

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

MR. DILLON in his speech before the National League in Dublin, said all that he was likely to say, and no doubt said it well enough. He upheld the Plan of Campaign stoutly; as he well might, because at present, now the alliance between Parnellites and Gladstonians is so close, the Plan is the one distinctively Irish piece of strategy, and if it were gone, mere party politics would bury the whole Irish business under the usual mountain of procrastination and trickery.

On the other hand, Mr. Dillon deprecated "impatience"; that is to say, in his position—very different to that of Mr. Davitt—he could not say anything that could be construed by stupid people into the beginning of a quarrel with the Liberal allies. This is the policy which Mr. Dillon is pledged to, and of course he cannot get out of it, unless the Gladstonites formally abandon the Irish cause, which probably they cannot do. When the fulness of time comes the electoral pendulum will swing the other way; Gladstone will be in, and Parnell with him.

But the "impatience" of Davitt has another purpose than merely quickening the pace of the worn-out Liberal post-horse on the road to party victory. It is a warning to the Liberals not to be too liberal of compromise when their day of office comes. Of course what they will want to do is to grant the Irish the semblance of their claims without the reality, if they can thereby stop the mouth of the British democracy even though the Irish democracy is not satisfied. This is the reason why all Irishmen who are not precluded from it by official position should be steadily "impatient."

Those of our friends who are inclined to be "impatient," in another sense, of this long-dragging Irish Question, which bears with it so much that is indifferent or hostile to Socialism, should consider one remark made by Mr. Dillon in his speech which I believe to be made quite honestly and with a single heart. He said that all the old enmity which was once one of the master feelings of his heart had disappeared before the present action of the English democracy. So hollow, so easily got rid of, are these monstrous national antipathies which foolish persons believe to be so deeply rooted. If the Home Rule agitation does nothing else than destroy one branch of this deadly upas-tree of sham patriotism it will have been worth all the trouble.

Moralists are trying to find out causes for the horrors which have lately shocked the sensibilities of "cultured" society. Lord William Compton sees, as all people who have ever thought for a moment on the subject must see, that the condition of life in the East end slums is quite enough to account for such brutality, which is a necessary consequence of it. But what causes the condition of life in Whitechapel? The answer is plain: the *exclusive* culture of those whose sensibilities are so shocked by the brutality, the responsibility for which their greed and cowardice evades. These sensitive, moral, cultivated people are prepared to do anything (by the hands of others) which will sustain the inequality which is the foundation of modern society and which they glory in; and when the dark side of this glorious inequality is thrust on their notice, they are shocked and read moving articles in the newspapers—and go on eating, drinking, and making merry, and hoping it will last for ever, Whitechapel murders and all.

Have they considered a little event of which we have just had news, which comes of this determination of theirs to be thieves as long as possible? Another glorious victory for the British army, and indeed a real good cheap one, with the killing *all* on one side: 400 Tibetans killed and wounded and half a dozen slight hurts on the side of—culture. If the history of this slaughter had been given Homerically—*i.e.*, with abundance of realistic detail—it would have made a pretty good multiplication of a Whitechapel murder.

And was the reason for it any more excuse for this multiplied murder than the reason for the London horror? No. No worse cause could be found for a slaughter. It was perpetrated (and remember

it is one among hundreds) in order to keep going that degradation of life which Lord William Compton so much deplores, which he would doubtless remedy if he knew how to without destroying our "society" of inequality; but which under those circumstances he *cannot* know how to remedy.

Apropos of these "little wars," or great murders, our friend the *Star* has a well-meant article which misses the point disastrously. After having attacked the commercial Jingo policy, it says: "Our profound conviction is that *as a rule*" (italics ours, in honour of journalistic qualification) "warfare tends not to the advancement, but to the postponement of large commercial relations with another country. . . . Trade may be compared to a great natural force—silent, invisible, and invincible," and so on after the Manchester manner. In short, our contemporary, for the moment at least forgetting the blessings of civilisation, such as Vandeleur evictions and London rent-grabbing from working-men, which it often laudably denounces, wants to purge the march of commerce of war and violence.

But unhappily it is *itself* war, and violence is of its essence, whether that violence takes the form of "the soldier with his gun or the sailor with his iron-clad," or the other form of the sword of cheapness and the spear of shoddy backed up by law—*i.e.*, the policeman *masking* the soldier and sailor—is a mere incident of its ceaseless, remorseless war. For as the aim is, so must the means be; and what is the aim of Commerce? Answer: to substitute its peculiar form of slavery for whatever it happens to find on the ground which it is bent on conquering; and that form of slavery is a "Society" (or gang of robbers) governed by rich men, who shall make slaves of the producers of goods without the expense of buying the said slaves and without the responsibility of feeding them. Friend *Star*, the Sikkim massacre is bad, and you do well to object to it (though you do *that* very mildly), but the cause of it is worse—*nay* the worst.

Re the Salt Trust, the *Pall Mall* says: "The syndicate will for a time have a depressing effect upon the labour-market in the salt districts of Cheshire, as the low range of prices prevailing for the past five years is directly due to over-production. . . . Owing to intense competition, prices have fallen 50 per cent. during the past ten years. Great confidence is felt in the future of the trust in Cheshire, where the money has been largely subscribed."

I beg to propose a design for the seal or badge of this glorious modern gild, to wit: A Benefactor of Humanity with one hand in the pocket of a working-man, a salt operative, and the other in the pocket of the public typified by a respectable London mechanic. It is indeed pleasing to see the B. H.'s so naive and outspoken as to the robbery which they are contemplating, and we Socialists should wish them all success. Monopoly has, unhappily, so far been made bearable by competition, but monopoly without competition will turn out to be altogether unbearable, and will help on the beginning of the end.

The vegetarians have tried to collect the London parsons to sing their praises, but the reverend gentlemen for the most part declined to be caught with chaff. Only thirty attended, presided over by Canon Farrar. I have not a word to say against vegetarianism voluntarily practised on the grounds of its suiting the health of the practiser, or of a natural sentiment against "corpse-eating" as a friend of ours has called it; but in most more or less laudable associations that are not Socialist there lurks a snake in the grass; and the reptile is not lacking in the verdant meadow of vegetarianism. Canon Farrar, *e.g.*, not knowing, I suppose, what the devil to say, praised it because it would lead to simplicity of life, and because it would be a remedy for poverty.

Simplicity of life—good, most good, so long as it is voluntary; but surely there is enough involuntary simplicity of life, *i.e.*, hard fare, already; and to live poorly is no remedy against poverty, but a necessity of it. And really, hasn't Canon Farrar had time amidst his arduous ecclesiastical duties to learn that if our whole capitalistic

society were to become vegetarian together, the "poor," i.e., the producers, would be forced to live upon vegetarian cag-mag, while the rich, i.e., the proprietary class, lived upon vegetarian dainties? When we are a society of equals we shall be able to consider all these niceties of life, and to do what we think best. Meantime, I bid Canon Farrar and the school of social reformers to which he belongs, not to evade the real question: Why are we not a society of equals? W. M.

LABOUR'S TRIANGULAR PROBLEM:

OR, MEN VERSUS MACHINES.

(Continued from p. 306.)

THE statement that numbers of men were being deprived of means of living by increased machinery, used to be met by the statement that they could find work at some other trade, and that there were so many more engineers and machine makers wanted that all came out level in the end. Leaving out of consideration the absurdity of the nineteen agricultural labourers finding employment as reaping machine makers, it must be patent that as the same process is going on in every trade, the forced idleness must be increasing in every trade, *even in the trade which is the great agent of all this idleness, the engineers and machine makers.*

It is rather startling to find at what a rate this disestablishing of disestablishers is going on; to find how very rapidly the engineer is being hoisted on his own petard.

Mr. Shaftoe, President at the Trades' Union Congress, Sept. 4, 1888, dealing with "Labour-saving Machines," said:

"There is scarcely any branch of industry to which these mechanical inventions have not been applied; and the effects have been intensified by the subdivision of labour. We find, for instance in the use of steam hammers, that nine men have been displaced out of every ten formerly required. Machinery has displaced five men out of every six in the glass bottle trade; in the manufacture of agricultural implements 600 men now do the work which fifteen or twenty years ago required 2,145, thus displacing 1,545. In the production of machinery itself, there is a saving of 25 per cent. of human labour; and this even reaches 33 per cent. in the production of metals. In the boot and shoe trade one man now does the same work as required five; we find a single lace machine displacing 2,000 women; in paper-making 10 persons can do what used to require 100; in ship-building the displacement is 4 or 5 out of every 6; in clothing 1 man can do what used to employ 6 to 9. The general effect during the last 40 years is a saving of labour to the extent of 40 per cent. in producing any given article."

