

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

### NOTES ON NEWS.

THE controversy between the *Daily News* and Mr. Davitt shows on what shallow foundations rests the hope that the Liberal party will deal satisfactorily with the Irish question. The whole matter for the *Daily News* is one of party politics; to import any reality into the question and look facts in the face appears, naturally enough from this point of view, an impertinence. Mr. Davitt is an interloper, "a dangerous firebrand," because he actually wishes to save his countrymen from the immediate miseries of eviction, and does not hesitate to say what he thinks will stir up some honest men to help in the matter. Anyone who has belonged to the Great Liberal Party at a crisis and has had strong opinions of his own at the time will at once recognise the true Whig flavour in the wretched snobbery of the *Daily News* article the other day; and Mr. Davitt's scorn which met it was most amply justified, whether he was right or not in his estimate of the present mind of English Liberals as to Ireland.

But surely he was right. No doubt the eyes of working men who are true to their class have been opened on the subject of Ireland, and Mr. Davitt can rely on these for support. But what is their power in the Liberal party? Next to nothing. Their enthusiasm has been wasted, they have been snubbed and Trafalgar-Squared, and in short treated as inconvenient persons—like Mr. Davitt.

The party, as a party, is apathetic, and the Irish constitutional section is pinned on to its apathy. The truth is that these Gladstonite Whigs can see nothing except the general election, which they believe, and probably rightly, will bring them into power once more. The swing of the pendulum will then most likely give us a Liberal government again; but as far as anything they can do, that prospect is not encouraging even as regards Ireland, which is the only question the *Daily News* and its masters will allow us to look at. When one comes to think that the serious consideration of the relations between the Irish tenant and his landlord and the advocacy of some kind of land nationalisation makes a man a "firebrand" in the eyes of the Great Liberal Party, one's raptures at the probable change of government are apt to be moderated.

What will happen? A compromise on Home Rule, a temporising measure in favour of the tenants, and the whole question as a real matter of everyday life handed over to the Socialists to deal with, and agitate upon.

Even the bourgeois papers call Mr. Saunders over the coals for his last appearance in the character of Nupkins. Of course people cannot help laughing at the monumental stupidity of the man; but it is just this stupidity which is the dangerous thing, for on such stupidity is based the immoveable cruelty of the governors to the governed. A man not irredeemably stupid could not help thinking, "Here is a poor man in a foreign country, whose language he cannot even talk, who is extra helpless and has been wronged: if I am so hard-hearted as not to feel for him, at any rate let me pretend to do so." Such wisdom is not to be had out of Nupkins; a hard fate drives him to proclaim his incurable stupidity, which has at least the effect of cruelty.

All this would not much matter if we read this week that Mr. Saunders has been dismissed in disgrace—which is not likely to happen; the freaks of an East End magistrate have nothing to do with the comfort of well-to-do people, for whom alone the laws are made, though they may inflict misery enough amongst the people whom he rules over, and who have no redress for his hard-dealing and insults.

The coming winter is not likely to lack its share of "discontent," which is becoming a thing to be looked for among the poor, just as "the Season" is among the rich. We are beginning early too; the pauper refuges full, meetings of unemployed, police attacks on them; prosecutions for violent speaking; this does not look very like the peace and prosperity we have been promised.

As to the prosecutions for violent speaking, it is much to be wished that the authorities will attack us in this way rather than by means of

their old sneaking obstruction tactics; it is much more satisfactory to go to prison for straightforward preaching of what is undoubtedly a dangerous doctrine, than for an offence which mixes up Socialists with Salvationists, etc. Only if we are to be run in for violent speaking, let it be for saying something that we shall not be ashamed to see quoted in the papers. Let it be for attacking the essence of our sham society, and not its accidents; let us in fact talk Socialism, for that may be both reasonable and violent at the same time. It is as well to have witnesses also, not for the sake of the police courts, where the magistrates will not heed them, but for the sake of putting ourselves right before the public and our comrades. As an author I know the unpleasantness of being misrepresented by newspaper critics; and I fear that police witnesses will not be much better than these.

According to the *Star*, the Salt Trust is to be succeeded by a Coal Trust, which will arrange matters (of course) for the benefit of the public, by taking care on the one hand that we don't get our coals too cheap, and on the other hand that the men shall be employed (as much as the employer finds it convenient to employ him). The promoters of the scheme are of course too modest to mention themselves, but clearly expect us to believe that they are actuated by the purest public spirit. The affair, along with others of a similar nature, is interesting to Socialists as showing in the first place that the unlimited competition on which our whole commercial system rests is beginning to break down, and in the second place the helplessness of the general public before the great capitalists: for of course, to drop irony, the real aim of these schemes is to rob both producer and consumer as safely and as much as possible. Meantime labour must pay for the whole game.

W. M.

Mr. George Kennan has recently written a series of articles in the *Century* which might be entitled, "The Russian Prison System from the Standpoint of the Superior Middle-class Person." In these he endeavours to prove that the Russian Nihilist is not the dangerous revolutionist of contemporary newspaper fiction; on the contrary he is a mild speculative individual, much addicted to reading Spencer and Comte, and looking upon the Republican Government in America as his highest administrative ideal.

Mr. Kennan has had some conversation with some of the Siberian exiles. He appears to have expected to meet a gang of murderous savages, who would perform a war dance while brandishing daggers and revolvers around the helpless tourists. Instead of this he encountered a number of mild young men and women, who might have done honour to a Young Men's Christian Association in any land but Russia.

Clearly either the Russian police or Mr. Kennan have made a serious mistake; still I cannot help thinking that some one has been gammoning Mr. Kennan. It is quite possible, too, that these exiles not knowing Mr. Kennan, and remarking that he was on very friendly terms with their jailers, hesitated at delivering themselves so freely in his presence as they otherwise might have done.

This worthy gentleman is very severe upon what he calls "incomprehensible cranks," whom he defines as "people with some education, a great deal of fanatical courage, and a limitless capacity for self-sacrifice, but with most visionary ideas of government and social organisation, and with only the faintest idea of what an American would call 'hard common sense.'" He goes on to observe, "I did not expect to have any more ideas in common with them than I should have in common with an Anarchist like Louis Lingg."

We have seen he was agreeably disappointed, and if the exiles he met with are anything like he represents them to be, we can only wonder at the stupidity of the Russian Government in exiling people with whom a respectable middle-class journalist like Mr. Kennan can sympathise. Much better to have given them a government post and thus effectively closed their mouths.

But let us examine Mr. Kennan's definition of "a incomprehensible crank" as a person of some education, a great deal of fanatical courage,

and a limitless capacity for self-sacrifice, with only, unfortunately, the faintest trace of hard common-sense. I defer, of course, to Mr. Kennan's superior knowledge; but I have hitherto thought that this would be an excellent definition of heroes who have carried every great revolution that has transformed the face of the earth, but I find I was mistaken. Jesus Christ, Socrates, Galileo, and John Brown were all "incomprehensible cranks, with only the faintest trace of hard common-sense," or they would never have been hung, tortured, poisoned, and crucified.

Stupid fanatics! they had much better have fallen into the ways of the respectable world, and devoted what small talents they were possessed of to improving their position in life. Those people who admire and venerate are quite mistaken them, they were not heroes but "incomprehensible cranks." Mr. Kennan says so, and he ought to know!

It is pleasant to hear that Mr. Kennan has "no ideas in common" with these people, and therefore runs no risk of inconvenient martyrdom. By-the-by, that excellent young man might be surprised to hear that "Anarchist Louis Lingg" derived his incendiary notions from the comrades of the political exiles whom he met in the wilds of Siberia. That, however, happens to be the fact, as every student of Socialism knows; but Mr. Kennan being a clever journalist, is quite capable of laying down the law upon a subject without knowing anything at all about it. That is one of the necessary accomplishments of his profession.

D. N.

## LABOUR'S TRIANGULAR PROBLEM;

OR, MEN VERSUS MACHINES.

"There is no security against the ultimate development of mechanical consciousness in the fact of machines possessing little consciousness now. A mollusc has not much consciousness. Reflect upon the extraordinary advance which the machines have made during the last few hundred years, and observe how slowly the animal and vegetable kingdoms are advancing in comparison. The more highly organised machines are creatures not so much of yesterday as of the last five minutes, so to speak, in comparison with past time. Assume for the sake of argument that conscious beings have existed for some twenty million years: see what strides machines have made in the last thousand! . . . Even now the machines will only serve on condition of being served, and that too upon their own terms. The moment their terms are not complied with, they jib, and either smash both themselves and all whom they can reach, or turn churlish and refuse to work at all. How many men at this hour are living in a state of bondage to the machines? How many spend their whole lives, from the cradle to the grave, in tending them by night and day? *Is it not plain that the machines are gaining ground upon us, when we reflect on the increasing number of those who are bound down to them as slaves, and of those who devote their whole souls to the advancement of the mechanical kingdom.*"—(Samuel Butler: 'Erewhon,' pp. 189, 200.)

THE thought-provoking book from which the above is taken contains in chapters xxi, ii, and iii, probably some of the most extravagant speculation ever risked, even in a satirical fable, as it is. The pity is, there is so much of truth in the statement as to the increasing number of those who are slaves to machines.

