebecca" Riots in South Wales. 1867. Maximilian of Mexico shot.
20	Wed.	1789. Tennis Court Oath at Versailles. 1791. Flight of Louis XVI. from Paris. 1792. Parisians enter Tuileries. 1836. Abbé Sieyès died. 1848. A. R. Parsons born. 1883. Tennis Court at Versailles opened as a National Museum and Monument.
21	Thur.	1628. Dr. Manwaring "makes submission" at the bar of the House of Commons. 1886. "Trial" of the Chicago Martyrs begun.
22	Fri.	1736. Capt. Porteous tried. 1772. The "Negro Case;" James Somerset discharged. 1780. Rev. Henry Bate tried for libel on the Duke of Richmond. 1805. Mazzini born. 1866. Military Rising at Madrid. 1882. Monument to Mazzini unveiled at Genoa.
23	Sat.	1848. Revolution of three days at Paris. 1883. Louise Michel sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

*Battle of Bunker Hill.*—There seems to be an unending conflict over the name of this memorable struggle. English writers persist in calling it "Bunker's Hill," while, as a matter of fact, even the American name was all a mistake. There is no such place as "Bunker's Hill," and the battle was fought on a little eminence until then known as "Breed's Hill." It should have been called the "Battle of Charlestown," but the "Battle of Charlestown" happening soon after might well be confusing. However, the New Englanders christened the fight after it was fought and re-christened the scene of action, and the name of "Bunker Hill" has become a significant watchword in the Yankee heart. Thus it is very suggestive, the persistent efforts of the apologists for British tyranny to break the force of the name by altering even its form. "Bunker's Hill," to a New Englander, suggests only some obscure manor, farm, or pasture; while "Bunker Hill" rings through the air with every idea of liberty and human brotherhood. For, in truth, it was a remarkable battle. Pamphleteers have been hotly disputing ever since as to who commanded the little fortress of freedom. The truth is there was no commander. It was one of the most brilliant examples of the deathless fact that men can get along without leaders, so long as they are possessed of ideas to govern them. Before men thus united, a five-fold force of finest mercenary troops of Europe thrice reeled down the green Charlestown slope, leaving more dead and wounded behind them than there were of opponents all told. Nominally, the latter at length retreated, but no sane man was blind to the real issue. The Cross of Saint George, which had floated for nearly a century and a half upon the "Castle" in the harbour below, delighting the eyes of successive generations of loyal Englishmen who looked to the "Sea-Girt Isle" as their real home, the anchor of their hope, and the true cross of their earthly faith, was to be now banished for ever. No king's writ or queen's writ was to further run on the granite hill-sides of New England. A rapacious oligarchy of London profit-mongers and usurers, the spoilers of Egypt and of Erin to-day, had turned the most devoted of England's children into strangers and inveterate foes.—L. W.

*Chorley "Outrage."*—A firm of cotton-spinners had a dispute with their men, and their factory was burned down under circumstances that seemed to connect the accident and the quarrel. However that may be, the new mill was no sooner set going than the disputes began again, and the men struck and were replaced by "rats," against four of whom on the 17th an attempt was made by letting a can of powder down the chimney of the house they lodged in and letting it off. Much damage, great scare, but no lives lost.—S.

