

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 4.—No. 145.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1888.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

CHICAGO MARTYRS & BLOODY SUNDAY.

"Our silence will be more powerful than our speech."

Mrs. PANSONS has accepted the invitation of the Commemoration Committee to speak at the various meetings to be held in London and the provinces next November. Arrangements have already been made to hold meetings on

Sunday, November 11, at 11.30 a.m., in
REGENT'S PARK.

Sunday, November 11, at 3.30 p.m., in
HYDE PARK.

Monday, November 12, at 7.30 p.m., in
STORE STREET HALL.

Sunday, November 18, at 3 p.m., in
VICTORIA PARK.

Speakers, resolutions, and further announcements will be made next week. Meantime, funds are urgently needed, and should be sent to J. Lane, Treasurer, at the office of the Socialist League, 13, Farringdon Road, E.C. Any information can be had by communicating with Secretary of the Commemoration Committee.

W. B. PARKER, *Secretary.*

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE *Pall Mall* during the past week has been adding one more item to the list of those things that go far toward almost earning it forgiveness for its mischievous Czar-worship. It has been, with great industry and a few diagrams, knocking to pieces the militarised police despotism under which we live, and showing how little *real* "protection to property" it ensures. Except for the great ones of the earth, there is very little "protection" going on; small folk might as well—or indeed very much better—be relying wholly on themselves. Now that the shopkeepers, the vestrymen, and men with votes are being made "practically" to feel this, there will be a change made. But will it be a change so *very* much for the better all round?

I think not. The words "popular control" are alluring; but I doubt that the ideal is a utopian one while the present system lasts. The "respectable classes," that is, the Haves and the Hangers-on, will rule still; they will appoint the County Council and that will appoint the Chief Commissioner, or whatever he may be called. Then the shops will be better looked after—but free speech? Then popular safety may be greater—but popular liberty? We may, and probably shall, be a little better off; but so long as class society endures, and its pillar monopoly, the dominant class by the necessity of its position will be compelled to have police, and to use them against the lower class; no control, "democratic" or otherwise, can help that.

"Sir" Peter Edlin is a well-known incarnation of bourgeois justice. A little while ago he inflicted some of his notorious sentences on some poor beggars. Last week he had two hotel thieves before him, and sentenced one of them six times over to five years' penal servitude! As the *Star* said: "We have no desire to take up the cause of hotel thieves. They are a great nuisance within their sphere, no doubt, though the sphere is rather limited, and their victims generally people who have plenty to lose. But it is impossible to help contrasting

these sentences for offences against property with the usual scale at the Middlesex Sessions and elsewhere for offences against the person."

We may add, especially if it is a working-class person!

Almost on the same day, that other illustrious Nupkins, Mr. Saunders of the Thames Police Court, gave an example *per contra* which may serve to cite. A painter in full work, and earning fair wages as wages go, but who spent them in drink, was charged, with his wife, with endangering the life of their child, aged two and a half years. The child was found alone, with only its shirt on, in a room full of indescribable filth, the stench of which was unbearable. A doctor was fetched; the child found to be almost dying, and taken to the infirmary; after five days careful treatment, though its life was out of danger and it was much improved, it was still very weak and "hardly able even to cry!" The neighbours had used to throw in food through the window, or the boy would have been dead long ago.

But it was only the worthless life of a working-class baby that was endangered; and though everything was proved up to the hilt, Mr. Saunders pooh-poohed the case and declined to convict.

As at home, so abroad. In comparison with the "prestige of the empire, etc., what are a few "damned niggers"? A Reuter's telegram from Simla the other day stated that General M'Queen had informed the Hassanais and the Akanais that unless they accepted his terms by the 15th inst. he would begin a systematic destruction of their crops, which are uncut. How the frontier folk must love the "great white mother" and the religion of her children!

Our high opinion of the intelligence of the police increases day by day. Could we have a more charming proof of their possession of this inestimable quality than the disclosures vouchsafed at the inquest on Catharine Eddowes? We hear there that when the murderer was good enough to leave an absolute clue to his identity by writing on a wall an inscription ascribing the murder to the Jews, that the metropolitan police, at the instance of "a high official," ordered the inscription to be rubbed out, despite the protests of the members of the City force, who not being on their own ground were forced to submit.

Who was the "high official"? universal history will exclaim. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says it was Sir Charles Warren. The good gentleman was known to be upon the ground at the time. It is also known that he labours under a morbid dread of riots, and beholds in any chance crowd collected by accident or curiosity in a public thoroughfare the nucleus of the dreaded mob. Besides, who but a very high official would have dared to order the destruction of such a very excellent clue? Everything points to Sir Charles, and Sir Charles does not deny the soft impeachment.

It may be admitted, of course, that it may be some smaller luminary which gathers its light from the glorious sun in Scotland Yard. But if this is so we should like to know the name of the perpetrator of the latest stroke of genius. Will not some lover of his kind announce it to expectant humanity?

It is said by some cynics that the perpetrator of these awful crimes is a member of the metropolitan police, and that is why his comrades and his chief are doing their utmost to cover up his tracks.

Meanwhile, we would advise Sir Charles to denude Whitechapel of its police. There would be some chance of catching the murderer then.

We are often told by smug middle-class gentlemen that under their beneficent sway crime decreases, and with the spread of the commercial system will gradually disappear. They are always ready to support their assertion with the latest official statistics, which, as is customary with most things official, invariably contradict the every-day experience of the ordinary citizen.

In the old days there was a clear line drawn between the honest middle-class merchant and the ordinary swindler. Nowadays it is very hard to make the distinction; they are so much alike that we cannot tell the one from the other. Commercialism is so thoroughly inoculated with roguery, that the scoundrel, so long as he is well dressed, can pursue his operations within the pale of society without the slightest risk of a scratch from the talons of the law.

But now we are, it seems, threatened with an epidemic of crime from outside respectable circles. Thanks to Sir Charles Warren the petty thief can pursue his occupation—with the same ease as his more respectable brother—in the quiet suburban streets of the town.

Most of our readers, we suppose, have read the doleful reports recently published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which tell us that in such thoroughfares as Gray's Inn, Hackney, and Southwark Park Roads, there is hardly a shopkeeper who hasn't lost something during the last two years, the period of Sir Charles Warren's time of office.

We must also remember that this has been a time of sharp distress, and that it is quite evident from the unconsidered trifles that are stolen that the thefts in many cases are not the handiwork of professional thieves, but are the deeds of starving men. As long as Society can offer no relief to the poor man but the workhouse, who can be surprised if he prefers to relieve himself?

With a gloomy winter before us it would be well for the middle classes to consider these things. As the workhouse returns show, there are more people in London driven to desperation through want than at any time during the last thirty years. We are threatened, thanks to beneficent operations of corn monopolists and baker rings, with a rise in the price of bread, and this while thousands of people are starving through lack of employment.

What will be the result? Sir Charles Warren may stop unemployed meetings in Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square, but that will not prevent the sack of baker's shops should the famished multitude make up its mind to starve no longer while bread can be had. This is the situation which the rich have to consider. D. N.

LABOUR'S TRIANGULAR PROBLEM;

OR, MEN VERSUS MACHINES.

(Continued from p. 314.)

THE contention of the orthodox economist and business man and inventor has always been that, although there might be some amount of—well! “inconvenience” (starvation sounds too ugly,) caused to those unfortunates thrown out by each new invention, yet the great amount of good resulting to the whole community was quite enough to warrant new inventions, and such encouragement as could be given by the protection of Patent Copyright Acts. It is urged by the inventor, but more especially by the capitalist, who almost invariably gobbles up the inventor, that the increased output and the great reductions in price resulting, more than compensates for the few extra “out-of-works.” The glad-to-be-satisfied consciences of the bourgeoisie, who are the chief consumers of the results of improved methods in machine manufactures, accept the statement and no more is said.

Macfie's book is an attack on Patents and Copyrights, and contains a mass of matter of use to Socialists directly on those questions, and incidentally some very useful information on proving that almost every invention has conduced more to the direct profit of the monopolist, to the direct suffering of the workers, and only in the very slightest has benefited the consumer, the supposed to be much studied consumer.

One or two very short examples can be given to prove how exceedingly small has been the benefit received by the general body as compared with the immense and immediate profit which has resulted to the monopolists, and then I will conclude with a short summing-up of the case against monopolist control of machine power.

W. S. Hale, a maker of stearine and composite candles, in evidence before the Lords, 1851, said “that he was able to reduce the price of two wick candles three halfpence per pound immediately on the expiration of Palmer's patent.” Palmer by his patent, therefore, extorted three halfpence per pound more than was required by a manufacturer not holding a monopoly. Three halfpence extra profit on every pound of candles used forty years ago represented a very large sum of money.

Of necessity, in dealing with the question of Machinery, one has to come in contact with the question of Patents; it is an essential part of the monopoly which lends to the constant debasement of the labourer.