I am hoping to give some fuller samples of 'Erewhon' some day; just now the question is machinery. Political economists at Bath, and trades unionists at Bradford, have just recently been dealing with the questions of machinery, production, distribution. Production and distribution the great question to settle; machinery the great distributing element.

The orthodox political economist says "Produce more and eat less"; the trades unionist, "Produce less and eat more"; the Socialist, "Produce more and eat more." The political economist says, Increase your powers of production and be more thrifty; the ordinary trades unionist says, Restrict the output; the Socialist says, Control the whole means of production and distribution: produce as much as you want, and consume it. It is a sort of triangular duel, in the course of which some most wonderful nonsense has been written.

The *British Printer*, one of the latest organs devoted to that trade, and far and away the best printed, in its last number has the following par., which for its size contains more serious warning and specious balderdash than one could think possible:—

"EDISON ON THE LABOUR QUESTION.—In reply to the question, 'When motive power gets to be four times as cheap as it is, what will become of the labouring man?' Mr. Edison replied, 'He will be enriched by it. Machinery will be his slave. See how machinery has multiplied in the last fifty years. As a direct result, working men get double the wages they did then, and the necessities of life cost only half as much. In other words, a hand-worker can to-day buy four times as much with ten hours of work as his father could fifty years ago. For the first time in the world's history a skilled mechanic can buy a barrel of flour with a single day's work. The machinery in the United States represents the labour of a thousand million men, or fifty times as much labour as all the men in the country. When motive power is still further cheapened—say in another generation—I believe that the unskilled labourer, if sober and industrious, can have a house of his own, and a horse and carriage, and a library, and a piano. It is terrible stupidity that leads some labouring men to suppose that machinery is their foe. It is the thing which gives them independence and even freedom. Without machinery society would drift into the condition of master and slave. The multiplication of machinery means for every worker more food, better clothes, better house, less work. In fact, I believe that the indefinite increase of machinery is going to solve what folks call "the labour problem"—that is, the desire of hand-workers to get a bigger slice of the margin of profit."

It is rather refreshing to find such a par. in the pages of a journal whose *raison de etre* is the minimising of machinery. The *British Printer* is the outcome of a move made some ten or twelve years ago by a few earnest men, with some artistic feeling, to prevent the absolute extinction of printing as a handicraft and art; every page is a typographic protest against the dreary mechanical work of ten to twenty

years ago, and a proof of the good effects which have come of once more allowing and urging the workman to be really a craftsman and an artist, instead of a mere automata attending on a machine.

This is by the way; only may it be noted, however, that the incongruity of such a paragraph in such a place is accentuated by finding that the sheets are fastened together with those confounded machine-driven wire staples, which are "stabbed" through as though to murder a choice bit of work, as special sacrifice to the machine demon.

Returning to the paragraph itself, the very serious part is the statement that "the machinery in the United States represents the labour of one thousand million men, or fifty times as much labour as that of all the men in the country." Extremes meet, we are told, and probably it will be allowed that Robert Owen and J. S. Mill and John Ruskin and Professor Cairnes, extremest of orthodox economists and extremest of Socialists all agree on the position as expressed by Mill, that "it is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the days of toil of any human being."

Edison says that the amount of machinery now permits a man to buy four times as much with his ten hours of labour than his father could. A writer in the *Denver Labour Enquirer*, Jan. 1885, said, "When it takes 75 bushels of western man's corn to buy one ton of Ohio coal, and the miner has to dig out twelve tons of coal to buy one bushel of corn, we may well stand aghast at our system of developing the country." This is the way to examine this question; this puts aside the confusion caused by the money value put upon things. The same rule-of-three sums can be worked out here in England on the figures in any labour paper, and gives point-blank denial to Edison's statement.

As to exactly how much man-labour is represented by the machine power in use in the world, that is a very difficult question, but the following from various sources may be useful, just at this time when the Trades Union Congress is being held and is discussing the growth of machine power. "In 1851 machine and tool making employed in England and Wales 48,000 persons; in 1861, 117,000; in 1871, 175,000. In 1851 our exports of steam-engines and other kinds amounted to £1,168,000; in 1875 to £4,213,000."<sup>1</sup>

To make by hand all the yarn spun in England in one year by the use of the self-acting mule, carrying 1,000 spindles—viz., 1,000 threads at the time—would require 100,000,000 men.<sup>2</sup>

Kolb's 'Condition of Nations,' 1880, footnote p. 99, says, "According to Fairbairn, in 1860 the metal works and smelting furnaces of England employed so many steam engines as to represent together 450,000 horse power. The steam-engines of the manufactories had together 1,350,000 horse power; the steamers 850,000; and the locomotives 1,000,000; making together 3,650,000 horse power. But inasmuch as this power is continuous, while horses would only work eight hours, the figures should be increased to 11,000,000. It is reckoned that the power of seven men is equal to one horse-power, so the steam-engines of England perform a work which would require 77,000,000 men to perform."

According to M. Chevalier there were 16,500 locomotives at work in Europe. These represented 8,000,000 horses, or 40,000,000 able-bodied men, or the working capacity of a population of 200,000,000 human beings. (*Democrat*, Nov. 1886.)

Prof. A. Russel Wallace, in 'Land Nationalisation,' 1882, footnote p. 6, says, "There seems to be no means of getting at the exact amount of steam power now in use. A writer in the *Radical* newspaper states it at 2,000,000 horse power. Mr. Thomas Briggs in the *Peacemaker* states that 'in 1851 we had steam machinery which represented 500 million pairs of hands,' but I am informed he means by this the number which would be required to do the same work by the old hand-power machines. In a periodical called *Design and Work* (vol. x, 1881), it is stated that England now employs 9,000,000 horse power. Taking this estimate as approximately correct, we have a power equal to 90 million men. One-half our population (15 millions) consists of children and persons wholly dependent on the labour of others, and from the remainder we may deduct all the professional, literary, and independent classes, the army and navy, financiers, speculators, Government officials, and most tradesmen and shopkeepers—none of whom are producers of wealth. Taking these, together with the criminals, paupers, and tramps, at 6 millions, we have 9 millions who do all the productive physical labour of the country, while the steam power at work for us is at least ten times as much."

What this vast increase of power really means can be judged by taking a few of the trades most affected by steam and machinery:—

"In 1874, 538,829 persons employed in mining and handling coal above and below ground extracted 160,713,832 tons of coal. In 1883, 514,933 persons produced 163,737,327 tons—an increase of nearly 23,000,000, with 24,000 fewer persons employed. In 1874 the miners won 261 tons per head; in 1880, 334 tons per head. In 1880, 53,896 were unemployed. In the working of iron and steel, in 1872, 360,356 persons employed produced and used 6,741,929 tons of pig-iron. In 1883, 361,343 persons were so employed, and they produced 8,490,224 tons—an increase of 1,750,000 tons for nearly the same number of persons as in 1872. In the cotton and flax industry 570,000 persons used 1,266,100,000 lbs. of cotton in 1874; while in 1883 but 586,470 persons used 1,510,600,000 lbs. In every case it is the same—decreased number employed, and immensely increased production. In agriculture in England and Wales, persons employed have fallen from 2,010,454 in 1861, to 1,363,184 in 1881, of whom but 800,000 are classed as agricultural labourers. Bear in mind that all this while population has been increasing at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum."<sup>3</sup>

THOS. SHORE, JUN.

(To be continued.)

<sup>1</sup> Leoni Levi: 'Work and Pay,' Strahan, 1877, p. 51.<sup>2</sup> Idem, p. 25.<sup>3</sup> *Nineteenth Century*, December 1884.

## REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29, 1888.

23	Sun.	1651. Battle of Worcester. 1829. Major John Cartwright died.
24	Mon.	1798. Bartholomew Teeling hung. 1866. Great Reform meeting at Manchester.
25	Tues.	1870. Siege of Paris begun. 1877. Communist Club intervenes in strike at new Law Courts, and causes German masons to return home.
26	Wed.	1848. Trial of Chartists.
27	Thur.	1798. Thomas Muir died. 1803. Trial of H. Howley for high treason. 1830. Outbreak at Berne. 1885. Dod Street demonstration; 70,000 present.
28	Fri.	1840. Trial of Louis Napoleon for Boulogne attempt. 1848. Trial of Smith O'Brien for high treason. 1864. International founded. 1870. Capitulation of Strasburg: Rising at Lyons.
29	Sat.	1783. Hussey Burgh died. 1887. Northumberland miners' gala.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

## FRANCE.

The ultra-radical Premier, Floquet, goes on very well in the way of reaction: this week, he has ordered twenty foreign workers, among whom are eighteen Belgians, to be expelled from France, their crime consisting in being real republicans in that sham republican country.

In the centre of France, at Allasac, Brive, Tulle, etc., the strike of the navvies continues, and the men are very energetic. The soldiers that have been sent there by Floquet-Bayonet had a glorious day: armed with rifles and sabres, they fought against poor unarmed women, the wives of the strikers, and wounded them, some fatally, many others very severely. But at last they became ashamed of their work, and in spite of the orders of their commanders, they opened their ranks and the women and children passed on their way. How much longer is Floquet going to govern France?