No matter which way one looks there is no variation, not the slightest; increased production to the capitalist, the machinery controller; decreased consumption to the worker, the producer. A striking example was given by one of the speakers at the Industrial Remuneration Conference, 1885. Mr. J. G. Hutchinson made an elaborate statement to prove the general improvement in the worker's position; he was answered by Mr. James Aitkin (Greenock Chamber of Commerce):—

"In carpet weaving fifty years ago the workman drove the shuttle with the hand, and produced from forty-five to fifty yards per week, for which he was paid from 9d. to 1s. per yard, while at the present day a girl attending a steam loom can produce sixty yards a day, and does not cost her employer 1½d. per yard for her labour. That girl with her loom is now doing the work of eight men. The question is, How are these men employed now? In a clothier's establishment, seeing a girl at work at a sewing machine, he asked the employer how many men's labour that machine saved him. He said it saved him twelve men's labour. Then he asked, 'What would those twelve men be doing now?' 'Oh,' he said, 'they will be much better employed than if they had been with me, perhaps at some new industry.' He asked, 'What new industry?' But the employer could not point out any except photography; at last he said they would probably have found employment in making sewing machines. Shortly afterwards he was asked to visit the American Singer Sewing Machine Factory, near Glasgow. He got this clothier to accompany him, and when going over the works they came upon the very same kind of machines as the clothier had in his establishment. Then he put the question to the manager, 'How long would it take a man to make one of these machines?' He said he could not tell, as no man made a machine, they had a more expeditious way of doing it than that; there would be upwards of thirty men employed in the making of one machine; but he said 'if they were to make this particular kind of machine, they would turn out one for every four and a-half days' work of each man in their employment.' Now, there was a machine that with a girl had done the work of twelve men for nearly ten years, and the owner of that machine was under the impression that these twelve men would be employed making another machine, while four and a-half days of each of these men was sufficient to make another machine that was capable of displacing other twelve men."¹

It has been urged by the orthodox economists that although the individual worker may have suffered from his enforced idleness, that since competition resulted to the good of the public generally, competition must continue.

In some cases the reduction in the sale price of an article has been reduced in proportion to the reduced sum paid for labour, but in hundreds of instances which could be given, the whole of the amount saved has for years been the sole profit of the monopolist machinery-controller.

When Charles Babbage issued his 'Economy of Machinery and Manufactures,' great as had been the strides made in developing the power of steam, its position then was not a circumstance as compared with to-day. For a book dated 1832, in many respects its tone in dealing with the worker was in advance of the day; some hard knocks are dealt at employers and monopolists. It is admittedly in favour of machinery and economy in manufacture; but, when dealing with the "Effects of the Application of Machinery," the summing-up is roughly, which is the best—or rather, which is the least evil—sudden death or slow starvation?

¹ 'Report,' p. 72.

"It is almost the invariable consequence of such improvements ultimately to cause a greater demand for labour, and often the new labour requires a higher degree of skill than the old; but, unfortunately, the class of persons who have been driven out of the old employment are not always qualified for the new one; and in all cases a considerable time elapses before the whole of their labour is wanted. One very important inquiry which this subject presents is the question, *Whether it is for the interest of the working-classes that any improved machinery should be so perfect as to defy the competition of hand-labour, and that they should be at once driven out of the trade by it; or whether it is more advantageous for them to be gradually forced to quit the trade by the slow and successive advances of the machine?*"

The italics are Babbage's, and to me seem to suggest that Babbage was rather wanting to give the machinery owners a hint to be careful. There may be some question as to which would be best or worst for the worker—rapid starvation or slow —there is no manner of doubt as to which has been the best for the exploiters. By the gradual process it has been possible to bring the workers to a degree of endurance of suffering, which by no conceivable stretch of imagination could have come about by a sudden change. By slow degrees we have become accustomed to an immense army of unemployed, which would have sent society to everlasting smash had it been formed or made suddenly by one or two great machines, instead of an infinite number of changes towards automatism.

Constantly, constantly, constantly growing, growing, growing, recruited by tens, by hundreds, by thousands, the army of wholly unemployed, and the army of very irregularly employed, has grown until to-day there is ready for some great Carnot of Labour such a body as never the Hannibals of the past led to the victory of the gory field.

The passage in Babbage above quoted continues thus, "The suffering which arises from a quick transition is undoubtedly *more intense*; but it is also much less permanent than that which results from the slower process." Just so: Had the mechanical perfection of to-day been possible in say two or three years, instead of taking from eighty to a hundred to bring about, there would have been enough of energy to overthrow the tyrant and break the cords; but year by year the sufferer became more and more accustomed to the suffering; year by year new cords were woven on, and it is only just now that education, a quickened intelligence and mental grasp, is enabling him to understand the causes of his troubles, and will enable him to do by wit and mind what might have been done by main force, had only the accumulated miseries of to-day have been placed on one generation, instead of filtering down through several.

The "right to live" must be made to mean something nearer "right living" than the mere standing by a machine to feed it with raw material to make a monopolist's profit.

The full displacing power of machinery is hardly sufficiently realised by many. The displacement has in most cases been so gradual, and therefore the starvation so gradual, that the starvelings have gradually become accustomed to it, and quietly submitted. But these gradual displacements have been tolerably severe in cases.¹

In hollow-ware, for instance, Richard Roberts, civil engineer, stated in evidence given to House of Lords' Committee on Patent Law Amendment, that by "stamping up" from sheets of metal the labour-cost was *one-fiftieth* of that by the old process. A certain article made at one blow by machine in France could not be done in England without fifty blows and ten annealings; made by machine at the rate of ten a minute, but by hand hardly ten in the hour.²

This means, therefore, that out of each fifty men employed, forty-nine would by the machine be dispensed with. Since 1851 this stamping machine has been much improved.

In evidence before a Commons' Committee 1829, Joseph Merry, ribbon-manufacturer, said he was possessed of an improvement in making ribbon velvets which enabled him to make forty pieces while another man was making one,³ and exhibited a sample of the goods made.

This book of Macfie's from which I have been quoting has more similar evidence as to the displacing power of machinery; but the work is specially devoted to a question which leads immediately to one other point on which a few words must be said when dealing with the question of "Men v. Machines." THOS. SHORE, jun.

(To be continued.)

A BRAVE PARSON!—Rev. F. Minton, vicar of Midlewich, Cheshire, presiding at a meeting addressed by Mr. Brunner, M.P., said Liberals had the greatest cause for congratulation on the democratic spirit which every month was becoming more apparent among workmen. They had not yet crushed out injustice to Ireland, but they had stirred the people. "There was no more useful gospel than the gospel of discontent. The world was not meant for privileged parasites, and workmen should combine to hasten the social revolution."⁴

HOW A CHINESE MAGISTRATE SETTLED A DISPUTE.—That modern Haroun-al-Raschid, the magistrate of the Mixed Court at Shanghai, had lately before him a complicated family dispute about land, which he settled in this way. Finding that only one lawyer was engaged in the case, he had this gentleman haled before him and soundly whipped; then he invited the litigants to dinner with him, enlivened the repast by having the sermon from the sacred edict on the benefits of harmony between relatives read out, and lectured the parties severely as obstinate blockheads.

¹ How exceedingly gradual in some cases may be seen by this example; "The present spinning machinery which we now use is supposed to be a compound of about eight hundred inventions. The present carding machinery is a compound of about sixty patents."—(Paul Rapsey Hodge, civil engineer: evidence before House of Lords, 1851; quoted in 'Copyright and Patents for Inventions,' R. A. Macfie, 1883, p. 233.)

² Report, 1851, quoted in 'Copyright and Patents for Inventions,' R. A. Macfie, 1883, p. 241.

³ Macfie, p. 214.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 13, 1888.

7	Sun.	1843. Proclamation of the Clontarf Repeal meeting.
8	Mon.	1866. House of Fearnough, a rat saw-grinder, blown up. 1887. Gweedore evictions.
9	Tues.	1848. Smith O'Brien, Meagher, and others tried. 1856. N. Cabot died.
10	Wed.	1794. Kosciusko defeated. 1831. Nottingham Castle burnt by "rioters." 1837. Fourier died. 1842. Trial of Lancashire rioters.
11	Thur.	1831. Reform riots in London. 1884. Explosion at Quebec: 14 Nihilists sentenced at St. Petersburg.
12	Fri.	1660. Major-General Harrison hanged, drawn, and quartered. 1797. William Orr hung at Carrickfergus for high treason. 1819. Richard Carlile sentenced for publishing 'Age of Reason.' 1879. Re-burial of the bones of the Martyrs of Liberty at Rome.
13	Sat.	1881. Arrest of C. S. Parnell. 1883. Ladies' School at Warsaw searched.

Execution of Harrison.—Major-General Harrison has always been one of the butts of royalist scribblers. Of course men who believe in nothing except in robbing and oppressing their fellows have great contempt for enthusiasts of all kinds. Harrison was the leader of the Fifth Monarchy men, who, if destined to disappointment in the precise realisation of their Biblical ideal, had yet a natural and noble yearning for setting human affairs into better order than at present, when Jesus of Nazareth would probably be tortured to death by a Milbank warder and John the Baptist would be torn to pieces by an ignorant mob in Whitechapel, to suit the purposes of an evening newspaper bent on working up a sensation.—L. W.