In Sir Henry Bessemer's evidence before the House of Commons Committee, 1871, we have a series of statements which show the enormous profits made by these monopolists. “£4,000 was the cost prior to my bringing the invention before the public, and about £16,000 after my paper was read at Cheltenham, making altogether an outlay of about £20,000.” In three weeks he had sold licenses amounting to £26,000; two iron-masters paying £10,000 each. “Of course, I had a larger stake to play for; I knew that steel was selling at £50, or £60, or £70 per ton, and I knew that if it could be made by my plan, it could with profit be sold at £20 a ton.”

The men who gave these premiums of £10,000 each, made no attempt to utilise the power they had, and five or six years later Bessemer bought back these privileges, giving in one case £20,000 for what he had sold for £10,000. It paid Bessemer to do this, as he then “swept the market clear of all these privileges,” and was able by his further patents to dictate fresh terms—this time a royalty of £1 or £2 per ton on every ton of steel made.

In another manufacture an article was being supplied from Germany and sold at 7s. per ounce, the raw material of which was only worth 11d. per pound. He applied himself to the matter, and was able to make a similar article at a cost of 4s. per pound. He sent out a traveller, and the first order he took was at the rate of 80s. per pound net. For twenty-eight years this trade has been carried on (he is speaking in 1871, and it is still going on), and we are charging the trade 300 per cent. profit, . . . in the first instance it was more than 1,000 per cent. profit.¹

That this great profit has been made mainly by dispensing with manual labour, is proved indirectly in his statement, that three out of his five assistants having died, “the secret was in the possession of only two besides himself,” and it is known that the amount of the trade done was considerable.

At p. 401 he says, dealing with the royalty on iron and steel, “The manufacturers are getting £3 a ton more for railway bars under a 2s. 6d. royalty, than they sold them for under a £1 royalty two years ago.” How much profit do you suppose the seller of that 100,000 tons which you have referred to would have on that transaction?—“I should say that a judicious manufacturer there would have a profit of £2 a ton.” Then your royalty was equal to one-half of the manufacturer's profits?—“We took one-third of the spoil in that case, but that was on the lowest article in the trade, namely, railway bars; on some other articles where we were charging £2 a ton, the manufacturers were getting £25 a ton profit.”

Without any further quotation, it must be allowed as proved that the general public has not benefitted in any way proportionate to the above, while in every instance the amount of labour displaced has been immense. This displacement is constantly going on, and with constantly increasing rapidity, and the time is not far distant when absolute starvation of thousands will force the consideration of two questions—a revival of the old-time machine-smashing mania, or a direct control of all machinery by the whole working body of the people. Sheer self-defence will in the near future force a settlement of this detail; and, although they do not seem to know it, the ordinary newspapers have lately much exercised on a matter which is proof of this statement. “On the threshold of Socialism” was the title of an article in the *Pall Mall Gazette* a few days ago (Sept. 13), dealing with the rapid growth of the American trust system, which has grown to such an extent as to demand the attention of the president of the United States. The particular trade dealt with was the manufacture of jute bagging (used for cotton packing). The total output is about forty-five million yards. Eight firms, manufacturing two-thirds of the total output, join in a trust, and by one man placed in New York, can practically control the whole trade; for their body, having power to force prices up in its own interest from 7½ cents to 11 cents for its own goods, enables the third who stand out from the ring to get some increase in price simply by the dearth made by the trust holding its goods in. In the *Commonweal* of September 15, H. F. Charles in the American Letter gave some interesting and useful details as to the Standard Oil Trust, probably the most gigantic monopoly ever formed. Soap, and corn, and beef, and even coffins, have, with other commodities, been subjects of “trusts” in America, and now our turn has come. At the present time the “Great Salt Syndicate” is an important newspaper “item,” but the idea has been working for some time. Amalgamation of dock companies, of canal companies, of railway companies, has been a growing topic in City circles. The dock amalgamation is a fact; the amalgamation of five London railways into two is almost sure very soon. When dock has joined dock, the next and easy step is canal to dock, and then railway to that.

Says the *Pall Mall Gazette* article: “In the end the fighting trusts are apt to amalgamate, and then the monopoly becomes complete. Underselling is not the only weapon by which a trust can kill out competition. Boycotting is freely resorted to. One trust allies itself with another trust for offensive and defensive purposes. In short, the work of centralisation, is going on at railroad speed.”

THOS. SHORE, jun.

(To be concluded).

The following notice appeared in a shop window of a tailor in Hull: “Wanted, two apprentices, who will be treated as one of the family.”

Cunninghame Grahame denies emphatically that he is about to resign his seat for North West Lanarkshire in order to seek a quieter constituency.

RETRIBUTION.—St. Peter (to applicant): “You say you were an editorial writer on a daily newspaper?” “Yes, sir.” “Step into the elevator, please.” (Steps in)—“How soon does it go up?” “It doesn't go up, it goes down.”—*Labour Tribune*.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the fifth week of the past month was 92,528, of whom 55,953 were indoor and 36,575 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 1,593 over the corresponding week of last year, 4,924 over 1886, and 6,409 over 1885. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 1,117, of whom 883 were men, 203 women, and 31 children under sixteen.

¹ Macfie, p. 394-97.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The extra-Radical government of France is very near to its death, and nobody will mourn the fall of Floquet and Co. That Radical humbug will have shown, even to the blindest, what Radicalism means, in office as well as out of office. His last move has been that infamous decree against the foreigners who reside in France and contribute, at least a considerable portion, to the production of her wealth. It has been said that Floquet has acted under the direct inspiration of the Russian despot, who wants to know the names and addresses of the Nihilists; if that be so, he is even more stupid than one would have thought. Our French comrades, all over the country, are preparing to break through all obstacles by means of a revolution; they know that the Boulangist movement is only a mere interlude that will soon be played out, and then their turn will arrive, and we earnestly hope that this time the tables will be turned once for all. It is the duty of all Socialists to closely watch the French revolutionary movement, in expectation of the eventful times that are coming nigh, in order that they may be of some help to those who have hitherto been the heroic forerunners of the cause of justice and liberty in the world. If solidarity and internationalism are not mere words in the wind, if we are as it were permeated by the very meaning and profound sense of these expressions of the revolutionary language, we ought to entertain close and warm feelings just now towards our friends over the channel, because from France again will in the nearest future come a new revolutionary impetus that shall give rise to a general social outbreak all over Europe. It may very well so happen that, with the celebration of 1789, the triumph of bourgeoisdom and commercialism, revolution shall ring the knell both of commercialism and bourgeoisdom!

Revolutionary France has again lost two of its most energetic defenders: Jules-Léon Fontaine and Emile Gois. Citizen Fontaine, fellow of the Polytechnical School and professor of mathematics at the Lycées Saint-Louis and Condorcet, had reached the age of seventy-six years. He refused to enter the service of the State, remaining free professor of science and devoting all his leisure hours to the study of social questions. After the revolution of 1848 he likewise declined to accept the cross of the Legion of Honour, which was spontaneously offered him by the Republican government. During the fatal years of the Third Empire he gathered secretly around him some revolutionary friends with whom afterwards he tried to organise a Socialist movement in various quarters of Paris. Implicated in the trial of Blois (conspiracy against Napoleon), he was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment, but the revolution of the 4th September released him from captivity. The Commune of Paris made him director of national property, and in that capacity he seized all the goods belonging to the infamous Thiers. For this he was sentenced to twenty years' hard labour in the galleys of the isle of Nou, where he remained until the general amnesty of 1880.

Citizen Emile Gois, of the Blanquist group, died at the age of fifty-nine years, having been born in 1829. He was one of those who boldly took up arms against the *coup d'état* of Napoleon, and after the victory of that imperial scoundrel, was transported to Lambessa in Africa, where he remained until the amnesty of 1859. He then came back to Paris and organised, with a handful of friends, those secret groups that followed the inspiration of Blanqui. In 1870 he was prosecuted for the famous plot of Blois, but escaped imprisonment by flying to Belgium, where he lived until the disaster of Sedan. During the siege of Paris, he took service in the ranks of the National Guard, at the same time contributing to Blanqui's paper, *La Patrie en Danger*. He also was at the affair of the 21st October, and took part in the battle of the 22nd January. After the proclamation of the Commune, he became a colonel attached to the staff of General Eudes and was president of the court martial which dealt most energetically with the enemies of the revolution. He happily escaped to London, after having fought to the last moment on the barricades. The general amnesty of 1880 enabled him to return to Paris, where again he was a most brilliant contributor to Blanqui's *Ni Dieu ni Maître*. He also aided in the formation of the central revolutionary committee. His last years were sadly troubled by constant and painful illness, the fatal consequence of a life of hard and vigorous struggle.

GERMANY.