*Death of William Cobbett.*—William Cobbett was born in the spring of 1762 at Farnham, Surrey. The son of a farmer, and beginning life so early that he said, "I do not remember the time when I did not earn my living," yet imbibing enough of desire for mental fare that on running away from home when about eleven years of age he forfeited his supper to buy "The Tale of a Tub" with his last 3d. Worked for a time in Kew Gardens, to see which was his reason for leaving home. In 1782 a sight of the sea and fleet at Portsmouth influenced him with a desire to become a sailor, but being refused by the captain to whom he volunteered he returned home once more. May 6, 1783, started for a day at a fair with some others, but crossing the path of the London coach suddenly decided to see London, and entered upon a period of which he wrote "No part of my life has been totally unattended with pleasure, except the eight or nine months I passed in Gray's Inn. If I am doomed to be wretched, bury me beneath Iceland snows and let me feed on blubber; stretch me under the burning line . . . suffocate me with the infested and pestilential air of a democratic club-room; but save me from the desk of an attorney." Spring of 1784 enlists in the 54th Foot, and after a year at Chatham goes to Nova Scotia and North America. Returns to England 1791, and gets honourably discharged; marries 1792, after a somewhat romantic courtship. Through trying to expose some of the internal villainies of army administration, has to quit England; goes to France, and passes some six months at St. Omer perfecting his French. Something like O'Connell, seems to have been scared out of France by the revolution; leaves for America, inspired thereto by reading Abbé Raynal; arrived in Philadelphia, October, 1792; gets a living as teacher of French, and wrote a grammar for Frenchmen which seems to hold its own to-day. In spite of his treatment by the English authorities over the regimental scandal, Cobbett was very loyal and anti-Republican. His earliest work as a political writer was an attack upon Priestley, and the Americans who welcomed him when he was driven from England. Paine also received some attention from Cobbett's pungent pen. After eight somewhat stormy years, very much occupied in defending everything English and reviling things American, he left June 1, 1800, for his native land once more. Arrived in England he soon changed his ideas. He was told by John Reeves, one of the leading political writers of the day, then in receipt of government pay, that there were only two ways, "either to kiss or kick." Cobbett resolved to "kick," and he did with vim. October, 1800, appeared No. 1 of the *Porcupine*, a loyalist print which lived for about a year, and then merged into the *True Briton*, soon after which he was done with it. He was carrying on business as a bookseller meanwhile, and was cobbling off as a Pittite. January, 1802, appeared No. 1 of the *Weekly Political Register*. As chief of the *Register*, probably most people think of Cobbett as a writer, and certainly thirty-three years of such literary kicking can not be matched by any other writer. That he kicked effectively is proved by the way he was hated and imprisoned by government. He is, however, well worth attention as a prose poet in praise of nature, and as a grammarian his "Six Letters for the Benefit of Statesmen" is one of the most biting answers to the claim for monopoly in all good things on the

ground of superior education and culture, which is at times put forward by the Oxford and Cambridge cad. George Washington Moore's pulverisation of Dean Alford's "Queen's English" is a similar piece of work. In June, 1809, appeared an article in the *Register* dealing with some brutal army floggings. For this he was tried before Lord Ellenborough—one of the worst judges who ever lived—and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Newgate, a £1,000 fine, and £5,000 security for seven years' good conduct. This was the third appearance of Cobbett before Ellenborough. In 1804 two suits had been laid against Cobbett for libel in dealing with Irish matters, damages in one being for £10,000, but the jury awarded only £500, and there was no imprisonment, the main thing required by government. On his release from Newgate in 1812 he had a splendid public reception. Sir F. Burdett presided at the public dinner. Although he had been able to carry on his literary work and also his farming operations all the time he was in prison, still his prospects were much injured, and after a struggle he had once more to quit for foreign pastures, and May, 1817, saw him once more bound for America, where he passed about two years and a-half. Paine's writings on "Finance and the Funding System" had changed Cobbett's ideas to such an extent that when he returned to England, November, 1819, he brought with him Paine's bones and endeavoured to raise a large sum of money to erect a memorial to the once reviled stay-maker. In 1820 he wooed Coventry, but only polled 352 votes; in 1826 he made another attempt, this time at Preston, and again was beaten. In 1831 the government had another wrestle with Cobbett, and the accused Whigs had a bad fall, and the fall shook the Ministry. In 1832 he was returned as member for Oldham, and there is but little doubt that long hours passed in a foul building cut off some years from one whose greatest happiness was to be in the open air, with the birds and flowers, his crops and fields. The debate on the malt tax, and a sore throat too long neglected, finally caused his death, which took place at his farm near Farnham about one o'clock in the morning of Thursday, June 18, 1835. From the extremist point of view possibly some fault may be found in Cobbett; where is the faultless one? But plenty of good Socialist shot was cast, which is none the less effective because from the foundry of one of the most "cap. I" individualists of the century. Of the undue growth of cities he said, "They seem to me to confound augmentation with improvement." Of the everlasting word-spinning, which passed for philosophy and economic science, he wrote, "I may be a very illiterate fellow, but I am certainly more than a match for all those pretenders to learning and philosophy. There is a damned cant in vogue, which when attacked by plain sense and reason discovers its weakness." His scorn for the citizens, who in 1808 were insolently treated by the king, is splendid in expression and fits well to-day, "Snails should be trod upon. . . . We deserve to be treated like dogs, and like dogs we are treated." (*Vide Trafalgar Square.*) As to the National Debt he was a repudiator, and some of his fiercest invective was poured upon the funding system with its train of "Jews, jobbers, loan mongers, East India adventurers, and all sorts of vermin, to domineer over the people, and starve and degrade the labouring classes of England." The amount of work he got through was immense, and naturally some inconsistencies can be found, but he is one of the very few who never trimmed or rode on a rail for pay or place. What he says may be wrong, but he never leaves you in doubt as to what he means, for he never uses language which can have a dozen translations and then no meaning; a liar with him is a liar, a jobber a jobber, a thief a thief, and such a man would be a distinct gain to-day when jobbery and lying is rampant, but is handled with dainty touch of kid-glove.—T. S.