Comrade Jules Guesde, who for years past has valiantly by pen and tongue fought for the cause of Social Revolution in Italy, in Switzerland, and in France, is so dangerously ill, at Montlucon, that the doctors have given up all hope for his recovery. We earnestly wish, in spite of the verdict of the physicians, that our friend may be rescued of his severe illness.

*Le Coup de Feu* (the Gunshot), the valiant bi-monthly organ edited by our old comrade Eugene Chatelain, has now developed in a weekly Socialistic, literary and artistic Review of 16 pages large crown folio, and continues to do good work in the propagation of revolutionary ideas. Two new contributors have been secured: Felix Pyat and T. B. Clement, who, with Chatelain, Couret, Roland, Lucas, Simon, Besse and others, form an effective staff of able and devoted Socialists. We wish our good friend Chatelain every success, and hope that his Review, in its new form, will contribute to a larger extent even than before, to the furtherance of the cause for which he has suffered so many a year of imprisonment and exile.

## GERMANY.

William I. is going from bad to worse, and we should not at all be surprised to hear one of these days that he has become mad. He only thinks of his military forces, awakes at four o'clock in the morning, runs to some barracks, where he himself orders the soldiers to the drill-field, and there he parades until late at night. To do such work, almost day after day, he ought to be in good health, but it has recently transpired that he is only apparently so, and that his feverish activity is nothing else but the result of bad health. The despotic pupil of Bismarck suffers very heavily from a cruel disease of the ear, which seems to be an hereditary gift of the Hohenzollerns to their children, and he shows such an irascible temper that it is almost intolerable to live near him. For several weeks past he has been unable to sleep, hence his nocturnal visits to the barracks and the early military manoeuvres ordered by him. Sometimes he is in very low spirits and confidentially consults his physicians as to the premature end of his life. To his military mania he adds another: a profound detestation of French wines and of French words used in the German tongue. He has ordered all the French wines to be removed from the imperial cellars, and does not allow any of his servants to make use of one single French word, even of those words that have passed for a long period of time in the German language. He also fears very much to be killed by some "wicked" revolutionary, and therefore is always accompanied by a bodyguard of well-drilled "non-gentlemen"; he has just now sent out the notorious Krueger, the chief of that sort of gentlemen, to Vienna and to Milan, where he intends to have soon a trip, in order to make the journey safe for his royal person, exactly as the abominable Czar is obliged to do. In short, it seems very likely that we will have soon to "mourn" over a fresh Hohenzollern loss.

Numerous expulsions of Socialists are about to be perpetrated in the northern provinces of the blessed Fatherland, and it is announced that the towns of Naumburg and Altona will be particularly distinguished, the Socialists there being very strong. Happily enough that the social Revolution will not therefore cease to go ahead.

Dr. Krieger will soon have to appear before the magistrates and very likely will be convicted for an offense which until now at least had happily passed unnoticed: the poor doctor has laughed in a public trade's assembly, because a policeman has ordered a speaker to "shut up," as we say here. "What are you doing there?" asked the policeman. "Well, I am laughing!" was the answer. "Laughing is not allowed; that is provoking and disrespectful." And so they are in Bismarck's land: oftentimes atrocious and brutal, but also sometimes stupid and ridiculous!

## ROUMANIA.

The Slavonic populations of the Donau region, says *La Révolte*, are perhaps about to prepare a solution of the Oriental question which has not been foreseen by the European diplomatists. The agrarian revolt exists there in a state of permanency. In spite of the bloody repression of the outburst of last spring the disorders have not ceased, and the revolutionary movement kept down on one spot recommences a few kilometres further. Regular sets of people are travelling all over Roumania, turn the farmers out of their houses, kidnap the functionaries, and sometimes even hang them. The

same things occur in Servia; the monasteries are plundered, the agents of the government are knocked down, and whenever soldiers come across the peasants they soon find all resistance impossible. Everywhere the same enemy—religion, capital, authority.

The strike of the engineers, iron and wood-workers of the Roumanian railways, to which we referred at some length last week, is spreading all round, and has now been joined by the engine-drivers. The arsenal workers have declared that if they are compelled to do provisionally the work of the strikers, they at once are determined to join their fellow-comrades in the struggle. It is exceedingly hopeful for the Cause to see how our Roumanian friends go hand in hand with their Hungarian, Polish, and German brethren, in spite of all the provocations of the bourgeois press, which does its utmost to spread discord and hatred among the workers of the various nationalities. This strike is looked at by the Roumanian Socialists as very important for the future development of the revolutionary ideas in their country.

## POLAND.

A considerable number of revolutionary Socialist proclamations have lately been distributed in the streets of Warsaw, and among the peasants of the neighbouring villages. It is a fact worth noting that the revolutionary Socialists with their scanty means, meet with greater success and better results than the so-called patriotic party with all their wealthy resources. A new "Polish insurrection" of the olden type is no longer to be feared; the next one will be a social one, and our friends there make good speed towards it.

## RUSSIA.

As it appears, the Terrorist party will ere long have again a word to say in Russian matters. Lately ten arrests have been made at Petersburg; seven men and three women, who were carrying bombs somewhere in the neighbourhood of the palace. At Kharkow and Odessa, numerous friends of the Cause have also been arrested in connection with the Petersburg affair. Several working-men's organisations have been formed in various parts of the country, and, as *La Révolte* observes, they manage their own business very well, apart from the admixture of the students of the universities in revolutionary matters. This certainly is a sign of progress, although we highly acknowledge the immense services rendered to the Cause of Revolution by hundreds of heroic young men and young girls of the wealthy classes.

A new Russian Socialist paper has just appeared at Geneva, with the world-known motto, "Proletariat of all countries, unite!" Its editors are Peter Axelrod and G. Plechanow. The first number of this new periodical has the following contents: (1) A word from the editors; (2) The means of conquering a constitution; (3) Our men of letters, by Plechanow; (4) Parliamentarism and Boulangism, by Paul Lafargue; (5) The inevitable change, by Plechanow; (6) The minister-demagogue, by T. E.; (7) Russian life; (8) The workers' movement in 1860 and at the present time, by Axelrod; (9) Bibliography; (10) Obituary: Metschnikow and E. Eudes; (11) History of the International Workingmen's Association, by V. Sassulitch.

There is a sad event also to be recorded about Russia. Tikhomiroff, formerly a member of the Terrorist executive committee, and editor of their two secret organs: *Land and Freedom* and *The Will of the People*, has become a traitor to the Cause. He has published at Paris a pamphlet written in the Russian language, in which he explains why he has ceased to be a revolutionist. He no longer believes in Revolution, speaks with much respect for the Czar and the Imperial Government, finds it necessary to muzzle even more the Russian press, wants for Russia "a strong Government," and invites all his countrymen to rally themselves under the regime of the Imperial autocrat. His reasons for betraying the Cause to which he once belonged are the same of those of all renegades. The miserable autocrat has already granted him his pardon for his past life, and he is now about to commence a new one—a life of shame, in luxury and wealth.

V. D.

## ITALY.

THE IRON LAW.—A correspondent to the *Muratore* of Milan writes: "At the very first opening of the large building works at Milan an enormous number of labourers from the neighbourhood flocked to the town and entered into violent competition with the workers there by offering themselves to the contractors at a much lower rate than that already settled upon between the masters and their employés at the time of last year's strike. Accustomed in their country districts to receive a daily wage of 1. 1.50 (1s. 3d.), and to live on poor bread and polenta, they think themselves lucky to gain in the town from 1.2 to 2.50 a-day and get good bread to eat. The additional discomforts of night-work, and, when they can sleep, of sleeping here, there, or wherever it may be about the works, they do not seem to mind." The writer goes on to lament this competition, begging these fellow-workers from the country to combine for higher wages, so as not to be at warfare one against the other, and lower the tariff laboured for and gained with so much effort. This state of things is indeed very hard, and so is the Iron Law of wages a hard fact, and it shows as a particularly flaring fact in Italy, where trades-unionism is only just beginning to take root under different names—Socialism among others.

The King of Italy has written a letter to his trusty Crispi as the outcome of his journey through Romagna—a letter of form and ceremony, expressing his pleasure, etc., etc. The letter is a mere matter of course, and surely not worth the page or two of notes that the *Emancipazione* bestows upon it. As a matter of fact, with all deference to our republican friends in Italy, Humbert does not deserve one quarter of the abuse he comes in for among other and more "worthy" objects of contumely; nor does it state the case to say that he and Crispi are both "flour from the same sack" (a picturesque simile, by the bye). In many ways he makes a better puppet than any other so-called ruler, whether monarchical or republican, and to our thinking has about him a certain rough honesty and attempt at straight dealing, which is no doubt frustrated at every turn by his political wire-pullers, whom we freely deliver up to the lively pen of our energetic and interesting contemporary of Rome.

M. M.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the first week of the current month was 91,565, of whom 55,163 were indoor and 36,402 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 2,932 over the corresponding week of last year, 4,289 over 1886, and 6,264 over 1885. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 984, of whom 807 were men, 162 women, and 15 children under sixteen.



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!

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Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday September 19.