Whilst William II. is travelling in Austria and in Italy under pretext of settling peace-alliances, but in reality for the sake of preparing war, his employés at home continue their reactionary work. The state of siege has been prolonged for the towns and districts of Hanburg, Hanau, Stettin, Frankfurt, etc. Numerous arrests have been made at Augsburg, at Munich, and in the district of Elberfeld. Judgment has been given on Friday at Hamburg in the Socialist trial. For belonging to a secret association—i.e., to the Social Democratic party, which is not at all a secret society—comrade Bapst was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, comrades Wuerfel, Fricke, Rohde, and Noak to two months. Six others were acquitted, the court holding that they had suffered sufficient punishment by their detention in gaol pending examination. How magnanimous this sounds in despotic Germany! In Freyburg several Socialists coming from Switzerland have been arrested, but before the gentlemen of the police were at hand more than 2000 copies of the *Freiheit* had been distributed.

The Socialist fraction of the Reichstag have again lost one of their members. Julius Krücker was born June 26, 1839, and died at Breslau, a few days after his release from prison, on the 2nd of this month. He has been active in the Socialist workers' party for more than twenty years. He attended the popular school of his native town until his fourteenth year, when he commenced his travelling tour, as a saddle-maker, all over Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Russia. Before the proclamation of the muzzle-laws, he was contributor to the *Wahrheit* (Truth) and sub-editor of the *Breslauer Tagblatt* (Breslau Daily Gazette), and afterwards editor of the *Schlesischer Courier* (Courier of Silesia). He was also a partner in the publishing firm, Kühnert and Co. at Breslau. 1867 he entered the Workersverein of Breslau, and 1868 became a member of the Social-Democratic party. He sat in the German Reichstag from the year 1881 up to the date of his death. He is the author of a book on the causes of the misery in Upper Silesia. His career has been full of sadness; son of very poor parents, he has always had to struggle against poverty and misery. Besides, he has been among those who have steadily been prosecuted by the German police, his last condemnation being one for secret conspiracy. At his funeral the police prohibited any procession to be formed, and no farewell speech was allowed to be pronounced on his grave. The Silesian workers have lost by his death one of their best and truest friends.

BELGIUM.

The outlook is again very dark in the industrial centres of Belgium, and it is seriously apprehended that a general strike might burst out at a

moment's notice in the Borinage district. In the basin of the Sambre, exceptional measures are taken by the local "authorities" against any possible uprising of the workers. In the centre district prevails an agitation which seems very intense, although not as yet widely spread. The workers are in a state of excitement which grows from day to day; all their peaceful manifestations, their gatherings, their petitions, their strikes even, have proved to be of no avail and completely useless, and they seem rather inclined to take up another course which could perhaps do away altogether with their masters, industrial and political. Besides, they are now well aware that the partial revival that has been manifesting itself in their industry, has only proved beneficial to the mine-owners and not in the least to themselves. They have to live with their wives and families on an average salary of £30 a year. Again, the Government and several mine-owners seem to provoke the workers to commence action at any cost. Numerous arrests have been made at Couillet; Falleur has been exiled; comrade Chauviere, municipal councillor of Paris, has been expelled from Belgium whilst peaceably lecturing for the workers; and the masters refuse to give any work to those who have been engaged as leaders in previous strikes. All these vexations and prosecutions have created in the mining districts an intense feeling of discontent, which is likely to lead to what the toilers call the general "black" strike. It is also rumoured that the exploiters of labour have agreed to at once stop work in the mines and in the factories whenever a partial strike should occur, and it may well be certified that if they stick to such an agreement, ere long we shall have another insurrection there, much more violent than that which was the consequence of the "hunger strike" of 1886.

HOLLAND.

The Parliamentary reports of the Parliamentary Commission, appointed last year by the Dutch Chamber to inquire into the condition of the labouring classes in Holland, has now been published, and contain some interesting facts which condemn, here as elsewhere, the bourgeois system of commercialism. Holland is essentially a country of small industries, and having no coal or raw materials of its own, the manufacturers are able to meet foreign competition only by utilising badly paid labour to the utmost. The smaller master bakers of Amsterdam, for instance, in order to compete with the machine-made bread of wealthier bakers, work sixteen hours a-day all the week, except on Fridays and Saturdays, when they work for twenty-six hours without intermission. The 5,000 tailors of the same city try to compete with the large firm of Van der Waal, which employs machinery worked by women and girls, by working with their wives and children till midnight, and sometimes twenty-four and even forty-eight hours on end. Day-and-night work prevails in Dutch bakeries, steam-mills, breweries, vinegar factories, sugar refineries, and the gas, glass, paper, and many other industries. The work is done in shifts or relays, so that the man who works during the day one week works during the night the following week, and if men are ill or away others who have already worked must take their places, so that extremely long hours—eighteen, twenty-four, and thirty-six hours are mentioned—are common. The average day in the great majority of the factories is thirteen to fourteen hours. In one province in which complete statistics were obtained, it was found that 39 per cent. of the total number of workpeople was composed of women and children, and the number everywhere is constantly increasing. The effect of women and child labour on the rising generation is exhibited in various ways. Infant mortality in all Holland increased 19 per cent. between 1880 and 1885, while in Maas-tricht the increase was 21, Eindhoven 30, and Gouda 33 per cent. The recommendations made by the Commissioners to the Government are of the same palliative kind as happens in all countries on such like occasions: Efficient factory inspection, enforcing the law against child labour, prohibition of night and Sunday labour for women and children, and provision for securing adequate rest for them, and prohibition of female labour for a month after confinement. But it cannot be too often repeated that all these palliative measures will prove to be of no avail for the working-classes; there is only one remedy, and that is the abolition of wage-slavery and competition altogether—and that means no more nor less than the Social Revolution.

HUNGARY.

The first report of the Hungarian factory inspectors has been issued. Among the workpeople in the chief centres of manufacture there are 38 females to every 100 males; and of the total number there are 97 under 16 years of age for 1,000 above it. In Budapest 40 per cent. of the women are engaged in tobacco manufacture, and 15 per cent. each in printing and textile manufacturing. In the districts of Fiume and Klausenburg there are 2,395 women in tobacco factories and only 120 men; in the bent-wood furniture factories also the women predominate. In Hungary the average effective working-day is ten to eleven and a-half hours, but in the paper and some other factories it lasts eighteen, and in glass-making fourteen to nineteen hours, while in mills relays work twenty-four hours at a stretch; also in iron foundries, while Sunday labour is rare, except where the work must be carried on continuously. In Upper Hungary the wages vary between 10d. and 1s. 5d.; in Budapest and other places from 1s. 5d. to 2s. a day for ordinary workmen, while locksmiths, smiths, tanners, and some other trades are paid a little more. V. D.

ITALY.

BOLOGNA, Oct. 1.—Yesterday and to-day the Congress of the Italian Co-operators was held in this town, with the assistance of the Government, the municipal authorities, several M.P.'s and senators, and Messrs. Holyoake and Vansittart Neale, who, as guests, took part in the discussion. The annual report shows that there are at present in Italy 176 manufacturing productive societies (63 in the building trade), 229 dairies, 31 agrarian societies, 43 bakeries, and 405 co-operative stores. The next Congress will be held at Turin in 1890. There was nothing noteworthy in the debates except, perhaps, the evident fear of these gentlemen lest Signor Crispi should keep his word and do something towards the solution of the social question. One of the speakers protested, amid the applause of the audience, against what he called "precipitate measures." No fear! The Government is not so suicidally minded as to propose anything really effective. For the sake of the king, a weak-kneed but honest fellow, who has pledged his word, there will be some attempt at ostensibly social legislation in the forthcoming Parliamentary Session. But, besides the starting of some public works, designed of course with an eye towards the enrichment of their promoters, nothing of any salutary consequences need be expected.

VICENZA, Oct. 6.—The journeymen bakers of this town struck work for an increase of wages, and opened four productive shops in the central localities as a means of pressure against their masters, who gave in and accepted the terms of the men. H. SCB.



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

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

Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them.

Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

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

J. O. H.—Of course your opponent was talking nonsense. Socialists have always been and are on the side of education. The first infant school established in London was the one in Vincent Square, Westminster, which was managed by a Mr. Buchanan on the model of that at New Lanark, where he had been trained.

MUSIC-BOOK.—Will the comrade who borrowed a manuscript book of revolutionary songs and airs from May Morris, and whose address she does not know, kindly return it to her at this office.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 17.

ENGLAND		FRANCE		GERMANY		ITALY		SPAIN		AUSTRIA		RUSSIA		WEST INDIES									
Freedom	Justice	Volkzeitung	Jewish Volkszeitung	Alarm	Workmen's Advocate	Boston—Woman's Journal	Liberty	Chicago—Knights of Labor	Verbot	Baecker Zeitung	Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Fort Worth (Tex)—South West	Milwaukee—National Reformer	Paterson (N J) Labor Standard	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole								
Our Corner	Radical Leader	Social Demokrat	Telegraph Service Gazette	To-Day	Worker's Friend	NEW SOUTH WALES		Hamilton—Radical	VICTORIA		Melbourne—Our Good Words	INDIA		Bankipore—Behar Herald	Madras—People's Friend								
UNITED STATES		New York—Der Sozialist	Freiheit	Truthseeker	Holland	Hague—Recht voor Allen	BELGIUM		Ghent—Vooruit	Lige—L'Avenir	Antwerp—De Werker	ITALY		Turin—Nuovo Gazzetta Operaia	Messina—Il Riscatto	Turin—Il Muratore	Florence—La Question Sociale						
FRANCE		Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	La Revolte	Le Coup de Fou	La Revue Socialiste	Sedan—La Revolution	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	Nimes—L'Emancipation	HOLLAND		Hague—Recht voor Allen	GERMANY		Berlin—Volks Tribune	Brunn—Arbeiterstimme	Wien—Gleichheit	ROUMANIA	Jassy—Municipal	SWITZERLAND	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten	WEST INDIES	Cuba—El Productor

HIGH TREASON AND LOW TREASON.

