

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the
SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 6.—No. 228.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1890.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NEWS FROM NOWHERE:

OR,
AN EPOCH OF REST.

BEING SOME CHAPTERS FROM A UTOPIAN ROMANCE.

CHAP. XVII. (continued).—How THE CHANGE CAME.

"WHAT stood in the way of this?" said I.

"Why, of course," said he, "just that instinct for freedom aforesaid. It is true that the slave-class could not conceive the happiness of a free life. Yet they grew to understand (and very speedily too) that they were oppressed by their masters, and they assumed, you see how justly, that they could do without them, though perhaps they scarce knew how; so that it came to this, that though they could not look forward to the happiness or the peace of the freeman, they did at least look forward to the war which should bring that peace about."

"Could you tell me rather more closely what actually took place?" said I; for I thought him rather vague here.

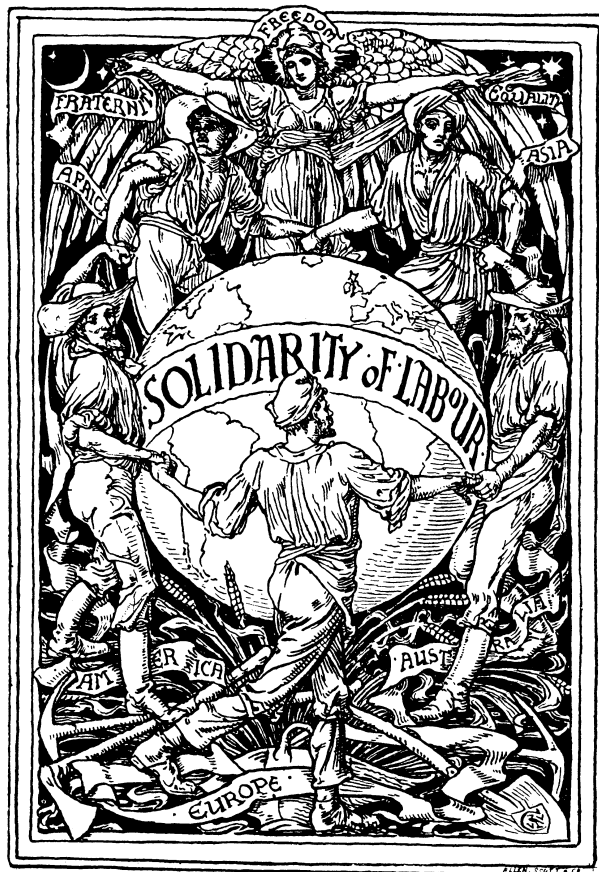
"Yes," he said, "I can. That machinery of life for the use of people who didn't know what they wanted of it, and which was known at the time as State Socialism, was partly put in motion, though in a very piecemeal way. But it did not work smoothly; it was, of course, resisted at every turn by the capitalists; and no wonder, for it tended more and more to upset the commercial system I have told you of, without providing anything really effective in its place. The result was growing confusion, great suffering amongst the working classes, and, as a consequence, great discontent. For a long time matters went on like this. The power of the upper classes had lessened as their command over wealth lessened, and they could not carry things wholly by the high hand as they had been used to in earlier days. On the other hand, the working classes were ill-organised, and growing poorer in reality, in spite of the gains (also real in the long run) which they had forced from the masters. Thus matters hung in the balance; the masters could not reduce their slaves to complete subjection, though they put down some feeble and partial riots easily enough. The workers forced their masters to grant them ameliorations, real or imaginary, of their condition, but could not force freedom from them. At last came a great crash. On some trifling occasion a great meeting was summoned by the workmen leaders to meet in Trafalgar Square (about the right to meet in which place there had for long been bickering). The civic bourgeois guard (called the police) attacked the said meeting with bludgeons, according to their custom; many people were hurt in the *mêlée*, of whom five in all died, either trampled to death on the spot, or from the effects of their cudgelling; the meeting was scattered, and some hundred of prisoners cast into gaol. A similar meeting had been treated in the same way a few days before at a place called Manchester, which has now disappeared. The whole country was

thrown into a ferment by this; meetings were held which attempted some rough organisation for the holding of another meeting to retort on the authorities. A huge crowd assembled in Trafalgar Square and the neighbourhood (then a place of crowded streets), and was too big for the bludgeon-armed police to cope with; there was a good deal of dry-blow fighting; three or four of the people were killed, and half a score of policemen were crushed to death in the throng, and the rest got away as they could. The next day all London (remember what it was in those days) was in a state of turmoil. Many of the rich fled into the country; the executive got together soldiery, but did not dare to use them; and the police could not be massed in any one place, because

riots or threats of riots were everywhere. But in Manchester, where the people were not so courageous or not so desperate as in London, several of the popular leaders were arrested. In London a convention of leaders was got together, and sat under the old revolutionary name of the Committee of Public Safety; but as they had no organised body of men to direct, they attempted no aggressive measures, but only placarded the walls with somewhat vague appeals to the workmen not to allow themselves to be trampled upon. However, they called a meeting in Trafalgar Square for the day fortnight of the last-mentioned skirmish.

"Meantime the town grew no quieter, and business came pretty much to an end. The newspapers—then, as always hitherto, almost entirely in the hands of the masters—clamoured to the Government for repressive measures; the rich citizens were enrolled as an extra body of police, and armed with bludgeons like them; many of these were strong, well-fed, full-blooded young men, and had plenty of stomach for fighting; but the government did not dare to use them, and contented itself with getting full powers voted to it by the Parliament for suppressing any revolt, and bringing up more and more soldiers to London. Thus passed the week after the great meeting; almost as large a one was held on the Sunday, which went off peaceably on the whole, as no opposition to it was offered. But on the Monday the people woke up to find that they were hungry. During the last few days there had been

groups of men parading the streets asking (or, if you please, demanding) money to buy food; and what for goodwill, what for fear, the richer people gave them a good deal. The authorities of the parishes also (I haven't time to explain that phrase at present) gave willy-nilly what provisions they could to wandering people; and the Government, which had by that time established some feeble national workshops, also fed a good number of half-starved folk. But in addition to this, several bakers' shops and other provision stores had been emptied without a great deal of disturbance. So far, so good. But on the Monday in question the Committee of Public Safety, on the one hand afraid of general unorganised pillage, and on the other emboldened by the wavering conduct of the authorities, sent a deputation provided with carts and all necessary gear to clear out two or three big provision stores in the centre of the town, leaving blank



LABOUR'S MAY DAY
DEDICATED TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD

papers promising to pay the price of them with the shop managers: and also in the part of the town where they were strongest they took possession of several bakers' shops and set men at work in them for the benefit of the people;—all of which was done with little or no disturbance, the police assisting in keeping order at the sack of the stores as they would have done at a big fire.

“But at this last stroke the reactionaries were so alarmed that they were determined to force the executive into action. The newspapers next day all blazed into the fury of frightened people, and threatened the people, the government, and everybody they could think of, unless ‘order were at once restored.’ A deputation of leading commercial people waited on the government and told them that if they did not at once arrest the Committee of Public Safety, they themselves would gather a body of men, arm them, and fall on ‘the incendiaries,’ as they called them.

“They, together with a number of the newspaper editors, had a long interview with the heads of the government and two or three military men, the deffest in their art that the country could furnish. The deputation came away from that interview, says a contemporary eye-witness, smiling and satisfied, and said no more about raising an anti-popular army, but that afternoon left London with their families for their country seats or elsewhere.

“The next morning the Government proclaimed a state of siege in London,—a thing common enough amongst the absolutist governments on the Continent, but unheard-of in England in those days. They appointed the youngest and cleverest of their generals to command the proclaimed district; a man who had won a certain sort of reputation in the disgraceful wars in which the country had long engaged in from time to time. The newspapers were in ecstasies, and all the most fervent of the reactionaries now came to the front; men who in ordinary times were forced to keep their opinions to themselves or their immediate circle, but who now began to look forward to crushing once for all the Socialist, and even democratic tendencies, which, said they, had been treated with such indulgence for the last twenty years.

“But the clever general took no visible action; and yet only a few of the minor newspapers abused him; thoughtful men gathered from this that a plot was hatching. As for the Committee of Public Safety, whatever they thought of their position, they had now gone too far to draw back; and many of them, it seems, thought that the government would not act. They went on quietly organising their food supply, which was a miserable dribble when all is said; and also as a retort to the state of siege, they armed as many men as they could in the quarter where they were strongest, but did not attempt to drill or organise them, thinking, perhaps, that they could not at the best turn them into trained soldiers till they had some breathing space. The clever general, his soldiers, and the police did not meddle with all this in the least in the world; and things were quieter in London that week-end; though there were riots in many places of the provinces, which were quelled by the authorities without much trouble. The most serious of these were at Glasgow and Bristol.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE CAUSE GOES MARCHING ON.

