

# THE COMMONWEAL

## The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 4.—No. 137.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1888.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

### NOTES ON NEWS.

THE verdict on Mr. Ridley's suicide, passing over the conventional phrase of "temporary insanity," will be endorsed by most men who are not rabid partisans. The poor man was too weak to play a part in the civil war which is now going on, and so was crushed out by an extra turn of "the system" driving him up against his own conscience and that of the community amongst which he lived. It is a thousand pities that he could not have trusted himself to the good will of his fellow-countrymen, and snapped his fingers at the authority which bade him go a little further than usual in torturing a prisoner!

The check to the share of Italy in the plunder of Africa will scarcely make a nine days' wonder, yet one cannot help feeling some exultation at the defeat of the armed clerks of the counting-house, under whatever nationality they may serve; though naturally one is most pleased when they belong to our own counting house, whose tyranny presses most nearly on ourselves.

The new Kaiser's speech at Frankfort-on-Oder furnishes a curious commentary on Lord Salisbury's view of the pacific tendencies of the rulers of Europe at present; but it does not tell us anything new about the character or aspirations of the German demi-god. We have all known that he is a furious reactionist, who will do all the damage he can during his reign; but in this matter of war he will be rather driven than driving; the blind instincts of the commercial bourgeoisie, which force them to the worship of such men as this, will settle that matter for or against. It is at any rate pretty certain that if the Kaiser does fairly "go on the rampage" in the temple of reaction, he will pull the roof down on his own head. So may it be!

The closing of the Landore Works is a good example of the position of the workman under nineteenth century capitalism. A thousand men employed in working at—in fact they know not what. Suddenly without warning the work comes to an end, and they are in the streets with a prospect of what would be indeed a cruel punishment for gross misconduct. And what can they do? They have never had the least control over their own work, know nothing about the market for it, or what may influence that market; nor have their "employers" a grain of responsibility for them. They can do nothing but try to put themselves once more in a position, which involves helpless ignorance on one side and complete irresponsibility on the other. They are simple machines in helpless dependence on other men's wills, other men's necessities, of which they know nothing. When will the time come when they will make up their minds to employ themselves, and accept the responsibilities of their own lives? They will one day have to choose between that and sheer starvation.

Zola is being attacked in England through the publisher of his English translations, and there will doubtless be many pros and cons on the matter. The only one of his works that I have read is 'Germinal'. If that is a fair specimen of them, I must say that whatever grossness there is in it could do no harm except to those who are determined to have harm done to them. I feel sure also that the grossness is there not for "nastiness" sake, but because it forms part of a true picture of the life which our civilisation forces on labouring men; and I hold that "What is not too bad to be done, is not too bad to be told about," though I find no difficulty in imagining that our rulers and masters take a very different view of the subject.

W. M.

One of the most completely comic things in print lately, occurs in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 2nd inst. Comic and yet tragic; comic because of the tragic so close behind.

Frank Holl was painting John Bright's portrait, and in course of the chat during a sitting, on Gladstone's name being mentioned, Bright expressed much regret at the breach which had come between them. "Do you know, Mr. Holl, I seriously fear that my dear old friend's

mind has really become seriously undermined." Later on, while at work at Hawarden, a somewhat similar conversation takes place about Bright, similar regret at the broken friendship, and—. "Tell me, Mr. Holl,"—and here his mouth twitched, for he was evidently struggling with great emotion—"tell me, did you notice anything in the manner of my old friend which would lead you to believe that his reason was becoming in any way unhinged?"

Evidently there was more in Axel Oxenstierna's advice than even he meant, "Behold with how little wisdom this world is governed." "With how little wisdom," apparently with no wisdom whatever. Bright fears for Gladstone's reason, and Gladstone for Bright's. Somewhere hereabouts can be found the factors of a mental equation, which should delight my anti-Parliamentary friends. A set of revolutionists—mad; a set of reactionists—madder; a set in power sitting on the safety-valve of Free Speech and press—madder still; and the result of the seething together of these mad elements a mass of mad legislation, and a social state that the maddest dreams of the Bedlamite could never suggest. "'Tis a mad world, my masters, a mad world."

We are told by those who have much to do with the "insane" (?), that outside the one particular weak point it is hard to distinguish the patient from the attendant or the doctor. Suppose, after all, it shall some day be decided that the sane is insane and *vice versa*, it will be rather rough on some. Possibly the man who makes so much fuss about "interfering with freedom of contract" may become somewhat discredited, and quite a number of the adored fetishes of to-day may be thrown down. To-day the Socialist is mad, should be confined, either in jail or asylum—when possible is so served. To-morrow—well—"Time makes ancient good uncouth." Roughly, the rich and the powerful are the only sane; Socialists are not rich and powerful, therefore the Socialists are not sane; Q. E. D. with a "!"

Imagine a "Vision of Judgment" when social systems shall be weighed off; when "sane" shall scale against "insane." When one comes to consider how many "impossibilities" of the past are "commonplaces" to-day, verily some of the "sane" should be a bit careful as to what they say of the insane; it should suggest that even—

"After us, some purer scheme  
Will be shaped out by wiser men than we,  
Made wiser by the steady growth of truth."

The Lord Chief Justice, by a decision on Saturday, decided that "boycotting" is legal. In the case of Gregor, Gow and Company v. the Peninsular and Oriental Company, T. Sutherland, M.P., and various other steamship companies, claim for damages was made for an alleged illegal combination to boycott and ruin by means of bribing and intimidating shippers in China not to send goods by the plaintiffs' ships. In an elaborate judgment his lordship held that the defendants were justified in "using inducements" and in "withholding advantages." It was fair trade competition and not unlawful.

The foxhunters of Nottingham have boycotted the parson who protested against the way his crops were destroyed. The foxhunting parsons used to boycott the Rev. Sydney Smith when he made this same sort of protest. Our modern parson suggests that the foxhunters should all emigrate; let us add to that a wish that all the parsons go with them.

The robbers are getting ready to go. A proclamation has just been published in the *Gazette* to the effect that on and after October 1st the rate at which freight shall be paid for the conveyance on board of any of her majesty's vessels of treasure belonging to parties other than the Crown, whether gold, silver, jewels, or other articles, which may by special order be received on board, shall be 1 per cent. This order suggests that the people who have gold silver and jewels in quantity enough to require a war ship to carry them off are already making contracts as to the price of carriage. May they soon be called upon to part with their 1 per cent.! We can well afford to lose the jewels if the owners go also.

Civil war is not far off surely when between two hundred and three hundred representatives of Law-n'-Order are occupied from nine in the morning until six in the evening with battering-ram, scaling-ladders, bayonets, and other resources of civilisation, against a family of twelve who simply defended their own house. If done somewhere in Southern Europe, or Mexico, or Peru, or in the moon, what a scream would go up from Exeter Hall!

What, by the way, are England's resources of civilisation in the war time? Our army costs us millions, and our navy also; yet it is not too much to say that our army and our navy is about the shoddiest lot that ever professed to be ready for war. For the last fortnight every day has put the country to hundreds of thousands of pounds expenditure for repairs only of contract-built ships. Somebody will have to be hanged yet for this business.