THE Grand Old Man, speaking in Wales a few days ago, tried to explain something which he had said or had not said about the political prisoners of Bomba and of Balfour. He might, without exciting wonder, have forgotten how many persons he had seen thirty or forty years ago in the prisons of the first tyrant and the different chains and dungeons allotted to the various grades of prisoners. He, it appears, saw one man in Bomba's prisons accommodated with a convenient private room, in which he could write and read and amuse himself. This one had not as yet been convicted, and was therefore better off than innocent people in England with ragged coats who happen to fall under the suspicion of the police. So far, however, as I could see amid the cloud of words in which the Grand Old Man hid his meaning, he did not express any sympathy for those who had been convicted of high treason. His speech quite bristled in one part with allusions to this awful crime; it was one to be carefully distinguished from low treason. Apparently he would have been ready to act as gaoler in defence of the great fetish of law and order and of its priest King Bomba. The scene was changed shortly afterwards by Garibaldi's high treason, which, being successful, became sanctified; and Bomba's side became the traitors.

When the forsworn President of the Republic crushed the liberties of France in 1851, and transported hundreds of his political opponents to Cayenne and other unhealthy places, our commercial society looked calmly on. As soon as the Brummagem Emperor was dressed out in military guise and big boots, they fell down and kissed the feet of the murderer. They followed his lead to the Crimea, French, English, and Italians, and poured out the blood of the people like water in support of the orderly government of the "unspeakable Turk." The last touch of respectability was put upon him in 1855, when he was enthusiastically received in England. Then (if the accounts of the time are to be trusted) this felon associate of kings and emperors received from royal lips the salute which usually passes between these high and mighty personages. He became, indeed, so powerful a defender of law and order, that in 1858 the commercial person, Palmerston, proposed to assist him in his uneasy task of sitting on the throne, by haling back to his legal mercies anyone suspected of high treason who had avoided his myrmidons by getting over to this side of the

Channel. In 1859 he gratified his own and alarmed the predatory classes of England by the strictly legal and proper conveyance of Nice and Savoy from Italy to France.

Rulers such as these are scarcely men, though they are called divine, and the crime of wishing to get rid of them or of their paltry imitators Salisbury and Balfour must in like manner be called by a high-sounding title. It has been said that at one time anyone proposing to alter a bit of the law came into the assembly with a rope round his neck. It has certainly been universally acted on, in the case of those who wish to alter the whole of the law, to draw the rope tight, very tight, even before they could reach the assembly. Whether more or less than this severity should be allotted to the mysterious crime of treason-felony, invented by the English Government, or to that low form of treason against society which attempts to correct its inequalities by the transfer of a watch or purse from one man's pocket to another's,—all these questions might be referred to reason, if only law and force would hold quiet for a time. But when King Richard III. caught someone, his formula was, "Off with his head; so much for Buckingham"—a plain, straightforward way of checking argument, and of preventing that person from interfering with his, the said Richard's, privileges. Similarly now-a-days Joseph, or the ruling party to which he is an understrapper, having turned William off his throne, calls out, "He's off his head; so much for poor old William"; and tries to keep him in a political lunatic asylum (speech at Bradford, Sept. 19). The lunatic, he says, thinks that the tyranny of having treason in Ireland tried by two magistrates instead of a jury is as bad as the tyranny of King Bomba. I confess I do not see the difference; and if Joseph says he can, well, I should be inclined to send him to bear company with William.

Let us, however, examine what Joseph calls his reasons. Among other things, he expresses his delight at the release of Mr. Dillon, who, he says, is quite honest and yet has done more mischief and has brought more misery upon the people of Ireland than if he had been the greatest criminal. I should have thought that it was very criminal to bring misery on the people of any country; but who the great criminals are, in Joseph's mind, may perhaps be gathered from a letter of Lieut.-Col. A. E. Turner in the *Daily News* of September 12. The colonel says that "the parish priests of Ireland, who help to coerce the tenants, by means of the Plan of Campaign, to lodge their rents with them, thus become very little, if at all, better than receivers of stolen goods." Joseph's mind must surely be wandering. In the same breath he urges that "while the law stands as it is, it must be enforced," and expresses his joy that a man, worse than a systematic breaker of the law, should be let out of gaol to bring yet more mischief and misery on the world. In another place Joseph says that two magistrates are better than a jury in Ireland because the tyranny of the National League would prevent a jury from giving a verdict in accordance with its oath. Poor fellow, poor fellow, take him away: he is quite crazy, and cannot see that if, as he says, the League is king *de facto*, it has the same right to influence the minds of its subjects as every government has had to warp the judgment of its officials, from long before Chief Justice Scroggs down to the present tribe of big and little Nupkins. For as Thomas More says in his 'Utopia,' "Princes are more generally set on acquiring new kingdoms, right or wrong, than on governing well those they possess"; and again, "Fair pretences will never be wanting, when sentence is to be given in the prince's favour. It will either be said that equity lies in his side, or some words in the law will be found sounding that way, or some forced sense will be put on them; and when all other things fail, the king's undoubted prerogative will be pretended, as that which is above all law; and to which a religious judge ought to have a special regard."

The jumble of arguments brought forward by Liberals and Radicals against the "herding of political prisoners with felons," are an expression of the prejudices of the richer classes. There is a bit, however, in Victor Hugo's 'History of a Crime'—the crime of 1851—which shows that this herding together has its good side. He is describing how he and other deputies, on the mere suspicion that they might be high traitors, were thrust into the prison of Mazas, and treated there like ordinary criminals. An excellent piece of education for deputies, says he; they thus get some knowledge of what they condemn low traitors to. The fact is that criminals of all kinds are political; they all desire to upset the present distribution of property. But those who are commonly meant by the name are such as can give reasons for their ideas; and the power of reasoning has always been dreaded by the privileged classes, and has hitherto led to the stake, the block, and the gallows. In the break-up of all the old beliefs, the governing classes are too cowardly to carry out their expressed opinions to their logical conclusion; they dare not propose to hang the man of whom they say "that he has done more mischief and has brought more misery upon the people, than if he had been the greatest of criminals." This is mere froth, suited to those who expect to have to grasp by the hand men who now or a short time since, "were marching through murder and rapine to the disruption of the empire."

There was a certain trumpeter, who being taken prisoner in a battle, begged hard for quarter, declaring his innocence, and protesting that he neither had nor could kill any man, bearing no arms but only his trumpet, which he was obliged to sound at the word of command. "For that reason," replied his enemies, "we are determined not to spare you; for though you yourself never fight, yet with that wicked instrument of yours you blow up animosity between other people, and so become the occasion of much bloodshed." The moral of this fable is, that there is a little incendiary called the tongue, which is more venomous than a poisoned arrow, and more killing than a two-edged

sword. If then in any civil commotion the persons taken in arms against the government deserve to die, much more do they whose tongues give birth to the sedition and direct the tumult. People like Bomba were logical, and did their best to keep the trumpeters under lock and key; and in doing this, treated them as badly as those guilty of low treason. Our modern enlightened person halts between two opinions; being unable to make up his mind he acts from his prejudices. His political prisoner is as a rule of the same class as himself, but is in his view a renegade. So he puts him in prison for being a renegade, but wishes to treat him as a first-class prisoner, not to be mixed up with lowly traitors.

Our Home Rule friends—I call them friends, for I count Home Rule as the first step towards Socialism—should have gloried not only in blowing the blast of sedition, but in suffering for it, just like ordinary people taken in arms. It is but little like equality to grumble at having to perform—each one for himself, be it noted—*menial offices*. I can imagine the kindly Irish saying, "I would do anything in the world for one of these; I would work my fingers to the bone." That is right, to serve one who serves all. But it smacks of serfdom, not of equality, to have some told off to *menial services*, and this because of poverty and not from any natural turn. So long as there is this feeling that *menial duties* are fit only to the poor, it means that there is to be a privileged class living on the workers. Our Irish friends have got to read and mark that other little fable about the ass, the wise animal, which said, "I will not stir an inch; what is it to me who my master is, since I shall but carry my panniers as usual?"

C. J. F.

THE AUSTRALIAN MINERS' MANIFESTO.