I HAVE often met with once active Socialists who bewailed the “utter indifference of the masses to the teaching of Socialism,” and I have listened with feelings of contempt as they talked of being born 200 years or so too soon. They talked of the lull in the propaganda, and believed that prosperity in trade had made all the workers uncompromising Conservatives, and that the “march of economic events” had come to a sudden standstill.

That there is a lull in one phase of the propaganda few will deny—the work in the streets is almost a thing of the past;¹ but this is because it has done its work. The most unskilled and thoughtless artisan has now some notion of the meaning of the word Socialism. The outdoor propaganda may still be of greatest importance in many towns yet, and I hope the “little bands” will stick enthusiastically together and preach the gospel, no matter what the obstacles may be. A few years has wrought a great change in the character of the movement. It is no longer confined to two or three small societies, but in some shape or form the ideas are part and parcel of almost every literary and political club in the kingdom, and form the *raison d'être* of the new trade unionism.

The attitude of the political parties towards social problems is a sufficient indication of the way in which the wind is blowing, and serves to show the growing strength of the movement towards Socialism. We find that cute politician, Randolph Churchill, dangling an Eight Hours' Bill before the eyes of the discontented workers, while other prominent politicians are fussing about the “housing of the poor,” and other measures of an equally harmless import. While the “representatives of the people” are excited—or pretending to be excited—over the Parliamentary Game, nightly debating with seeming heat the most trifling incidents and measures, beneath it all lies a consciousness of coming danger and a feeling that the first note in the class-war has been clearly sounded.

Who sees and understands more clearly than the political parties the significance of Home Rule? The Gladstonians fear it just as much as the Tories, and will seek to give the Irish people the mere semblance

¹ Our comrade is somewhat mistaken here. Speaking for London at least, and I believe many places in the country, we have never had better open-air meetings than those held within the last three months.—[EDITOR.]

of the thing. Well do they know that the Irish are alive to the economic problem, and each day of the delay is hastening the doom of landlordism and the emancipation of Labour.

In England and Scotland the attitude of the workers towards each other has undergone an almost complete change; a feeling of confidence and solidarity is now springing up, and they know—or shall I say only half know yet?—that the cause of one is the cause of all. That this feeling has not yet found expression in the programme of any great body of workers, is not to be wondered at when we consider the causes that have crystallized their apathy and indifference towards each other.

In a time of degradation and social brutality like the present, when everything around us tends only to develop the meanest part of our nature and blot out the feeling of love, is it not inspiring to know that the cry of the “Brotherhood of Man” is becoming a living faith and a potent factor in so many young lives? While the political parties are tearing each other's eyes out for place and power, and “coming to terms” with the new labour party, or concocting charges against each other in the vain hope of diverting the attention of the workers from their material salvation, all the elements of a social conflagration are slowly but surely gathering. A few years back the most hopeful of Socialists would hardly have dreamt that the doctrine of equality and fraternity would have quickly taken such firm root, and found such ready advocates in so many unexpected quarters. To-day we cannot open a magazine, or even an “obscure country paper,” without seeing an article on Socialism or a lively debate being conducted in a spirit of fairness. Even the church magazines are being forced to solicit articles on the subject, and find it more profitable than the dispensing of spiritual chloroform. Instead of a few energetic souls preaching to “a lamp-post and policeman, and making both laugh,” we have now quite an army of propagandists in every part of the country—in press and on platform—with attentive audience and readers.

The Docker's Strike has rung the death-knell of the old trades' unionism, and its leaders will soon take their departure and be heard of no more, for their occupation like Othello's will be gone. The skilled artisan, the “aristocrat of labour” and the darling of the politicians at election times, is beginning to learn through bitter experience the insecurity of his position, and to know that the morrow may see him in the swiftly swelling ranks of unskilled labour—and thus the march of events is with us and everything is full of hope.

A short time ago who would have dreamt of the Docker's Strike? Had any one predicted it he would simply have been laughed at and called that most horrible of names—a dreamer! The steady and patient work of our comrades at the dock-yard gates has not been in vain, and they who were once the despair of the revolutionists have shown by their devotion and unselfishness that the organisation of the workers in the near future will be a much easier task than most of us thought.

The next depression in trade will soon be upon us, and what with the growing intelligence of the workers and the higher ideal of comfort they now have, the work of the League and other kindred bodies will be much simpler in teaching the divineness of discontent and the hollowness and rottenness of our civilisation. Already the workers are gazing at each other across the Continent, and although they as yet see but dimly, they look into each other's eyes with friendlier feelings and learn that race-hatreds and jealousies have been the weapons their exploiters used to keep them so long divided. Woe to all kings, emperors, and oppressors of the weak when they clasp hands!

The recent speeches of the German Emperor, and the sops he has thrown to the workers with advice and threats to hold aloof from those horrid Socialists, show the deep-rooted feeling of discontent with the present order of things, in spite of all the coercive laws of Bismarck and his once master. That the German Emperor will “dish” the Socialists by such adroit movements no one need fear; for, prop up the rotten edifice as he may, it will all come tumbling down about his ears and bury him and his class out of sight for ever.

To Socialists who are isolated, I would say they have almost as much power as a society; a good word in season has often more real influence than many an applauded speech at a meeting. It is astonishing the work that one man can do when he has the Cause at heart. With tact and discretion he could influence a whole village; and here I would say that it is not by suppressing the name Socialist and masquerading as a sort of respectable advanced Radical that he will do much. Nothing can be done or ever could be done on those terms, and the sooner he learns the fact the better it will be for himself and the Cause he is anxious to serve.

J. M. B.

Readers of *Commonweal* and sympathisers generally in Fife, Forfar, and Perth, who are disposed to do their part in pushing forward the propaganda of Socialism, are asked to communicate with R. Dempster, care of Mrs. Scott, Colenswell Cottage, Burntisland, Fife, N.B.

PROSTITUTION.—Is there morally any difference, asks the *Journal of the Knights of Labour*, between the unfortunate woman who prostitutes her body for the means of existence and the educated, intelligent man who, as lawyer, politician, or editor, prostitutes his intellectual faculties for gain? If there is any difference, is not intellectual more degrading than physical harlotry, inasmuch as the functions of the mind are higher and nobler than those of the body? If the rule of even justice were applied, many a proud and wealthy political magnate and social leader who had risen by lending all his mental powers to the promotion of rotten causes and unjust schemes of spoliation would be more loathed and shunned than the wretched woman, more sinned against than sinning, who lives on the wages of vice.

NOTES FROM NOTTINGHAM.

PERHAPS, of all our workers, none have more to suffer from the pressure of capitalism than the girls and women who work in the warehouses and factories. Nominally protected by the Factory Acts, whenever the employer requires it they are forced to take work home and to slave nearly all night for the miserable pittance which will result. Those who, in the exercise of the "freedom of contract" which they possess, refuse to do this, find that there is no work for them when slack times arrive. Then there are all sorts of minor tyrannies imposed to break the spirit of the workers and render them docile serfs. The forewomen are selected specially for their ability to "nag" and to "drive" the hands, and the employers themselves are often not too choice in the language they address to an employé who has broken some rule of the factory. In one great Nottingham establishment, where a number of girls are employed, the manager occasionally strolls down the room, and if one of the workers should turn her head away from work to glance at the majestic passer-by, she is instantly dismissed. This gentleman is a prominent Liberal, and a churchwarden, and his master, a member of Parliament, who inherits the virtues of a pious father, is to be the Almighty's principal instrument in returning Mr. Gladstone to office at the general election. And yet a so-called labour paper, the *Factory Times*, a few weeks ago devoted a long paragraph to puffing this manager for his kindness to the workers, from among whom he has risen. In several large warehouses the girls are obliged to come half-an-hour earlier in the morning to hear some hired parson preach and pray at them. One of these sky-pilots had the impudence to denounce his hearers because of the few ribbons they had managed to obtain for self-adornment, but for once he had missed his mark. The girls in a body refused to attend service, and the pious employer had to get another tool.

The most unsatisfactory aspect of the case is the way in which managers, sub-managers, chief clerks, and others in authority, use their power to seduce girls, and then too often cast them adrift. The gilded youth of two counties make Nottingham their pleasure-house, and the army of despair which lounges round the "Clarendon," the "Three Crowns," or that glorified gin-palace known as the "Talbot," is recruited from the weaker sisters of the warehouse. The result is a social ulcer which permeates the bourgeoisie in spite of its efforts to conceal it. One hears of aldermen slipping up back streets to brothels, of others who appear with their *bona robas* at the theatre, of the disappearance of an inconvenient witness in a police prosecution, because her evidence might compromise members of the Town Council; of that Pillar of Society who is said to have kept a woman in almost every street, and who now turns up at missionary meetings. The funniest commentary on it all, however, was the recent declaration by a solemn local geologist that a salt lake once existed on the present site of Nottingham. The salt lake has gone; the capitalists remain; where is the fire and brimstone?