"*Rebecca*" *Outbreak.*—The "Rebecca" rebellion, for it became no less, began in 1839 on the borders of Pembroke and Carmarthen by the breaking down of turnpike gates, the tolls levied at which they held to be excessive. It was not, however, until 1843 that the war attained its height. Turnpike laws were like all monopolies, not intended for the benefit of the mass, and small farmers and peasants groaned under excessive tolls. Taking their name from a perverse application of a scriptural phrase (Gen. xxiv., 69. And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them), they formed a wide-spread and well-organised secret society, which soon spread throughout South Wales. Under the influence of a few Chartists among them, they gradually learned that there were other imposts upon them to be lessened with advantage, and so extended their scope that from magistrate's fees and county rates to the rent of land there was nothing that escaped their vigilance. This the Government could not stand, and so by the strong hand and treachery it broke the back of the organisation, promising benefits right and left to the people, appointing a Commission of Enquiry, occupying the country with soldiers, etc. The Commission reported poverty and oppression as the causes of revolt, and nothing more was done. By their "lawlessness" the folk had cleared the most part of the gates, and scared the trustees so much that they were never rebuilt, and they had reduced other burdens, but by their submission they gave themselves once more as sheep into the hands of the shearer.—S.

*Maximilian of Mexico.*—The Republic of Mexico under its Indian President, Juarez, having incurred the wrath of the rotten gang who surrounded Badinguet, an excuse for invasion was soon made up, and a French army sent to place a bankrupt Austrian-Grand Duke as Emperor on the Mexican throne. It was a disgraceful stock-jobbing scheme from beginning to end, and few grumbled but those like him when Juarez and his army "moved by a great idea" smashed up the empire, and shot the usurper "for his crimes against the independence of the people." Much of the best fighting on the side of freedom was done by American volunteers fresh from the recently-ended Secession war.—S.

*Dr. Manwaring.*—Was a hot-headed Welshman who took up the cudgels for divine right, and by preaching intemperate sermons in favour of kingly power brought himself under the censure of the House of Commons. After trial and being found guilty, he made abject apology and retracted everything, but was fined and barred from advancement in the Church. Charles came to his aid and gave him livings and bishoprics with a dispensation to hold them, but after the fall of the throne he fell in great poverty and so died in 1653.—S.

*Capt. Porteous.*—Was in command of the military guard at an execution where a rescue was attempted, and for firing on the people without orders was tried and found guilty. Sentenced to death, he was reprieved by the Government, when the people became afraid he was to escape, took him out and lynched him.—S.

The "*Negro Case.*"—James Somerset was a negro whom his owner had brought with him from Jamaica, and who having a taste of freedom refused to go back. He was abducted and taken aboard a vessel lying in the river, but on a writ of habeas corpus was produced in court and his case argued. It was then decided that English law recognised no slavery in England; that though a man were legally a slave in Jamaica, an English court could take no cognisance of the fact, and that therefore his "owner" could use no force upon him more than on other men, nor could he recover possession of him at law. Wherefore Somerset was discharged a free man. This was ten years before the Abolition movement began, and the judge's decision rested wholly on a negative construction of the law.—S.