T. S.

## OUR TASK TO-DAY.

MAN is to a great extent the creature of circumstances. Even by experience he learns wisdom very slowly. Years, generations, and centuries roll on, and the worker is still in bondage. Civilisation, progress in art and science is ever moving onward, yet the wealth-producer is ever the mere hewer of wood and drawer of water. Revolts, insurrections, and revolutions have swept over the earth in different ages and in different nations, but despotism is everywhere in the ascendant, ever-rampant tyranny is everywhere supreme. Yet amid the clang of arms and the jubulations of the triumphant reaction, fear and trembling are everywhere manifest. The crowned despot, resting on his throne of blood, in whose ears ring as music the despairing cries of the enslaved millions, though surrounded by his countless legions, has in his bosom a presentiment of coming danger, of the approaching life or death struggle for truth, for liberty, for justice.

But why is despotism everywhere triumphant? Why is this ever-rampant tyranny everywhere supreme? Why is the worker still in slavery, why at the bottom of the social scale? Because he learns wisdom so very slowly, because he is ever credulous, ever the victim and slave of idle hopes and childish fears.

If we go back no further than the early part of the present century, we find evidence of the above in abundance. The great Radical movement, which took its rise at the close of 1816, aimed at the reform of the House of Commons, believing that the vote would give political power, and that political power would enable the workers to free the country from the tyranny and corruption then so prevalent. The movement was genuine as far as the demand went for political power. There were a few who believed that the possession of political power would enable the workers to free themselves from the social evils under which the people groaned. The movement spread rapidly, was carried on with energy, was met by the Government with Acts of Coercion, which called forth increased determination on the part of both leaders and people. From 1817 to 1828 the Catholic party joined in the movement, and the leaders of the Radical party believed them in earnest. But in the latter year, so soon as Catholic Emancipation began to be visible, to be within a measurable distance of the region of practical politics, then the Catholic party withdrew from the movement. The Radical party felt the loss, but were not discouraged. In 1831 another and, under the circumstances, a more dangerous element joined the movement. A large portion of the middle-classes, with their leaders, joined in the demand for Radical reform. The demand for manhood suffrage was declared to be premature. The old leaders of the Radical movement were said to be somewhat too extreme, too revolutionary, too impracticable. The men of principle had to give way to the men of expediency. The men of revolutionary ideas had to make room for the men of moderate views. The ever credulous people believed the new comers, and their old and trusted leaders were pushed aside. Political trickery and political fraud were triumphant, and the reign of tyranny secured.

The people accepted a lesson of expediency, and their betrayal was the inevitable result of their credulity.

A few short years and Chartism raised its head. The mass of the workers had not forgotten their shameful betrayal by the middle classes, of the little (reform) bill instead of manhood suffrage, and the suppression of their meetings and the brutal tyranny of the Whigs. It was to be the whole charter and no surrender. The middle classes were no longer to be trusted. Meetings were held in almost every town, in many parts in every village. The demand for the charter rolled through every valley, it pealed forth from the mountain tops, and penetrated the bosom of every family. The demand of the people was again answered by Coercion. The leaders were defiant, and the people were enthusiastic. Large numbers were arrested, but few were discouraged, while the people remained true to the cause. When the people cannot be crushed by Coercion, when the leaders cannot be discouraged by arrest and imprisonment, then other means are resorted to to prevent the success of the movement. But the game of 1832 could not again be played. The enfranchisement of the middle-classes was an accomplished fact. The people were too enthusiastic, the bulk of the leaders too devoted, for a scheme based on expediency to be at all successful. But were there is a will there is a way. The will was there, and the way was found once more to "divide and conquer."

All admitted the justice of manhood suffrage. The same with regard to the ballot, annual Parliaments, payment of members, and the other points of the charter. The *Moderates* again came to the front.

But this time it was not the principle that was wrong, but the leaders. The name too, was obnoxious. Chartism had been connected with violence and bloodshed, and many of the leaders were men of a revolutionary character. The *Moderates* then, came to the front and demanded manhood suffrage and all the other points, but the name, well, they would not be called Chartists. The new movement was to be "The Complete Suffrage Movement." By the side of this new movement arose, too, the question of Moral v. Physical Force. Large numbers of the middle-class flocked to the new standard, while those who remained in the ranks of Chartism were pointed to as men dangerous to society, who ought to be shunned by all law-abiding citizens. Many of the loudest of the Chartist leaders found their way into the ranks of the new movement. Personal bickerings, want of confidence, distrust and disorganisation followed.

The revolutionary movements of 1848 raised the hopes of the workers. The "Charter and No Surrender" again became the cry of the people. Hundreds, nay, thousands of meetings were held throughout the country; missionaries were sent out in every direction, organisation followed as if by magic; the movement became formidable, and was again answered by Coercion. The country was filled with spies, plots were organised, arrests followed, the best men were imprisoned. Soon the old questions were raised once more to disorganise and destroy the movement. The failure of the movements on the Continent destroyed the enthusiasm in England, and during 1849-50, Chartism withered and died.

And why did Chartism fail? Because it aimed at an impossible task. It sought to destroy the tyranny of the State while retaining the conditions, which alone rendered tyranny possible. The aim of Chartism was the enfranchisement of the toiling millions, or in other words, to transfer political power from the classes to the masses. In principle Chartism was revolutionary in relation to all the other classes of society, and to the very conditions on which the political supremacy of these classes depended. But its method, its action, and its general policy were all anti-revolutionary in character and tendency. Hence its internal weakness and premature failure.

And what is our position to-day? What is the position of the revolutionary forces in the year 1888? Still sectional, and to a great extent still anti-revolutionary.

The working-classes, from their economical position in relation to the other classes of society, are the only possible revolutionary element in modern society. The development of our modern system of production renders it impossible for them to be otherwise than revolutionary. To be logical, to be consistent, from interest even as well as from principle, they must be revolutionary in relation to all the institutions of society; in relation to the throne, the aristocracy, the church; to the standing army, and all the repressive forces organised to keep the workers in bondage; revolutionary in relation to our whole capitalistic system of usury, of production, and of exchange. To be logical, to be consistent, they must be revolutionary in relation to all the conditions on which the State rests to-day.

In every age and in every country the Church and the State have been the great centres of despotism. The Church and the State, the throne and the altar, the priest and the soldier, have ever made war on the people. It is the same to-day. In almost every age efforts have been made to reform the Church, to diminish its power, to free it from corruption. Rivers of blood have been shed, and thousands of martyrs have given up their lives for the purification of the Church. But the Church is still the great engine for enslaving the minds of men, for binding mankind in ignorance and superstition. And the same with the State. For how many generations have not the best of nature's nobles laboured and suffered and died in their endeavours to reform the State. But the State is still supreme. It is still the great centre of despotism, still the seat of centralised tyranny. It still claims unquestioned obedience to its decrees. The State, like the Church, is a relic of barbarism. If we would raise man to dignity, in place of the Church we must have a free and rational system of education. If we would raise man to liberty, in place of the State we must have the free organisation of Society.

To be revolutionary you must be consistent; consistency admits of no compromise. To be revolutionary in relation to the throne, admits of no recognition of any mere modification of the institution of royalty. The same with regard to the church, or the aristocracy, the standing army, the principle of usury, our modern system of production and exchange. All these rest on the principle of monopoly, of privilege. For the workers to recognise these or any of them, or any mere modification of them, would be to cease to be revolutionary, would be to abdicate their rights and their duties, to alienate themselves from their historical position. To aim at a mere modification of tyranny, either political or social, is not to be revolutionary. But to be revolutionary in relation to all the existing conditions of society, political, social, and economical, is the historical and the only logical and consistent position of the working-classes.

Let us then cease to recognise any form of tyranny, any form of usurpation, of monopoly, of privilege, of exclusiveness. Let us seek no compromise with wrong, triumphant though it be. Revolutionary from principle, let us be consistent. Revolutionary from necessity through the development of our modern system of production and exchange, let us do our duty. In that alone lies our dignity, our future liberty.