MANIFESTO of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of the Newcastle District of New South Wales.—To our Fellow-workmen of Australasia and the General Public. Fellow-workmen and Citizens,—The miners of the Hunter River district, Newcastle, New South Wales, deeply regret that they have to appeal to you for your moral and pecuniary aid in a most unequal struggle. For years past the miners have upheld isolated strikes, and submitted patiently when locked out in a similar way. This has been an enormous strain on the resources of the organisation, and an unbearable tax upon its members. It was foreseen that such a state of things must, sooner or later, culminate in a general strike such as has now taken place, unless averted by an agreement between the colliery proprietors and the miners for the settlement of disputes. After the miners of three collieries in the district had been locked out or on strike for some months, an attempt was made to obtain a general agreement of this kind. For this purpose a conference of the representatives of the proprietors and the workmen was agreed to and held on the 21st of July last, at which the miners submitted a draft of the proposed agreement. After considerable discussion, the miners were asked by the chairman of the associated proprietors if they would meet the proprietors again at three o'clock in the afternoon of that day, a proposal to which the miners at once assented, but it would appear that this proposal had been made inadvertently by the chairman, because some of the proprietors dissented from it. After consultation among themselves, the proprietors could only agree to place their agreement in the hands of the miners within a fortnight, and possibly meet them again in conference within a month. From that date no promise was made to meet the miners again to discuss and mutually draw up an agreement on any fixed date. This was pronounced against by the miners' representatives, but the conference was allowed to terminate without any understanding being come to as to when it would reassemble. This unwillingness to fix a date for discussing the proposals of their side for an agreement was regarded by the miners as an attempt to indefinitely defer a settlement of the disputes so long pending and arising out of the grievances which had become intolerable. These grievances are too numerous to admit of recapitulation here; but the chief among them is the attempt on the proprietors to compel the men to work and throw back rubbish from among the coal for nothing; or, in other words, to do additional work without increase of pay. In several of the collieries bands of stone run through the coal seams, which have to be extricated and separated from the coal by the miner. For several years this work was paid for on the lines laid down in a mutual agreement which the masters themselves absurdly terminated, and refused to come to any fresh agreement, leaving the miners to obtain payment for this extra work as best they could. Arbitration has been refused by the masters, a general agreement indefinitely deferred, and repeated endeavours were made to force the workmen to agree to a reduction of from 6d. to 9d. per ton, which means, taking the average production per man per day at two tons, a reduction in the miners' daily earnings of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per man. In addition to this, miners who have been locked out of the South Waratah mine, and who sought and obtained work elsewhere, have been prevented from getting work, or dismissed, at four different collieries, and boycotted and victimised in the most heartless and unceremonious manner. These reductions and this arbitrary and inhuman treatment have been protested against over and over again. Repeated attempts have been made to obtain redress by negotiations, but all have failed, and the miners have been forced to the conclusion that such proceedings could only be prevented by a strike or by submitting to a lock-out. Those amassing wealth and drawing unprecedented dividends from the results of the miners' labour evidently desire and intend to make further inroads on the earnings of the worker toiling for his daily pittance, and to extort from labour its legitimate reward. We wish it to be clearly understood that in this case we are not the aggressors. We are simply defending one of the highest principles for which workmen can contend—a principle worthy of the unlimited support of ourselves and the general body of the workers, and which is summed up in the words 'the unequal distribution of wealth.' There will be nearly six thousand workmen involved in this struggle, and we appeal to your sense of justice to do all in your power to aid the workers now defending their rights and yours—the inalienable rights of labour. Having taken up a position forced upon us in the general interest of a humane cause, let it be your earnest endeavour to prevent us falling in so noble an undertaking. Failure on our part means the further oppression of labour, while successful negotiation for an agreement will mean the establishment of peace and prosperity in one of the first industries in Australia.—JAMES CURLEY, Miners' General Secretary, Committee Rooms, Tattersall's Hotel, Newcastle, August 29th, 1888.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

The President has signed the Chinese Exclusion Bill this morning, because, to use his own words, "the experiment of blending the social habits and mutual race idiosyncracies of the Chinese labouring classes with those of the great body of the people of the United States has been proved by the experience of twenty years, and ever since the Burlingame treaty of 1868, to be in every sense unwise, impolitic, and injurious to both nations." No John Chinaman will hereafter be permitted to land in the United States. California is rejoicing over the passage of the Bill.

From January 1st to October 1st, 1888, 323,014 emigrants arrived in New York City, against 300,703 from January 1st to October 1st 1887, or an increase for the first nine months of the year of 22,311 emigrants.

The Switchmen's Association met in convention on the 26th September in St. Louis, Mo. After the routine work, choosing of officers, had been transacted, a plan was proposed and unanimously adopted for the federation of the brotherhoods of the locomotive engineers, the firemen, the switchmen, and the breakmen. It was also agreed to take Knights of Labour in, but as railway employes only, and the order of railway telegraphers will be admitted on the same terms. It seems, therefore, that Powderly's big scheme has succeeded, and there is now an opening for him to materialise new boodles.

J. A. Bauereisen, one of the striking engineers of the "Q" system, and one of the indicted in the alleged dynamite conspiracy, has sent out a circular, of which the most important points are: A great many may think the strike on the "Q" is getting to be an old story, but such is not the case. The strike is just as good as it ever was, and the men are just as determined and solid, and the company is losing money as fast, if not faster, than when the strike began. Wrecks are numerous. Only a few days ago they had a great one on the Kansas City branch, and on the 6th September they had one on the east end so bad that a track was built around it, and all the trains were delayed five hours, but not a word was published in the Chicago daily papers. . . . We must not think of ever giving up the fight, for it is not far before winter will be upon us, and then they will have to come to it or have their road sink into the hands of a receiver, and he will have to settle with the strikers if he wishes to run the road; for as it is now the best of weather and the scabs having wrecks and break-downs, how will it be in the winter and in foggy weather, which is soon to come? . . . We hope that all brothers will see the necessity of being prompt in their assessments, for strikers cannot live without money. . . . The circular says, further, the order of railway conductors should be taken into the federation of railway employes "if it will kick out its scabs and their sympathisers," and proposes that a committee from each organisation form a "grand administrative board," with power to act and control all the systems.

The case of our comrade Oscar Falleur has not been settled yet. He ought to have been sent back last Saturday, but as Secretary of the Treasury Fairchild has not decided the case as yet a further continuance has been granted to Falleur. Organised Labour is doing very little for him.

Capt. W. P. Black and lawyer Salomon are trying to get Schwab and Fielden liberated. They are diligently studying the record of the trial, and maintain that it contains a good many irregularities. These lawyer tricks will do no good.

The Socialist Labour Party of New York have now resolved to go red-hot into politics. A meeting of the combined sections of New York and Morrisiana was held last Sunday. The first business transacted was the consideration of a motion of the German Federation of Trades, "That all members turn out in a parade on November 10th to commemorate the hanging of our Chicago martyrs." A long debate followed, and it was finally resolved to hold a mass meeting in place of the parade. The City Committee reported that a number of persons had been appointed to look after politics in the various districts, and recommended that a ticket be nominated. The Committee further recommended that no ballots be peddled at the polls, but that they be carried from house to house. The report was adopted. A motion that an electoral, State, city, and county ticket, be put in the field, was adopted. The City Committee was given power to make the necessary nominations. A Committee was also appointed to collect monies to defray expenses.

The Sugar Trust and the National Grocers' Association (the Wholesale Grocers) have combined. The grocers are now dictating prices to the public and to independent manufacturers.

The Bay State Sugar Refinery in Boston, acting under orders from the Sugar Trust headquarters in New York, closed down last Saturday night for good, thus throwing out of employment 300 men. This action was a complete surprise to the men employed. Employment for the class of men used to sugar refining is very hard to find at this time of the year. The Trust has been gradually closing down refineries for a few months past, the object being to curtail the production and stiffen up the prices of sugar. So 300 families are made absolutely helpless and penniless simply because a gang of legalised thieves so will it. But, of course, we revolutionists are unable to comprehend the beauties of this best of all possible worlds; we lack the necessary intelligence which distinguishes our capitalistic friends.

Most of the Indian tribes have obtained land grants in years gone by, which are reserved for their use. They hold this land in common. This has always been a point of annoyance to our Washington authorities. They wanted the land, and they also did not like to tolerate "Communism" in their own country; so they resolved to cheat the Indian again. A Commission was appointed to go to the Sioux-Indians to induce them to sell their land. But the Indians, unlike labour organisations, have learned from the past. They told the Commissioners, who, if they resemble their pictures in the illustrated papers, are about the meanest and most thievish-looking persons in the world, that the white men have cheated them and led to them so many times that they did not desire to have any more dealings with the "big father" in Washington. Corruption was tried next, and although a few chiefs listened more to the arguments of firewater and dollars than to the voice of their own conviction, no definite arrangement could be brought about. The purpose of the Government is either to buy the Indians out, knowing the money would be spent pretty soon, or to parcel out the land now held by the red men in common, assuming that a good many individual Indians would be willing to sell their "property." The Commission has returned to Washington, having effected, fortunately, nothing as yet.