Arrest of Parnell.—The great duel between Gladstone and Parnell in October 1881 is principally interesting to revolutionists as showing the infamous and illegal character of that secret conspiracy against the liberties of mankind known as the British Cabinet. On Friday the 6th, in the Clothyard at Leeds, Gladstone denounced Parnell as a robber, at the same time (with that low political cunning for which he has always been famous) trying to seduce John Dillon by a bit of the most alluring flattery, concluding with that ever-to-be-remembered bombastic boast that "the resources of civilisation were not exhausted." On Sunday the 8th Parnell at Wexford made that short, sharp, and deadly thrust at the Gladstonian bubble which will live in history as long as Ireland endures. Meanwhile John Dillon rejected Gladstone's "soft sawder" with honest contempt. Gladstone's pet "civilised world" waited with breathless interest for the "resources of civilisation" to appear. Never was a more contemptible exhibition. On Wednesday the 11th the secret salaried assassins at Downing Street held one of the most protracted meetings ever known. Not till six in the evening did Buckshot Forster hurry away to catch the Irish mail, with the mandate from his brother criminals to throttle a few honest men for telling the truth. Early next morning Parnell was seized in Dublin, while the seizure of Sexton, Dillon, Davitt, and O'Kelly soon followed. Of course the bull-headed plans of these Downing Street ruffians ended in their ignominy, yet this shows the amount of liberty England possesses under Gladstonism.—L. W.

THE ECONOMICAL CONDITION OF THE LABOURERS IN DENMARK.

(Concluded from p. 309.)

THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE.

ACCORDING to the best medical and physiological authorities, the average of the necessary quantity of nutritious elements which the daily food of one adult (or two children) ought to contain, is as follows: 105 grammes of albumen, 60 gr. of fat, 500 gr. of farinaceous substances. This estimate is based upon the largest possible quantity of flour that can be admitted, to make the food as cheap as possible. The quantity of farinaceous substances ought not to exceed 500 gr. in a wholesome food for an adult person. On the other side, the quantity of albumen is so small that, according to many other physiological analyses, it can scarcely be considered as an average. Partly the same may be said about the stated quantity of fat. The necessary quantity of meat of common quality, according to Prof. C. Voit, ought to amount to 300 grammes for one adult or two children.

Based upon these estimations, the sufficient but frugal support of a single man or working family respectively will cost at Copenhagen the following amounts per year:

Single men.	Husband and wife.	Parents and 1 child.	Parents and 2 children.	Parents and 3 children.	Parents and 4 children.	Parents and 5 children.
Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.
About 770	996	1,190	1,370	1,540	1,790	1,970

The domestic and economical conditions of the labouring classes in Copenhagen present themselves as follows:—

About 23,800 workmen, or about 62.3 per cent. of the total number, have an annual income from 800 kr.—which is nearly the amount necessary for the support of a single man—and down to about 400 kr.

Among these 23,800 workmen, about 15,800 are heads of a family, and of those—

About 11,800 families consist of from	2—4 persons
" 4,000 "	5—7 "
" 500 "	more than 7 "

About 3,400 workmen, or 8.9 per cent. of the whole number, have an income of from about 400 kr. to 900 kr., or from the amount that is required for the support of a single person to an amount not sufficient for the support of two persons.

The total number of men whose annual income is less than 900 kr., is about 27,200, or about 71.2 per cent. of the whole number.

About 3,000 workmen, or about 8 per cent. of the whole number, have an annual income from about 900 to about 1,000 kr.—i.e., nearly

the amount which is required for the support of a family of two persons. In all, about 30,200 workmen, or about 79 per cent. of the whole number, have an annual income of less than 1,000 kr.

Of these 30,200 workmen, 19,400 must be considered to be heads of a family, and of these—

About 13,900 represent families consisting each of	from 2—4 persons
" 4,900 "	5—7 "
" 600 "	more than 7 "

About 7,000 workmen, or about 18.3 per cent. of the total, have annual wages from about 1,000 to about 1,400 kr., or from the amount which is required for the support of two persons to the amount that is necessary for a family of four persons.

About 800 workmen, or about 2.4 per cent., have annual wages from 1,400 to about 1,600 kr.

About 200 workmen, or about 0.5 per cent., have annual income from 1,600 to about 9,300 kr.

The number of workmen in Copenhagen whose annual income was of about 1,000 kr. and above amounted to about 8,000, and amongst these about 4,500 were heads of a family. Of the latter—

About 3,550 represented families consisting of	from 2—4 persons
" 880 "	5—7 "
" 70 "	more than 7 "

Of the 33,600 workmen in the boroughs and the industrial labourers in the counties whose annual income was about 800 kr. and less, about 22,300 must be considered as heads of families.

Working-men having an annual income of 1,000 kr. or less were found to number 43,500, out of which about 27,900 may be supposed to be heads of families.

As to the workers in the counties, the proportion between income and expenses does not differ essentially from the proportion stated for Copenhagen. The consequence hereof is, that the workmen's income in general, in Copenhagen as well as in the counties, is far from being sufficient to cover the expenses for the necessaries of life. Most of the workmen, therefore, must reduce their consumption of food in nearly every respect, and very often to such a degree that all regard of conserving health and keeping up strength is wholly neglected.

To what degree the insufficient wages compel the workmen to reduce their consumption of food is proved by the statements made by Dr. Sørensen, concerning the situation of workmen in the boroughs. The complete informations in this statement concern but eight working families with an annual income from about 300 to 800 kr., but by comparing them with other information, it is proved that the reductions in the conditions of living which these families had to make, also prevail in a number of working families that is equal to the number of those who have an annual income of 800 kr. or less.

Though the daily food ought to contain 105 gr. of albumen, 60 gr. of fat, and 500 gr. of farinaceous substances for each adult, the average nutritious elements contained in the daily food of the above-mentioned families was 65.5 gr. of albumen, 63.0 gr. of fat, and 390.5 gr. of farinaceous matter, or an average deficiency of about 40 gr. of albumen and 110 gr. of farinaceous substances. The most badly situated families had the following deficit: of albumen were wanting 57.5 gr. per day for each adult, or half of what is required; of fat were wanting 12.5 gr. a-day, or one-fifth of the necessary quantity; of the farinaceous substances were wanting about 205 gr. daily, or two-fifths of the amount required. But the workman's want of albumen is, in fact, much greater than the above-mentioned figures show, as a too great part of it is consumed in the form of vegetables, and it is a well known fact that the digestive organs are to a much less degree able to extract the albumen of the vegetable than of the animal provisions. According to Prof. Voit, each of the families referred to has an average deficit of 400 klg. of meat a-year, or equal to the amount of 400 kr. This reduction of nutriment prevails for a number of working families that is equal to the number of those who have an annual income of 800 kr. and less, and that number amounts to about 38,100, or about 73 per cent. Consequently, 38,100 families, or 73 per cent. of all the working families in Copenhagen and the counties—besides the agricultural labourers—receive on an average about 400 kr. less per year than is required to get their sufficient quantity of meat!

The Danish Social-democratic Federation, according to their principles of State intervention, and believing that the economical condition of the workers can be bettered by parliamentary measures, presented, as far back as 1880, a Bill to the Parliament of Denmark, concerning the organisation of health institutions, asking therein that the State should direct all insurance in time of illness, with a compensation to the sick and their families for the loss of wages during illness, and subsidiarily, that the State should at least give to all poor persons gratuitous means of relief, such as medical assistance, medicines, accommodation in hospitals, etc. They also urge that the insurance of old and disabled workers must be the duty of the State, as of course they are wholly unable to save anything for themselves. The Danish State has done nothing of the kind, and even if they would, they could not do anything in the way of altering the economical condition of those who produce all wealth and get starvation wages in compensation. These starvation wages will continue to exist as long as private property and monopoly, the very essence of the institution of the State, will last; it is therefore the abolition of private ownership and the destruction of monopoly that we must aim at, to get rid of not only starvation wages, but wage-system and State-institution altogether, and live a free life in a community of free men, where, there being no master—i.e., exploiter—each of us will be enabled to have all that he needs.

V. D.



HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW? FIRST, FEW MEN REED 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.

G. McL.—Thanks for Scotch notes, labour and general. We have two other comrades who collect news for us; we echo your wish that they were more!

E. B. B and F. K.—Crowded out this week quite unavoidably. Will be used next week.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 3.

ENGLAND	FRANCE	CREMONA
Justice	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Il Democratico
Labour Tribune	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	Florence—La Question Sociale
Norwich—Daylight	La Revolte	Turin—Nuovo Gazzetta Operaia
Postal Service Gazette	Le Coup de Feu	SPAIN
Radical Leader	Sedan—La Revolution	Madrid—El Socialista
Railway Review	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	Barcelona—Tierra y Libertad
Shetland News	HOLLAND	Seville—La Solidaridad
Worker's Friend	Hague—Recht voor Allen	PORTUGAL
INDIA	BELGIUM	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Ghent—Vooruit	GERMANY
Madras—People's Friend	Liege—L'Avenir	Berlin—Volks Tribune
UNITED STATES	SWITZERLAND	Wien—Gleichheit
Norwich—Der Sozialist	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	Brunn—Volksfreund
Truthseeker	Arbeiterstimme	DENMARK
Workmen's Advocate	Geneva—Przedswit	Social-Demokraten
Boston—Woman's Journal	Bulletin Continental	SWEDEN
Chicago—Knights of Labor	ITALY	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	Malmö—Arbetet
Pateron (N J) Labor Standard	Rome, L'Emancipazione (daily)	NORWAY
St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	Marsala—La Nuova Eta	Kristiania—Social-Demokraten

A STRIKE AND AN ARBITRATION FRAUD.