The following note was unavoidably held over from last week's Calendar:

*Prynne at the Star Chamber.*—The 14th of June, 1637, will ever be memorable in the great struggle for liberty of free speech among Englishmen, it being the day when that fiery Puritan, William Prynne, with his fellow martyrs, Henry Burton and John Bastwick, appeared before the notorious court of the Star Chamber of Westminster, and were ordered to have their ears cut off for their various writings against the prelates of the Established Church. Prynne was

the especial unforgiving enemy of the stage-players, and when it is remembered how the London actors have ever been the sycophants of royalty and tyranny, and the foul libellers of the best and purest Englishmen, we can easily forgive Prynne's prejudiced zeal. Even Shakespeare himself never lost an opportunity of spitting venom upon a Puritan, and of slobbering sickening sycophancy upon a monarch or a lord. But whatever the cause they preached, it was the outrageous usage of Prynne and his fellows which brought the dawn of England's freedom of utterance, and inspired Milton's immortal periods. It is only fitting to remember that it was through spreading Prynne's words abroad that glorious John Lilburne first became at once the martyr, the apostle, and the chosen mouthpiece of liberty.—L. W.

### THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE AND THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

For the past three years during the summer season meetings have been regularly held in Victoria Park and collections made at them on Sunday afternoons. Collections have also been made for years previous to the League meetings by other organisations. But for some reason or other the Board, who have control of the park, have secured the consent of the Home Secretary to a bye-law forbidding collections to be made. This was looked upon by our comrades as a most serious attack upon our propaganda, and they decided to resist it. For the first Sunday or two it was not noticed by the park keepers, who have always been most friendly to our members, but on the third Sunday one of the Christian spouters in the park (an employer of labour paying starvation wages) called their attention to the collection being made, consequently the keepers had to take action, and took the names of S. Mainwaring and F. Charles, the secretary of the League. The next week W. B. Parker met with the same fate. It was therefore determined to hold a big meeting of protest last Sunday afternoon, and by 3.30 some 2,000 persons had gathered round our platform. The chair was taken by W. B. Parker. The speakers were Mrs. Besant, who was in splendid form, her remarks being received with rounds of applause, S. Mainwaring, H. Davis, Mrs. Schack, Tom Walker, A. Brooks, and J. Carr (of the National League). The meeting, which lasted over three hours, was enthusiastic throughout. Mrs. Besant, after her address, made a collection, whereupon her name was taken. Other collections were made by our comrades whose names have already been secured. The total amount was £2, 5s. 6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d., which was given to the East-end Propaganda Fund. It is intended to fight this out to the end. Next Sunday W. Morris and Annie Taylor are the speakers. We hope that all Socialists living in this district will assist our comrades in this struggle. Over 200 copies of *Commonweal* were sold. W. B. P.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

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

**Socialist League Propaganda.**—Help is earnestly asked from all friends and sympathisers to extend the educational work of the Socialist League. Printed forms for collections can be obtained from the Secretary on application.

**East-end Propaganda Fund.**—Collected:—Berner Street Club, 1s. 8d.; Donation from Mile-end Branch, 2s.; Smith, Princes Square Club, 6d.; Hyde Park, 4s. 0<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d.; Victoria Park, £2 5s. 7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d.; C. W. D., 5s.—JOSEPH LANE, Treasurer.

## REPORTS.

FULHAM.—Tuesday, Catterson Smith, Bullock, and Groser spoke opposite Liberal Club. Sunday morning Tarleton spoke, *Commonweal* sold well. Some courteous opposition from a member of the S.D.F., which was well answered by our speaker. In evening, Tochaty and Groser spoke outside. *Commonweal* sold out, and during the day 5s. 4d. collected for branch.—S. B. G.

NORTH LONDON.—Good meeting at Ossulston Street last Friday evening, addressed by Brooks, Cantwell, and Parker. On Sunday morning an excellent meeting was held at Regent's Park. Cantwell, Blundell, and Samuels were the speakers; 7s. 9d. collected.