But why, says the moralist from "way back," do you elect such persons to rule you? But we don't, good friend moralist. They and their crowd of scalawags elect themselves. For instance, the other day a member of the Council, a lace manufacturer, displeased the trades unionists in his ward by his bitter opposition to them, and they managed with great difficulty to procure his rejection by the Liberal ward caucus. But it subsequently appeared that half of the members of the caucus were in the habit of receiving monthly or fortnightly presents of game, wine, cigars, etc., from their member, that they borrowed money from him, and that every year the whole Liberal Association went for a picnic at his expense. Naturally they thought no man could be more fitted to be their master—and perhaps they were right. In the same way the Conservatives are bossed by a few money-bags. Mr. John Robinson, bookmaker and brewer, has been the generous spring to which the Tories in the Eastern Division have gone, while Mr. E. Cope, lace manufacturer, has been the moneyed man in the Western Division. The natural result is that while the workers are fooled with the appearance of representation, the members of the different public bodies are as a rule a set of puppets to be pulled by strings. Thus the Town Council is bossed by the Town Clerk, the magisterial bench by the Chief Constable, the Board of Guardians and the School Board by their respective chairmen. The poor puppets have often a hard time of it when pulled in opposite directions, and I can fancy the typical marionette pondering, with a wet towel round his head and a cup of coffee in front of him, the great problem, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the trades unionist vote and lose W. H. Farmer's money?"

Our M.P.'s are a curious medley, worthy of their supporters. Broadhurst, who has sold and betrayed the workers like the Judas that he is; Morley, the superior person; and Smith-Wright, a Jingo banker. Not one has an idea above the level of the grocer's shop, and not one cares two pins for the welfare of the workers. P.

LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST SOCIETY.—On Sunday we held our meeting in the morning at the Landing Stage. Barton (Manchester) and Balfour addressed those present. In the afternoon the rain was too heavy to permit of another meeting. On our arrival in the morning at our usual stand, we found it occupied by a party of religionists from the Y.M.C.A., who coolly told us to find another stand. We determined to move them, so while Barton addressed the meeting, the rest of us made such a noise by selling the *Commonweal* and *Justice*, and reading from the former, that we eventually upset them. The police, who at one time interfered, expressed themselves strongly against us, declaring that the others had an equal right to the stand. So far as law goes this was true, but we determined to make our own law, and were successful. Thanks to the Christian intruders, we had the largest meeting yet held. 6s. of literature sold; collection 3s.—E. C. C.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

The following telegram comes this morning from Chicago:

"CHICAGO, Ill., April 28.—Committees of the new bosses' association and the striking carpenters held a conference this afternoon, with a view to arranging for the resumption of work by as many of the strikers as can be employed by the new association. At its conclusion, both sides declined to make public the result until action thereon had been taken by the general bodies which they represent. This leads to the conclusion that they reached an agreement on the terms for resumption of work."

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labour met on April 28th in the afternoon in New York and discussed the conditions and the prospects of the eight hours movement. Samuel Gompers presided, and there were also present First Vice-President William Martin, Second Vice-President P. J. McGuire, Treasurer Henry Emrich, and Secretary Charles Evans. The discussion was secret, and lasted several hours. This appeal was issued:

"To the Toilers of America, greeting. The manifestation of determination on your part to hold the banner of the eight hour movement aloft and to carry it along until victory shall have been achieved, gives hope, encouragement, and rejoicing to the lovers of progress in our country, and finds a hearty and responsive chord in the hopes and aspirations of the down-trodden toilers of Europe. Already are seen emperors, kings, autocrats, and all the other enemies to the cause of labour and progress, palsied and paralysed with fear of the growing power and noble purposes of the toiling masses. The combined power of position and wealth seems not only about to be concentrated to antagonise the introduction of the simple, beneficial, and essential improvement consequent upon a reduction in the hours of labour, but seeks to provoke you into a furious contest. The encouragement our movement has implanted among our fellow working people, and the corresponding antagonism manifested on the part of our enemies, should convince us more than anything else that the policy we have thus far pursued is the one which should be followed without any deviation whatever."

"The advice and suggestions thus far given and made for the conduct of our movement having received your approval, I made so bold as to submit others which to my mind will lead us to a greater degree of success than could otherwise be obtained. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labour has selected the United Brotherhood of Carpenters to make the demand for the enforcement of the eight hour work-day. I ask you to refrain from any sympathetic strikes. Rather remain at your work and aid the carpenters and joiners to win in the contest. To the carpenters and joiners my advice is to demand and insist upon the enforcement of the eight hour work-day. It is not a matter of theory, it is a fact, that the question of wages and conditions will regulate themselves to your benefit as soon as the eight hour work-day has been in operation. For that reason, if you cannot secure the eight hour work-day with other conditions, then allow them to remain open for further adjustment."

"In the demonstration to be made May 1, turn out in vast numbers, and by your presence manifest your unalterable determination to have the eight hour work-day enforced, though by one trade at a time, yet for all as the ultimate result. Allow no one to provoke you to a breach of the peace. Maintain order, refrain from all violence, engage in no riot. Let the watchword be the enforcement of the eight hour work-day. Firm, peaceful, and positive, with stout hearts and clear heads, let us concentrate all efforts for victory upon the carpenters and joiners. Men of labour, steady along the line to achievement of the eight hour work-day!—Fraternally,
SAMUEL GOMPERS."

Sergius S. Shevitsch has taken the lead of the agitation in the eight hour question in New York. It must be confessed he works like a beaver; but I fear his, like all other action taken in this question, is merely so much wasted energy, which might be invested with more profit. The arrangements for the demonstration on the evening of May 1st in Union Square, New York City, are completed.

The programme of the Boston carpenters for their action will be announced to-day.

Gompers has said to a reporter: "The movement of 1886 was chaotic, disintegrated, unsystematic. To-day it is methodical, organised, prepared. We will secure the eight hour day for the workmen of the world—not if it takes all summer, but if it takes all of our lives."

In Chicago the newspapers are publishing the most sensational articles about the action which might be expected by the workers of that city on May 1st. The "scabs" in the carpenter trade of Chicago have already appealed to Jim Blaine, Secretary of State in Washington, to give them the protection of the United States Government, as the authorities of Chicago and of the State of Illinois are unable to protect them—so they say. "Much ado about nothing."

Fully 1,000 packing-house men of Chicago, by a unanimous vote, decided yesterday afternoon to strike unless their request for an eight hour day is complied with.

The 2,000 Milwaukee carpenters strike May 1 for the eight hour day, the contractors having refused to grant their request.

A meeting of carpenters' delegates, representing 1,900 union carpenters out of a total of 3,200 in Philadelphia, adopted resolutions Saturday night pledging themselves to maintain the demand for 35 cents an hour and to insist upon the payment of that sum on and after May 1.

A big labour demonstration took place at Montreal Saturday night in favour of the eight hour movement. Between 3,000 and 4,000 representatives of the labour organisations assembled in Chaboiles Square and were addressed by their leaders. They were advised to combine to combat capital, which was daily driving the working-men to starvation. Resolutions in favour of eight hours were passed.

Hugh O. Pentecost is doing splendid service. He is just now publishing in the *Twentieth Century* a series of articles written by the recognised leaders of the different reform and economic schools. The last number contains an article by "Bob" Ingersoll, and articles of "Free Trade" and on "Protection." As this paper has a circulation of about 20,000 copies in the States, only good results can be expected from such an impartial display of the different views.

Boston, Mass., April 29, 1890.

HENRY F. CHARLES

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Sunday, three large meetings were addressed by Geo. Cores (London) and W. Fuller (Norwich) in the Market Place. The audiences at all the meetings were unanimous in their approval of the Socialist ideas as explained by the speakers, and, without the least doubt, a strong branch of the S.L. will soon be established here. All our *Commonweal*, fifty-two in number, were rapidly sold, and a great many more could have been disposed of had we had them. Altogether, we have "broken the ice" very successfully, and made an opening for very good work in future. The next meetings are to be held on the second Sunday after Whitsunday; meanwhile, private propaganda work will be done. *Special notice*—The *Commonweal* can be obtained of Mr. Heywood, Manor Street, Braintree.—G. C.



OFFICES: 24 GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, W.C.

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

The COMMONWEAL is the official organ of the Socialist League; but, unless definitely so announced by the Editors, no article is to be taken as expressing in more than a general way the views of the League as a body. In accordance with the Manifesto and Statement of Principles of the League, the COMMONWEAL is an exponent of International Revolutionary Socialism. On minor differences of opinion the widest freedom of discussion is maintained. As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to their position in the paper.

Articles and letters dealing with any phase of the social problem are invited and will meet with earnest consideration. They must be written on one side of the paper only, and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication. MSS. can only be returned if a stamped directed envelope accompanies them.

Advertisements can only be inserted if unobjectionable in all particulars. Scale of charges and special quotations may be obtained from the Manager.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, including postage:—For British Islands, Europe, United States, and Canada, a year, 6s.; six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d. For Australia, New Zealand, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal, and the Argentine Republic, a year, 8s.; six months, 4s.; three months, 2s. For India, Ceylon, China, Hong Kong, and the Straits Settlements, a year, 10s.; six months, 5s.; three months, 2s. 6d.