SOME weeks ago the girls at the Banner (Cotton) Mill, Aberdeen, came out on strike for an increase in their wages of 5 per cent., the reason assigned by them for their action being that trade was brisk, profits good, and the wages paid in Lancashire much higher than those paid in Aberdeen. The dispute attracted a good deal of attention at the time, notices of it appearing in the *Commonweal* and the *Link*, and the Aberdeen Socialists taking occasion to make capital out of it. The local Trades' Council took up the matter on behalf of the girls, and ultimately arbitration was resorted to as the method of settlement.

Dr. Hunter, M.P. for North Aberdeen, was first named as arbiter—by the workers; but Hunter is rather a bluff, uncompromising fellow, whose sympathies with the workers would carry him a considerable way, and although no formal objection was advanced against him as arbiter, the directors would be sure to consider him an unsafe man; and they indicated their preference for Sheriff Wilson, a dormant Tory and the intimate friend of some of their number. Not knowing the sort of person the sheriff was (except, perhaps, that he was proud, solemn, and addicted to athletics, which, like "the flowers that bloom in the spring," had, of course, "nothing to do with the case"), the girls and their friends of the Trades' Council, nothing doubting, agreed to accept him as arbiter, and went back to their work on the old terms pending his decision. The result has been that this man, whose judgment used to excite general admiration among Aberdonians, and who was regarded as "an honourable gentleman," has betrayed their trust, and has handed them over to the Philistines bound hand and foot for the time being.

Among working people the general forecast as to the result of the arbitration was that at least a compromise would be made—that 2½ per cent. of an increase would be granted to the girls. But "blessed is he that expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed." The decision which has just been declared ought, with its wealth of judicial acumen and inventive ingenuity, to show how little unsophisticated "inexperienced" workers know about the rights of labour, and the sacrifices our betters make for our well-being. When we saw the shareholders (most Christian magistrates and Liberal candidates) driving in carriages, giving donations to charities, and maintaining sons and daughters in luxury and idleness, we thought it must be good to be a shareholder. We were correspondingly blasted and knocked out of shape when we were told by Sheriff Wilson that these shareholders had for a long time been running their mill "at a dead loss." The shareholders themselves said that at the outset of the dispute;

but we considered it simply as the desperate subterfuge of cornered capitalism. None of the workers took this plea very seriously. One night, speaking in Castle Street to some hundreds of men and women, I said if these gentlemen did not get their living by shareholding, then they ought to be "run in" as vagabonds, since they had "no visible means of support." And the women led the laugh that greeted my application of the legal definition of a vagabond. But it appears we were treating the matter with the levity of ignorance, for the document in which the sheriff declares his decision bears their statement out.

Trade is brisk, he admits, and in Lancashire good profits are being made and good wages paid; but the Banner Mill is so far from the markets and the coal-fields that the cost of transportation of raw material and manufactured goods handicaps the directors in competing with Lancashire firms, and renders it impossible for them to pay Lancashire wages. These causes entailed on the shareholders a loss during several years (that is to say, they only got 3½ per cent. of a dividend, whereas they might have got 5 per cent. *anywhere*!); and now when times are better their 10 per cent. are required to recoup them for those losses. Therefore, says Sheriff Wilson, the present demand for an increase of wages has come too soon. But (he proceeds more hopefully) if the present prosperity continues, an increase may be granted; only I would have you workers bear in mind that while you have been drawing thousands of pounds of wages, capital has been getting nothing (save 3½ per cent., otherwise, "a dead loss")!

Meanwhile the girls have to go on working ten hours a-day for an average wage of 6s. a-week, while the shareholders continue to pocket their 10 per cent. After declaring the dividend last half-year, the directors carried a balance of £1,200 to account. In order to give the workers the desired increase of 5 per cent., only some £300 out of that sum would have been required (meaning about 1 per cent off their profits); and yet although the girls have been sharing the effects of trade depression in the shape of reduced wages during the last few years, the decree of the just judge is that they have no right to share the fruits of the present trade expansion—at least, not yet.

Sheriff Wilson would most likely admit that 6s. a-week is insufficient to maintain a woman in decency and comfort, but he chooses to be generous to capital before he is just to labour. Some of the Scotch "democratic" organs have been humane enough and outspoken enough to charge the sheriff with having shown the class bias, and they discuss his decision and lay down the law in the usual oracular style. If there were such a thing as commercial morality I could understand why they should see this arbitration job to be a fraud. But it seems to me that the sheriff in his judgment gives faithful expression to the commercial view of how the "cake" ought to be divided. His decision is quite in order—only a little meaner and more brazen-faced than some men would have made it. Capital is entitled to as much of the "cake" as it can get; Labour is entitled to as much as it can get; and there is no other natural rule which can be applied to their relationship. A thief has just exactly the same right to my sovereign that he has to my shilling—none at all; and shareholders have just as much right to 100 per cent. as to 1. Our "Democrats" and their organs have yet to realise the mountainous absurdity of gravely telling thieves what honour and honesty requires that they should do while still remaining thieves!

Well! we learned long ago that strikes were no good; and this story illustrates the uselessness of arbitration, inasmuch as an arbiter must reason from a commercial and not a moral standpoint, and, whether he be honest or not, go upon the assumption that stealing is no dishonesty.

But there is also something cheering for us in the otherwise sordid story. If the sheriff's quaint account of "a dead loss" be true, then the fact that the co-operation of capital, organising ability, and the toil of several hundred women can only bring 3½ per cent. (in commercial language "a dead loss") to the capitalist and 6s. a-week to the worker, is a telling illustration of the diamond-cut-diamond nature of competitive commerce. It ought to fortify our hope that our fellow mortals "who are not Socialists" will ere long see the folly (if nothing else) of a system where the thieves are so numerous and so deft, the honest people so poor, and the market so full of swag, that it would pay as well to turn honest and spend the remainder of their days in earning their livelihood instead of stealing it.

JAMES LEATHAM.

Superintendent (of bobtail tram-car line): "The driver of No. 75 ran over an old lady to-day, and broke her arm." President: "Well, people ought to be more careful." Superintendent: "And the amount of money in the box indicates that he is careless about fares." President: "Wha-at. Discharge him at once!"

PROJECTED COTTON FACTORIES IN CHINA.—The success of the Bombay cotton factories in profitably sweating the natives has led to projects for the establishment of similar works in Shanghai, which is the centre of the principal cotton growing district in China, but they meet with no encouragement from the Chinese authorities. The latter are still trying to resuscitate the Chinese Cotton Spinning Company, which was first projected under official auspices in 1879. The foundations of the buildings were laid, but owing to mismanagement further progress was stopped, and up to this date attempts to raise additional capital have proved unsuccessful. One of the inducements held out to shareholders, who are all natives, is a monopoly for the manufacture of cotton cloth promised by his Excellency Li Hung-chang, and dread of interference with this monopoly has hitherto caused the local officials to discourage and endeavour to prevent the establishment of cotton factories of all kinds, whether projected by foreigners or Chinese. Bombay meanwhile is sending yarns to China in ever increasing quantities, to the enormous enrichment of her mill-owners.

AS IN GREAT; SO IN LITTLE.

POSSIBLY it may interest the readers of *Commonweal* to know how Socialism and other advanced doctrines are penetrating into the heart of the Perthshire highlands. A short time ago a branch of the S.D.F. was formed in the fashionable town of Crieff by a few earnest Socialists, and an effort was made to raise the propaganda from its secret grooves into the broad light of day. With that object in view, comrade Glasier from Glasgow was invited to give a lecture on Socialism in the public square. A large crowd collected to hear our comrade; and for the first time they listened and learnt what Socialism really meant. The audience was large and most attentive, and from cool critical listeners they became most enthusiastic in demonstrating their approval of the new gospel. A meeting-place was secured, and later on Tom Mann was invited to give an open-air and also an in-door address, and again a good audience greeted our comrade's exposition of Socialism with decided approval. At both meetings a great quantity of literature was sold, including a few quires of *Commonweal* and *Justice*.

During the summer months the propaganda has considerably slackened; workers who reside in small country towns will be able to appreciate the cause of this. But although the meetings have been discontinued for the present, an attempt will again be made to carry on a series of indoor meetings during the coming winter. The little band of Socialists in Crieff are thorough, earnest men, and the secretary has both initiative and steady courage to make the movement in the district a genuine success. Where a few men are ready to act as well as give suggestions on "Organisation," much work can be done, and a feeling of reliance is inspired when enthusiasm is not confined merely to the tongue.