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<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b> Hamilton—Radical	<b>FRANCE</b> Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Le Parti Ouvrier (daily) La Revolte Le Coup de Feu En Avant Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur Nimes—L'Emancipation	<b>ITALY</b> Gazetta Operaia Rome, L'Emancipazione (daily) Marsala—La Nuova Eta Cremona—Il Democratico Turin—Il Muratore
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<b>UNITED STATES</b> New York—Der Sozialist Truthseeker Volkszeitung Jewish Volkszeitung Alarm Workmen's Advocate Boston—Woman's Journal Liberty Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung	<b>GERMANY</b> Berlin—Volks Tribune	<b>AUSTRIA</b> Wien—Gleichheit Brunn—Arbeiterstimme
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	<b>PORTUGAL</b> Lisbon—O Protesto Operario	<b>DENMARK</b> Social-Demokraten
		<b>SWEDEN</b> Stockholm, Social-Demokraten

## A MODERN MIDAS.

IN one respect at least, we Socialists have an advantage over other people. The very simplest and rudest ideal that a Socialist can conceive of would bear realisation well; a Socialist could only be discontented with such realisation by ceasing to be a Socialist; and there are few creeds or causes of which this could be said. Some have discounted the usual ideals, so to say, and rejected them beforehand, like the old Scotch lady who declined to sacrifice her pleasure on earth for the chance of sitting on a damp cloud and singing psalms all day for ever in another world; others, like Swedenborg, have gravely (though in his case with much humour also) tried to reason devotees out of the more foolish parts of their ideal, and put heaven before them as little more than the realisation of Socialism in a future state. Modern creeds, on the other hand, with characteristic cowardice, have generally evaded the difficulties that beset the realisation of ideals by taking care to make them so vague that at no stage of the change could it be said whether they were realised or not.

One religion there is, however, whose ideal as a religion is simple and straightforward enough, and quite capable of realisation, and indeed is often realised; that religion is the religion of money-making. To put yourself in such a position that no one could for a moment suppose that you need do or were doing anything useful, is, as we all know, the one thing to be striven after according to the Money-God; although the pursuit of this ideal is made easier by the pretence of having others, of the damp-cloud and psalm-singing nature. But the realisation of this ideal does not always (it is said) bring satisfaction: "to live the life of a gentleman" has been found irksome to many who have had in earlier days more exciting ways of life than that. Nay, one anecdote I know, which was told me as a fact by a business man of great respectability, which seems to show that a "gentleman's" life has unexpected dangers. A man in business in a large Midland town, said my acquaintance (who knew the man), after a long struggle as an agent and broker and what not, carried on with that untiring energy and strength of mind which so distinguishes the English bourgeois (only, by the way, the man was a German)—this man at last grew rich, and "lived like a gentleman"; and then very rich, and lived, I suppose, more like a gentleman. But here came the hitch: either he was so bored by the results of his triumph, his realised ideal, or his mind was so strong before that now it became weak, and he found that the only fun to be got out of his ideal was the pursuit of it. In short, this German representative of English industry went mad, and his madness took the form of his thinking that his ideal was still

unrealised, and that he was poor and struggling still. He now grew so little like "a gentleman" that he begrudged his own belly, his own back (and not other peoples') victuals and clothes. His friends (or hangers on) would come to him and say, "So and so, the doctor has ordered you a mutton chop"; and he would answer, "Well, the doctor had better send it me then; I can't afford it." The case being urgent, and the man daily growing weaker, the "friends" would say, "Well, that's true; but look here, if you will have a mutton chop we will pay you for eating it."

Then Midas, believing, as he naturally would, that the money which he had "made" came from nowhere in particular, and that there was no reason why this miracle should not be again, and even continuously exhibited, would say with caution, "Well, what will you give me?" and they, having command of an unlimited bogus cheque-book, would say, also with caution, "Well, let us say £100"; but Midas would turn away with a snort of indignation, and the bidding would rise to £500. "Come," Midas would say, "make it £750! Eating chops is such expensive work"; and they after some demur would agree, the cheque would be solemnly drawn and signed, and Mr. Midas would fulfil his part of the contract with all the probity of a British merchant. But of course the game had to be repeated at every fresh meal. The same comedy had to be played with the clothing of this pattern of industry. When he became visibly lousy, or perhaps a little before, there was the job to get him to change his shirt! He would manoeuvre and dodge about to screw another £100 out of his bribers, as though he had got a treasure to sell them, which they could not bear to lose, and would chuckle over his bogus cheque with complete enjoyment.

I don't know how long this industrious apprentice lived in this condition; I unamiably hope a long time, for he must have been a great nuisance to his hangers on, or keepers, or what not, and they deserved it for not being Socialists. It must be observed that the man was admittedly mad, and not an ordinary miser, and had kept a plenteous house and great state before he reverted to his original thrift and industry.

The moral is obvious enough not to need repeating: only perhaps some of our Fabian friends will not so much see Midas in the story, as a judgment called down on the man for neglecting to learn the true theory of rent in its various forms.

Indeed, I must unsay what I have just said, and end by asking our readers to look upon this true story, which does not stand by itself, as a type of our sham society, which inflicts so many miseries on others in order to be itself unhappy.

W. M.

## YARMOUTH AND FREE SPEECH.

THREE comrades have already been heavily fined, or the option of a month's imprisonment for obstruction at Yarmouth. On Saturday last, four comrades appeared before the Great Unpaid; a fifth summons had been issued, but our comrade did not turn up. The cases had been heard the week previous and was adjourned so as to enable us to compromise, which we refused to do, as we intend to win at all costs. On Saturday morning considerable excitement was caused, and the public crowded the Court. The number of cases was 33, comprising Socialists, Salvation, Blue Ribbon, and Church Armies. The defendants being called on, the magistrates adjourned for a short time to consider the *injustice*, not *justice*, they should pass upon these men and women. Upon their return into Court, the chairman announced that he, and the four other idlers of society, had carefully considered the cases, and must carry out the law by inflicting a fine which all could pay, viz., 1s. including costs, or three days imprisonment. All the defendants decided to go to prison, except in one case, that of a female belonging to the Salvation Army, the fine being paid by a friend much to her annoyance. Time is allowed the defendants to pay the fine; if not paid, distress warrants are to be issued; that failing they go to prison. In all cases defendant's goods are secured, so the authorities cannot touch them. Our own comrades, I am pleased to say, have no goods, so they will do the alternative—go to prison. We are winning all along the line. It looks like the authorities surrendering, as only a few weeks back the fine and costs amounted to £2 19s. 4d.—Saturday last, 1s. and costs!

Since the decision on Saturday, we understand twelve names of the Salvation Army have been taken for holding a meeting on the disputed spot. On Sunday we held a meeting and had no interference from the police. We intend holding meetings during the week, and expect action will be taken against us; still we shall carry on the fight with more vigour, as we intend to win. We are fast gaining the sympathy of the workers in Yarmouth.

A. T. S.

**DAMN THE PUBLIC, BY ORDER.**—The following regulation has been issued to the employees in telegraph offices:—"Telegraphists are not to give to the public any assurance as to the time telegrams are likely to be in transit. By order." (Here followeth the official seal.)

**SOCIOLOGICAL LIBRARY IN FLORENCE.**—The managing committee appeals to writers and publishers of books and pamphlets upon social subjects to send copies of their publications to the above institution, as the utility of the library is obvious for the furtherance of knowledge of social science and the Socialist movement. *Librarian*: Dott. A. Salvestrini, Via Cavour, 27. *Secretary*: Dott. I. Danielli, Via De' Robbia, 8.

**ROUGH ON RAILWAYMEN.**—A convalescent home has been opened for railwaymen, at Dover, which the *Railway Review* calls "a boon"; it is, however, not by any means an unmixed one, as they will have to share its privileges with policemen. What have railwaymen done that they should deserve to be classed with moral-miracles?

**"THAT IS THE LAW, MADAM."**—A woman applied to the magistrate at Westminster police-court the other day, asking for a separation order from her husband. He deserted her some months ago, but had now reappeared and threatened to sell her furniture. She had bought the few things she had with her own earnings. The magistrate having elicited that she was married eighteen years ago, said, "Your husband can take everything you have, and sell it. That is the law, madam." "It cannot be so cruel!" replied the woman, weeping. "To think that my home should be sold up by a man who will not work!" "That is the law," repeated the magistrate. "If he threatens you with personal violence, that is another matter. Don't remain under the mistake, however, that the things you have bought are your own."



## SCOTTISH NOTES.

The Lord Provost and magistrates of the city of Glasgow invited the Queen to "open" the new municipal buildings a couple of weeks or so ago, and after a vast expenditure of money, and a mighty deal of pomp and ceremony, the old lady was graciously pleased to declare the buildings open—and there was great applause.

But either the Queen did not do her work in a thorough and tradesman-like manner, or she was grossly imposed upon, for notwithstanding her declaration the buildings are not opened yet, and won't be for weeks to come! The front entrance is still barricaded, and the interior is not half stuccoed or painted; lumbago and rheumatism only dwell within its walls.

It is surely not a Christian act to make an old woman with one foot in the grave tell lies in public.

The statue of Robert Burns was removed from its position in the grand hall of the Exhibition, and stuck in a corner to make way for the temporary throne, upon which her Majesty sat and surveyed one of the largest crowds of hypocrites and flunkeys that ever tempted an earthquake to open its granite jaws and gobble the surplus population up. But earthquakes, like everything else now-a-days, are no darned use.