J. SKETCHLEY.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 1, 1888.

26	Sun.	55 B.C. Cæsar landed in England.
27	Mon.	1770. Hegel born. 1846. Secession of "Young Ireland" from Repeal Association.
28	Tues.	1849. Venice taken by Austrians after heroic resistance. Outbreak in Cephalonia.
29	Wed.	1657. Col. John Lilburne died. 1883. James Carey executed. 1886. Free Speech demonstration in Trafalgar Square; present, 80,000 people, 2,373 police and detectives.
30	Thur.	1793. Thomas Muir tried for sedition. 1855. Feargus O'Connor died.
31	Fri.	1793. Brissot and twenty followers guillotined. 1803. Trial of Edward Kearney and Owen Kirwan for high treason. 1884. Attack on Warsaw prison. 1886. Dinner to French Socialists in London.
1	Sat.	1783. Dean of St. Asaph tried for seditious libel. 1803. Trial of T. M. Roche for high treason. 1884. John Snowden, Chartist, died. 1886. Domela Nieuwenhuis released from jail.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"AFRICA."

Seeing that comrade Bax's article on the "dark continent," although it suggests the possible postponement of the Social Revolution for another century, has not thrown any of your readers into fits of exostulation, I feel bold enough to ask the writer whether the activity of Socialists in Europe and America or the energy of capitalists in Africa is to be the determining factor in the consummation of our hopes. Are we to divert our attention from the immense body and seat of vitality of the beast to go into despair over its suckers and tentacles? Surely our comrade must have been in the dumps when he wrote an article so infected with pessimism. He must have been blind for the moment to the extraordinary and phenomenal success of our principles in all the more advanced countries. He must have been temporarily deaf to the loud moan and fierce cry of the proletariat all over the world. He can't possibly have heard that a little woman within the last few weeks, by the power inherent in our Cause, has engaged and routed a whole company of the enemy. Let us have no more despairing vaticinations, but let a note of hope and triumph prevail all over the field. We all revere our comrade because he is in the habit of roaming amidst philosophic altitudes, far from the dusty earth, and we gratefully admit that when he comes down he generally lands somewhere; but let me beg of him, if he has any control over his parachute, to descend next time in Europe rather than in Africa.

ROBERT GRIERSON.

London, Aug. 10th, 1888.

A MODEL CANDIDATE PROPERLY SAT UPON.

The *Miner*, just to hand, gives an account of a nasty knock the parliamentary wire-pullers have had in Greenock. The Liberal and Radical associations having invited Mr. Jas. Hill, of London, to deliver an address with a view of becoming a candidate, Keir Hardie wrote a letter to the local papers giving some useful details of Mr. Hill's treatment of the workers. He was charged with having sent to America for the locks with which to execute a Government contract. Only the *Greenock Telegraph* would insert the charge. His reply, printed in the *Times*, was to the effect that he could not buy locks in this country cheap enough, because the British workman, with "his short hours and long pay," and his "drunkenness and improvidence," his inferior workmanship, etc., etc., had ruined the trade. He went abroad for his locks instead of making them himself, because he would "be sorry to have any direct dealings with the British workman." This lovely sample of the successful merchant wages-sweating parliamentarian, in his explanatory speech to the wire-pullers seemed to think it something to boast of "that by his action he had raised the value of the locks 50 per cent, and reduced their price other 50 per cent. He seemed to claim credit for having reduced workmen's wages by half." James Hill's chances of being selected for that district have been completely "busted," and the official caucus is dancing mad. Let it not be forgotten that this is the same man whom Henry Broadhurst, the "Labour representative," supported in his candidature at Brixton, over which Henry got so savage when properly challenged for it by Keir Hardie at the last Trades Congress. This candidate is worth looking after wherever he turns up.

T. S.

"OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES AND SUCKLINGS."—Judge (to small boy on the witness stand), "Little boy, do you know where you'll go if you swear to what is not true?" Small boy: "Yes, sir; I'll go to the Legislature. That's what my pa did."—*Washington Critic*.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* the other day, in an article on "Phonograph Possibilities, or Talking Waxworks," suggested that half a dozen wax imitations of the Prince of Wales should be made, so that by fitting inside a phonograph with a speech suited for the occasion, half a dozen such functions as foundation-stone laying, exhibition opening, prize distributing, and such other odd jobs as flunkeys require to be done by princes, could be done at once and nobody know but what it was really their much-loved prince. Instead of a special train (at public cost), the wax figure could be sent down on goods-train, and a man for half a crown could turn the handle and make the figure work off the well-worn sentences. Since the above is about the only sort of public work Albert Edward does, we should do well to knock off his screw and adopt the suggestion. Edison would probably turn out half a dozen good working images for a couple of thousand pounds. We might also serve the head of the firm by the same process of disestablishment, and by employing some person capable of writing correct English, have some Queen's Speeches not quite so open to cavil as is generally the case. The million a-year we could save by the above course could be well used in developing co-operative homesteads; and altogether the idea should be carefully considered with the view of early utilisation.—T. S.

HUMBLE ("?) FISHERMEN.

"But the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head."—NEW TESTAMENT.  
"Doth give bold advertisement."—SHAKESPEARE.

WE are often called extravagant for speaking of workers as "wage-slaves," but the following advertisements show that the idea of chattel-slavery has not quite deserted at least one section of the community. As may be expected, that section is the clergy. In looking over the *Church Times* this week I find there are a number of advertisements of "priests" who require substitutes during their holidays. One offers, as remuneration for his services, "good rectory, garden, servants; moderate use of carriage, to a "bachelor, or, if married, without children." Another, who has a "small church" and "light duty," in a beautiful neighbourhood on the main line of the Midland Railway, easy of access to a number of interesting places, offers "vicarage and servant b. w." to one who has "no family" and "no extreme views." "Servants" are included with "good garden, carriage, and three bedrooms," in one case, and in another "two servants" are offered as "remuneration" with a "house and garden near the pier." There is one which is worded, "Very small country parish, Berks; remunerations—vicarage, garden produce; two servants on board wages; air bracing, vicarage prettily situated; apply immediately." And, finally, "The vicar of a bracing country village, close to the Dunstable Downs, offers hospitality (except wine, etc.) and cheerful society at the vicarage to a clergyman who will take charge of his parish for five weeks." The vicar, I presume, in this case, means to leave his mother-in-law at home.

Apart from the manner in which these "labourers in the vineyard" include their servants with their houses, gardens, and carriages, and offer them as chattels in remuneration to any chance assistant, their own case is worthy of note. According to their own account, they all live in bracing, beautiful villages; have carriages and servants, with small churches and light duty; yet, poor souls, they find it necessary to have a holiday of four or five weeks to recruit themselves: while the position of a young gentleman who for the labour of reading "matins" and "evensong" four times can get a large house, with garden, carriage, and two servants for a month, is not unenviable.

There are many other significant things to be found in these advertisements. One shows the advantage it is for a woman to be a "lady," by asking for a cottage or unlet farm rent free, on the ground that being "a lady of good birth," the education of her two boys would would thus "not suffer from the loss of income resulting from family misfortune"—that is to say, in the highest probability, from their parents' vices.