Seven miles west from Crieff, and undisturbed by the din of railway traffic, lies the sweet little village of Comrie. It is the very picture of peace and soothing rest, as it snugly nestles at the foot of a range of lofty mountains. It has made a slight noise in the world by the frequency of its earthquakes, but beyond a passing rumble at long intervals there has been nothing to make a boast of! But proud are the villagers of their earthquakes, and woe to the stranger who doubts their reality. One would think that here at least competition must be more humane, and that its vile trickeries and loathsome effects on the character must be less marked than in our large cities. The visitor who approaches Comrie with dreams of idyllic bliss has them rudely dispelled when he sets his foot across the bridge of Lednock. A vision of low narrow houses, stuffy looking and unhealthy, despite the pure air from mountain and stream, at once meets his gaze, and instead of a population with marks of strength and vigour on their faces, he sees prematurely old men and women with each wrinkle on their faces speaking loudly of the hard and long struggle for existence. In a population of something near 2,000, one is struck with the very small number of young men; and here the same pathetic tale has to be told of the forcing of the best blood, and possibilities of true manly character, into the dens of our large cities, there to swell the tide of gaunt competition among the large army of toilers. A few years ago between thirty and forty tailors in Crieff and Comrie could easily earn a comfortable livelihood, but now the sweating system has raised its ugly head and machinery and underpaid women will soon make the two or three that still remain a thing of the past.

The population of Comrie a short time ago was nearly double its present amount; and though plenty of land lies ready for useful cultivation, it is fast sinking out of existence. Glenartney and Glenlednock used to hear the merry sounds of human life, but everywhere one sees the ruined cottages of the "bold peasantry." The beautiful glens, instead of yielding human food and supporting many healthy families, are being rapidly given over to sheep and deer. It is more profitable to the landlord; and to judge from the acquiescence of the authorities, we may suppose it is also beneficial to the community. Lord Aveland is the principal possessor of this quarter of the globe, and for his pleasure and profit has been "spurned the cottage from the green," and large acres of land given over to grouse, deer, and sheep. In the village the effect of competition is most marked upon the merchants. There are half a dozen grocers and bakers, and the struggle for customers is most humorous as well as pitiful. Each one possesses a van, and in order to secure a customer and "place him on the list," the baker would carry a single loaf a halfpenny cheaper to Loch Earnhead—a distance of thirteen miles! Each of the merchants is of course religious, and they would fight to the death among themselves for the "Auld," Free, or U. P. Churches; but when the little English chapel is opened in the summer time for three months to give diversity of entertainment to the grouse-shooting and deer-stalking visitors, then farewell creeds and Shorter Catechism! All the merchants with their wives and families religiously attend every service, and the heart of Sir Pertinax McSycophant would be gladdened by the elaborate scraping and "booming" of the local capitalists as the wealthy visitors are played out of church to the lively music of the "kist o' whistles." Of course the result is some "orders" in the ensuing week; and one can well believe they have been paid for dearly enough. I am told that the character of the people has completely changed within a recent period. Instead of being robust and self-dependent, with all the old hardy vigour of Scotch character, they are snobbish, poor, and vain—the result of being compelled to hang out their banner for the attraction of summer visitors. Those who have stayed for any length of time at villages or towns dependent on the summer visitor, will know how false and corrupt the character becomes through the painful efforts to become "genteel" and look as if they had never done a stroke of work in all their lives.

It is long since the doctrines of Henry George penetrated to this place, and a most encouraging feature is the eagerness with which the land question and other social topics are discussed by the farmers, artisans, and even gamekeepers, and their readiness to embrace extreme views. They have undoubtedly ceased to hope for anything from either of the "great political parties," and slowly but surely the truth is dawning upon them that "Tories" and "Liberals" are mere phrases to keep them divided. The most of the young workmen here—mostly apprentices nearing the end of their term—are far more advanced in social questions than many of their city brethren, and I found a few of them studying Laurence Gronlund's valuable work. Quite an interesting picture could be presented to the readers of *Commonweal* of an old shoemaker, erect in figure and with quite a refreshing look of manly individuality on his face, seated on a stool in the centre of his clean-looking old thatched hut, surrounded by a number of young men listening eagerly as he read and expounded the leading articles from *Reynolds's Newspaper*, all his utterance primed with the hottest sedition! The little school has now got considerably beyond *Reynolds*, but the old man will ever regard with affectionate fervour the slashing articles in that fairly honest and serviceable paper.

Is it not significant that wherever one goes it is social topics that are discussed and not political ones, and that our doctrines are penetrating silently everywhere, even without the aid of the propagandist? Competition itself is sending the schoolmaster abroad, and even the diseases it manufactures speak with a plaintive eloquence to all thoughtful men, and long before our first-class debaters in St. Stephen's have reached "Manhood Suffrage" the dissolution of our rotten society will be upon us.

J. M. B.

EMANCIPATION.

Ho, workers, all and everywhere,
Rouse up, rouse up, give careful heed;
Why waste your days in beating air,
And scattering salt instead of seed?
Your cramping toil in mine and field,
The deadly drudgery of the mill,
See, what a treasure-heap they yield!
How comes it then ye fare so ill?

Ye smile. Ah, then, ye understand
Whose is the lion's share of spoil;
Ye know full well that plundering band,
The masters of the means of toil.
Your lives they strip to load their store,
Welding, wherewith to swell their gains,
The work of hands that are no more,
The fruit of unrequited brains.

What else but mastery, brothers mine,
Dooms you to strive where hope is none?
What else but mastery bids you pine
Amidst the wealth your hands have won?
What else, in foul and wolfish strife,
Against your friends demands your power?
Or spilt the precious stream of life
To coin the troubles of an hour?

Then rid you of the roguish clan,
Who filch the gifts they feign to give;
Join hands, and claim for every man
The leave to labour and to live.
The world, released from wrongful gain,
May well be different from to-day;
Deal then to Privilege its bane,
And make of life the most ye may.

C. W. BECKETT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"SWEATED BASKET-MAKERS."

With regard to friend Dryden's questions, I have been to several people for information, and I have been also to the committee of our union, and as far as I can get information nobody has contradicted my statement about the first year's contract; and as regards this year's contract that also is practically correct, because the only other person who has got a portion of the contract is Harrison, of Grantham, and from all that I have ever heard of him he is a sweater actually if not technically, and his idea of a workman's wage is very low.

The Trades' Union Committee inform me that my statement of the wage of No. 3 hampers ought to have been 8s. 10d. instead of 8s. The other is correct.

With regard to the umbrella baskets, I have not heard of any being out this year; none are being made in London. But the protectors are being made by scabs who are making them for 1s. 9d., the proper wage being 2s. 5d.—Yours fraternally,

THOS. CANTWELL.

A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE.—A letter was written by A. R. Parsons to his children, shortly before his murder, by his request it will not be opened and read until November 11, 1888.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the third week of the current month was 91,646, of whom 55,316 were indoor and 36,330 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 1,994 over the corresponding week of last year, 5,015 over 1886, and 5,929 over 1885. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 966, of whom 783 were men, 155 women, and 28 children under sixteen.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

There is to be a great meeting in Glasgow on the subject of the sweating system on October 18.

The apprentices in the employment of Milne and Sons, engineers, Aberdeen, struck work on Sept. 24th for a reduction of hours.

It has been arranged that the apprentice engineers at Aberdeen who struck work for shorter hours, should have them reduced from 57 to 54 per week.

The Forth Bridge strike initiated on Sept. 22nd, still continues with determination on both sides. The platers want either the terms asked for, or that a regular division of night men be organised.

A Dewsbury telegram states that the miners at Thornhill Combs Collieries, Dewsbury, have struck because the employers refused an advance. The men allege that they are paid less than the neighbouring miners. Over 60 men are out.

The handloom carpet weavers of Alexander Murdoch and Co., Bridgeton, Glasgow, are on strike in consequence of a proposed reduction of 20 per cent. The men on strike have, for the past three months, been earning on an average 7s. per week.

The dock labourers at Glasgow quay are still locked out by the stevedores. They can only do it with the help of Belfast Protestant labourers, who are loyal to all and everything which keeps them poor, servile, and despised. Verily, bad Belfast produces poor Protestants!

WAGES ADVANCED.—The Clyde shipbuilders, at a meeting held on September 25th, unanimously resolved to recommend an increase of not more than 5 per cent. on the time wages of engineers, ironworkers, joiners, and pattern-makers who have not already received advances.

TEN PER CENT!—The East Lothian Miner's Association, at a meeting held on Sept. 27th, unanimously passed a resolution that a deputation from each coal-work should approach the masters requesting an advance of 10 per cent., the result to be reported to next fortnightly meeting.

FINES.—The strike of 250 power-loom weavers at Auchterarder, in consequence of the imposition of fines for short lengths, which was noticed in this column last week, has now terminated. The fines are abolished, and the tenters are to "pace" the webs so far as the yarns will allow.

At the conference of miners at Manchester a resolution was carried to the effect that each district represented at the conference pledged itself that the pitmen should give notice to secure an advance of 10 per cent. on all underground workmen's wages, and that the notices should not be withdrawn unless the advance was conceded.