Subscribers who receive a RED WRAPPER are thereby reminded that their subscriptions have expired and must be renewed immediately if they wish to continue to receive COMMONWEAL.

SPECIAL RECRUIT SUBSCRIPTIONS.—To aid in spreading our principles, the following largely reduced terms are offered to those who obtain new subscribers: Two new yearly subscriptions for British Islands, etc., 10s. 6d.; for Australia, etc., 15s.; for India, etc., 19s. Five new subscriptions: For British Islands, etc., 25s.; for Australia, etc., 37s. 6d.; for India, etc., 47s. 6d. Specimen copies will be sent on receipt of postage.

Remittances from abroad must be made by International Money Order.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- R. W. B.—We regret to find your poem hardly up to publication standard.
- C. B. (Liverpool).—The photos of Chicago Anarchists can be obtained from comrade Lucy E. Parsons, Avondale Station, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., at (we think) 50 c. each.
- L. H. (Salford).—We have something more important to do than to quarrel over details of future society. Most certainly no intelligent reader of the *Commonweal* could ever have suspected us of tenderness toward parliamentarism.
- J. H. WOOD (Detroit, Mich.).—Thanks for communication, which, however, we regret to be unable to utilise.
- "APPAL TO THOSE WHO LABOUR."—We regret to find this poem unsuitable, even though it were not sent anonymously.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
News from Nowhere; or, an Epoch of Rest (continued) ..	WILLIAM MORRIS 161
The Cause Goes Marching On	J. M. B. 162
Notes from Nottingham	P. 163
In the United States	H. F. CHARLES 163
Notes	D. J. NICOLL 164
The Song of the Workers	J. G. 165
'Commonweal' Concert and Dance	J. TURNER 165
Scottish Notes	J. BRUCE GLASIER 165
Correspondence 166
The Labour Struggle	D. J. NICOLL 166
Executive Announcements, Reports, Lecture Diary, and Notices of Meetings ..	167
Statement of Principles, Advertisements, etc., etc.	168

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday May 21.

ENGLAND	FRANCE	SWITZERLAND
Coming Times	Paris—Bourse du Travail	Arbeiterstimme
Justice	Le Proletariat	ITALY
Norwich—Daylight	La Revue Socialiste	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
People's Press	Le Parti ouvrier	SPAIN
Railway Review	Charleville—L'Emancipation	Madrid—El Socialista
Railway Review	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	PORTUGAL
Seafaring	Lyon—L'Action Sociale	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Worker's Friend	Rouen—Le Salariat	AUSTRIA
QUEENSLAND	HOLLAND	Vienna—Arbeiter-Zeitung
Brisbane—Worker	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Trieste—Confeder. Operaia
INDIA	Anarchist	Brunn—Volkstreudung
Bankipore—Behar Herald	BELEM	Brunn—Arbeiterstimme
UNITED STATES	La Societe Nouvelle	HUNGARY
New York—Truthseeker	Antwerp—De Werker	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
New York—Der Sozialist	Brussels—La Reforme Sociale	DENMARK
New York—Freiheit	Ghent—Vooruit	Social-Demokraten
Twentieth Century		Copenhagen—Arbejderen
Volkzeitung		SWEDEN
Workmen's Advocate		Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
Bakers' Journal		Malmo—Arbetet
Boston—Woman's Journal		ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung		Buenos Ayres—Vorwarts
Chicago—Knights of Labour		
Vorbote		
Cincinnati (O.) Volks-Anwalt		

NOTES.

PROBABLY Mr. Stanley thought he was quite safe at the Guildhall the other night, when he fell foul of the Quakers. Unlike the honest tar in the Savoy opera, who thought the "hitting of a gal was a lubberly thing to do," Mr. Stanley likes fighting when there is no chance of

effective retaliation. Bullying a Quaker, he doubtless thought, was as safe and exciting as shooting down naked savages with an elephant gun or repeating rifle. He has now found out his mistake, and has made himself look a fool into the bargain.

Stanley's accusation against Mr. Pease of having attacked the East African Company for their employment of slaves was quite unfounded, and on Mr. Pease demanding a public apology, in the cool, quiet fashion peculiar to Quakers, the great explorer has had to eat the leek, though he has not accomplished the feat with a very good grace. It is rather amusing to see the fierce African butcher conquered by a mild, peaceable Quaker.

As to Stanley's other charge against the Quakers, of being indifferent to the suppression of the slave-trade, Mr. Pease has done well to leave Mr. Stanley contemptuously to "the judgment of the public." Not only have the Quakers done their utmost in this direction, but they have always been noted for their kind treatment of native races. They have been hungry for profit, it is true, but the blood of murdered savages does not cry from the ground against them. Elephant rifles and explosive bullets have not played their part in their commercial propaganda.

Mr. Pease, however, did ask a question about the employment of slaves in Africa, but it was not about the slaves of the East African Company, but concerning the slaves of Stanley. It appears that, according to the admissions of the Government in reply to a question of Mr. Pease in Parliament on Wednesday May 7, the virtuous Mr. Stanley has been "suppressing" the slave-trade by utilising slaves as porters for his expedition, and on his return to Zanzibar he handed the slaves back to their masters, who took half their wages. We can understand now why so much flogging, etc., goes on in Stanley's expeditions. No wonder Stanley was wild with Mr. Pease for showing him up as a hypocritical fraud, who is always talking about his anxiety to "suppress" the slave-trade, and yet finds his chief allies among the slave-hunting cut-throats, and provides them with a profitable market for their wares by employing slaves for his caravans. Is this what Stanley calls "suppressing the slave-trade"? It is more like encouraging it.

But Stanley has still another cause for anger against Mr. Pease, who, it appears, had also called attention to the "Christian" enterprise of Stanley's friend and patron, Leopold of Belgium, who has been exporting 400 slaves from Zanzibar for the Congo Railway. When we remember that this "noble and public-spirited" monarch was denounced some time ago by a religious periodical as a frequenter of Mrs. Jeffries' "fashionable establishment" in Pimlico, we confess we can sympathise with Stanley's indignation on his behalf. Like Mr. Stanley, this "noble" prince does good by stealth and blushes to find it fame. He is of course perfectly qualified as a model of virtuous respectability "to impregnate the dull minds of Africans . . . with the light of religious ideas."

But Stanley was truly "eloquent" when, amid an audience of Stock Exchange gamblers, turtle-fed aldermen, the most shameless collection of jobbers and robbers in existence, he declaimed upon the advantages of his civilising march—i.e., unlimited Bibles, bullets, and Christianity for the natives and a "hundred per cent." for investors. How Mr. Stanley's "Christian" friends from the *Daily Telegraph* must have rubbed their hands when they heard that eloquent sound fall from the lips of the inspired orator! We can fancy them exclaiming, "Vun hundred per shent! Vy, my tear, it ish petter as money-lending." No wonder the assemblage was enthusiastic when Stanley denounced his opponents, and called down upon them the rebuke of "every man in whose soul the divine feeling of Christian charity is not quite dead." If the divine feeling of Christian charity can only exist in the souls of those who make a hundred per cent. profit out of the sweat, blood, and agony of miserable slaves, we would rather be without it. Mr. Stanley's "piety" is like the "godliness" of Shylock.

"Mark you this, Bassanio,
The devil can cite scripture to his purpose.
An evil soul, producing holy witness,
Is like a villain, with a smiling cheek,
A goodly apple rotten at the heart."

We make Mr. Stanley and his congregation of city usurers a present of the quotation. D. N.

NOTICE.

The Picture on the front page is a reduced fac-simile of a beautiful full-page Cartoon, designed by our comrade Walter Crane, to commemorate the recent world-wide celebration of the Solidarity of Labour. Printed on fine paper for framing, it may be had from this office in cardboard protector, for 4d., post free, 2s. a dozen.

With the next number of COMMONWEAL we shall be enabled, by the kindness of the proprietor of CYNICUS, to give an outline reproduction of the cartoon "Capital and Labour," which attracted so much notice when published in that paper, and which we referred to with praise a few weeks ago.

THE SONG OF THE WORKERS.

BY PIERRE DUPONT.

(Translated in the original measure, to be sung to the original tune.)

LET us who hear the shrill voiced cock
With clarion blast disturb our slumbers,
Who to the mill and forge must flock
At early morn in countless numbers ;
Who for a scanty wage must sell
Our arms and limbs but to our sorrow,
The fear of want can ne'er dispel,
Nor make provision for the morrow.

Chorus—Be brothers, let our glasses clink
Together ; never more we'll sunder,
Though shot and shell around us thunder,
We'll drink
An end to avarice and plunder.