To him that hath shall much be given. "A clergyman of means," for "very light duty of parish" among an agricultural population of 385, can have "a lovely rectory, handsomely furnished, eight bedrooms, etc., excellent offices, beautiful lawn, grapery, extensive stabling, coach-houses, etc., and well-stocked gardens. Beautiful church, perfect national schools (excellent grant this year). . . . Where the climate far exceeds that of Torquay, with the purest water." The whole "sheltered from all winds." Who would not be a clergyman "with means," to go to South Devon and enjoy this paradise? 'Tis true the adjectives are somewhat suspicious; excellent, beautiful, extensive, perfect, make one reflect; but the lawn, the grapery, the stabling, the coach-houses, and the gardens must exist, if ever so small; and then, they are all in South Devon, with a population of 385,—all to be had "for very light duty of parish." If one were only a clergyman with "means"!

"The Rev. John Going and one of his daughters wish to make up a party for a month's holiday. The Rhine, Lake of Zurich, beautiful Swiss scenery, views of the Alps, etc." Socialists who wish to join him may apply to "*Hawkchurch, Axminster*."

Another advertisement begins "DO HELP THE COLLERS"; but the way to do it is to subscribe to the collers' church, which it is candidly confessed "has been an absolute venture of faith"—in other words, a speculation.

But there is hope in the wording of this appeal—the clergy evidently find there is more sympathy for men than churches; but on the other hand, they do not hesitate to ask money for their "venture of faith" as for the oppressed workers. "Do help the collers," is evidently a better cry than, Subscribe towards our speculation. G. P.

THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.

The First General Meeting of the Socialist Co-operative Federation was held at 13 Farringdon Road on Saturday last, T. F. Murray in the chair. There was a good attendance to hear the report of the Provisional Committee and to elect the first working committee, in accordance with the Rules, which are now duly registered. Considerable discussion took place as to future arrangements, and among other things it was decided to appoint a series of local committees of three to promote the furtherance of the scheme in various districts, receive subscriptions, and enrol members, etc. Local committees were elected for East-end, Canning Town, Hoxton, Southwark, Kennington, Battersea, Lambeth, Peckham, and Stoke Newington.

The General Committee elected was as follows: H. A. Barker, T. Binning, Wm. Binning, D. C. Dallas, Mrs. Gosling, F. Henderson, T. F. Murray, and S. Oliver. A. C. Varley, Secretary *pro tem*.

The report shows that upwards of 400 5s. shares are subscribed for, of which 300 are now fully paid up, in addition to which many promises have been received from persons to join on the formal starting of the society.

The first meeting of committee will be held at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, August 26, at the Labour Union Printery, 158 Pentonville Road, to receive subscriptions, enroll members, etc.

Asking ten hours' pay for eight hours' work is dishonest, is it? Well, what do you call asking ten hours' pay for eight hours' work? Is that merely legitimate business?—*Paterson Labor Standard*.



HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW? FIRST, FEW MEN  
 KNEW 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, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

**As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages.** None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors. **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, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.**

N. S.—For particulars of the Kaweah colony write to J. J. Martin, Box 427, Visalia, Tulare Co., Cal., U.S.A.  
 UNSUITABLE—"A Landlord's Song." WILL BE USED—D. N.; J. T. W.

*Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 22.*

ENGLAND	Boston—Woman's Journal	Rome—L'Emancipazione
Church Reformer	Liberty	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Justice	Chicago—Labor Enquirer	Cremona—Il Democratico
Labor Tribune	Vorbote	Florence—La Question Sociale
London—Frete Presse	Fort Worth (Tex)—South West	Messina—Il Riscatto
Norwich—Daylight	FRANCE	Turin—Il Muratore
Railway Review	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	SPAIN
Telegraph Service Gazette	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	El Productor
The Miner	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	Madrid—El Socialista
Worker's Friend	Nimes—L'Emancipation	PORTUGAL
NEW SOUTH WALES	HOLLAND	Lisbon—O Profeta Operario
Hamilton—Radical	Hague—Recht voor Allen	GERMANY
INDIA	BRUXELLES	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Ghent—Vooruit	AUSTRIA
Madras—People's Friend	Liege—L'Avenir	Arbeiterstimme
UNITED STATES	Antwerp—De Werker	ROUMANIA
New York—Freiheit	SWITZERLAND	Jassy—Municipal
Der Socialist	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	DENMARK
Truthseeker	ITALY	Social-Demokraten
Volkszeitung	Milan—Il Fascio Operato	SWEDEN
Jewish Volkszeitung		Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
Alarm		Malmö—Arbetet
Workmen's Advocate		

## SOCIALIST WORK AT NORWICH.

I AM sure our comrades generally will be glad to hear a little of the course of Socialist propaganda in Norwich and its neighbourhood, which for some reason or other has become a stronghold of the cause.

Our comrades had determined on a rally in Norwich, and invited several of us Leaguers, together with Mrs. Besant and Herbert Burrows, to help them. Faulkner, Mrs. Schack, Mainwaring, and Morris got down to the old city on Saturday evening, and were most cordially received by the Branch at the Gordon Hall, where there was singing and recitation, and agreeable converse generally.

On the Sunday morning Mainwaring went to Yarmouth, and addressed a large meeting on the beach. Mrs. Schack went to Wymondham, and though the meeting in that quiet little place was not big, it was very attentive and serious. In the city itself, Faulkner spoke at St. Mary's Plain and Morris, with Mowbray in the chair, in the Market Place. The meeting there was considerably over a thousand, and was attentive and sympathetic. Faulkner came up just before it was over, and gave a short address on the subject of Education; and the meeting held well together to the last.

In the afternoon a waggonette was drawn up under the bronze shadow of that very dull hero the Iron Duke (in bronze), and Mowbray was in the "chair" there at 2.30, our comrades of the Branch being drawn round the platform. It was an exciting scene when we got there, the concourse being very large round the platform, in spite of the counter attractions of the fag end of the Salvation Army and the summons of the bells of the huge tower of St. Peter Mancroft. The "Army" having done speaking, moved away with its band, which presently came into the place, but with few followers, and the coming of another band of gossellers had no influence on the meeting except to swell it somewhat. Before 3 o'clock there must have been fully ten thousand persons closely packed round the waggonette. The comrades being called upon now sang "No Master," in the midst of which Herbert Burrows and Mrs. Besant came duly punctual, and the business began. A resolution in favour of the abolition of private property had been prepared, which was moved by Herbert Burrows, who began by telling the audience that some five years ago he lectured on Socialism in Norwich to an audience of five persons. His clear and telling speech was well received. Mrs. Besant followed, and was received with much enthusiasm. Morris supported, and the resolution was put after an amendment had been called for without result, and four-fifths of the meeting or more held up their hands for and six hands against. Mrs. Schack and Faulkner then spoke, and the meeting broke up, without the least disorder, except that one man, a stranger, got some-

what obstreperous (or rather the liquor in him did) and was run in by the police. This would not be worth mentioning if it were not that our comrades were vexed and indignant that the Norwich Nupkines gave him a month next day, our comrades by no means wishing to bring the law down on their opponents for such trifles.

In the evening Burrows and Mainwaring spoke again in the Market Place to a large audience, and Morris lectured (on Monopoly) at the Gordon Hall, which was as full as it would hold. No opposition could be got, and it was clear that the whole audience were really Socialists.

On the Monday Burrows, Mainwaring, and Morris spoke in the Market Place in the dinner hour; the audience was again large for a week-day, and did not break up till 2.30, having listened eagerly all the time. Burrows and Mrs. Besant spoke at Carrow, close to Colman's mustard works, in the dinner hour, and had a large and satisfactory audience, mostly composed of the workmen and girls, Mrs. Besant telling her hearers of the illegality of fines. The last open-air meeting was in the Market Place at 6.30. Burrows, Mainwaring, and Morris speaking. One or two ill-conditioned persons attempted to get up a row on this occasion, but produced little or no effect on the crowd, who listened as attentively as before.