It is interesting to note that the conduct of the Edinburgh Trades' Council, in dispensing with the orthodox formality of honouring God by saying "grace before meat" when taking tea with the French workmen delegates (on a Sunday too), has not caused one-thousandth part of the comment bestowed upon the refusal of the delegates to honour the Queen by toasting her health. The hypocrisy of loyalty is a higher virtue, it would seem, than even the hypocrisy of religion in Scotland.

Loyalty rivals religion in more ways than one. Baillie Gray—who presided at the now notorious luncheon given by the Corporation to the delegates in the Exhibition—knowing well that the delegates repudiated every sentiment of loyalty to the Queen, and knowing also that it had been clearly stipulated beforehand that no toast either to Queen or President should be proposed, actually took advantage of his guest's ignorance of the English tongue and proposed the toast, thus tricking the delegates into drinking it! Had the delegates not discovered the fraud and "withdrew" from the toast, her Majesty might have flattered herself that a band of French Communists were deeply devoted to her person and worldly pretensions! I commend the incident to the attention of Sunday-school teachers and writers of religious tracts, as a touching exemplification of the relation of loyalty to the ninth commandment.

But surely one of the most vile of all acts of flunkeyism perpetrated during the visit of our Jubilee Queen, was the attempt made by Mr. John Ferguson—well known as a Home Ruler and Land Restorer—to get up a petition and present it to her for the release of John Dillon. Irishmen, I am glad to say, refused to sign it; and Lord Lothian refused to allow it to be presented. Brave John Dillon would prefer, I am sure, the tortures of a hundred Balfours to the insult of an act like this.

A meeting was held in Glasgow about a fortnight ago to form the "Scottish Parliamentary Labour Party." The meeting was chiefly composed of Land Restorers, Social Democrats, miner's agents, and advanced Radicals. The programme, so far as yet announced, is a compromise—or rather a mixture of State Socialism and ordinary Radical reform. Cunninghame Graham desired to include with the nationalisation of the land, the nationalisation of the means of production also, but the motion was declared out of order as the subject was not on the agenda paper.

While the Home Rule question lasts, and while Mr. Gladstone leads the Liberal party, Labour candidates have little chance of being returned in Scotland. When Home Rule is granted to Ireland and the Liberal party breaks up, let us hope that the whole fraud of politics and Parliament will break up also, and a straight march to the Revolution begin.

Let us keep to the highway of Freedom; it is the nearest, the easiest, and by far the pleasantest road. Why go slinking down by-paths, dodging through hedgerows, and floundering into morasses, when we can keep our feet—and for that matter, our powder—dry, and march with swinging steps instead of hirpling along footsore, tattered, and famished beyond recognition? We are not out for a days preaching or a game of hares and hounds, we are hastening to reach the City of the Commune before night falls.

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

The Queen has visited Glasgow, but trade has not improved. What say the "labour leaders" who alleged that trade would be revived by the Queen visiting the industrial centres?

The Glasgow Exhibition has brought extra work to the carmen. That is the benefit the Exhibition gives labour. They get nothing from the extra income their increased labour brings—the shareholders get it all. That is the benefit the Exhibition gives to capital.—S. M'L.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF THELEMA.

THOSE who are familiar with Rabelais's description of the Abbey of Thelema, that delightful abode of Anarchy where the only law was *Fais ce que veux* (Do what you like), and who know something of the senseless methods of "education" so-called that obtain to-day, will especially enjoy the following sketch of the University of Thelema, written by Paul Heusy and translated by Boston *Liberty* from *Le Radical* :—

It is built on the side of a hill shaded by beautiful trees, at the foot of which flows a wide river with a swift current. The numerous pavilions that compose it form a sort of little city in which each house rises in the middle of a garden full of shrubs and flowers. In every direction air and light in abundance. The halls, large and high, running north and south, receive through immense bay windows the white rays of the morning and the purple rays of the afternoon.

Over the main entrance, whose two swinging doors are never closed, appears the following inscription :

*Learn what you like.*

There are taught all sciences, all philosophies, all legislations, all literatures, all tongues, old and new. Sanscrit has its chair, but so has the barbarous jargon of the Polynesian tribes.

There is no discussion whether greater attention should be given to living than to dead languages, or to science than to literature, for the excellent reason that all are equally well treated.

The University pays no attention to the student's programme. It asks nothing of him, imposes nothing on him.

The student is expected to investigate for himself. He goes and comes at will from pavilion to pavilion. So much the worse for him, if, after trying everything, he does not find his way. In that case, apparently, study is scarcely his *forte*. He is not obliged to stay. There are enough occupations in the world that do not require a previous poring over books. Let him go to them.

Never are any prizes distributed to students, never any ribbons given to professors; usually the latter teach in vests; some, however, prefer jackets; I have even heard that sometimes, in hot summer days, these gentlemen appear in their shirt-sleeves.

These costumes excite great astonishment among the doctors from neighbouring countries who visit the University of Thelema.

Generally they raise their arms to heaven and cry :

"What! you do not wrap yourselves in robes and wear square caps on your heads?"

"No," answer the professors, smiling.

"But how do you inspire respect without robes or caps?"

"Why should any one dream of failing in respect, inasmuch as we do not compel any one to follow our lessons?" say the professors of Thelema.

"Prizes excite emulation," continue the foreign doctors; "without the hope of reward most of our students would not work."

"Perhaps you are mistaken," gently hint the professors of Thelema; "the emulation which you provoke seems to us purely artificial. It results more from a desire to shine than from a desire to know."

"People have to be taken by their weak sides."

"Such is not our opinion; we believe they should be encouraged to recognise their strong sides."

"The maxim seems to us to fit grown men only; and yet all your students are not grown men."

"True, we admit lads of fifteen."

"You see!"

"At fifteen they begin to think; that is all we want."

"And you do not divide the studies into different stages to be taken successively?"

"Oh, yes, we grade the studies."

"Very good, but you do not submit the students to any examination in passing from one grade to another?"

"No."

"Then how do you know whether they are fit to rise one degree?"

"We do not trouble ourselves about that," answer the professors of Thelema; "the students must question themselves and judge for themselves."

At this reply the foreign doctors generally shake their heads and run away frightened.

The University of Thelema, it is scarcely necessary to say, gives no diplomas. The student leaves when he considers himself sufficiently a lawyer, doctor, engineer, man of letters, or man of science.

And as in the country where Thelema is situated all professions are open, these young people are not subjected to the slightest embarrassment. They practise law, medicine, build bridges, etc., without fear of being stopped in the midst of their work by a policeman who asks for their parchment.

It is even remarked that, having no papers in their pockets which declare them "doctors," they never feel themselves freed from the obligation to continue to learn. So, when they have any leisure, they spend it at the University of Thelema, on whose benches they hasten to take their places again as attentive listeners.

Such a phenomenon is rarely observed in countries where diplomas are given, inasmuch as the diploma serves famously as a substitute for knowledge.

## LITERARY NOTES.

Articles of interest to Socialists in September magazines:—*Contemporary Review*: "The Present Problem in India," Sir W. W. Hunter, LL.D.; "State Socialism," John Rae; "Henry More, the Platonist," Arthur Benson; "The Rights of Children," Mary C. Tabor. *Nineteenth Century*: "Pages from a Work-Girl's Diary," Beatrice Potter; "Socialism through American Spectacles," General Lloyd S. Bryce; "The Miners of Scotland," Robert Haddon; "Co-operative Stores for Ireland," H. C. Plunkett; "Slavery in East Central Africa," Oswald Crawford.

Bomba Balfour has been the guest of Sir Charles Lennart at his country house, The Glen. The latter is a Gladstone Liberal politician. Can the earnestness of present political warfare be better illustrated?—S. M'L.

# THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

Cumberland blast-furnacemen are waking up and extending their organisation.

**DUNDEE MOULDERS.**—The moulders in Dundee are agitating for an advance of wages.

Signalmen at Portadown Station on the Great Northern of Ireland Railway have to work 84 hours a-week for 12s.

Yorkshire miners will soon ask for a 10 per cent. raise. They refuse to accept the new code of rules until materially amended.

**ENGINEER'S STRIKE AT PAISLEY.**—The engineers employed at the Thistle Works by Messrs. Bow M'Lachlan, having demanded an advance from 5<sup>½</sup>d. to 6<sup>¼</sup>d., not getting any reply have come out.

Consternation has been caused at Portsmouth dockyard by the announcement that further serious reductions are to be made. One hundred and fifty men of the engineering department have already received notice.

Among the nail-makers of The Lye, a maker of Brazil nails was found by the *Labour Tribune's* special commissioner, who was "proud of the fact that he earned more than his neighbours"—working from 6 in the morning till 9 at night, six days a week, he got 16s.!

**END OF THE DISPUTE AT MESSRS. RUSSELL AND SONS, WEDNESBURY.**—The screwers employed under the above firm, who for three weeks have been on strike against a 15 per cent. reduction, waited on the masters on Thursday 13th and amicably arranged to resume work at the old rate of wages.

**THE STRIKE IN THE NUT AND BOLT TRADE.**—At a meeting of nut and bolt makers at Darlston on Thursday 13th, it was stated that a number of operatives were still out on strike in consequence of being unable to obtain wages in accordance with the recognised list of prices. It was resolved to continue the strike.