The jealous wave, the stubborn soil,
Yield up their treasure to our labours ;
Our arms are stiff with ceaseless toil
To pamper those whom fortune favours.
We gather from the hill and vale,
From sea and shore, from mine and meadow,
Those piles of wealth the eyes regale,
Yet die ourselves beneath their shadow.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

Poor sheep ! our backs rich garments give
The gilded few who scorn our station ;
In pride and luxury they live
While toil and want degrade the nation.
Machines are we ; we sweat and bend
To raise great buildings high as heaven ;
Without us soon the world would end
Yet from the hives like bees we're driven.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

The puny heir of some domain
Our wives oft nurse to health and vigour,
And yet with them this Son of Cain
At play or feast would blush to figure.
In olden days the lords might take
The bride from out her groom's embraces ;
Now cold and want our daughters make
The prey of such as deal in laces.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

Ill clothed, ill housed, in cellars foul,
Beneath the thatch, in ruins hoary,
We live companions of the owl
And thief—in truth a piteous story !
Yet the red blood within our veins
Impetuous runs in bounding measure—
Ah, could we sport upon the plains,
Or seek the green wood for our pleasure !

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

And when, as oft, we shed our gore
In streams that all the wide world cover,
The tyrant only reaps the more
From fields o'er which the vultures hover.
We have been fools : henceforth our power
We'll spend in breaking slavery's fetter,
And fill with mirth the passing hour
That brings the world from good to better.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

Edinburgh.

J. G.

'COMMONWEAL' CONCERT AND DANCE.

MONDAY, May 12th, saw Revolutionary Socialists and their friends thoroughly enjoying themselves at the Athenæum Hall, Tottenham Court Road. The occasion was the Concert and Dance organised by the 'Commonweal' Branch of the S.L. for the benefit of the *Commonweal*. It was evident from the first that every one had come to enjoy themselves ; and so they did. The sketch, "The Duchess of Bayswater and Co.," in which our comrades Wm. Morris, May Morris, Sparling, Radford, Walker, and others took part, was highly appreciated, especially the little unrehearsed incident toward the end, which was so well performed that most of the audience thought it part of the play until they saw the actors laughing almost as heartily as themselves. After this the hall was cleared for dancing, which went on merrily to the music of W. H. Friswell's quadrille band, conducted by our friend E. C. Morgan. Our German comrades of the Central Männer Gesang Verein rendered some excellent singing between the dances, as did also the choir of the Hammersmith Branch, which greatly added to the evening's entertainment. Only one thing was wanting—it was that more of our male English comrades could dance. Under the circumstances it was largely one-sided, and many female comrades were somewhat disappointed at not being asked more frequently when there were so many in the room. However, those that could kept the ball rolling till the early hours, and when parting time came every one was surprised to find how quickly the time had flown, and broke up expressing the hope that it would not be long before another of a similar character was organised. It had brought comrades together who had never met before, and all agreed that a most enjoyable evening had been spent. It remains to be seen what the result will be so far as regards the object of the entertainment, the *Commonweal* benefit. Let us hope it will be a good one, and thus encourage comrades to get up another with even better results.

J. TURNER.

War makes thieves, Peace hangs them.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

"LABOUR DAY" was not celebrated in Scotland.

Our comrades of the Scottish Socialist Federation held a demonstration on Sunday the 4th—in Edinburgh. No other Labour Demonstration that I know of took place in Scotland.

In Glasgow a large demonstration might have been held on Sunday, but it would have required much money to have "organised" it so as to make it fairly representative of the sentiments of the workers, and neither the local Branch of the Socialist League nor the S.D.F. had funds available. The Glasgow Trades Council took no heed of the matter.

In Glasgow none of the Socialist bodies are so strong or so lively as they were a year or two ago. They have been deserted by many of their members, especially the well-to-do ones. Just when Socialist ideas are spreading rapidly among all sections of the people, active interest in propaganda has declined among many of those who in times past were energetic. Of course this is merely a temporary experience, nevertheless it is not an inspiring one. Many Socialists deserve severe reproach for their indifference. Their apathy seriously lessens the usefulness of the efforts of those who have unflinchingly stood to their posts of duty.

It must be recognised, however, that this apathy is common to all political and labour associations just now—except when a parliamentary election or a strike for an increase of sixpence a-day is on the field.

There are three Land Restoration (Henry George) Councillors in the Glasgow Town Council, yet not a single voice was raised against the proposal to confer the Freedom of the City on Mr. Stanley. One might have thought that men who vehemently assert that the land of a country belongs to the people who inhabit it, would have protested in some form against any honour, however unsubstantial, being bestowed on a man whose mission has been to confiscate territory by fraud and murder.

There has been a deal of excitement among Glasgow money-bags over the Railway Bills which have been before the Parliamentary Committees during the last two weeks. Westminster has been literally besieged with witnesses for and against the various proposals. Railway directors and officials, landlords, capitalists, lawyers, doctors, civil engineers, etc., have been there in legions delivering their testimonies in favour of their own and their clients' interests—but no working-man, and no one to represent the interest of the workers, has given evidence. Of course, working-men have no "interest" in railways, land, or vested rights of any description ; and the appearance of a representative of labour before the Committees would have been unseemly and ridiculous. Nevertheless, when Socialists venture to tell the workers this very apparent truth, politicians and editors grind their teeth in virtuous indignation and denounce Socialists as knaves and fools.

The Edinburgh police "are straining every nerve," we are told by the press, to catch the audacious thief who stole some £60 or £70 worth of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh's jewels from the hotel wherein the royal pair sojourned on the occasion of their opening the Edinburgh Exhibition. I wonder, indeed, when these vigilant thief-catchers will "strain every nerve" to catch the Duke and Duchess for stealing these jewels, as well as every particle of property which they possess—from the shirts upon their backs to the horses in their stables—from the starving tax-payers of this rich and enlightened country ?

Frank Sherman, aged 84, one of the oldest Freemasons in Scotland, who had reached the twenty-eighth degree, and was a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and who "stood next to the Prince of Wales at the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Glasgow Post Office," died last week in extreme poverty at Castle-Douglas. He had been in receipt of pauper relief for many years. The "charity" and "brotherhood" of Freemasonry appear to be about as hollow shams as those of Christianity, in these days.

Some 500 tailors are on strike or lock-out in Glasgow, owing to the Master Tailors' Association insisting that garments hitherto paid first and second class shall in future be paid only third class. Some time ago the masters granted an advance in price for all the three classes ; and now, after having raised the selling price of clothes, they seek to rob the poor workers of their share by reducing the first and second classes to third class—a strategem which, if successful, will actually give their workers lower pay than before. Meanwhile, the work of the men on strike and lock-out is being done in notorious sweating dens. Now these master tailors are not Jews or Germans, they are Christians and Scotchmen. Many of them are elders and deacons in the kirk, and take a lively interest in evangelical and philanthropic missions at home and abroad. I don't think we should wish capital punishment just yet.

For several weeks past the Glasgow police have been diligently

honouring the Sabbath day and keeping it holy by making wholesale raids upon "shebeens." With their usual nice discrimination, they have made no attempt to disturb the Sunday merry-making in hotels, clubs, or mansions of the west-end; they have confined their virtuous efforts to the "illegal" retailing of drink in the slums. Up lanes and stairs in the most unwholesome parts of the city they have marched in martial array, seizing indiscriminately men, women, bottles of beer, and jars of whiskey.

And the temperance people have applauded. It is such good and noble work to prevent the poor, who cannot keep a magazine of champagne, wine, whiskey, and beer, all of the best quality, in their own homes, and get drunk comfortably, from going to places where they can only get raw whiskey and flat beer, and then lie down poisoned on the floor! It is comforting also to these reformers to think that the poor, who cannot afford to take a room in a hotel or hire a trap and drive to some neighbouring town, where they would be *bona fide* travellers, must in future be made to feel that among the many advantages of civilisation, besides having no chance of getting rich during the week days, they will have no opportunity of getting drunk on Sundays.

For downright blazing hypocrisy commend me to your average teetotal magistrates. Look at what they have done in Paisley. That town being only some six miles from Glasgow, many Glasgow people went there for a drink on Sundays, duly qualified as *bona fide* travellers. This the teetotal magistrates of Paisley determined to put an end to—and this is the way they have done it. Hotel-keepers in future are only to supply one drink to each traveller, and that one drink must be charged not less than one shilling! This sublime arrangement will of course shut out poor workmen and tramps—the only people likely to be *bona fide* travellers on Sundays nowadays—and it will keep the hotels "genteel" for the sporting men, commercial travellers, shopkeepers, and lawyers, who can hire a conveyance and have a drink in every hotel in the town; while the extra charge will recoup the hotel-keepers for the diminished custom!

The "Servant Girl" question is again up for discussion in the press here. The faults and follies of these domestic slaves are being eloquently exposed and denounced by one fine lady after another; and a proposal has been made that a "mistresses' defence association" should be formed. One energetic lady, in collaboration with her husband, has actually drawn up a form wherein may be duly entered all the faults and failings of servants, without which certificate from their last mistress no other mistress may engage them.

Servant girls are no doubt often very dirty, very lazy, very frivolous, and sometimes positively wicked; and little wonder that they are so; but in the mass they are superior in every degree of womanhood to their mistresses. Physically, mentally, and morally, they are better fitted to survive; and I should infinitely prefer that the coming race should be born of them than of their cold, artificial, enervated, and indolent mistresses.