The meetings ended with Mrs. Besant's lecture in St. Augustine's School, a large room somewhat on the outskirts of the town, to which we had been driven by the refusal of the large halls in the town. This place was crammed by an eager audience, who took up every point in the lecture, which, though both eloquent and clear, would have been hard to follow by a non-Socialist who had not studied the question. The answering of the questions also which were put gave occasion to the audience to show that they appreciated the points, and certainly except for a few respectables who honoured us with their presence, there could have been but few present who were not thoroughly sympathetic.

The press, both Liberal and Tory, reported all our proceedings fully, and considering all things, quite as fairly as could be expected. In comparing the audiences there with others, one could not fail to be struck with an air of eagerness and receptiveness, which shows that the propaganda is doing its work. The audiences do not come to stare or loaf, but to listen.

The impression which Socialism has thus made in a place not very important, nor specially progressive, is the result of sheer hard work on the part of our comrades, who are all quite poor men, and have no influence but what their steadiness and enthusiasm in the Cause gives them. What has been done there can be done elsewhere if only men will devote themselves to the propaganda.

Our comrades are in trouble at Yarmouth. The week before this demonstration, comrade Poynts was summoned for speaking on the Church Plain in that town, though we had held meetings there for long, and though a religious meeting was being held at the same time as he was holding the Socialist one. Our comrade has been sent to prison for a month for this terrible "offence" of free speaking, and as this is clearly a piece of mere persecution of opinion, it is to be hoped that all parties who have any feeling for freedom will back up our friends, who are fighting the battle of free speech for all honest men both in the present and the future.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

## YARMOUTH AND FREE SPEECH.

FOR some considerable time the Norwich branch has been holding very successful meetings every week, which are considerably increasing in number, much to the annoyance of the bourgeois class at Yarmouth, who have at last taken steps to try and suppress them by summoning one of our comrades for obstruction. Two summonses have been issued, the first one under the Act of 1849—which has been since withdrawn, I suppose through the Act being rather old and the police evidence shaky. The second one was issued, and our comrade, George Poynts, had to appear on Wednesday, August 15th, before a special muster of the great unpaid. Our comrade made an able defence, and clearly proved no obstruction was caused. Of course these non-producing idlers could not understand that. Our comrade pointed out to them another meeting was being held at the same time and place by the Church Army, who were really causing the obstruction if there was any. But these gentlemen were not considering whether it was a religious or Socialist meeting, so they fined our comrade £1, and £1 7s. 6d. costs, in all £2 7s. 6d., or one month's imprisonment. Our comrade is now doing the term of imprisonment. As it was his wish as well as ours that this question should be fought out, we intend carrying on the propaganda there in spite of prosecutions or imprisonment. We have comrades in this branch who are willing to carry on the meetings, without any fear of imprisonment or fines. The more sacrifice we make we feel sure the movement will go on with greater success than ever. On Thursday last a good meeting was held by comrade Reynolds, who had his name taken by one of the modern wolves. We expect he will receive a summons in a day or two; he will then be able to cheer our imprisoned comrade by his presence in the same gaol.

A. T. S.

HIS SHARE.—A good story appears in the *Times of Natal*. According to that journal a well-known broker was slumbering in church the other Sunday during the sermon. The preacher, in a burst of eloquence, had said, "And what are we to have as our share of this transaction?" The slumbering broker was partially aroused by the loud tones, and to the horror of those near him, he ejaculated "A thousand, fully paid!"

HOW POLITICS ARE MADE ATTRACTIVE.—The following appeal to Staffordshire Unionists was lately posted extensively on the North Staffordshire Railway:—"Unionist meeting to be held at the seat of Basil Fitzherbert, Esq., 16 July, 1888. To be addressed by Captain Edwards Heathcote, M.P., etc., etc. There will be the following attractions: Two bands, fire-engine competition, athletic sports, lawn tennis, balloon ascents at frequent intervals, dancing, Punch and Judy, and boating on the lake, etc." At Tunbridge Wells a few days afterwards a "Grand Unionist Demonstration" was widely advertised, the programme of which included a captive balloon, an ox roasted whole, races, dancing, swimming, and a good many other like things, while NO SPEECHES was a conspicuous line on the bill!

## THE CLASSICAL EDUCATION FRAUD.

A RAVEN TO THE RESCUE.

IN the July number of *Macmillan* Mr. J. H. Raven gave us a third instalment of his now famous "Divisions of a Pedagogue," which are not less diverting than heretofore. Mr. Raven is, in schoolboy phraseology, a "beak," and is thus able from his own experience to draw on a rich store of scholastic blunders, of which he instances some striking specimens, often felicitous enough through their very oddness and perversity. But, in addition to this entertaining record of schoolboy ineptitude, Mr. Raven creates a "diversion" of a different sort by introducing into his article a plea for the old grammar-and-lexicon system of classical education still in vogue at our schools, and a lively attack on the "improved method" of literal translations. While admitting that a grown man can learn better in the modern fashion, he argues that it is not so with a boy. "With some," he says, "it is a favourite idea that the study of grammar should be a finishing rather than, as it is generally, an introductory step in learning languages. This is maintained in spite of the fact, which I suppose is generally recognised, that young boys are naturally gifted with small powers of understanding and considerable powers of memory. . . . Boys cannot use a grammar as a book of reference; they have not the necessary intelligence and experience. It is far easier to them to get inflection by rote." But Mr. Raven here overlooks the consideration that a boy's memory might be just as readily utilised in the way of vocabulary and translation as in that of grammar and syntax, and with far better results; since, instead of being chained to the acquisition of rules which are to him meaningless, he might master whole passages, chapters, and even books of the easier classical authors, and thus be led to take a rational interest in work which would offer some chance of substantial progress. A basis of knowledge being thus acquired, grammar might afterwards be studied in an intelligent manner; at present it is "a finishing process" only in the sense that by its dull monotony it too often deals the death-blow to a boy's interest and attention.

All this was pointed out more than sixty years ago by Hamilton, the promulgator of the so-called "Hamiltonian method" of line-for-line, word-for-word translations, and again by Sydney Smith, who strongly advocated this system in his powerful and incisive essays on Classical Learning. It is useless for Mr. Raven to plead that the shaft of Sydney Smith's ridicule "flies harmlessly over the head of the modern pedagogue"; for, unfortunately, a great deal of what was written of the classical education of half a century ago is true also of the present time. There is still the same degradation of learning to the level of a dull and useless task; boys are still "lexicon-struck," as Sydney Smith inimitably expressed it, in early youth, and consequently still "go over to the blockheads." "One can hardly doubt," says Mr. Raven, "that the best parts of the Hamiltonian system were in vogue long before Hamilton's time, and are still in common use." But the essential part of the Hamiltonian method is the deliberate systematic use of literal translations *under the supervision of the master*, and this has certainly never been adopted in our schools. On the contrary, translations have everywhere been condemned, denounced, and confiscated; with the result that what should have been done openly and with intelligence has been done secretly and in the most slipshod manner; Bohn's "cribs," which are mostly exceedingly loose and untrustworthy paraphrases, being privily studied by thousands of schoolboys, while the schoolmasters are engaged in demonstrating the folly of using a faithful translation!