LEICESTER.—Robson lectured on 6th inst. on "Commercial Competition" before Democratic Guild, Gallowtree Gate Chapel. This Guild has been founded as the outcome of a series of discourses by the Rev. Stead (brother of editor of *Pall Mall Gazette*). Its object is "to ascertain our individual and collective duties in regard to various phases of national life." The audience was astonished at Robson's lecture, believing competition to be everything good. They adjourned to pull themselves together for a reply next week. On Sunday, splendid open-air discussion in Russell Square. Thomas Slater (of Bury) opposed us, and a fine crowd collected. Robson spoke well; people sympathetic. Barclay replies next Sunday.—T. P. B.

NORWICH.—Good meetings during week at Thorpe and St. Catharine's Plain by Poynts and Mowbray. Sunday morning, Adams and Darley held a meeting at Wymondham; several *Weals* sold. Rochmann (of London) was with us on Sunday, and in morning spoke at Bishop Bridge; in afternoon, with Mowbray, in the Market Place. In the evening another good meeting in Market Place, when Rochmann gave an account of the work in Russia; audience very enthusiastic. Rochmann's visit has removed from the minds of many of the workmen the former feeling regarding foreigners. After the meeting went to Gordon Hall, where a very enjoyable "social" evening was spent, consisting of revolutionary speeches and songs. Good sale of *Weal* and good collections.

WALSALL.—Monday, Deakin lectured on "Has Machinery benefited the Workers?" Several visitors took part in discussion. Tuesday evening, Sanders addressed open-air meeting in Queen's Square, Wolverhampton, and on Saturday held meeting here, evoking a large number of enquiries, one opponent promising to discuss with Sanders, time to be arranged.—J. T. D.

### EAST-END PROPAGANDA.

Almost all of our meetings last week were well attended, especially those addressed by Mainwaring at London Fields on Wednesday, at Philpot Street on Thursday, and at Mile-end Waste on Saturday, which was continued until about 11.30 p.m. Our meetings on Sunday were very successful at Leman Street, where Lyons and Mainwaring spoke; Gibraltar Walk, addressed by Lane and Charles; Hackney Road, by Parker, Lane, and Charles; Haggerstone, by Charles and Davis, which meeting was finished at 11 p.m.; and at Stamford Hill, by Mainwaring, Blundell, Nicoll, and Brooks. Our meeting in the Park is reported elsewhere. A large amount of literature has now been distributed throughout the district, and our bill-posting brigade is getting into working order, but

more personal help is urgently needed, and if any of our comrades have a few hours on their hands during the week we would earnestly ask them to come and assist us in distributing literature from house to house, or speaking at some of our meetings before the summer gets over.

**JUNIOR SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.**—Fisher read his paper on "Authority" last Saturday. The discussion which followed was the final one upon this subject.—A. F.

**ABERDEEN.**—Leatham spoke at Castle Street on 26th ult., on "Socialism, what it is and what it is not." Duncan presiding. Police interfered on the ground of "obstruction" but on our moving to another part of square allowed us to proceed. Crowd (considerably larger than former week) kept well together for an hour and a-half: questions at close. Sunday night, 27th ult., at indoor meeting Gornlund's chapter on "Woman in the Co-operative Commonwealth" was read. Good discussion followed. At indoor meeting on June 3rd, Morris's lecture, "The Labour Question from the Socialist Standpoint," was read and discussed.—J. L.

**DUBLIN.**—At Industrial League, 75, Aungier Street, June 5, O'Gorman delivered an address on "Education," advocating free, compulsory, technical, and secular education for all classes. A prominent Churchman who was present was of opinion that State education should be divorced from theology. An interesting discussion ensued, in which Murphy, Stephens, Cunningham, and others took part.

**SOCIALIST UNION.**—Wednesday evening, May 30th, a paper on "Socialism" was read by comrade Mead of the Cardiff Socialist Union, before the Guildford Street Improvement Class. Good attendance of working-men. Discussion followed the paper, which had to be postponed to following Thursday, June 7th, when all objections raised were fully answered. The subject has, however, created such interest that it will be taken up again on Thursday next, June 14th, for general discussion.