But why should there be servants or mistresses at all? Why should one girl have to wash and dress and clean and cook for half a dozen grown-up women and men, who ought to be quite capable of doing all these things for themselves? Why should the daughters of the poor be compelled to leave their own homes and spend the best part of their lives in penal servitude, in the houses of those who exist by fleecing and toiling to death their fathers and brothers in workshops and factories? If these girls were retained in their own homes, how much lighter would be the burden of motherhood of their mothers and sisters? how much brighter and pleasanter in every way would be the dwellings of the toilers? Surely in the promise that Socialism gives of bringing back our sisters and daughters to our homes—bringing them back alike from the sunk flats of domestic servitude and from the noxious dens of warehouses and factories—there is enough to rouse every true and brave man to join resolutely in the struggle for the Social Revolution!

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BLANKET-WEAVERS OF COURS.

COMRADES,—I must ask your indulgence once more, having recently received another letter from our French friends on strike at Cours. Two hundred workers are still actually out of employment, and have to be supported somehow by their fellows, who, to help them as far as their own means allow, have imposed on themselves a levy of 10 per cent. on their wages. This, however, does not suffice, and these strikers, after near upon ten months' endurance, have had no means of renewing clothes, shoes, etc., and besides the actual want of nourishment, find themselves in a most miserable condition. The blacklegs who have got their places in the workshops and who only make from 2 fr. 50 cents. to 3 francs a-day, when the masters had held out the bait of from 4 to 6 francs a-day, are not in a particularly enviable position, seeing that they have to be housed as in a barrack by their employer, and find the greatest difficulty in getting supplied with necessaries, being boycotted by the tradespeople around.

Not to take up too much of your space, I will merely add to these few details of a foreign strike, which are always interesting to us Socialists, the fact that my subscription-list is not yet closed, and that I shall be glad to receive any further donations your readers are willing to spare to add to the funds of this strike.—Yours fraternally,

MAY MORRIS.

STRIKE FUND.			
Amount already acknowledged	£28 9 4
Laun spach	0 9 6

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

London Postmen and the Police.

The beneficent State which is to give us a "legal" eight hours day and load us with blessings, has shown by its treatment of some of the workers who are sweated by it how likely it is to fulfil all the fond prophecies of its admirers. The London Postmen took advantage of the Jubilee of the Penny Post to hold a meeting on Clerkenwell Green to demand the right of meeting and combination, the proper enforcement of the eight hour day, and a minimum wage of 24s. a-week. The Postmaster-General issued a manifesto forbidding the men to attend the meeting upon pain of dismissal. This gentleman is deeply grieved in his heart because the postmen won't comply with official regulations, which stipulate that only postmen shall address meetings of postmen, and that there shall be an official shorthand reporter present who shall take down their speeches, so that any man who speaks out boldly may be sacked at the first convenient opportunity. Processions were to march to the meeting, but these were immediately forbidden by Mr. Munro. The East-end procession, which was to start from Mile-end Waste, was crushed at once by an overwhelming force of police. The postmen of the Western Division marched in procession in defiance of the Chief Commissioner. They were of course brutally attacked and broken up. But with dauntless courage they formed again and again, despite repeated police charges. But close to the Holborn Post-Office the police set upon the men with ruffianly fury—one sergeant setting the example to his men by striking one of the processionists with his fist. A short, sharp struggle, and the postmen were finally dispersed. Now, it is evident that the police are determined to put down all Socialist and trade-unionist processions during the week. Workmen who want to collect funds for hospitals, where experiments are carried out upon the bodies of the poor for the benefit of the rich, will of course be excepted. We have seen that done already in the case of the hospital demonstration of Saturday May 11th, which caused ten times more obstruction than trade-union or Socialist processions. Our boasted freedom of speech and meeting is rapidly disappearing. Trafalgar Square went first; now processions are prohibited on every day but Sunday. Soon Sunday processions will be stopped because they interfere with the comfort and repose of the middle classes upon that sacred day; and last of all, Sunday demonstrations will be put down on the same pretext. The time has come for workmen to make a firm stand upon this question by organising processions and demonstrations in all parts of London to protest against the increasing tyranny of the police authorities.

End of the Tailors' Strike.

The East-end strike concluded on Sunday by the masters accepting the terms proposed by the men. They have agreed to employ none but union men, and to combine with the workers to bring pressure to bear upon the shopkeepers by refusing to work for any firm that will not pay the union prices. All shops that refuse to pay these prices will be boycotted by both masters and men. A committee of masters and men has been formed to arrange details of united action. A great Government contractor, distinguished in the trade by paying only 2s. 3d. for making a policeman's coat, will be the first to be attacked. We hope the masters—who caused the present strike by refusing to carry out the terms they had agreed to—have been taught a useful lesson, and will not try any of their treacherous tricks again.

The Tram Men.

The tram-men have been very quiet for the last few months. Probably they have been waiting to see whether Mr. Sutherland's "Twelve Hours Bill" will get through the House of Commons. Some of them have got tired of waiting, and last week there was talk of a strike in Battersea. The tramway manager, Mr. Jacques, has set the union at defiance. He refuses to receive a deputation from the union, and treats it as a bogus body. The union at the last moment, on the advice of John Burns, has decided to try for another interview with the manager instead. Burns probably knows the strength of the union, but it is certainly a great pity that it should threaten a strike and then withdraw at the last moment. This is the third time this has been done. This kind of action is not likely to increase Mr. Jacques's respect for this weak-kneed association.

Another Trade Depression Coming.

Already there are signs that another trade depression is rapidly approaching. The last labour statistics from the Board of Trade, combined with the recent returns concerning exports and imports, point this out so strongly that even the middle-class press is beginning to admit it. The trade-unions report this month a percentage of 1.96 members out, as against 1.7 in April and 1.4 in March. The ship-building trade is very depressed; textile industries of Lancashire have not been in a very lively condition even during the recent brief period of prosperity, and certainly now show no signs of improvement. The depression in the iron-trade, which began in Staffordshire, is now extending to the North. The iron and steel trades at Workington, in Cumberland, are in a critical condition. From Sheffield and Rotherham we hear that most of the iron and steel workers are working short time; and from Middlesboro, in Yorkshire, the centre of the iron trade, comes the same gloomy story of a rapid fall in prices. On the whole, it seems that the reckless gambling of our exploiters has had its usual result, and that the people are once more to be plunged into bitter misery through the avarice and greed of their masters. But I don't think they will suffer so quietly this time. Revolutionary ideas have spread far and wide since the last trade depression, and the people will not starve quietly this time to please their masters. If they have been discontented and restive during a period of prosperity, what will they be when they are face to face with starvation and despair?

SWEDEN.—The May Day demonstration has, in all industrial parts of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, been a far greater success than the most hopeful Socialists dared predict. In all the larger towns enormous masses of workers came out with their banners and bands, and held meetings, where the claims for the limitation of the hours of work to eight was strongly put forward. A surprise to the Socialists of Stockholm was the very able and energetic support they got from some democratic papers and leaders. Two of the best speakers at the gigantic Stockholm demonstration were well-known democrats of high education. There is no doubt that the Scandinavian bourgeoisie has got a powerful impression of the grasp of Socialism upon "their" labourers. Who can doubt that this may be the real beginning of the end—if only agitators and leaders understand to develop this Labour Day idea in a truly revolutionary spirit?—STN.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 24, GREAT QUEEN ST., LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.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.

Propaganda Committee.—The Propaganda Committee meets on Tuesday, May 27, at 8.30 p.m. Special meeting; important business; all members of the League interested in the propaganda invited to attend.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.—1888:—Oxford, to end of September. 1889:—Bradford and Hammersmith, to end of April. Yarmouth, to end of May. Mitcham, to end of November. St. Georges East, to end of December.

1890:—'Commonweal' Branch, to end of February. East London, Manchester, and North London, to end of March. Leicester, and North Kensington, to end of April. Norwich, to end of May. Streatham, to end of December.

Notice.—All letters on League business, except those intended for Editors of *Commonweal*, to be addressed to me. No other person is authorised to sign any official communication. FRANK KITZ, Secretary.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference of the Socialist League will take place on Whit Sunday, May 25th, at the Communist Club, 49, Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road. Dinner provided at club.

NEW PREMISES FUND.

Collected at Council meeting, May 19th, 4s. 8½d.

"COMMONWEAL" GUARANTEE FUND.

The following further sums have been received towards this fund:—North London Branch (6 weeks), 18s.; Streatham Branch, 6s.; B. W., 6d.; H. R., 1s.; D. Nicoll, 6d.; Glasgow Branch (2 weeks), 10s.; Blatant, 6d.; C. Saunders, 2s.; Liverpool Socialist Society, 3s. 8d.; and Bines, 1s.

REPORTS.