Thus the years go on, and the lexicon-struck schoolboy at the close of his educational career is found to know next to nothing, while his teachers are reduced to that most pitiful afterthought of the classical apologist—the plea that the object of a boy's education is not to learn, but to "learn *how* to learn," in which mysterious process grammar is (quite arbitrarily) assumed to be the most fitting instrument. Truly those pedagogues who are engaged in so hopeless and disheartening a task stand in need of some "diversion," and it is well that Mr. Raven can from time to time bring his small crumbs of comfort to his classical fellow-labourers—these modern Elijahs who are perishing of mental inanition through sheer lack of some more solid and rational occupation. Among the many rotten institutions which are still bolstered up by the combined powers of prejudice and "vested interests," the present system (if such a crazy, hap-hazard affair can bear the name of "system" at all) of classical education deserves an honourable, or rather dishonourable, mention.

H. S. S.

WHO, INDEED!—Recently in New York a German woman administered poison to her three children; "because I loved them so" was her reason. "I was so very poor and I could not get enough work to support them and they were going to be taken away from me and I preferred to have them die rather than part with them," she explained to the police officer who was sent to arrest her. And then she launched at the 60,000,000 of the people in this American "land of the brave" the following terrible conundrum: "Will you tell me why the American people liberated the blacks and made slaves of the whites?" Will not some of our "statesmen" friends take this poor woman's question as a subject for an oration, say next Fourth of July? Or perhaps our great national debating society, which meets in Uncle Sam's big buildings in Washington, will take it and discuss it some Saturday afternoon when they get through with the tariff question. There is a pious oriental proverb which says: "Beware of groans of wounded souls, since the inward sore will at length break out. Oppress not the uppermost a single heart, for a solitary sigh has power to overthrow the whole world." And if one sigh can stir an avenging God to action what may not be expected from the myriad of sighs that go up from the hunger-pinched lips of the women and children who go supperless to bed in this land.—*Chicago Sentinel*.

## LETTER FROM AMERICA.

THE BURLINGTON STRIKE.

July 26.—Speaking in reference to the claim made by the strikers of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, that the strike has cost that road about 4 million dollars. Paul Morton, one of the managers, says: "That is not so. The strike has cost us lots of money, and we expected it would when we refused to accede to the demands of the men. I suppose the strike has cost us about 2 million dollars." The joint conference of the four great brotherhoods, viz: the engineers, the firemen, the switchmen, and the brakemen met on the 25th July, in St. Joseph, Mo., and concluded its deliberations. It was resolved to make war to the knife on the "Burlington" system. The proposition of Hoge and Murphy, the two chairmen of the Grievance Committee who are supposed to be bought over by the company reads: "That no strikers shall be blacklisted by the 'Q,' and that as many of them shall be given work immediately as possible by the Burlington company; that the strikers shall be given the preference for two years, and that the company shall give all the men who quit work on February 27 recommendations if they so desire." This proposition has never found favor with the strikers. The joint meeting adopted in its stead the following resolution: "Resolved, That this meeting heartily indorses the action taken by the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad men in refusing to declare the strike off on the conditions offered." A scheme was brought up during the meeting for a Federation of the four brotherhoods and referred to the respective conventions of the four organizations: the engineers at Richmond in October, the firemen at Atlanta, Ga., in September, the switchmen at St. Louis, Mo., in September, the brakemen in October at Columbus, O. The first convention will adopt a Federation clause in its constitution, which will be accepted by the other conventions at their meetings, and when this work is accomplished a grand advisory board will be established, to be made up of delegates from the four organizations.

The dynamite conspiracy case was begun on the 25th July, in Aurora, Ills. The case against the alleged conspirators was taken up.

July 27.—At Aurora, Ills., in the examination into the alleged dynamite conspiracy, John Queenan and C. R. Blackner testified to the explosion at South Aurora, June 14th, and W. R. Thomas testified in relation to the explosion at Eola, June 29th. Alexander Smith (an informer) testified to taking a ride with Bowles (another informer) to Eola at the date when the dynamite was placed upon the track, and swore that they heard the explosion on their way back to Aurora. He also swore that he received a package of dynamite from Goding's wife. The prosecution rested their case and the complaint against Bauereisen and Goding for bringing dynamite into the State was taken up. The shorthand writer for the Burlington Company read the statement which was made by Goding after his arrest, and then the Court adjourned until the 31st July.

The cases of Chairmen Hoge and Murphy, charged with being implicated in the Burlington conspiracy, were called in the Chicago court this morning. The accused were represented by Judge Barnum, who stated his clients would waive examination, and asked that the bail formerly given be allowed for their appearance. In the absence of any opposition from the prosecution this was done. The informers Kelly and McGilvary, Hoge's clerks, followed suit, waiving examination, and being held on their former bonds.

## THE SO-CALLED DYNAMITE CONSPIRACY.

The plot against the three arrested Bohemians—whose correct names seem to be: John Hronek, Frank Chepak, and Frank Cileboun—was too thin, so the infamous Bonfield caused another arrest to be made. Rudolph Sevic, a gunsmith, and also a Bohemian by birth, was arrested on the 25th July, charged with violation of the law pertaining to the handling of the dynamite. It was known among his countrymen that Sevic had now and then sold some dynamite. The police now worked the following dodge. They told Mrs. Hronek that her husband was sure to be hung, and she could only save him by letting them know where dynamite was to be found. The poor woman gave in at last, and led the way to the basement, in which Sevic's shop happens to be, and to the immense delight of the clubbers, who allowed her to do the searching, returned to the open-air with a basket full of dynamite. Anyone who reads this tale will at once perceive the "nake" of it, as no man engaged in serious business would permit his wife to know all the ins and outs of it. Sevic is about 28 years, and of very intelligent appearance. He was locked up in jail in default of 7000 dols. bail.

The four men are indicted for the manufacturing, procuring, and selling of dynamite; for making, etc., of dynamite with intent to take the life of Judge Joseph E. Gary, for the same with intent to take the life of John Bonfield, inspector of police, for the same with intent to take the life of Judge Grinnell, and the lives of certain persons to the jurors unknown. The bail has been fixed at 15,000 dols. each. They are also charged with general conspiracy to commit murder and specifically to kill Gary, Grinnell, and Bonfield. The verdict may be from 5—25 years penal servitude. Bonfield testified before the Grand Jury with the informer Frank Cileboun. Another witness in the case was a Bohemian detective. *No dynamite was found in the houses of the three first prisoners, only some instruments which are said to resemble bombs.* The accused are now in Cook county jail awaiting trial.

Some of the readers of the *Weal* will undoubtedly ask themselves: Well, what about this whole business? we can hardly make head or tail of it.

Now we over here being entirely dependent on the meagre and garbled information given by the authorities to the public are exactly in the same position. We also do not quite as yet know what to make of it. But one thing I may say, Of late the position of Bonfield as the "bloody Warren" of Chicago, has been a very precarious one. Bonfield has not managed the elections in the republican interest as he ought to have done, or anyhow he did not meet with the success his superiors supposed he would. This of course made the chieftains of the republican party in Chicago very much discontented with their tool, and they looked out for a better man. Aldrich, the captain of Desplains Street station, is at present their favorite. Naturally, Bonfield, feeling his position shaky, did not desire to go without a desperate fight, and in order to force the capitalists to support him he discovered (!) this terrible dynamite conspiracy for the purpose of glorying again as the saviour of the commonwealth. *I may say that in well informed revolutionary circles the accused men are totally unknown, and during my three months stay in Chicago I did not even hear their names mentioned, although I had been constantly in touch with all the extreme revolutionists.* The whole conspiracy is nothing else but a trick on Bonfield's part to keep his present job.