**WOOLWICH.**—Last Sunday, Cunningham Graham, M.P., Donald, Mahon, and Banner addressed one of the largest meetings ever held in Woolwich. We had at least 3,000 people present, and considering that we had only 24 hours notice to organise the meeting it was a great success. Graham showed the need of a Labour Party with great force, and made a wonderful impression. We formed a branch of the Labour League and collected 34s.—R. B.

## LECTURE DIARY.

### LONDON.

- Acton.**—17 High Street, Acton, W. (adjoining Purnell's Dining Rooms). Sundays at 8 p.m.
- Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7.
- Fulham.**—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. H. B. Tarleton, "Politics and Socialism."
- Hackney.**—28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.
- Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday June 17, at 8.30, Sydney Ollivier (Fabian Society), "Republicanism and Social Democracy."
- Hoxton.**—Labour Emancipation League Club and Institute, 1 Hoxton Square (near Shoreditch Ch.). Sunday June 24, Excursion to Walton-on-Thames, in brakes. Tickets 3s. each
- Merton.**—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road.
- Micham.**—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evenings from 7.30 till 11. W. E. Eden, 12 Palmerston Road, Wimbledon, Secretary.
- Mile-end and Bethnal Green.**—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business meeting every Thursday evening at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after meeting.
- North London.**—The business meetings will be held on Friday evenings at the Autonomie Club, Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, after the open-air meeting at Ossulton Street. A Free Concert will be given every Friday evening; members of other branches invited. All members are asked to attend at Ossulton Street at 8 o'clock. Secretary, Nelly Parker, 109 Cavendish Buildings, opposite Holborn Town Hall.

### PROVINCES.

- Aberdeen** (Scottish Section).—Secretary, J. Leatham, 15 St Nicholas Street. Meetings Sunday night at 6.30. Choir practice, Thursday night, at 8, 46 Marischal Street.
- 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).—35 George IV. Bridge. Discussion every Thursday at 8. June 14, "Socialism and Teetotalism." 21st. "Duty of Socialists with Regard to Interest-taking." 28th. "Socialism and Malthusianism."
- Galashiels** (Scot Sect).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.

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

**Glasgow.**—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. On Sunday June 17, at 7 p.m., we intend to commence a series of lectures on social, economic, and other subjects in our rooms; all friends invited.

**Leeds.**—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Rd. and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m. communications to T. Taylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.

**Leicester.**—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.

**Lochgelly** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (*pro tem.*), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.

**Norwich.**—Gordon Hall. Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting. Wednesday, at 8.30, Dramatic Class. Friday, at 8.30, Provisional Committee. Saturday, 8 until 10.30, 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.

### SUNDAY 17.

- 11 ...Turnham Green—Front Common ...Acton Bch.  
11.30...Hammersmith—Beadon Road .....The Branch  
11.30...Hoxton Ch., Pitfield St. ....Pope & Barker  
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....Eden  
11.30...Regent's Park .....Cantwell, etc.  
11.30...Walham Green .....Fulham Branch  
3.30...Hyde Park .....Mainwaring & Charles  
7 ...Clerkenwell Green .....The Branch

### Tuesday.

- 8.30...Fulham—opposite Liberal Club ...The Branch

### Friday.

- 8 ...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street .....Parker

### EAST END.

### SUNDAY 17.

- Mile-end Waste ... 11 ...Mainwaring.  
"Salmon and Ball" ... 11 ...Davis.  
Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Kitz.  
Gibraltar Walk, Bethnal 7 ...Lane & Charles.  
Green Road.  
Well Street, Hackney... 11.45...Parker.  
Kingsland Green ... 11.30...Brooks.  
Wheler Street, Shoreditch 12 ...  
Victoria Park ... 3.15...Morris and Mrs. Taylor.

- Stone Bridge Common, 8 ...Davis.  
Haggerston.  
Triangle, Hackney Road 7 ...Parker.  
Lea Bridge Road ... 6.30...Lane & Charles.  
"Salmon and Ball" ... 7 ...  
Stamford Hill ... 7.30...The Branch.  
Broadway, Plaistow ... 7.30...Mainwaring.