A full representative meeting of miners was held at Pelsall on Tuesday, and, after an address on "The Present State of Trade" had been delivered by Mr. B. Dean, it was agreed that the time was opportune for an agitation for an advance of wages, and it was decided to join other districts in a movement to that end.

**STRIKERS HEAVILY FINED.**—At Dudley, on Friday 15th, two anchor-smiths, named Poole and Jones, were fined £10 and expenses for leaving their work without giving notice. There was a strike at the time, and, though defendants' employers granted them an advance, they left work because other employers had not given their workmen an advance.

In consequence of the substantial improvement in the iron trade, the finished ironworkers of the North Staffordshire Branch of the Amalgamated Association of Ironworkers of England, Scotland, and Wales (a new organisation which is rapidly extending its influence to all the iron producing districts of the kingdom), have resolved to apply for an advance of wages.

**STEELWORKERS' STRIKE AT WORKINGTON.**—On Monday 10 a strike occurred at the Moss Bay Iron and Steel Works, Workington, against a reduction of wages was given notice of under a contractor who has taken the bessemer department. The reduction affected wages to the extent of 10 to 15 per cent. About 100 men are affected, and the stoppage will interfere with the other portions of the works. The employés are very firm in their determination not to accept any reduction.

**THE BELFAST SHIPBUILDING STRIKE.**—On Friday 15th, a deputation of the men belonging to the Queen's Island Shipbuilding Works waited on the employers, and succeeded in effecting an arrangement by which the works, which have been closed for a month, will re-open to the employés on Monday, Sept. 17th. It will be remembered that the lock-out resulted from a strike among the boiler-makers. The questions involved are now stated to have been nearly all arranged, the terms, however, not being disclosed.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES IRON AND STEEL WAGES BOARD.**—A meeting of the employers' section of the Wages Board was held at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, 13th, to consider the suggestion that a sliding scale to automatically regulate wages should be re-established. The employers determined to put forward a proposition for the consideration of the operatives. After consultation with the officials of the operatives' section of the Board, it was finally agreed that a meeting of the full Board should be held on Monday, 24th, to consider the proposed sliding scale and other matters. An intimation was given on behalf of the operatives' section that an advance of wages would be asked for.

**LIVERPOOL SAILORS.**—For some while past serious dissatisfaction has been felt among the seamen offering themselves for employment at the Liverpool Sailors' Home. This has led in one or two instances to a strike for an advance. On Saturday, 8th, placards were posted calling a meeting to consider what action should be taken. All the vessels, however, which were down to ship their crews on Monday did so, with one exception, and on Tuesday there was practically no refusal to accept the wages current, though in one instance of a sailing-ship going a long voyage 5s. per month over the late rates were given. The men, knowing there has been an increase in the freight, naturally want to participate in the rise; but as in former instances, when the Liverpool sailors have struck for higher wages, there is no proper organisation among the men, and the attempt is therefore hopeless. They should learn a lesson from the Pacific coast.

**LOCK-OUT OF QUAY LABOURERS AT GLASGOW.**—Four hundred labourers on the Glasgow mineral quays have been dismissed, and 150 Protestant Irishmen have been brought to Glasgow from Belfast to fill their places. Two hundred more are expected to arrive. The masters dismissed the men because they belong to a Union, the rules of which prevent other men working who are not connected with it. An increased staff of police has been placed on duty on the quays to prevent acts of intimidation. With the help of the imported labour, the stevedores are having little difficulty in carrying on the work independent of the union men. The hopelessness of the situation is already having its effect upon the union. Many of the men have quietly left it, and gone to work on the same footing as the strangers. Although there is much bitter feeling among the idle men there has been no disturbances, and only one case in which complaint of intimidation has been made. Charles Mulherron, residing in Dale Street, has been apprehended by the marine police at the instance of a "black nob," said to have been, until the present difficulty arose, one of the leading members of the union. Mulherron, he says, used threatening and abusive language to him, and offered to put his head through a window.

**STRIKE AT DARLINGTON.**—Owing to a dispute between two workmen and a foreman in the sleeper department, the Darlington Steel works have been stopped. The union men came out on strike because the manager refused to reinstate the two men, and as a result of this course upwards of 800 men are laid idle. The mayor, Mr. Sedgwick, undertook to act as intermediary between the manager and the workmen, but his negotiations failed. On Friday 14th summonses were issued at the instance of the manager against 50 of the men for ceasing work without notice.

**CANNOCK MINERS.**—A very remarkable meeting was held at Cannock on Friday 7th, to congratulate and present £5 each to the men who were sent to prison for "intimidation." "The account of the meeting," says the *Labour Tribune*, "will hardly be pleasant reading for the gentlemen who instituted the proceedings, or to the magistrates who inflicted such heavy penalties. Whoever was 'intimidated,' it is clear the men are not. . . . The strike has terminated in favour of the men. We congratulate them and their leaders on this happy result of a struggle that throughout has been fought with indomitable pluck and perseverance."

**EBBW VALE MINERS.**—The following appeal has been issued, and should be largely responded to:—"We, the miners now on strike at Ebbw Vale, after doing all that lay in our power to obtain our just rights before taking this last step in laying down our tools until the same be conceded to us, therefore appeal to our fellow workmen in the mining districts of this vast country for support during the time we are compelled to remain out on strike. We feel we are fighting battles on behalf of our fellow workmen as well as ourselves. Various collieries and sub-districts have decided to support us by putting on a levy of sixpence per week or until the dispute is settled. Our success will depend upon the support our fellow workmen will be able to give. We are nearly 1,600 affected. We have already been out four weeks and our resources have all gone." All donations should be made payable to Thos. Richards, 23, Carwel Town, Beaufort, near Brynmawr.

**STOPPAGES FROM WAGES.**—T. C. Waller, a workman of the sturdy, independent sort, and good character, was employed several weeks as carman by the Crown Bottling Company, Brixton, who make deductions from their carmen's wages for "wrong stoppers"—i.e. bottles belonging to other companies brought in by mistake instead of the firm's. They, however, do not return the bottles to the men, and so secure both coin and bottles. This was tried on Waller, who quietly submitted, but thoughtfully put down the amount of stoppages in a little book. They soon totalled up, by sixpences, ninepences, tenpences, and eighteenpences, to 13s 6<sup>½</sup>d. The next stoppage announced was 7s. 6d. This was more than even the patient Waller could stand. He gave a week's notice, and demanded the 13s. 6<sup>½</sup>d. The firm responded by a curt refusal and immediate dismissal. Application was then made for a summons at Lambeth Police Court, but the day before it was made returnable the firm sent the full amount—£1 4s. wages, 13s. 6<sup>½</sup>d. stoppages, 5s. expenses, 2s. summons, in all £2 4s. 6<sup>½</sup>d.—to Waller's house, thus fully admitting the illegality of their action and the justice of the claim. His idea of keeping a little book may be commended by all workmen who are fined by their employers.

**COTTON TRADE.**—The strike at Atlas Mills, Bolton, strippers and grinders, remains unsettled, and over 1,000 operatives are, as a result, walking the streets, with no immediate prospect of resuming, as both sides remain firm in the attitude taken up. The matter originally in dispute was only a very trifling one, and at first affected but 40 men, the amount involved being but 11d. per man per week, or £2 per week to the firm.—The notices served by the operative spinners at Lodge Mill, Burnley, expired Wednesday 12th. They demand compensation, alleging that since the recent advance of 5 per cent. they are earning less money than before. About 60 spinners and 38,000 spindles are affected. On Monday 10th a strike of weavers took place at Whittlefield Shed, Burnley, against being underpaid. The weavers resumed work on Tuesday morning, with the understanding that the prices were to be made right.—At Wigan on the same day a strike took place, and ended in the same way.—At a mill in Heywood there were at one time four cardroom jobbers to do certain work. One was knocked off, and the work divided among the other three without extra pay. During the last fortnight the employer stopped one of the three, putting the work on the other two, who were only to receive their previous wages, 21s. The men naturally resented this, and struck, and are now in receipt of strike pay. Their places have been filled, however, by two knobsticks, who have consented to do the work with the assistance of a lap carrier, who will receive 15s. per week, the employer thus having a profit of 6s. a-week by the change.—The minders who struck work about sixteen weeks ago for the five per cent. advance at the Broad Field Mill, Smithy Bridge, are still out. All the minders in this district have received the advance, with the exception of this mill.—The operatives of Sun Mill, Littleborough, are on strike, and both masters and workers seem determined to stand out. It is stated that operatives from neighbouring towns are to be got to the place, and the strike hands have had to solicit assistance from fellow-operatives.

## SOCIALISM AT OXFORD.

OUR comrades at Oxford are finding that the town is as reactionary as the University, and are beginning to suffer for being Socialists. A short time ago a Radical manufacturer there sacked some of his workmen because they "kept bad company." The "bad company" was that of two brothers of the manufacturer, who had till quite recently also worked in his shop, but who are members of the Socialist League. The master also gave notice that none of his men would be allowed to belong to any Benefit Society, or Co-operative Society, of which his brothers might happen to be members. This petty piece of tyranny had reference to a small society which the workmen had set on foot for supplying themselves with some of the most needful articles of consumption.