The "Burlington Conspiracy" is of similar calibre, and I hope to be able to give you full particulars.

Newark, N.J., July 31, 1888.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

The fustian cutters up in the Lymm district are glad to get a job navvying on the Ship Canal.

**EBBW VALE.**—1,500 men of the Ebbw Vale Iron and Coal Co. have decided to strike. This will affect another 6,000 men.

Cradley Heath small chain makers have decided on a strike. Two firms have made small concessions, which have been accepted.

West-End tailors have decided that seventeen hours a day is a bit too much, and have had a meeting with a view of making a change.

Eleven steam navvies are at work on the ship-canal job. They dig out and dispose of the earth at the rate of nearly six hundred yards per day.

There are in Oldham some 12,000 or 13,000 looms engaged on velvet, and of these about 8,000 are idle. These should employ about 3,000 people, who have been on out-of-work pay for about seven months.

Government is reported to be considering favourably the question of allowing trade societies to appoint and pay inspectors under the Factory and Workshop Acts. This would lead to important results.

Seventeen trade societies have forwarded to the Labour Bureau reports showing an aggregate membership of 186,130, of which total 7,000 were unemployed. For the month the percentage of unemployed is 3.9; for last August was 8.5.

The Scottish Parliamentary Labour Party intend to hold a conference at the Waterloo Rooms, Wellington Street, Glasgow, on Saturday August 25, at 2 p.m. Cunningham Graham, William Saunders, John Ferguson, and others will take part.

**ORGANISATION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR.**—The well-known Socialist navvy, John Ward, has begun the organisation of the navvies and unskilled labourers of London. The name of the society is the "Amalgamated Society of General Labourers."

Railway men are getting very uneasy. A good meeting has just been held at Wolverhampton to consider the hours of labour. Seventeen hours a-day some of the slaves do. At Darlington also there has been a good meeting, and generally the men seem waking up.

**FOUND! AN EMPLOYER PAYING BACK DUES!**—Messrs. Wyman and Sons, printers and publishers, of Lincoln's Inn Fields, have given a pension of £100 per annum for life to W. H. Phillips, on his retirement from the post of case-overseer, which he has filled for a number of years.

**NO SLAVES IN ENGLAND.**—In the course of a Petty Sessions case at Altrincham, where a carter was summoned for sleeping while travelling on the public roads, it was stated by the wife of the defendant that her husband had only had one night at home in eight nights, having to go to market at night and work in the fields by day.

Amalgamated Boot and Shoemakers' quarterly report has a quite optimistic cast. Trade is fairly good. The income for the quarter (£335) was, therefore, somewhat lower than the previous. The report gives the result of the vote on the eight hours' question, and says "it is one of the most unsatisfactory ever taken." Some of the members apparently like long hours.

**COAL TRADE.**—A well attended meeting of miners belonging to the Oldbury, Langley, and Rounds Green districts was held on Friday near Furnace Row, Oldbury, to discuss the formation of a Wages Board. A resolution in favour of reform of the land-laws and abolition of royalties was passed, and also a pledge to join the West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Tipton Miners Association.

**COLLIERY STRIKE.**—The strike at South Hetton Colliery, Durham, by which nearly 4,000 men and boys are idle, still continues. The men state that until their alleged grievances are redressed they will not return to work. South Hetton Colliery has not been worked since Friday 17th, and Murton Colliery followed their example last Monday. Both collieries belong to the Murton Hetton Coal Company (Limited).

**COTTON TRADE.**—A largely attended meeting of Burnley cardroom hands was held on the 14th, when report was submitted of interview had with the masters of Manchester during the afternoon. The meeting decided by an overwhelming majority to accept the masters' offer of 5 per cent. advance to males and females. The threatened strike both in North and in North-East Lancashire will now be averted.

Want of backbone has caused the collapse of the North-east Lancashire cotton strike. The early withdrawal of the notices by the female hands has been a great factor in this result. The *Cotton Factory Times*, in a long article says now frankly what Socialists have been saying for a long time, "That old-fashioned unionism is played out."

**IRONWORKERS' STRIKE AT ABERDEEN.**—About a thousand ironworkers in various shipbuilding yards at Aberdeen struck work yesterday, in consequence of the refusal of the masters to grant them an advance of wages to the extent of 10 per cent. A compromise was attempted, the employers offering to meet the men's claims by an advance of 5 per cent. This, however, was refused. The iron trade in Aberdeen is fairly brisk just now.

John M. Ronaldson, inspector under the Coal Mines Regulation Act in the Ayrshire district, has got his back up. The secretary to the Miners' Union made some complaints of breaches of the Act, which the inspector denied repeatedly. Having been proved guilty of some want of correctness in his denials, he writes that he will attend to no more complaints made by the miners' representative. If any man loses his life from this *promised neglect*, will he be prosecuted for murder? If not, why not?

**THE SWEATING SYSTEM IN LEEDS.**—The Report by the Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on the sweating system in Leeds has been published. It states that in Leeds the growth of the Jewish population has been strikingly sudden and rapid. Twenty-five years ago there was not a sufficient number of Jews in Leeds to form a congregation for which ten men are requisite. Mr. Abrahams was of opinion that there might now be 8,000 foreign Jews in Leeds. They have settled in a district called the Leylands, and have taken such complete possession of it that in the Board School of the locality 75 per cent. of the children are Jews.

**STRIKE IN THE GUNLOCK TRADE.**—The gunlock filers of Darlaston are on strike for an advance of 2d. per lock upon store locks, and on other locks in proportion. At a meeting of the men held on Wednesday, the 15th inst., it was stated by Mr. R. Juggins, secretary to the Midland Counties Trades' Federation, that their present wage did not exceed one shilling per day. At

a further meeting, on Saturday, he advised them to be united, as there was a good demand now for the locks in question, and as a consequence the advance would soon be obtained. After discussion it was unanimously decided to continue the strike until the advance be conceded, and that an appeal for support to all employed in the gun trade be issued.

**SHIPBUILDING STRIKE.**—On Saturday last 300 boiler-makers in Messrs. Harland and Woolf's shipbuilding works, Belfast, struck work for an advance of wages. A month ago the boiler-makers, platers, and riveters gave notice that unless an increase of 2s. per week were given them they would cease work. That notice expired on Thursday 16th, since then the masters have offered 1s. per week advance, but it was refused. On Tuesday the gates of the shipbuilding yard were closed, and 5,000 hands were locked out. This is the result of the strike, and done to embroil the strikers with the other workmen, the majority of whom are not in favour of the strike at all; this is especially the feeling amongst the night hands, who maintain they had no part in the dispute, and were quite willing to remain at work. The "Island Lambs" are better at murdering stray Catholics than at standing together. So far the other shipbuilding yards have not been affected by the dispute. According to arrangement, the operatives met at the works Tuesday afternoon, and received the wages at five o'clock due since the previous Thursday. Prior to and after payment groups of different trades were eagerly discussing the strike, or, as most of them call it, the "lock-out." No definite step has yet been arranged amongst the men, but as the strikers' unions are strong it is believed the affair will last a good while.