HAMMERSMITH.—Good meeting at Bridge End on Sunday for over two hours; attentive audience; speakers were Morris, S. Grant, Johnson, Davis, Sparling, Bullock, Tarleton, and Catterson Smith; 41 'Weals' sold, and other literature 1s. 9d. In the evening fair meeting, Tarleton, Johnson, and S. Grant speaking; 10 'Weals' sold. Good meeting at Walham Green in the evening; speakers were Catterson Smith, Bullock, and Davis; 'Weals' and pamphlets sold, 1s. 7d. Good meeting at Starch Green, speakers being Mordhurst, Kitchen, and A. J. Smith.

NORTH KENSINGTON.—Fair meeting at Latimer Road; speakers were J. Lyne, Saint, Coulon, and Crouch. The branch held a very successful meeting on the Wormwood Scrubs, this being the first held there by the branch; speakers were Maughan, Crouch, W. H. Rogers, Dean, and Saint; fair sale of 'Weals' during the day.—M. SHARP, sec. pro. tem.

STREATHAM.—Streatham Common was opened up on Sunday morning by the Streatham branch, and considering there was no public notice of meeting a large audience assembled. Two or three hundred were induced to listen to the earnest address of comrade Collins, who preached Revolutionary Socialism pure and simple; 3s. 6d. collected, and 30 *Commonweal* and some pamphlets sold. In the evening a fairly good meeting was held, Collins and Smith being the speakers; the meeting was a prolonged one owing to the enthusiasm of the audience; good collection and 29 'Weals' sold.—S.

ABERDEEN.—On the afternoon of Saturday, 17th, an eight hours demonstration took place on the Aberdeen Links under the auspices of the Trades Council. With bright, sunshiny weather, about 10,000 persons attended—a procession of the trades with bands, banners, and men at work in lorries marching through the streets, which were blocked by enormous masses of people. There were three platforms, and among the speakers were Champion, Webster, and Leatham. A conference was held in the evening to discuss the policy of labour. Champion delivered a long address, and in the discussion which followed, amidst much vain enough talk about new political machinery, Socialism was not forgotten, any more than it was at the demonstration. Duncan, Semple, and Leatham were in evidence, and Champion declared himself, with obvious sincerity, as much of a Socialist as ever. At usual meeting on 18th, Morris's magnificent lecture, "Art and Socialism," delivered at Leicester, as long ago as 1884, was read and discussed.—L.

GLASGOW.—Sunday meeting on Jail Square not held. In the evening Glasier spoke at Paisley Road Toll, where the meeting (which was a very large one) was twice interrupted by a "thunder plump" of rain. We have not yet secured a new meeting-place.

LEEDS.—On Sunday the usual two meetings were held in the Croft, when Maguire, Roper, and Samuels spoke; a good collection was made on behalf of some labourers on strike; good sale of 'Weals'.

MANCHESTER.—A meeting was held at Middleton on Saturday night, when W. E. Strange, J. Strange, and Baillie spoke; a lively discussion followed, which terminated with a challenge to hold a public debate on Socialism between two of our opponents and two from the League, which is arranged to take place on Saturday, June 7th; 18 'Weals' sold. On Sunday morning at Philip's Park, Stockton, Strange and Charles (of Sheffield) addressed a good audience; 28 *Commonweal* sold. In the afternoon Charles spoke in Stevenson Square after the cabinet makers, now on strike, had held a meeting; 'Weals' sold out.

NORWICH.—On Sunday last a good meeting was held in the Market Place; Lenneying and comrade Neilson (London) spoke; good sale of *Commonweal* and pamphlets. In the evening, no meeting was held, owing to weather. At Coltishall, in the afternoon, a good meeting was held, addressed by comrade Poynts and another; good impression made.

YARMOUTH.—On Sunday, on Priory Plain, comrades Neilson (Freedom Group), Darley, and Ruffold addressed a large and attentive audience. In the afternoon, in the Club-room, a discussion on Socialism by Brightwell and Ruffold. In the evening, on Colman's Quay, a meeting was addressed by Ruffold; many questions were asked, and answered by Headley and Ruffold to the satisfaction of the audience. 2s. 2d. collected; 17 *Commonweal* sold.—J. H.

BOLTON.—On Sunday evening last, May 18th, a meeting numbering upwards of 1,000 persons, on Town Hall Square, was addressed by Stockton (of Manchester) and Shuffelbotham and Smith (of Bolton). Stockton kept the audience well together for an hour and a quarter, and when asked by Shuffelbotham if they wished to hear any more speakers on Socialism, they answered "Yes." 5s. 4d. collected; *Commonweal* sold out. This should encourage other speakers to come down.—J. S.

ROCHDALE SOCIALISTS.—We had two open-air meetings on Sunday, afternoon and night. On the Town Hall Square comrade Baillie (S. L.), from Manchester, addressed an audience of 400; slight opposition. Collection, 6s.; papers, 1s. 4d.

EDINBURGH—SCOTTISH SOCIALIST FEDERATION.—A large meeting was held on the Meadows, at which the men on strike in the Scottish Leader office were present and made known their position publicly. A resolution was carried unanimously to give all possible support to the strikers, and to boycott the paper. Hamilton, Smith, Davidson, and Bell, and T. C. Smith (for the compositors) were the speakers.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Battersea.—All communications to E. Buteux, 45, Inwith Street, Battersea Park Road.

Commonweal Branch.—24 Great Queen Street, Holborn, W.C. Business meeting of members every Thursday evening at 8; Discussion Class at 9. Hall open every evening from 7 till 10.

East London.—All branch communications to be addressed to H. M'Kenzie, 12 Basing Place, Kingsland Road.

Hammersmith.—Kelmecott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday May 25, at 8 p.m., William Thompson, "Women and Citizenship." French Class conducted by Mlle. Desrosches on Friday evenings at 7.30.

Mitcham.—"Lord Napier," Fair Green. Meets every Sunday at 12.30, to enroll members, etc.

North Kensington.—Clarendon Coffee Palace, Clarendon Road. Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. The branch Band meets every Friday at 8 p.m. for practice. Comrades wishing to join to give in their names to the Instructor at the above address.

North London.—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Streatham.—Address secretary, R. Smith, 1 Natal Road, Streatham.

Whitechapel and St. Georges-in-the-East.—Branch meetings at International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road. J. Turner, organising secretary.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Organiser, J. Leatham, 7 Jamaica Street. Branch meets in Hall, 9 Harriet Street, on Sunday evenings at 6.30. Singing practice, etc., in Odd-fellows' Small Hall, Crooked Lane, Mondays at 8 p.m.

Glasgow.—Members are invited to meet on Thursday and Sunday evenings, at 8 o'clock, in the Secretary's house, 250 Crown Street, S.S. All communications to be sent to that address.

Hali'fax.—Socialists meet every Sunday at 6.30 p.m. at Helliwell's Temperance Hotel, Northgate.

Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Road, School Close. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Leicester.—Exchange Buildings, Rutland Street. Branch meets on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Manchester.—Socialist League Club, 60 Grovesnor Street, All Saints. Open every evening. Branch weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 8.

Norwich.—Members' meet at 23 Rose Yard, St. Augustines, Tuesday at 8.30.

Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. First Friday in every month, at 8.30 p.m.

Walsall.—Socialist Club, 18 Goodall Street, Walsall. Meetings every night.

Yarmouth.—Socialist League Club, 56 Row, Market Place. Open every evening. Business Meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Elocution Class Friday at 8.30 p.m. Discussion Class Sunday 3 p.m.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SATURDAY 24.

7 Hyde Park Nicoll and Cantwell

SUNDAY 25.

11 Latimer Road Station North Kensington Branch

11.30... Hammersmith Bridge Hammersmith Branch

11.30... Kilburn—"Old Plough," Kilburn Lane... Mainwaring and Mrs. Lahr

11.30... Mitcham—Fair Green The Branch

11.30... Regent's Park The Branch

3.30... Hyde Park—Marble Arch The Branch

3.30... Victoria Park The Branch

7 Hammersmith Bridge Hammersmith Branch

7 Weltje Road, Ravenscourt Park Hammersmith Branch

7 Wormwood Scrubs North Kensington Branch

7.30... Mitcham Fair Green The Branch

8 Streatham Green Branch

8 Walham Green—back of Church Hammersmith Branch

THURSDAY 29.

8.15... Hoxton Church Kitz and Davis

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Sunday: Jail Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock.

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

Leicester.—Sunday: Russell Square at 11 a.m.; Humberstone Gate, at 8 p.m.

Liverpool.—Landing Stage, Sundays at 11.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Manchester.—Saturday: Middleton market ground, at 7 p.m. Sunday: Phillips Park Gates, at 11; Stevenson Square, at 3.

Norwich.—Sunday: Market Place at 3 and 7.30.

Sheffield.—Sunday: Monolith, Fargate, at 11.30 a.m.; Pump, West Bar, 8 p.m.

Monday: Lady's Bridge Wicker, at 7 p.m. Rotherham—Sunday: College Yard, at 3 p.m.