Newark, N.J., October 3, 1888.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.—Money has become the executioner of all things. Finance is the alembic in which a frightful quantity of goods and provisions are made to evaporate into useless luxury. Money, in the hands of a few, declares war against all the rest of mankind.—Boisguillebert.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

A floor-cloth ring has been formed at Kirkaldy.

The granite polishers of Aberdeen and district have agreed to form a trades' union.

TAILORS' STRIKE.—The strike of the tailors in the employment of Dunfermline Co-operative Store, which has lasted three weeks, is now ended, the principle for which the workers contended having been conceded.

RIVETTERS' STRIKE.—The riveters of Caird and Co., Greenock, struck work on the 12th, on the ground that detention money fixed by firm is too high. They also ask a slight advance on the hundred rivets for ballast tanks of the P. and O. steamers.

KIRKALDY BOILERMAKERS.—The Kirkaldy boilermakers connected with the association have again resumed work, the masters having yielded the additional halfpenny per hour which was demanded. The non-society men are to come out on strike unless they receive the same advance as the society men.

RAILWAY SERVANTS' CONGRESS.—The railwaymen in their congress have been showing in many ways their way-back position. Their attitude on strikes, co-operation, and other points discussed was much behind that of most trades. One joke which turned up through this was that some of the members wanted to censure the General Secretary because he had gone on a deputation with Peters and Kelly, "who were Socialists"!

PREPARING FOR A TWELVE HOURS BILL.—The Government is going to introduce a Twelve Hours Bill for railway servants. The Board of Trade has demanded a return of men who, in two months last year and two months in the present year, have been kept at work for more than twelve hours. This, however, seems a long way off the eight hours which are now being so largely demanded by even trades' unions as the normal working day.

CLEVELAND MINERS' AND BLAST-FURNACEMEN'S WAGES.—The accountant's certificate for the quarter ending 30th September, relating to the wages of the Cleveland miners and blast-furnacemen has been issued at Middlesbrough. It shows that the price of No. 3 Cleveland pig-iron was 32s. 3.73d. per ton. This gives the blast-furnacemen an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the miners 1.50d. per ton. It is expected that the next quarter's certificate will give a more definite advance.

BAD FOR BAKERS.—It is said that Mr. George Stewart, F.C.S., chemist to J. and B. Stevenson, bakers, of Glasgow and London, has been successful in discovering a method of baking by electricity. The bread is said to be quite as well baked as by the present methods, and more quickly; and there will be a large saving in wages. But, if our present social system is to continue, where will the bakers throw out of employment by these "improvements" and money to buy the bread?

NAILMAKERS.—The masters in Rowley, Old Hill, and Hales Owen districts paid the advance in accordance with Birmingham agreement on Saturday, 13th. The executive committee of Nailmakers' Association have arranged for a fund to protect list prices. At present each man will pay twopence per fortnight, and each woman one penny. The funds will be used to support operatives who may strike in consequence of deviations from list. The committee have decided to take prompt measures in case any employer refuses to adhere to list arranged at Birmingham conference.

SHALE MINERS.—The following was unanimously resolved at a representative meeting of Mid and West Lothian Miners' Union, held at Broxburn on 11th: "That, looking at the various disputes that are continually arising in all trades throughout the country, and the success which attends the cause of labour when it is thoroughly organised, we would strongly advise the shale miners to use their best efforts to perfect their union." The dispute at West Calder in connection with the tare and "crowing" of the hutches has been settled by the manager conceding the demands of the men.

IRONSTONE MINERS' WAGES.—At Guisborough, the claim of the owners of the Slapworth Mines for a reduction of 1d. per ton in the rate paid for winning ironstone has been before Mr. J. C. P'Anson, who has given his decision that the increased output and the corresponding increase in the earnings of the men are attributable to the experience which the men have gained in the use of the machines at work in the mine, rather than to the improvements which have been made in the appliances since the signing of the sliding scale. He therefore decides that the masters are not entitled to the reduction claimed by them.

THE IMPENDING GREAT COAL STRIKE.—Since the "scare" about the great coal strike began, all back-bone has lost its power in the "bulls" of Glasgow Stock Exchange. Fear has affected the spine of the "bulls." This was specially noted on Friday, the 12th inst., in connection with the market for Scotch railways. Selling orders came from London of both Caledonian and North British stock accompanied by the "alarmist" intimation that a strike had taken place in the iron trade in Lanarkshire. Now the extent of the "alarm," the "wisdom" and the "honesty" of the "bulls" and "bears" may be gathered from the fact that notwithstanding they had the "truth" of these reports within their own doors, "great damage was done" in the interval of the hearing of the workmen of Lanark being on strike and the regaining of the "bulls' senses. The coal-owners' organ of opinion, in referring to the "alarm" on the Glasgow Exchange on Friday, says: "Possibly capital will be made out of the wages movement in the coal trade, but we are assured by those best able to form an opinion that there is no likelihood of a strike in Scotland." The Scotch coal-masters base their confidence on the fact that "the Fife men are not prepared to strike." They, like the "bulls," have apparently lost all back-bone, and while other districts throughout Scotland were regulating supplies in order to fight this battle, the Fife men have given so large stocks that the masters are prepared for a strike; in fact, for the masters in Fife "there is meat on that bone." The result of the action taken by the men of Fife and Lanarkshire respectively is that while the Fife masters will not recognise the improvement in trade as warranting an addition to the wages of the men, the Lanarkshire masters recognise that the improvement "has taken place," and they are prepared to give the men a rise. The masters are readily getting an advance of 1s. 3d. per ton on late prices, and they expect to satisfy the men and avoid a strike by ignoring all former advances in prices, and offering a rise in wages regulated by a sliding scale, which has been characterised by the men at their last meeting at Hamilton as "nefarious." The English miners need not fear that their comrades in Lanarkshire will embarrass their struggles as the Fife men did in the late Lanark strike.—G. MCL.

NUT AND BOLT MAKERS.—On Friday, 12th, a meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at Darlaston to consider advisability of asking for return of 5 per cent. taken of list of prices of 1885. Mr. Juggins, who presided, said there was already a disposition on the part of some employers to fulfil promise made in 1885, when wages were reduced—viz., to give back same when trade sufficiently improved. Trade was considerably better, and the promise should be fulfilled. Operatives in other trades had already obtained an increase, and it was very desirable that nut and bolt makers should make a similar application. A resolution was passed expressing opinion that the employers should return the 5 per cent. Mr. Juggins was instructed to formally demand that advance.

ENGINEERS' STRIKE.—A strike among employés of various engineering works in the Potteries began Monday 15th, about a thousand men being affected. As announced at the time, members of the Engineers' Society gave employers notice a fortnight ago for an advance equal to 2s. per week, on the ground that recent improvements in trade entitle them to return of a reduction to which they submitted some two years since. The masters, however, stated that state of trade in district did not justify demand, and refused to grant concession asked for; at same time, they asked that notices might be withheld for a month, to enable them to enquire as to correctness or otherwise of men's statements that the advance was being conceded in other centres. The men refused further delay, and gave formal notices for termination of contracts. These notices expired on Saturday, and Monday the men did not resume work. On Tuesday the bosses caved in and all was over. It is said that at one works where wages were not interfered with at time of general reduction, two years ago, no advance was asked for.

THE COAL CRISIS.—The miners of Lancashire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Scotland have pledged themselves to the resolution of the Manchester Conference to get 10 per cent. or strike. Ten per cent. on their wages is a very small part of the increased value of their labour. Thousands of notices have already been handed in, and should the masters persist in resisting the demand, it is expected that over two hundred thousand men will leave off work. The struggle promises to be the biggest ever known in the coal trade. The officials of the Yorkshire Miners' Association report that the strike movement has been determinedly entered upon by the men throughout the whole of Yorkshire. A largely attended meeting of Welsh miners was held at Chein Mawr, Ruabon, on the 11th inst., when it was resolved to unite with the Lancashire miners in giving notices for the advance. The commercial editor of the *Glasgow Herald* says: "The threatened great coal strike in Yorkshire is creating considerable interest in the coal circles here, for in the present position of the trade it is felt that so large a withdrawal of fuel from the market as is meant by the suspension of the labour of 180,000 men cannot fail to have important consequences. Mr. Pickard calculates on the active support of 60,000 men on this side the border. It is not at all improbable that a little patience will ensure for the Scotch miners a moderate advance in wages." We are responsible for the italics in the last sentence, because it deserves to be read, marked, and inwardly digested by the miners. Translated into plain language, it means that if the miners of Scotland help the masters to crush the miners of England, they themselves may get some small share of the spoil, but need not expect a share in proportion to the increased value of their output. Scotch miners are not likely to join the enemy and go against their class. They fully realise what such a policy means. The action of the Fife miners and their secretary during the late struggle in Scotland was that of the "patience" recommended in the above, and it did not improve their lot. It on the other hand disorganised the miners throughout Scotland and strengthened the position of the masters. As the *Labour Tribune* well says: "If a strike is to take place, the best way to make it successful is to be thoroughly determined on the matter. Wavering means certain defeat and failure. So far, the men manifest a greater determination than on any previous occasion."