SCOTCH MINERS.—Thursday afternoon (27th) a meeting of Scotch miners' delegates at Glasgow unanimously agreed that the miners in the various districts should demand an advance of 10 per cent. without conditions as to the number of days to be worked. Mr. Keir-Hardie, late labour candidate for Lanark, said, what the Scotch miners wished, in short, was 5s. for an eight hours day.

RATTENING AT MACCLESFIELD.—On the 24th it was found that 90 warps in a loom at Lower Heyes Cotton Mill had been cut overnight with a sharp knife. Several driving belts had also been tampered with, and the perpetrator must have known inside the mill well to have eluded the watchman. Two thousand weavers at the mill have been on strike for eight weeks. Their union repudiates complicity in the "outrage."

BAD NEWS FOR BRITISH IRONWORKERS.—The British iron trade in Italy is to be further reduced. A company has been formed for the erection of extensive ironworks in the neighbourhood of Milan. It is expected to employ 5,000 hands at the outset, and the company has secured a patent for heating the raw material, by which a great saving of labour and wages will be effected. "It moves"—the vanishing of wages by labour killing machines.

A NEW LABOUR COMPETITOR.—A new mining machine, combining some novel improvements, has been brought out by A. Wood and Sons, Glasgow. One of the improvements is the reducing to silence the noise caused by the old "kicker" arrangement. How long will the miners wait and suffer until they determinedly adopt a method of organisation and action which will reduce to silence the noise of the "kicker" arrangement with which they at present combat capital? "How long, O Lord; how long?"

POOR FELLOW!—Mr. Thomas Whitehead, 21, Stoneleigh Street, Oldham, late foreman of the twistors and drawers at Derker Mill, writes furiously to the *Cotton Factory Times*, denying the report that he had joined the men on strike: "Joined the men, I most emphatically deny, and defy either your correspondent or anyone else to prove that such is the fact. That I have given notice, and left, is quite true, but not on account of the prices paid, the prices offered, nor yet to join the men." What a shame it was to hurt his feelings by supposing him capable of joining with common workmen in a rude strike!

A SCOTCH SLAVE MARKET IN 1888!—The usual man, maid, and cattle fair was held at Castle Douglas on Sept. 24th, when the following prices were given for six months' surrender and use of the lives and liberty of the "human cattle" as they are sometimes called. The buyers lose nothing through the deterioration of this kind of stock, and the slaves have to accept whatever food and housing the masters may be pleased to give. Ploughmen, £9 10s.; byrewomen, £6; kitchen-maids, £5; cooks, £7; girls, £3 10s.; general servants, £4 10s.; lads, £3. The slaves provide their own clothing and retiring allowance for old age when unable to work. Horses and cattle sold well, a few roadsters and "screws," and some men, women, and girls not finding buyers.

PIECERS OBJECT TO WORK OVERTIME.—For a considerable time past it has been customary at one of the cotton mills near Roylson for the engine to "warn" at 5.30 p.m., at which time the whole of the operatives, with the exception of the minders and their piecers ceased work. These latter would then continue to work until a quarter to six, and sometimes longer. The piecers were not at all satisfied at the prospect of this overtime being persisted in, which meant additional work without any extra remuneration. One evening last week they refused to work after the proper time. As the result of this action the minders have been compelled to cease work at the same time as the other operatives. The course adopted by the piecers referred to might be imitated with advantage by others who are placed in a similar position.

The Govan labourers strike has forced the employers to offer an advance of 4d. per hour, being one-half of the labourers' demand. The labourers have provided for future emergencies by joining the Govan branch of the Labour Protection League. The League is rapidly gaining strength here.

BAKERS' UNION IN SCOTLAND.—A very large and representative meeting was held in the Albion Hall, Glasgow, on Sept. 27th, to hear the report regarding the delegate meeting lately held at Aberdeen. The secretary in his report said that the numbers now connected with the new federation reached the astonishing number of 3,676—a good show of work done in six months' campaign showing most conclusively the men are awakening to the fact that there is something wrong with the present state of things, and it is their duty to try and put it right. It was resolved to hold another series of mass meetings, in order to get those who are still keeping back to step out and show they have the interest of their trade at heart. £3 was voted to assist the carpet weavers on strike at Murdoch's Mills, Bridgeton, and £3 to the mineral dock labourers, who are being at this time attempted to be put out of union by the stevedores.

MORE SIGNS OF BAD TRADE.—The following are a few particulars gleaned from the balance sheets of going concerns. Let it be borne in mind that in every case the fat salaries of the directors and managers, together with the interest on borrowed capital, has been paid in addition to the profits named below. Falcon Engine and Car Works—profits on year, £4,086 16s. 2d. The directors complain that the competition is so keen that profits have "virtually disappeared." Gloucester Waggon Company—net profits, £34,000. Normanton Collieries—the profits are £25,000. In addition to this they paid £21,000 as mine rents and royalties. These two sums together would have increased the men's wages by 50 per cent. Sandwell Park Colliery Company—profits, £13,214 8s. 1d. The dividend paid was 11 per cent.; last year it was 10. Wigan Coal and Iron Company's account show a profit of £10,340. Nobel Dynamite Company—dividend paid amounted to one hundred and thirteen thousand, four hundred and eleven pounds, six shillings and sixpence!!! The Steel Company of Scotland has made a net profit during the year of £24,000. Stavelly Coal and Iron Company admit to a profit of over £39,000.—*Miner.*

THE PRICE OF COAL.—The Lanarkshire Coal-masters' Association has just issued their monthly returns of sales for August. By these the masters own to "an advance of only 3d. to 5d. per ton on July prices, so that it does not give any advance of wages for October"—under the sliding scale which the masters made themselves without consulting the workmen. The other side of the picture—as given by Keir Hardie at a Miner's Conference held at Glasgow on Sept. 27th—proves conclusively that coal was selling in Glasgow last week at an advance of 9d. per ton, and that the employers intended on 1st October to put 1s. per ton on household, and 6d. per ton on shipping coal, entitling the men thereby to a second advance of 10 per cent. The masters would then offer the workmen the first 10 per cent., and expect them to be satisfied. What the Conference aimed at was not 10 per cent. advance, but as many advances as would bring the wages up to at least 5s. for an eight-hour day. A Glasgow paper thinks the masters should give 5 per cent. of an advance, and that the men should be content with it.

Saturday 29th the majority if not all of the coalmasters in Dudley district were served by their workpeople with notice for a 10 per cent. advance. At many collieries the price of coal has already been advanced, coal and slack is in brisk demand, and it is anticipated that the advance asked for will be yielded.

In the Manchester district the colliery owners who advanced the price of coal on Monday 1st have decided to grant the miners an advance of 5 per cent. The men had asked for 10 per cent.

MINERS' CONFERENCE.—The conference of delegates, representing about 200,000 miners in England, Scotland, and Wales, who had been sitting during the previous few days, concluded their deliberations on Friday 28th at the Co-operative Hall, Manchester. There were present 49 delegates. A discussion took place at the steps to be taken to obtain the 10 per cent. advance the conference had decided to press for, and the time when the notices to be given shall terminate. The following resolution was submitted and unanimously agreed to: "That seeing that the conference has agreed upon notice to be given for an advance of wages, it is hereby agreed that all notices shall be given so as to terminate in the week ending October 27th." The conference next considered what action should be taken in the event of certain colliery owners offering to concede a smaller advance than that asked, or only granting it subject to conditions. It was resolved: "That in case of any colliery or district represented at this conference being offered any advance less than that decided upon at this conference—namely, 10 per cent.—they shall still carry out the resolution by lodging notice demanding the full amount agreed upon. Further, that no district shall accept 10 per cent. on such condition that it shall lose it in the event of any other district represented at this conference not obtaining it." When next meeting should take place was considered, and it was agreed, "That a conference be held on Monday October 29, to consider the position of the districts represented at this conference with regard to the demand for an advance of 10 per cent." "That the next conference be held on October 29 at Derby."

IRONWORKERS' WAGES.—A meeting of the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board was held on Monday, 1st, at the Council House, Birmingham, to hear an application from the operatives' section for an advance of 12½ per cent. It will be remembered that a meeting of the Board was held on the previous Monday at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, to consider re-establishing a sliding scale, and other matters. An application for an advance of 12½ per cent. was then made by the men's representatives, but the employers' section would not decide the question, expressing a willingness to have the application made before the arbitrator. The men, after consultation, accepted this, therefore the present meeting was held. The men's delegates stated that during the late depression wages had been reduced in the aggregate 50 per cent., and the wages of tonnage men 65 per cent. These reductions were enforced owing to the scarcity of orders, and now an improvement had taken place in trade it was only right that the men should have back what had been taken from them. On behalf of the employers it was said that "contracts had been taken upon which the men would be employed for next three months, at lowest price of iron that had ever ruled. If the men obtained an advance, an advance would have to be given to other workmen. They had succeeded in lessening the severe competition on the part of Germans and Belgians, and if an advance were conceded competition would be renewed. Although trade had improved, prices had not improved with it, and therefore they were not in a position to give an advance; they would only be too glad if they could do so." The arbitrator will give his award in due course.