Yarmouth.—Sunday: Priory Plain, at 11; Bradwell, 11.30; Colman's Granary Quay, at 7.

Commonweal agent in Sloane Square, S.W.—

JAMES MITCHENER, 1 Earl-street, Sloane-square

ROCHDALE SOCIALISTS.—Meetings held every evening at 28 Blackwater Street, Rochdale.

EDINBURGH—SCOTTISH SOCIALIST FEDERATION.—Meeting in Meadows, Sunday at 6 p.m.

LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST SOCIETY.—1 Stanley Street, Dale Street.—Meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

NEW MANHOOD SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.—"Three Doves," Berwick St., Soho, W.—Sunday May 25, at 8.30 p.m., Henry Green, "Mutual Banking."

NORWICH.—A great Socialist Demonstration will be held in July, when speakers are invited to take part. Communicate with A. Sutton, 23 Rose Yard, St. Augustines.

THE NORTH KENSINGTON BRANCH appeal to comrades and friends for their Band Fund. They have the offer of getting drums very cheap from a band that has become defunct, and want to raise about £2 4s. for this purpose. Please send subscriptions to Mrs. Fox, Clarendon Coffee Tavern, Clarendon Road.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALIST CLUB.—We have now opened some fine and centrally situated premises at 63 Blonk Street, containing meeting room, reading room and library, smoke room for games, etc. Open every evening, and on Sunday all day. Membership, 1d. weekly. French Class, conducted by Ed. Carpenter, every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m.; terms, 3d. weekly, which goes towards club funds. Discussion every Wednesday at 8 p.m. We have a good assortment of Labour and Socialist papers from various parts of the world on our reading tables, but should be glad of any books for library. We are very sanguine of being able to accomplish grand propagandas in Sheffield and district during the coming summer, and ask the earnest co-operation of all Socialists in this neighbourhood.

SOCIALIST LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS.

Leaflets.

The following are now on hand—Price per thousand :

Straight Talk to Working Men ...	4 0
Strikes and the Labour Struggle ...	3 0
Labour the source of all Wealth ...	3 0
To Working Women and Girls ...	3 0
What Socialists Want ...	3 0
Socialism and "Public Opinion" ...	2 0
Songs for the Workers (2 leaflets)—each	2 0
The Skeleton or Starvation Army ...	2 0

American Literature.

A few remainders—

Wealth Creation (Mongreidin). Cloth ...	3 6
Problem of Labour and Education (Karoli). Cloth ...	1 6
Christian Missions. Cloth ...	1 0
Labour Capital (Kellogg) ...	1 0
Plutarch's Lives of Famous Men ...	1 0
A History of the Trial of the Chicago Anarchists (Dyer Lum) ...	1 0
Speeches of the Chicago Anarchists ...	1 0
Modern Christianity v. Heathenism ...	0 9
Scholar in a Republic (Wendell Philipps) ...	0 8
Socialism (by Starkweather and Wilson) ...	0 6
The Great Strike: the Irrepressible Con- flict between Capital and Labour ...	0 4
What is Freedom? When am I Free? ...	0 4
The Railway Kings and an American Empire ...	0 2
Object of the Labour Movement ...	0 2

MISCELLANEOUS.

Spaziergänge eines Atheisten. Bei Ferdin- and Heigl ...	0 8
The Reciter for Clubs and Social Gatherings	0 1

The above Leaflets, at prices given, can be had from the *Commonweal* manager in any quantities by Branches, members, or sympathisers, for distribution, 24, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION, LTD.

49 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, W.C.

Sound Goods at Fair Prices!

SOCIALISTS of every shade who wish well to this enterprise should give it the first chance before going elsewhere. Boycott the Sweater all you can!

SEAFARING.

THE RECOGNISED ORGAN OF THE
SEAFARING CLASS.

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR SEAFARING
FOLK AND THEIR FRIENDS.

Deserves the support of all interested in the welfare
of Seamen.

One Penny, weekly.

150 Minories, E.

IBSEN'S PROSE DRAMAS.

(IN FOUR VOLUMES.)

EDITED BY WILLIAM ARCHER.

Crown 8vo, Cloth, Price 3s. 6d. per Volume.

ALREADY ISSUED—

VOL. I.

Containing "The League of Youth," "The Pillars
of Society," "A Doll's House."

VOL. II.

Containing "Ghosts," "An Enemy of the People"
"The Wild Duck."

TO BE FOLLOWED ON 26TH MAY BY

VOL. III.

Containing "Lady Inger of Ostrat," "The Vik-
ings at Helgeland," "The Pretender."

Post-free from *Commonweal* Office on receipt of
published price.

WORKS BY JOHN BEDFORD LENO

"THE BURNS OF LABOUR."—*Athenaeum*.

Drury Lane Lyrics. Fcap. 8vo, cloth. 3s.

The Last Idler, and other Poems. Fcap.
8vo, cloth. 3s.

Kimburton, A PICTURE OF VILLAGE LIFE.
Second and Enlarged Edition. Paper Cover. 1s.

The marvellous success of 'Our Father,' 'Bet
Graham,' 'Poor Bill,' 'Kimburton Fair,' etc., etc.,
forming part of the above work, as recitals, at St.
James's Hall, London Clubs, etc., caused the first
edition to be speedily exhausted.

REEVES AND TURNER, 196 Strand, W.C., or of the
Author, 76 Drury Lane, W.C.

LA REVOLTE

ORGANE COMMUNISTE-ANARCHISTE.

One Penny weekly; by post, 1½d.

24 Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

MONOPOLY:

OR,

HOW LABOUR IS ROBBED.



A New Pamphlet

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

Sixteen pages, ONE PENNY; by post, 1½d.

COMMONWEAL OFFICE, 24 Great Queen Street, W.C.

ARBEJDEREN

("The Worker")

DANISH SOCIALIST WEEKLY.

Edited and published by NICOLAJ PETERSEN and
GERSON TRIER.

Subscription 3s. a-year.
Nansensgade 28A, Copenhagen.

NEW AND CHEAPER EDITION.

A DREAM OF JOHN BALL

AND

A KING'S LESSON.

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

12mo, 143 pp. 1s.; post free, 1s. 2d.

Commonweal Office, 24, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's
Inn Fields, London, W.C.

ALL FOR THE CAUSE.

By W. MORRIS, with Music by E. B. BAX

Threepence.

Commonweal Office, 24, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's
Inn Fields, London, W.C.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

THE Socialist League advocates International Revolutionary Socialism. That is to say the destruction of the present class society, which consists of one class who live by owning property and therefore *need not work*, and of another that has no property and therefore *must work* in order that they may live to keep the idlers by their labour. Revolutionary Socialism insists that this system of society, which is the modern form of slavery, should be changed to a system of Society which would give every man an opportunity of doing useful work, and not allow any man to live without so doing, which work could not be useful unless it were done for the whole body of workers instead of for do-nothing individuals. The result of this would be that livelihood would not be precarious nor labour burdensome. Labour would be employed in co-operation, and the struggle of man with man for bare subsistence would be supplanted by harmonious combination for the production of common wealth and the exchange of mutual services without the waste of labour or material.

Every man's needs would be satisfied from this common stock, but no man would be allowed to own anything which he could not use, and which consequently he must *abuse* by employing it as an instrument for forcing others to labour for him unpaid. Thus the land, the capital, machinery, and means of transit would cease to be private property, since they can only be used by the combination of labour to produce wealth.

Thus men would be *free* because they would no longer be dependent on idle property-owners for subsistence; thus they would be *brothers*, for the cause of strife, the struggle for subsistence at other people's expense, would have come to an end. Thus they would be *equal*, for if all men were doing useful work no man's labour could be dispensed with. Thus the motto of Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality, which is but an empty boast in a society that upholds the monopoly of the means of production, would at last be realised.

This Revolutionary Socialism must be International. The change which would put an end to the struggle between man and man, would destroy it also between nation and nation. One harmonious system of federation throughout the whole of civilisation would take the place of the old destructive rivalries. There would be no great centres breeding race hatred and commercial jealousy, but people would manage their own affairs in communities not too large to prevent all citizens from taking a part in the administration necessary for the conduct of life, so that party politics would come to an end.

Thus, while we abide by the old motto

Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,

we say that the existence of private property destroys Equality, and therefore under it there can be neither Liberty nor Fraternity.

We add to the first motto then this other one—

FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS
CAPACITY, TO EACH ACCORDING
TO HIS NEEDS.

When this is realised there will be a genuine Society; until it is realised, Society is nothing but a band of robbers. We must add that this change can only be brought about by combination amongst the workers themselves, and must embrace the whole of Society. The new life cannot be *given* to the workers by a class higher than they, but must be *taken* by them by means of the abolition of classes and the reorganisation of Society.

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

NOTICE.

Subscribers who find a *red wrapper* round paper are thereby reminded that their subscriptions have expired and must be renewed immediately if they wish to continue to receive *Commonweal*.

Printed in the Socialist League Printery, and published in the name and on behalf of the Socialist League, by FRANK KITZ, at 24 Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.