Two of this Radical's workmen, upon being dismissed, claimed more wages than he was willing to pay. They and an apprentice boy, whom he had fined, summoned him, and the case came into Court on September 8th. It is not the question of the contract and the wages that may be legally claimed under it that deserve notice, so much as the animus displayed by the master's attorney. He asked the claimants whether they were members of the Socialist League, and he did his little all to raise a prejudice against Socialists by handing up to the bench copies of *Justice and Commonwealth*. An eye-witness reports that the magistrates studied these while the case went on. May they profit by it!

The case went for the master; but it must be allowed that that would probably have been so, even if the men had been quite ordinary mortals, instead of Socialists. It can scarcely be otherwise with a bench taken from the class of masters. The poor apprentice not only got no redress, but suffered still more heavily from a weighty lecture delivered from the Bench. This painted in dark colours the crime of rebellion against a good master, who allowed him to get pocket-money by doing piece-work. The boy's ordinary wages may go to his parents; for pocket-money he would work much more heartily. The kind, kind master perhaps knew this, as other kind masters do who encourage piece-work.

C. J. F.

## PRISON THOUGHTS.

ERNEST JONES.

Composed when confined in a solitary cell on bread and water, May 1849; for lack of writing materials written in his own blood on the fly-leaf of a book.

TROUBLESOME fancies beset me,  
Sometimes, as I sit in my cell,  
That comrades and friends may forget me,  
And foes but remember too well;

That plans which I thought well-digested  
May prove to be bubbles of air,  
And hopes when they come to be tested  
May turn to the seed of despair.

But though I may doubt all beside me,  
And anchor and cable may part,  
Whatever, whatever betide me,  
Forbid me to doubt my own heart!

For sickness may wreck a brave spirit,  
And time wear the brain to a shade,  
And dastardly age disinherit  
Erections that manhood has made;

But God let me ne'er cease to cherish  
The truths I so fondly have held,  
Far sooner at once let me perish  
Ere firmness and courage are quelled.

Though my head in the dust may be lying,  
And bad men exult o'er my fall,  
I shall smile at them, smile at them, dying,  
For the Right is the Right after all.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

EMILE ZOLA.

The paragraph in a recent issue of the *Commonweal* referring to the prosecution of the publisher of his works in this country gives me an opportunity of putting in a word on his behalf. I would strongly urge all Socialists to read the three books of Zola's here named—

'Germinal,' the hell of collier life.  
'L'Assommoir,' the hell of the workman's life in a modern city.  
'La Terre,' the hell of peasant life.

I do not know any books so calculated to stir people's minds up and to force them to see the necessity for a complete change in the conditions of modern labour.

It may be objected that Zola is writing of French colliers, French working men and women, and French peasants; but so much are the conditions of working people under capital in different countries alike, that all the time I was reading 'Germinal' I felt as if our own people were being described. That bleak, hostile landscape, with its black, spectral, colliery buildings—have we not seen it all many a time in our own coal districts? And we have only to go into our gin-palaces and we shall find ourselves in the atmosphere of 'L'Assommoir.' As for our feeble-minded philanthropists babbling of a peasant-proprietorship—let them read 'La Terre'!

I would point out that the true cause of the hatred for Zola's works which is so zealously displayed by the bourgeois journals both in this country and in France, is the fearless and unflinching manner in which he has exposed the misery and degradation on which their "society" is based. These critics shut their eyes to the social questions which must arise in the minds of thoughtful men from a perusal of these works, and appalled at the naked realism in which his facts appear, can only shriek Unclean! Immoral! etc., etc. As if a book is immoral because it is not suitable for a ladies' school!

Bury, Lancashire, 6 Sept.

E. E. MINTON.

## EXAMINE ALL THINGS.

The article in the current number of the *Commonweal*, called "Men who are not Socialists," is in my opinion somewhat waste of space and time, while there are so many and all-important things to be said and discussed. The work we have in hand is so great and noble we ought not to allow any personal or petty feelings to get mixed up in the matter, but pursue our object with earnestness and tolerance, and do the best we can to keep our own eyes clear, that we may be able to see the mote or beam in other eyes. I think each point for and against Socialism ought to be freely discussed in the *Commonweal* from week to week, and encouragement given to comrades to put forward their views as well as they can, so that answers might be given and errors rectified. I am quite sure that the habit of writing down one's ideas is very useful, and would often clear up views and misapprehensions. We cannot all get time to read big books—or indeed small ones—nor can we put our hands on the books or passages in them which would "lighten our darkness," but by being able to ask questions and get answers given by experienced Socialists we would gain greatly. Now, for instance, I have been thinking for the last few days how the increase of workers, which would take place in a state freed of monopoly would affect the community at large. I can see easily enough that if our resources were un-increaseable there would be a greater number of workers to do the same amount of work which a smaller number did, the result would be a decrease in the number of hours of work for each individual, and as a consequence more leisure to them, but no increase of wealth. And if our resources were increaseable, and all workers did a long day's work, our wealth would increase. Now it seems to me if the latter view be true it is very important for us to have clear statements regarding our resources, so that we may see plainly what we are at.

Bearing on this point I see a few remarks in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Lord Bramwell says, "It is a truth hard to believe; but I am satisfied it is a truth. The great object of a society in this matter should be to make what the Americans call the greatest pile. . . . I do not say that a more equitable division than exists is not desirable, but I say that in the attempt to

bring it about by law the pile will be reduced." "Bramwell would admit that it would be better to produce £900 and distribute it equally between ten men than to produce £1,000 if the latter could only be done by giving one man £750 and dividing £250 between the other nine." "Lord Bramwell would probably reply that the difference between the pile accumulated under the present system and that under a Socialistic régime would be much greater than that between £900 and £1,000." Now what sort of Socialism does Bramwell or the *Pall Mall Gazette* think of? Might not a great deal be said about the quality of the "pile"?

Again, look at the sneer of Bramwell at the "kindly but short-sighted men" who denounce machinery as means of taking the bread out of the mouths of the labourers, and the *Pall Mall Gazette's* remarks on the same subject in its leading article: "We laugh at the simplicity of" anyone who experiences feelings with regard to the sufferings caused by the displacement of human labour by machinery. "The race gains" on the whole. Now, we want the opposite view put by some of your able writers, as there is a great danger of people accepting these views as final. If we cannot prove that machinery is of no use, at least it might be plainly stated how a change that is supposed necessary for the general good, though causing suffering to some individuals, ought to be borne by all, not by a few.

And again, there is the question of State Socialism, and anti-State Socialism, to which I believe we of the Socialist League belong. I feel certain that many of our friends are very vague with regard to this subject, and an opening of the subject would be a gain.

Finally, I may say that I think the remarks on the subject of the marriage discussion were inadequate. The remark in the account given of an interview with Mrs. Caird by the *Pall Mall*, struck me as much to the point. It was "free marriage is not possible until the proposed contract can be free in fact as well as in name. That is, until women are no longer dependent on men for their daily bread." To talk about altering the marriage laws without first considering the society out of which they have their growth, and how to change it, is like grumbling at the weeds for growing when you neither weed nor hoe, but allow them to cast their seeds from year to year. How can a state of independence, such as Mrs. Caird suggests, be brought about? Only in one way—by creating employment enough to give women a certainty of earning an independent living. Can the present state of society give such employment? Well, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." Society at present does not give employment to anything like all; nor does there seem any chance of the employing power being increased, rather the opposite. The great question comes then, In what state of society would the greatest amount of employment be obtainable? It seems obvious that the greatest amount of employment would be obtained in a state in which all that is necessary to the production of the comforts and necessities of life would be in the hands of the workers—free of all tax, and free of all claims on the part of individuals—to be used by the workers for the workers only, combined of course in an organisation which aimed at getting the most and the best for the whole community.

To conclude, the complete independence of women can only be begun to be realised when the last spade of earth has been thrown into the grave of monopoly, and the motherhood of women—as free individuals—is looked upon with admiration and respect, not with loathing and reproach.—Yours fraternally,

R. CATTERSON SMITH.

Shorne, near Gravesend, Kent, Sunday, Sept. 9, 1888.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

The Offices of the Socialist League will be open for the sale of *Commonweal* and all other Socialist publications from 8.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday. The Secretary will be in attendance from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

**London Members' Meeting.**—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, Oct. 3, 1888, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock sharp.

**Propaganda Fund.**—Anon., 11d.

## "COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Langley, 2s.; P. W., 6d.; C. J. F., 2s. 6d.; K. F., 1s.

## FREE SPEECH FUND.

Victory at Yarmouth is now almost assured, but it has proved a very heavy financial drain upon the branch, and subscriptions, however small, are urgently needed, and should be sent to F. Charles, 13, Farringdon Road, E.C.

Already acknowledged—£3 15s. 2½d. Received—Collections: Regent's Park, 2s. 3d.; Victoria Park, 2s. 4d.; W. R., 2s. 6d.; Clerkenwell Branch, 1s. Total, £4 3s. 3½d. F. CHARLES, Sec., 13, Farringdon Road, E.C.

## REPORTS.

**CLERKENWELL.**—A very large meeting was addressed on the Green Sunday night by Nicoll, Parker, and A. Burrows (S.D.F.). In hall, W. Blundell lectured on "The Trades' Union Congress." He criticised the action of delegates in passing "petti-fogging" (Parliamentary) resolutions, which meant little or nothing to the great mass of the workers, "skilled" and otherwise. Pointed out that the conclusions of the delegates on land nationalisation was but a half-hearted matter, and was useless without the communalisation of the means of production, not only in England or the United Kingdom, but the whole world over. Good discussion.—B.