RAT PAPERS.—The following list is taken from a report submitted to the Trades' Union Congress:—"Alliance News," United Kingdom Alliance, Percy Bros., Manchester. "Banner," Church and Constitutional, Clay, R. and Sons (Limited). "Banner of Israel," Proving Identity of Lost Tribes, Banks, R. and Sons. "British Weekly," Social and Christian Progress, Hazell, Watson and Viney (Limited). "Catholic Press," Roman Catholic, National Press Agency (Limited). "Catholic Times," Roman Catholic, Father Nugent, Liverpool. "Christian," Denominational, Unwin Bros. "Christian Age," Sermons, etc., Spottiswoode and Co. "Christian Commonwealth," Religion and Temperance, National Press Agency (Limited). "Christian Herald," Sermons, etc., 3, Dorset Buildings, E.C. "Christian Union," Religion and Temperance, 8, Salisbury Court, E.C. "Ecclesiastical Gazette," Church of England, Clay, R. and Sons (Limited). "Free Methodist," Denominational, Hurd, H. F. "Good Templars' Watchword," Official Organ of Order, National Press Agency (Limited). "Good Tidings," Temperance and Christian, Hurd, H. F. "Inquirer," Unitarian and Free Christian, Woodfall and Kinder. "Jewish Chronicle," Anglo-Jewish, 2, Finsbury Square, E.C. "Jewish World," Anglo-Jewish, 8, South Street, Finsbury, E.C. "Literary Churchman," Reviews, etc., Reynell and Co. (Limited). "Primitive Methodist," Primitive Methodism, Hurd, H. F. "Protestant Standard," Anti-Roman Catholic, Kirkman, G. F., Liverpool. "Record," Church of England, Spottiswoode and Co. "Rock," Church of England, Collingridge, W. H. and L. "Signal and Gospel Union Gazette," Religious, 3, Dorset Buildings, E.C. "Tablet," Roman Catholic, 19, Henrietta Street, W.C. "Temperance Caterer," Temperance, Rider, W. and Son. "Temperance Chronicle," Church of England Temperance, Unwin Bros. "Weekly Herald," Roman Catholic, 280, Strand, W.C. "Weekly Register," Roman Catholic, Westminster Press.—The above must be rather unpleasant reading for Temperance and Religious "friends of the working man"!

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

On the 15th September the capitalist press published the following telegram from Chicago:—

"The arrest of the Anarchist bomb-maker, Charles Bodendieck, was admitted to-day by the police. He is a suspect who has been absent from the city some time. An officer doing duty in citizens' clothes succeeded in becoming Bodendieck's room-mate shortly after the Anarchist returned here. The prisoner is an avowed revolutionist. His apartment is fairly littered with incendiary publications. There is little doubt that the police secured in his room a considerable quantity of dynamite. That Bodendieck had confederates, or at least that he was supplied with money from some suspicious source, is plain from the fact that he did not earn money himself, yet paid his rent for weeks with great punctuality and expended quite a sum for Anarchist literature and paraphernalia. Inspector Bonfield refused this evening to talk about the arrest, saying his men are still working on the case. Bodendieck is a German, who came to this country about four years ago, and immediately joined the armed section of the Anarchists. [This is a lie; known to the scribe to be a lie.] He has ever since been an active participant in all the demonstrations of the revolutionary element except the Haymarket massacre, at the time of which he was in jail for extorting money from Police Justice White under threats of death. Bodendieck was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary for this, which he served. A parcel found among his effects would indicate that, on being released, he drifted West and led the life of a cowboy before coming back to Chicago."

Last Sunday the following telegram reached New York:—

"Charles J. Bodendieck is held in the Central Police Station on the charge of having in his possession a quantity of explosive matter without being able to show any license for having it. It is reported that Bodendieck has made a confession. The *Daily News* [Chicago] says: 'About two months ago Inspector Bonfield was informed of the queer actions of the man. Detective "Phil" Miller, disguising himself, applied for lodgings at the house and was fortunate enough to be assigned to a room directly over that occupied by Bodendieck. Under the assumed name of Peter Martin he soon scraped an acquaintance with Bodendieck, who took him into his confidence and unfolded his plot to him. For two weeks Miller slept with his victim, and then, under the pretence of leaving the city, suddenly disappeared, but assuming a different disguise, shadowed Bodendieck night and day for three weeks, keeping his superiors aware of the man's movements by nightly reports. About two weeks ago Bodendieck became alarmed, and fearing that his plans were about to be made known to the police, moved to No. 159 West Washington Street. He paid daily visits to the reference room of the Public Library, and there studied the manufacture of explosives, the library containing a number of volumes on this subject. He also procured a copy of Most's treatise on bombs and their manufacture. He had already intimated to his friend "Martin" his fear of handling dynamite, and the consequences attending his capture, should any of the dangerous stuff be found on or near him. This accounts for his desire to procure an explosive equally deadly in its work, but which would apparently be considered harmless should he fall into the hands of the police. Little dreaming that his new found friend was a detective in the employ of the city, he carefully explained his plan to avenge the death of Spies, Parsons, Fischer, and Engels. His first point of attack was to be the city buildings, and without exciting the suspicion of any one but his tireless shadow, he explored every nook and corner of the City Hall where he thought his explosive would be most deadly in its effect. Last Tuesday he had everything in readiness for his diabolical plot, and set to work to obtain the chemicals with which to manufacture his explosive. With the directions he had obtained from the library, he went to Fuller and Fuller's drug-store and laid in a supply of chlorate of potash, oil of tar, saltpetre, sulphur, and several other articles. He then went to the warehouses of the Hazard Powder Company and purchased one hundred feet of fuse and thirty fulminating caps. Inspector Bonfield had been informed of the new move of the dynamiter, and ordered his arrest before he had a chance to make a dangerous move. Bodendieck, when arrested, exhibited not the slightest surprise, as he said he had rather suspected something of the kind. His room at No. 159 Washington Street was searched and the dangerous stuff confiscated and taken to the Central Station. The explosive which Bodendieck was about to make, it is said, acts as would a huge torpedo, which, being thrown to the ground, explodes with terrific force. It is not known if there was any one else with him in his scheme beside the detective, as he was fearful of betrayal.'"

As the case is before the authorities and not as yet settled, I prefer to abstain at present from giving you any comments or further information.

The case against the Bohemian Anarchists was called on the 17th inst., in the court of Judge Tuthill in Chicago, and held over to the October sessions.

The counsel for the accused Hronek, a Mr. Goldzier, moved that the case should be postponed to the November sessions, to enable the defence to produce in court the man Karafiat, who at present is on a visit in Europe. It will be remembered that Hronek maintained at the time of his arrest that he received the alleged bombs from Karafiat. State attorney Longenecker opposed the postponement, but the judge split the difference and granted a postponement to October. Chlebowa, the informer, has been entered on the charge-sheet, but he did not even take the trouble to engage a counsel. He was not present in court when the case was called. Sevic demanded a special trial, but this was refused to him. He was represented by a counsel of his own and denies that he sold any stuff to Hronek.

About a hundred delegates, representing sixty-one trade and labour unions, met on the 17th September in Harmony Hall, Troy, N. Y., in response to a call made by the New York Central Labour Union. The object of the conference, as officially stated, is to devise some means whereby certain clauses of the conspiracy section of the Penal Code of the State of New York may be amended or repealed. There has been of late among the union men a feeling that the law assumed that all strikes except those inaugurated to secure higher wages or to prevent reductions were conspiracies, and this feeling has been intensified by decisions in law courts based on the conspiracy laws. The conference is to decide what can be done to have the law amended. The first day was filled up with the appointment of various committees. The whole convention has no other purpose but to pass such resolutions as would enable the leaders to sell the labour vote to either of the two great parties.

Over 2,000 engineers, firemen, brakemen, and switchmen participated on the forenoon of the 17th September in St. Louis, Mo., in a parade, amid a chilling rain, in honour of the executive officers, delegates, and visiting friends who assembled in St. Louis to attend the third annual convention of the Switchmen's Mutual Aid Association of North America.

The Knights of Labour of Pittsburg are beginning to advocate the plan of admitting none but Americans to the order. The strict execution of this rule would reduce the membership of the order about three-fifths. The theory on which the Pittsburg men propose to act seems to be that a foreigner ought to be compelled to live in America twenty-one years before being permitted to vote or join a labour organisation.

Advices dated the 17th September from Havana indicate that the cigarmakers' strike is no nearer settlement than when it started five weeks ago. The manufacturers are well prepared and organised, and seem determined to break for ever the spirit of independence of their men. It is estimated that 9,000 workmen are out of employment, and the distress among their families, augmented by the effects of the recent hurricane, becomes greater daily. Three delegates from the Cigarmakers' Union arrived in New York City on the 16th September from Havana to appeal to American cigarmakers for help. At preliminary meetings it was decided to solicit assistance from cigarmakers throughout the United States to continue the strike. Already numerous contributions have been made, and a large amount will probably be collected.