AMERICA.—October 3.

The Illinois Central railroad switchmen in Chicago have struck for higher wages.

For the last ten days negotiations have been in progress between two committees from the North Chicago Railway Employés Association and Mr. Yerkes, the owner of all Chicago street car lines. These negotiations have resulted in nothing, and a strike is expected.

There were 150 failures in the United States reported during the past week, against 166, 205, 140, and 201 in the corresponding weeks of 1887, 1886, 1885, and 1884 respectively.

A Philadelphia street-car employés organisation has brought suit against the superintendents of several lines for violation of an Act of the Legislature making the working of street-car employés longer than twelve hours daily a misdemeanor.

The National Department of Labour is at present engaged in investigating the wages and condition of persons employed on railroads throughout the country.

LIST OF SEPTEMBER STRIKES.

Previously reported	...	...	...	3,644
New York City—Building hands, unionism, September 19; succeeded	Sept. 20	...	...	—
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Painters, for recognition of union, Sept. 19	...	...	...	—
New York City—Silk weavers, against reduction, Sept. 19	...	...	...	30
New York City—Furniture workers, against reduction, Sept. 19	...	...	...	—
New York City—Carpenters, against reduction, Sept. 19	...	...	...	—
New York City—Ornamental iron-workers, unionism, Sept. 21	...	...	...	—
New York City—Confectioners, Sept. 15	...	...	...	—
Long Branch, N. J.—Tailors, against reduction, Sept. 21	...	...	...	—
New York City—Piano makers, against reduction, Sept. 20	...	...	...	—
Edwardsville, Pa.—Coal miners, for advance, Sept. 21	...	...	...	500
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Coal-cart drivers, unionism, Sept. 23	...	...	...	—
Hartford, Conn.—Repair shop hands, against overtime, Sept. 22	...	...	...	200
New York City—Bakers, against discharge of one man, Sept. 22	...	...	...	—
New York City—Painters, non-payment of wages, Sept. 24	...	...	...	—
New York City—Clothing cutters, for recognition of union, Sept. 24	...	...	...	—
Indianapolis, Ind.—Natural gas-fitters, for advance, Sept. 18	...	...	...	—
Chicago, Ill.—Railroad hands, for advance, Sept. 19	...	...	...	—
St. Louis, Mo.—Railroad hands, refusal to handle Burlington engines, September 17	...	...	...	—
New York City—Piano makers, for non-payment of wages, Sept. 27	...	...	...	—
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Coachmen, for recognition of union, Sept. 27	...	...	...	—

Total number of strikers for September 4,374

H. F. C.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27, 1888.

21	Sun.	1841. Distress in manufacturing districts.
22	Mon.	1685. Edict of Nantes revoked. 1817. Trial of Isaac Ludlam for high treason.
23	Tues.	1797. Trial of James Dunn for "conspiring to murder." 1817. Trial of Geo. Weightman for high treason. 1848. Meagher and McManns sentenced. 1851. Kossuth arrives in England. 1881. Socialists and Irish protest in Hyde Park against imprisonment of Parnell, Dillon, etc.
24	Wed.	1669. W. Prynne died. 1793. Meeting of the London Corresponding Society at Breillatt's, Hackney Road. 1849. Declaration at Montreal in favour of union with United States.
25	Thur.	1797. Trial of Patrick Carty for "conspiring to murder." 1845. Monster Repeal Demonstration at Cashel. 1878. Attempt upon the King of Spain.
26	Fri.	1795. Meeting of London Corresponding Society in Copenhagen Fields. 1831. "Riots" at Frankfurt." 1848. G. B. Mullins transported.
27	Sat.	1553. Servetus burnt by Calvin. 1843. Trial of "Rebecca" rioters at Cardiff.

Distress in Manufacturing Districts.—This year the people were in a fearful condition. At a meeting held in Leeds on October 23 it was shown that in 4,752 families there, containing 19,936 persons, there were 16,156 unemployed. The average weekly income of each was 1½d., or something less than 1½d. a-day.—S.

SCOTCH NOTES.

THE SCOTTISH POOR HOUSE.—"Every one connected with the administration becomes hardened, from the chairman of the board down to the keeper of the hopeless gate in the joyless wall. The very chaplain and lady visitors get unnatural. Within ten minutes of seeing an aged servant of Christ struggling for nourishment out of a bowl of 'fusionless' soup, a gentlewoman will laugh and grow fat over a six-course dinner. But then she left a tract to the weary and glazing eyes! Yes, there 's a chaplain to tell of heaven. No need to say much about hell; his audience could beat him at that! But who is this approaches us, a man of thin lips and majestic mien, with a tome of political economy in one hand and some clippings from the *Scotsman* curling among the delicate fingers of the other? Be off, you dismal croaker! your head's a mile in front of your heart."—*Christian Leader*. To me the *Christian Leader* credits the *Scotsman's* editor with that which the naked eye cannot detect among his assets. His head, therefore, is in front of some other trait of character which is obvious.

A MODEL LIBERAL POLITICAL PAPER PLEASED!—The *North British Daily Mail* says, in consequence of some American firms "offering to build machinery cheaper than we can do": "It is pleasing to learn that a number of the Glasgow establishments are introducing time-saving and improved labour-saving (wages-saving) plant into their shops." The *Mail* professes to be run in the workers' interest. The large circulation of the weekly edition among the workers keeps up the daily edition, and yet the *Mail* is pleased to learn of its supporters being put out by improved labour-saving machinery. Of course, that confession did not appear in a column which the workers who produce are in the habit of reading; it was in the business column of the daily edition, meant for the traffickers in the products of human labour-sweaters. The *Mail* has been in great tribulation for some time past in case working men should do anything that would injure the unity or prospects of the Liberal party, and yet its proprietor—Dr. Chas. Cameron, M.P.—is a shareholder in the notorious firm of Bryant and May, famed for the light they gave into the making of dividends.

A GLASGOW EXHIBITION.—When the Queen visited the Glasgow Exhibition she was not shown anything that explained the advancement of Glasgow more than the following as described by a writer in the *Evening Times*: "From the top of a car at Charing Cross I saw a sad sight yesterday. A wail, a young man, evidently in the lowest stage of destitution, sauntered along with his eyes on the ground and his hands in his pockets. Suddenly he dived into the gutter, picked up something, thrust it into his mouth, and fairly "wolfed" it. It was a small raw potato. Spying another at a shop door, he rushed at it and devoured it with the same voracity. Hitherto he had not shown the slightest hesitation. Turning into Newton Street, he saw some garbage on the ground. This he seemed to eye suspiciously, and he gave it a kick with his miserable shoe. But there was no help for it; hunger conquered his scruples, and the abomination was greedily chewed and swallowed. This happened in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and in the second city of the empire. The occupants of the car-roof looked on with horror." Glasgow is surely second in its poverty and despair. "Oh it was pitiful in a whole cityful," and yet from "scenes like these great Glasgow's grandeur springs."

"LET GLASGOW FLOURISH BY THE PREACHING OF THE WORD."—The evening edition of the *Glasgow Herald*, the capitalist's organ, says:—"The other day an old, poorly-dressed, but tidy woman called at a police-office in the city, and, unfolding on the counter a bundle of shirts she was carrying, humbly asked if the police could do anything to assist her in demanding more than 7d. a dozen for the finishing of the shirts. The bundle contained a dozen and a-half; and to finish them was the work of nearly two days, for which she got paid 10d. (who got the other ½d.?). With tears in her eyes the poor creature said she was willing to work, but that she could not make sufficient money to keep her from the poor-house by shirt-finishing. Poor body! the law has no protection for such as you!" Out of their own mouths the capitalists stand condemned. When we remember the treatment of the victims of the Scottish poor-houses, the dread of the poor woman will be understood. Verily the poor-house is the Scotch hell—"the hangman's whip that keeps the wretch in order." The Queen is the outward symbol of the law which keeps wretched women in such order as the above, and yet the Glasgow magistrates would be highly scandalised and indignant if these wretches, when given an extra feed of peas and soda, were to demur at the toast of "the Queen." G. McL.

THE VALE OF TEARS.

(By HEINRICH HEINE. Translated by SIR THEODORE MARTIN.)

The night-wind through the dormer howls
And two poor creatures lay
In a garret upon a truckle-bed,
And wasted and wan were they.

And one unto the other says:
"Oh, gather me into your arm,
And press your lips, dear, close to mine;
I want you to make me warm."

And this is what the other says:
"When I look into your eyes,
Hunger and cold, and want are forgot,
All my earthly trouble flies."

Much did they kiss, they wept still more,
Clasped hand to hand, and sighed.
They laughed very often, and even sang,
Then their talk into silence died.

Next morning the police inspector came,
And there by that woful bed
He with the parish doctor stood,
Who certified both were dead.