**FULHAM.**—On Tuesday evening, Beasley, Bullock, Maughan, Ashborn, and Grosser addressed a good meeting. On Sunday morning, Bullock and Samuels spoke. Fair sale of *Weal*, and 1s. 3d. collected. In the evening, Sampson (S.D.F.) opened the meeting, Turner afterwards giving a lecture on "Socialist Co-operation."—S. B. G.

**HAMMERSMITH.**—Morris and Tarleton held a meeting at Weltje Road on Sunday morning 11.30 (first time) to quite a phillistine audience and kept their attention for an hour and a half, some of them not liking Socialism, judging by the remarks made, but they listened with attention. Fair sale of *Commonweal*. Next Sunday the speakers will be there at 11.30—Tarleton and Bullock. Good meeting held at Latimer Road on Sunday, mainly composed of intelligent working men. The speakers were comrades Fox, Maughan, Dean, and Tochatti; the audience listened very attentively, and took the points well. Four new members made. Fair sale of *Commonweal*.

**HYDE PARK.**—The unemployed, having no speakers in the Park on Sunday, requested our help, which was given by Parker, Brooks, Cantwell, and others, who addressed a great crowd.

**REGENT'S PARK.**—The meeting was begun very late, but a large number of persons were addressed by Parker and Brooks. 2s. 4½d. collected.

**VICTORIA PARK.**—Good meeting held by Mainwaring, Schack, Bullock, and Tochatti. Opposition from a young man, who spoke of Fair Trade and better Acts of Parliament being the remedy for the working man. 2s. 2d. collected.

**ABERDEEN.**—At indoor meeting of branch on 10th, Comrade McIntyre read lecture on "Law and War." No open-air meeting held on Saturday, owing partly to rain and partly because comrade Leatham was engaged at a trade society meeting, where his presence was urgently required.—J. L.

**GLASGOW.**—On Sunday at 2 o'clock (instead of 12.30 as announced) Glasier, McKechnie, T. Burgoyne, and J. Burgoyne, held a very good meeting on the Green. At 5 o'clock Glasier spoke to a good audience at Paisley Road. At the conclusion of his address several questions were asked and answered. A French class has been formed (see announcement).

**NORWICH.**—Friday, comrade Mowbray addressed a good meeting on St. Catharine's Plain. Sunday morning a large meeting was held at North Walsham by Morley; meeting very enthusiastic; all the *Commonweal* sold our comrade took with him; it is hoped a branch will be formed very shortly. In the afternoon a large meeting held in the Market Place by Morley, Poynts, and W. Moore; meeting lasted two hours; opposition from one of the crowd, who advocated thrift and temperance, and thought every working man could save sixpence a-week; our comrades soon disposed of the opposition to the satisfaction of the audience. In the evening another large meeting was held, addressed by Mowbray; opposition was again offered by the same individual as the afternoon, who is a member of the Peace Society; opposition easily disposed of by Mowbray; fair sale of *Commonweal*.

**LECTURE DIARY.**  
LONDON.

**Bloomsbury.**—This Branch will shortly be actively working. Socialists resident in this locality should send their names in at once to 13, Farringdon Road.  
**Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday Sept. 23, at 8.30, "The Futility of Parliamentary Agitation to assist the Social Revolution"—a debate between W. B. Parker (S.L.) and S. Moffat (S.D.F.).

**Fulham.**—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. A Special Committee Meeting will be held on Friday the 28th inst. All members are earnestly requested to attend.  
**Hackney.**—Enquiries, communications, etc., to E. Lefevre, Secretary, 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Rd., Hackney Wick.

**Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday, Sept. 23, at 8 p.m.  
**Hoxton.**—Persons wishing to join this branch are requested to communicate with H. D. Morgan, 22, Nicholas Street Hoxton.

**London Fields.**—All communications, etc., to Mrs. G. Schack, 26 Cawley Road, South Hackney.

**Merton.**—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singleate. Lecture on Sunday evenings at 8.30.  
**Mile-end and Bethnal Green.**—95 Boston St., Hackney Road.

**North London.**—Secretary, Nelly Parker, 143 Cavendish Buildings, opposite Holborn Town Hall. The business meetings will be held on Friday evenings at 6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, after the open-air meeting at Ossulton Street. Special Meeting on Friday September 21st. All members are asked to attend at Ossulton St. at 8 o'clock.

**St. Georges in the East.**—A meeting of the members of this branch will be held at 23 Princes Square, on Sunday morning after the meeting at Leman Street. Rochmann, secretary.

PROVINCES.

**Aberdeen (Scottish Section).**—Douglas M'Intyre, Sec., 17 Queen Street. Branch meets in Oddfellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8.

**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.

**Coventry (Scot. Sect.).**—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec  
**Dundee (Scot. Sect.).**—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.

**Edinburgh (Scottish Land and Labour League).**—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8 p.m.

**Galaashiels (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 Rosslyn St.

**Glasgow.**—84 John Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Weekly meeting of members on Thursday evenings at 8.  
**SPECIAL NOTICE.**—French Class, to be taught by Theodore Bonin, begins on Sunday, and will be held every Sunday from 11 till 1 o'clock.

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

**Leicester.**—Hosiery Union Offices, 11a Millstone Lane. Fridays at 8 p.m.

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

**Norwich.**—Monday, at 8, Special Entertainment by members and friends will be held in the Gordon Hall, to clear off the debts in connection with the prosecutions at Yarmouth; admission 3d. each.

**Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting.** Wednesday, at 8, Educational Class—subject, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." Thursday, at 8.30, Meeting in Gordon Hall. Saturday, 8 until 10.30, Co-operative Clothing Association.

**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.

All persons who sympathise with the views of the Socialist League are earnestly invited to communicate with the above addresses, and if possible help us in preparing for the birth of a true society, based on equality, brotherhood, and freedom for all.

**OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.**

SUNDAY 23.

11.30...Latimer Road Station ...Hammersmith Branch  
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....The Branch  
11.30...Regent's Park .....Turner & Nicoll  
11.30...Walham Green, opp. Station .....Mrs. Schack  
11.30...Weltje Rd., Ravenscourt Pk .....Hammersmith  
3.30...Hyde Park .....Parker & Turner  
7 ...Weltje Road, opposite Ravenscourt Park  
.....Hammersmith Branch

7.30...Clerkenwell Green .....Parker

Monday.

8 ...Wimbledon Broadway.....The Branch

Tuesday.

8.30...Fulham—opposite Liberal Club.....Fulham Bh.

Friday.

7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street .....Nicoll

EAST END.

SUNDAY 23.

Mile-end Waste ... 11 ...Mainwaring.  
Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Parker.  
Victoria Park ... 3.15...Bullock.  
London Fields ... 8 ...Tochatti.

TUESDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 8.30...Davis.

WEDNESDAY.

Broadway, London Fjelds 8.30...Lane.

FRIDAY.

Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Parker.

SATURDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 8 ...Parker.

PROVINCES.

**Aberdeen.**—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7 p.m.  
**Edinburgh.**—Queen's Park, every Sunday, at 3 p.m.  
**Glasgow.**—Sunday: Jail's Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock.

**Ipswich.**—Sproughton, Wednesday evening.  
Westfield, Thursday evening.  
Neeham Market, Sunday morning and evening.

**Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.

**Leicester.**—Sunday: Russel Square, at 11 a.m.  
**Norwich.**—Sunday: Market Place, at 11, 3, and 7.30.  
Yarmouth, Church Plain, Sunday at 3.  
Wymondham, Sunday at 11.  
St. Faiths, Sunday at 11.  
St. Catharine's Plain, Friday at 8.15 p.m.

**THE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION, PENTON HALL, 81, Pentonville Road.**—Sunday, September 23, at 7.45, Graham Wallas, M.A., "The Chartist Movement."

**THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.**—The Committee will meet at the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, on Saturday, September 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. Subscriptions received and members enrolled at 9 p.m.

**UNITED SCANDINAVIAN CLUB, 43, Rathbone Place, Oxford Street, W.**—Monday September 24, at 8, p.m., Harold Cox, B.A. (Fabian Society), "Trades Unionism and Co-operation."

**YARMOUTH FREE SPEECH FUND.**

A GRAND CONCERT will be held at the International Club, 40, Berner Street, Commercial Road, E., on Saturday, September 22, at 8 p.m., for the benefit of the above fund. Songs, Music, and Dramatic Readings by W. Morris, W. B. Parker, T. Cantwell, H. James, Annie Taylor, Miss M. Morgan, W. Blundell, D. Nicoll, F. Kitz, J. Bull, F. Charles, Miss L. Stores, and other Comrades. During the evening several Choruses will be sung by the Choir of the Socialist League. Admission by Programme, 3d.; can be obtained from Secretary, Socialist League, 13, Farringdon Road, or the Secretaries of any of the London Branches.

WANTED, AN IMPROVER TO THE WATCH AND CLOCK TRADE. Socialist preferred.—Apply 41 and 43 High Street, Deptford.

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