### MONDAY.

- Near Bow Church ... 8.30... —

### TUESDAY.

- Southgate Grove, South- 8.30... —  
gate Road.  
Mile-end Waste ... 8.30...Fuller & Davis.  
Shacklewell Lane, Kingsland 8.30...Lane & Charles.

### WEDNESDAY.

- Broadway, London Fields 8.30...Fuller & Cores.  
Broadway, South Hackney 8.30...Mainwaring & Chs.  
Charlotte St., Gt. Eastern St. 8.30...Lane & Ackland.

### THURSDAY.

- Packington St., Essex Road 8.30...Cores & Davis.  
Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Mainwaring.  
Clapton Pond, Clapton Road 8.30...

### FRIDAY.

- Tottenham Rd, Kingsland Rd 8.30...Mainwaring  
Union St., Commercial Road 8.30...Lane & Charles.

### SATURDAY.

- Mile-end Waste ... 8 ...Parker & Davis.  
Ashgrove, Mare St, Hackney 8 ...Mainwaring & Chs.  
"Weavers' Arms," Stoke 8 ...Stamford Branch  
Newington.

### PROVINCES.

- Aberdeen.**—Castle Street, Saturday 16th, at 8, Glasier and Leatham. Duthie Park, Waterside Gate—Glasier, at 3.
- Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.
- Leicester.**—Sunday: Russel Square, at 11 a.m.
- Norwich.**—Monday: Thorpe Village, at 8. Thursday: Yarmouth, opposite Town Hall, at 8 p.m. Friday: St Catharine's Plain, at 8 p.m. Sunday: Bishop Bridge at 11.30; Croxtwick, at 3.30; Market Place, at 3 and 7.30. Wymondham, every alternate Sunday, at 11.
- West Bromwich.**—Near the Fountain, every Sunday morning at 11.15.
- Smethwick.**—Near Spon Lane, every Sunday morning at 12.

**WOOLWICH.**—Arsenal Gates (open air), Sunday June 17, at 6.30 p.m., John Burns. 24th, Jas. Macdonald. July 1, Fred Verinder. 8th, Rev. S. D. Headlam.

**WEST MARYLEBONE WORKING MEN'S CLUB,** 123a Church Street, Edgware Road, W.—On Monday June 18, at 8.30, Rev. S. D. Headlam, will lecture on "Christian Socialism."

**EXCURSION OF LONDON SOCIALISTS.**—A Committee has been formed for the purpose of arranging an excursion to take place in August. All Socialist bodies have been united to take part therein, and a meeting of delegates will be held on Saturday evening in Hall of Socialist League at 8 p.m.—W. P. PARKER, Sec.

**NEW BRANCH PREMISES FUND (CLERKENWELL).**—There are still outstanding Tickets, with those Secretaries who hold these kindly make their returns on or before June 20th? Already acknowledged, 10s. 9d. Received since, Communist Club, 3s.—J. TURNER, R. TURNER, J. FLOCKTON, W. BLUNDELL, Entertainment Committee, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C.

The Annual Excursion of the United Socialists of London to Epping Forest (Robin Hood) will take place on Sunday 24th, for the benefit of the Revolutionary propaganda. Full entertainment in the Forest. Tickets, price 1s., at 6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.; or from the Club Morgenroethe, Prince's Square, Castle Street. TRAINS start from Liverpool Street station as follows: Morning, 8.50; 9.50; 10.30. Afternoon, 1.0; 2.20; 3.20; 5.40.

## No Compensation!

MEETING AT LONDON FIELDS ON SATURDAY JUNE 16, AT 6 P.M.

The Socialist League will have a platform at this meeting, from which speeches will be delivered by Morris, Parker, Mainwaring, Lane, and several others, and the help of all comrades in the district is specially requested to aid in the distribution of leaflets, sale of *Weal*, and generally in making this meeting a success.

## A DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT & BALL

in aid of the

East-end Propaganda Fund

will be given at

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ON SUNDAY FIRST, JUNE 17th, at 8 p.m.

Admission by Programme, 6d.

"NUPKINS AWAKENED" will be played, and several songs will be given by various comrades. Programmes from secretary Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, and Berner Street and Princes Square Clubs.

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