"The cruel weather," said his report,
"Combined with inanition,
Has caused the collapse of both—at least,
Has hastened that condition.

When frost set in," he went on to say,
"Tis vital the body should
Be protected by woollen blankets—likewise
Be nourished by wholesome food."

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. 30, at 8 o'clock, to discuss new leaflet and other propaganda.

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.

REPORTS.

LONDON (OPEN-AIR)—*Regent's Park*.—Large meeting here Sunday morning, addressed by Cantwell, Nicoll, and Mrs. Taylor; 40 *Commonweal* sold; collection, 1s. 9d. *Hyde Park*.—Cantwell, Morris, and two other comrades addressed meeting here. "Marseillaise," "March of Workers," and "No Master" were sung by the Hammersmith Choir. Some opposition by a protectionist. 9s. worth of literature sold. At end of meeting a procession was formed and marched along Oxford Street under the red flag to *Clerkenwell Green*, our comrades singing lustily the choruses of revolutionary songs. A good meeting was afterwards held on the Green. *Whitechapel*.—A capital meeting was held at Philpot Street, last Friday, by Parker. *Victoria Park*.—Good meeting on Sunday, addressed by Mrs. Schaak, Davis, and Hicks. Fair sale of *Commonweal*.

CLERKENWELL.—On Sunday, Oct. 14, White (S.D.F.) and Blundell (S.L.) debated as to whether "Palliatives are Reactionary." Blundell opened, and pointed out that all palliatives, or mere reforms, were simply a patching up of a huge social sore, which would break forth again in an aggravated form, and that the only way out was to steer clear of all political dodgery, and demand the entire abolition of the monopoly of land, tools, machinery, etc., etc.; the workers to manage their own affairs, and live happily; the idlers to starve and die. White advocated the erection of improved artisans' dwellings, one free meal a day to children, free education, and so on; not necessarily to ask Parliament to do these things, but the workers to act for themselves. Very interesting discussion followed, and many things were said which may do good propaganda.—B.

FULHAM.—Tuesday evening, back of Walham Green Church, fair meeting was addressed by Bullock, Beasley, and Groszer. Sunday morning, Morris spoke to excellent meeting, and in evening (Graham Wallis lectured inside our rooms on "Some facts in the History of Wages." Several questions and good discussion.—S. B. G.

HAMMERSMITH.—At Latimer Road, on Sunday morning, good meeting; 24 *Weals* sold. Dean, Maughan, and Davies spoke, very ably aided by Lyne, of S.D.F. Several members of Hammersmith Choir also helped. In evening, at Kelmescott House, E. J. Craig lectured on "Ireland and Evictions."

ABERDEEN.—No outdoor meeting, owing to Leatham being obliged to work till 11 and 12 at night and on Sunday. At indoor meeting, Monday, 8th, Carpenter's tract, "Desirable Mansions," read; discussed by Barron, McIntyre, Aiken, and Leatham. Vigorous propaganda to be carried on during winter, "run dog," etc.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday, at 3, Glasier and Tim Burgoyne addressed good meeting in Jail Square. At 5, at Paisley Road Toll, Joe Burgoyne and Glasier spoke to large, attentive audience. At close a number of questions put, replies given meeting with obvious approval of great majority present.

NORWICH.—Unable to hold usual meeting on St. Catharine's Plain owing to wet. Sunday afternoon, large meeting held in Market Place addressed by Mowbray and Cores; audience very attentive. In evening, short open-air meeting held; at Gordon Hall Mowbray lectured on "Two Great Curses of Civilisation—Christianity and Capitalism." Chair taken by Adams; meeting opened with "No Master." A friend in the audience defended the gospel, but mainly dwelt upon humanitarianism, receiving very fair attention from audience, and was replied to by Mowbray.—A. T. S.

CHESTERFIELD DISCUSSION SOCIETY.—Sunday evening last, first lecture of a series was given in St. Thomas's Room, Knifesmith Gate, by Edward Carpenter, subject being "The Future of Modern Commerce." Good attendance, many unable to find seats. These Sunday evening lectures have been organised by the Socialists and some others in the district, for the purpose of educating the people on social subjects and raising discussion on them.—K. U.

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.
Olerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday, October 21, at 8 p.m., J. Turner on "Palliatives a Waste of Energy."
Fulham.—Our rooms, 8 Effie Road, Walham Green, will in future be opened on Thursday evenings at 7 o'clock to all persons interested in social matters.
Hackney.—Secretary, E. Lefevre, 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.
Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Oct. 21, at 8 p.m., Graham Wallas, "The Revolution of 1848."
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.

North London.—Secretary, Nelly Parker. Business meetings held on Friday evenings at 6 Windmill St., Tottenham Court Road, after open-air meeting at Ossulton Street.
Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.—40 Berner Street. Meets Fridays at 8.

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.
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.
Galaithiel (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 184 Glendinning Terrace, secy.
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 meets every Sunday at 11.
Ipswich.—Pioneer Hall, Jacket Street. Meets on Sunday evenings.
Kilmarnock.—Secretary, H. M'Gill, 22 Gilmour St.
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.
Norwich.—Sunday, Lecture in Gordon Hall at 8.15. Monday, at 8. Concert on behalf of Branch funds in Gordon Hall; admission free. Tuesday, at 8.30. Members' Meeting. Wednesday, at 8. Educational Class. 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 21.

11.30...Latimer Road Station...Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green...The Branch
11.30...Regent's Park...Morris
11.30...Walham Green, opp. Station...Mainwaring
11.30...Weltje Rd., Ravencourt Pk...Hammersmith
3.30...Hyde Park...Nicoll
7.30...Broad Street, Soho...Brooks
7.30...Clerkenwell Green...Nicoll
7.30...Mitcham Fair Green...The Branch

Monday.

8...Wimbledon Broadway...The Branch

Tuesday.

8.30...Fulham—back of Walham Green Ch...Branch

Friday.

7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street...Brooks

EAST END.

SUNDAY 21.

Mile-end Waste ... 11 ...Whitechapel Bh.
Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Mrs. Schack.
Victoria Park ... 3.15...Schack, M'nwaring
Broadway, London Fields 8.30...Hicks.

TUESDAY.
Mile-end Waste ... 8.30...Nicoll & Davis.

WEDNESDAY.

Broadway, London Fields 8.30...Davis & Hicks.

FRIDAY.

Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Hicks.

SATURDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 8 ...Hicks.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7 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. Yarmouth, Sunday at 3. St Catharine's Plain, Friday at 8.15 p.m.

HARROW LIBERAL CLUB.—Rev. S. D. Headlam (E.L.R.L.), "The Land for the People." Monday Oct. 22, 8.15 p.m.

JUNIOR SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.—On Tuesday October 23, at 31 Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, a lecture at 8 p.m. sharp.

ST. NICHOLAS COLE ABBEY, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.—Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth, "The Place of Amusement in Earnest Life." Sun. Oct. 21, at 3.45.

ST. CLEMENT'S, Lever Street, City Road.—Special Sermon, C. E. Escreet (G.S.M.), "The Six Points of the Bishops' Social Charter." Sunday Oct. 21, 5 p.m.

KENNINGTON LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB, 143 Upper Kennington Lane.—Mr. F. Verinder (G.S.M.), "A Churchman's Plea for Free Schools." Sunday Oct. 21.

EAST-END PROPAGANDA.—Next Saturday, usual debate will be held at Berner Street Club, subject being "How far has Capitalistic Co-operation benefited the Working Classes?" Davis will open.

MILE-END AND BETHNAL GREEN BRANCH.—A meeting of members and friends will take place Sunday October 28th, at 25 Cawley Road, Victoria Park, at 6 p.m., after meeting in Park, to consider best means of forming a Socialist Club in district in connection with this branch. Comrades please attend.—H. M.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEN'S EDUCATIONAL CLUB, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road.—Grand Concert and Ball, Sunday next, October 21, at 8 p.m. (sharp). Proceeds will be devoted to Chicago Commemoration Fund. A first-class company will be present. Admission 3d. This is the second of a series of four concerts to be given by the East-end Propaganda Committee.

FABIAN SOCIETY.—The Fabian Society is giving a course of lectures on "Socialism: its Basis and Prospects." The first part of the course is devoted to "The Basis of Socialism." Of this, two have already been given—Sept. 21, (1) "The Historical Aspect," Sidney Webb; Oct. 5, (2) "The Economic Aspect," G. Bernard Shaw. Those that are to follow are: Oct. 19, (3) "The Moral Aspect," Sydney Olivier; Nov. 2, (4) "The Industrial Aspect," William Clarke. The second part of the course will deal with "The Organisation of Society": Nov. 16, (1) "Property under Socialism," Graham Wallas; Dec. 7, (2) "Industry under Socialism," Annie Besant; Dec. 21, (3) "The Outlook," Hubert Bland.—The meetings will be held at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's Square, S.W. The chair will be taken by the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, B.A., at 8 p.m. precisely. Tickets for the course may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Sydney Olivier, 180 Portersdown Rd. W.

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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