It will be remembered that a glassblower in Belgium named Oscar Falleur was condemned in July 1886 to twenty years' hard labour for having participated in the sacking and burning of the castle and factory of one Eugene Boudoux. He was sent to the prison at Louvain, but later on released, on condition of emigrating. He first went to France. Some days ago the State department in Washington received the information from the United States minister Lambert Tree in Brussels that Falleur had emigrated to the States. He arrived on the 18th inst. by the Cunard steamer "Aurania." He gave his right name and admitted having participated in the Belgian riots. Falleur has been arrested according to the law prohibiting the immigration of "obnoxious people," and will be sent back. Now, how in hell's name can America call itself a free country?

Newark, N.J., September 18, 1888.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

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.

A meeting of the metropolitan speakers of the League will be held at 13, Farringdon Road, on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 8 o'clock, when it is hoped all the speakers will be present.

London Members' Meeting.—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, Nov. 5, 1888, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock sharp.

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.

Propaganda Fund.—H. Samuels, 1s.

Strike Committee.—Collected in Hyde Park, Sunday, Sept. 23rd, 3s. 9d.; Sept. 30th, 3s. 1d. J. LANE, Treasurer.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

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

FREE SPEECH FUND.

Already acknowledged—£4 3s. 3d. Received—J. Underwood, 1s.; Dean, 6d. Total, £4 4s. 9d. F. CHARLES, Sec., 13, Farringdon Road, E.C.

Proceeds of Concert organised by East End Propaganda Committee for free speech. From Wess, £1 10s. 3d.; Charles, 3s.; Autonomie, 6d. Total, £1 13s. 9d.—J. LANE.

REPORTS.

LONDON (OPEN-AIR).—*Leman Street.*—Excitement caused by murder outside Berner Street Club prevented usual meeting here on Sunday. *Hyde Park.*—Henderson, Brooks, Cantwell, Boyce, Presburg, and Parker sang several labour songs and spoke here; 3s. 1d. collected. *Broad Street, Soho.*—New ground broken here Sunday evening, when a large crowd was brought together by the horse and foot police, who followed the procession here. Brooks, Cantwell, and Parker spoke. *Clerkenwell Green.*—Procession from Broad Street then marched here, when a great meeting was addressed by McCormack and Parker. Several songs sung. *Victoria Park.*—Good meeting Sunday last, addressed by Nicoll and Davis. Some thrift and temperance opposition replied to by Nicoll and Davis to evident satisfaction of audience; fair sale *Weal.* *Regent's Park.*—Last Sunday an attentive audience addressed by Samuels, Brooks, and Cantwell. Literature sold well.

CLERKENWELL.—On Sunday, Sept. 30, Wm. Blundell lectured on "Internationalism: Does it Interfere with Modern Politics?" The lecturer asserted that if Internationalism meant anything it was the Brotherhood of Man, and this certainly included the entire destruction of what is known as "modern politics." Being questioned as to what he thought of palliatives, advised the workers to shirk all compromise, he being of the belief that the ruling factions would give all these "sops" when they saw the workers were determined to manage their own affairs, therefore the workers should not waste energy for parts, when what is desired is the whole—in a word, the Social Revolution. A great deal of opposition came from Social Democrats.—E.

FULHAM.—Tuesday evening, back of Walham Green Church (note, Liberal club has now other premises) meeting opened by singing "No Master;" Maughan, Bullock, Davis and Groser spoke. Sunday morning Bullock and Morris addressed excellent meeting. In evening, after short speeches from Tochetti and Davis, J. Macdonald gave his lecture on "Socialism from the workers' standpoint." 43 *Weals* sold during day and 3s. 6d. collected.

HAMMERSMITH.—At Weltje Road, Sunday morning, 11.30, Tarleton being the speaker; same place in evening, 6.30, Mordhurst, Tarleton and Bullock addressed fair audience. At Latimer Road, Sunday morning, 11.30, usual meeting held. Attendance improved and audience attentive. Gratifying increase in sale of *Weals*. Tochetti, Maughan and Davies spoke. At Kelmiscott House, Thos. Shore, Jun., lectured "About a Market."

MITCHAM.—Good meeting last Sunday, at 11.30, addressed by G. B. Shaw. Good sale of *Weal*.—W. G. E.

ABERDEEN.—At indoor meeting on 24th, Champion's lecture, "Wrongs that require Remedies," read. Discussed by Aiken, McIntyre, Semple, Duncan and Leatham. No meeting held on Saturday or Sunday owing to stormy weather.—J. L.

GLASGOW.—Members' meeting held Thursday, Sunday, 2 o'clock, Glasier and Tim Burgoyne addressed good meeting on Green, enlivened by number of questions as to what we would do with the "loafers." At 5 Glasier, Joe Burgoyne and Tim Burgoyne addressed large audience at Paisley Road.

NORWICH.—Thursday last, Kahler and Reynolds spoke at Yarmouth, several *Commonweal* sold; Friday morning Cores was released from prison, a good number of comrades waited outside the prison some time before he was released singing revolutionary songs and cheering at intervals. At 7 p.m. Cores was released, and was received with much cheering; afterwards adjourned to the Gordon Hall. In evening usual meeting was held on St. Catharine's Plain, which was well attended, speakers Poynts, Reynolds, Cores and Mowbray. Sunday morning, North Walsham meeting not held owing to inclemency of weather. Usual open-air meetings in Market Place afternoon and evening had to be adjourned to Gordon Hall owing to wet, Cores and Mowbray conducted meetings. In afternoon meeting held in Yarmouth, in spite of drenching rain, the audience stood and heard our speakers, Mowbray and Reynolds, a slight disturbance arose at one part of the meeting, but it all passed off quietly. *Weal* sold fairly well, and 2s. 7d. was collected, we hope to carry on a vigorous campaign here.—A. T. S.

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.

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green (opposite the railway station). Sunday October 7, at 8 p.m., George Bernard Shaw (Fabian Society), "Anarchy and the Way Out."—Committee meetings will be held every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock sharp, and all members are earnestly requested to attend.

Hackney.—Secretary, E. Lefevre, 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.

Hammersmith.—Kelmiscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Oct. 7, at 8 p.m., Miss Clementina Black.

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. G. Schack, 26 Cawley Road, South Hackney.

Merton.—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singlegate. Lecture on Sunday evenings at 8.30.

Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Members and friends of this Branch will meet on Saturday Oct. 13, at 8.30 p.m., to consider the best means of forming a Socialist Club in district.

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. All members are asked to attend at Ossulton St. at 8 o'clock.

St. Georges in the East.—General Meeting of Members on Friday October 5, at 8 p.m., in Berner St. Club. 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. Samuel Wilson, Secy.

Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sec.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., see 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.

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 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. French Class (teacher, Theodore Bonin) meets every Sunday at 11.

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.—Hostery 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, meeting in Gordon Hall. Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting. Wednesday, at 8, Educational Class—subject, "Moral Basis of Socialism." Thursday, at 8, 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 7.

11.30...Latimer Road Station ...Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green.....Brooks
11.30...Regent's ParkNicoll & Davis
11.30...Walham Green, opp. Station.....The Branch
11.30...Weltje Rd., Ravenscourt Pk Hammersmith
3.30...Hyde Park.....Nicoll & Parker
6.30...Weltje Road, opposite Ravenscourt Park
.....Hammersmith Branch
7.30...Broad Street, SohoNicoll & Parker
7.30...Clerkenwell Green.....Blundell
7.30...Mitcham Fair Green.....Brooks

Monday.

8 ...Wimbledon Broadway.....G. B. Shaw

Tuesday.

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

Friday.

7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street.....Parker

EAST END.

SUNDAY 7.

Mile-end Waste ... 11 ...Mrs. Schack.
Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Parker.
Victoria Park ... 3.15...Davis & Mnwaring
London Fields ... 8 ...Schack, Mnwaring

TUESDAY.

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

WEDNESDAY.

Broadway, London Fields 8.30...Davis & Mnwaring

FRIDAY.

Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Lane.

SATURDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 6 ...East-end C'mittee.

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.

Westerfield, Thursday evening.

Needham 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 3 and 7.30.

North Walsham, Sunday at 11.

Yarmouth, Sunday at 3.

St Catharine's Plain, Friday at 8.15 p.m.

EAST-END PROPAGANDA.—The next meeting will be held at the Berner Street Club on Saturday October 6, when the subject for discussion will be "Our Winter Propaganda." Very important business.

SOCIALIST LEAGUE LITERATURE.

Chants for Socialists. By William Morris. 1d.
Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades' Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Binning (London Society of Compositors). 1d.
The Commune of Paris. By E. Belfort Bax, Victor Dave, and William Morris. 2d.
The Aims of Art. By Wm. Morris. Bijou edition, 3d.; Large paper, 6d.
The Rights of Labour according to John Ruskin. By Thomas Barclay. 1d.
The Tables Turned; or, Nupkins Awakened. A Socialist Interlude. By William Morris. In Wrapper 4d.
The Manifesto of the Socialist League. Annotated by E. Belfort Bax and William Morris. An exposition of the principles on which the League is founded. 1d.
Useful Work v. Useless Toil. By William Morris. 1d.

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