**COTTON TRADE RETURNS.**—According to the Board of Trade returns, the cotton industry is still improving. The exports of yarn for month ending July 31st were 21,378,800 lbs., an improvement of about 5 per cent. on the same month in 1887 and 1886. For the seven months ending July 31 the exports of yarn reached a total of 147,919,000 lbs. The greatest increase is to the East; China and Hong-Kong have taken 11,366,000 lbs. Japan 19,370,000 lbs., nearly double the recent averages. India, Straits Settlements, and Ceylon have taken 30,113,300 lbs., being about a million over averages of two last years. Cotton cloth shows a like improvement. France has made a bit of a spurt in consumption. Portugal for the seven months has taken 52,390,000 yards, being about 50 per cent. increase over the first seven months of the two previous years. Next to India, China heads the list, taking in the seven months 380,253,500 yards, or 20 per cent. increase. Japan stands for 48,520,000 yards, nearly three times as much as taken two years ago. Total exports of cloth for seven months reach 2,895,275,700 yards, being over one hundred millions of yards increase on 1886-7. Naturally on this increase masters are trying all the old tricks of cribbing time and increasing output without increasing pay, and naturally the workers demand their share of improved trade. The pity is that want of union and promptness prevents the workers getting their dues.

TO THE WORKMEN WHO ARE OR LATELY HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE IN PARIS OR ELSEWHERE IN FRANCE.

COMRADES.—We of the Socialist League have been watching with intense interest the struggle which you are carrying on. When you have read the name we bear you will not want to be told how deeply we sympathise with your efforts to uphold the solidarity of labour, and applaud the courage which has sustained you in conflict. But we believe it may encourage you to know that there are English workmen who understand your position and are not deceived by the sophistries and calumnies of the bourgeois press. Two things have struck us in comparing this strike with others that have taken place in our country and elsewhere. In the first place, that the strikers regard it not merely as an attempt to raise their wages and shorten their hours of labour a little, but as a protest against the general robbery of the workers by capital; and in the second place, that in France this is well understood by the bourgeois masters of so-called society, and has inspired them with fear.

This then, comrades, makes your strike of especial importance. You may be compelled to resume work under the pressure of starvation, which the capitalists so well understand how to use against you, backed up as they are by a tyrannical government, which is really nothing but a committee acting for them; but your present defeat will form a standpoint for future victory, and the time when the workman will unite in sweeping away the class robbery on which rests the brigandage now falsely called society.

Accept, comrades, our fraternal greetings and heartfelt thanks for your efforts in the cause of true freedom.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

BELGIUM.

From the 2nd to the 7th of this month the Universal Federation of the Window-glass Makers have held their annual congress at Charleroi. The window-glass makers of America, England, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal were represented by delegates. Among the questions discussed at the gathering, the most important has been that concerning the statistics of glass production. The yearly pane-glass production all over the world, now exceeds one milliard square feet. The general secretaryship has been maintained in Belgium, and entrusted to comrade Abel Delwarte, whose great talents for organisation have been long ago acknowledged by his fellow-workers.

Two important demonstrations have been held at Morlanwez and La Hestre (Hainault) by the group of social science "L'Avant-garde révolutionnaire" (the revolutionary vanguard). Comrades Pintelon, Wysman, and Bergé have developed at great length and amidst the unanimous applause of several thousand workers assembled there, the revolutionary and Communist theories which they intend spreading all through Belgium, the uselessness of parliamentarism and the dupery of universal suffrage which the possibilists of the *Parti ouvrier* advocate as the best means of bringing about the social change. Our friends of the "Revolutionary Vanguard" feel sure that ere long all the workers of that industrial district will go hand in hand with them and leave alone those who preach such petty palliative measures, that have always in the long run brought them under the subjection of the bourgeois Democrats and Radicals.

Oscar Falleur, who has been liberated from jail after having undergone nearly two years of imprisonment (strike riots of 1886), has been ordered by the Minister of "Justice" to leave Belgium. He is now on his way to America. But there is not in the Belgian penal code such a punishment as "exile"; how then has minister Lejeune come to inflict upon our comrade this new condemnation, which in many cases is still stronger than imprisonment? And why is it that our friend has obeyed that illegal order? It is rumoured that the other liberated strikers and "rioters," Schmidt, Wagener, and their comrades, are also about to be compelled to leave their country. That's what the Belgian reactionary Government understands by granting an amnesty. The Socialists there ought to protest most strongly against such arbitrary measures and force upon the powers that be to make a serious and not a bogus amnesty.

## RUSSIA.

Some Continental papers have lately reported that Russia has concluded an extradition treaty with Spain for the following offences: Attempt on the lives of the sovereigns or members of their families, leze-majesty, high treason, conspiracy, attempt on high officials of the State, preparation and detention of dynamite or other explosive substances. The circumstance that a crime has been committed for a political purpose, can never be a pretext for refusing the said extradition. We do not yet know if these informations are correct, but the clauses that are indicated certainly represent the desiderata of the reactionaries, especially of the Russian government, in matters of extradition. It is political extradition pure and simple that these reactionaries would first establish by treaty between the conservative countries, and afterwards force it upon the smaller countries. As for the large States who would resist, at least partially, this infamous bit of legislation, as England and France perhaps would do, they would be denounced as the very focusses of "Anarchist" agitation, and the efforts of the "League of the Great Monarchies" would be directed against them. The old right of asylum would have ceased to exist, and the horrible government of the Czar, namely, would be enabled to reach its victims everywhere.

## DENMARK.

Comrade P. Knudsen, secretary of the Social Democratic Federation in Denmark, has sent to us a complete account of the Congress that was held at Copenhagen on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of July last. Our limited space only permits us to give the following condensed extracts from his report. At the Congress, 33 unions or branches of the Party were represented by 65 delegates. In the hall of the meeting-house which belongs to the Socialists, was arranged an exhibition of Socialist newspapers of all countries of Europe, America, and Australia. The chief points for discussion at the Congress were:—The programme of the party, the organisation, and the propaganda. The result of the debates on the first question was the acceptance of a complete programme, from which we quote the following sections: Labour is the source of all social wealth and civilisation, and the whole produce ought to belong to those who labour. In the present society the means of labour—land, factories, machines, engines, means of communication, etc.—are in possession of the capitalists, who in this manner have usurped the results from the labour of past centuries. The capitalist possession of the means of labour is the cause of political oppression, social inequality, and dissensions between nations, all of which cause misery for the productive members of society, and increases the ranks of the proletariat. The capitalist domination prevents a state of society founded upon justice, and produces an unorganised production, in which enormous wealth is destroyed. It is the aim of the Socialists to emancipate labour from the exploitation of capitalism. The present wage-system consequently ought to be abolished. The Danish Socialists fully acknowledge that Socialism is not only a national or local question, but requires theoretical and practical support from the labourers of all countries. The complete emancipation of all human beings must therefore be accomplished without any regard to sex, race, or nationality. The activity of the Congress as to the organisation and the propaganda has, of course, chiefly been of local nature. On the whole, we have been glad to hear that the proceedings of the Congress have shown the most hearty feelings of all concerned, and that Socialism in Denmark has increased not only in numbers but also in organisation. During the present month a Congress of the Danish trades' unions is to be held, and the unions of Sweden and Norway will take part in the proceedings. V. D.

## SPAIN.

MATARÓ.—The workers in metal here have demanded of their employers a ten hours' working-day and extra pay for overtime. The masters held out against them for a time, but on a strike being declared, and the strikers showing signs of remaining firm, they gave in to their demands.

VALENCIA.—The tram-conductors of Valencia have presented the exploiting company under whom they serve with a written request for alterations in the service. They ask for ten hours, and not as now eighteen and nineteen hours a-day; no taking away of established holidays; no dismissal of employes without sufficient reason, and so forth. The company holding out against them, they declared themselves on strike, but unfortunately unsuccessfully, the company having only to raise a finger for a crowd of unemployed men to rush forward to take the place of the strikers without conditions.

NAVARRÉS.—We read that a strike of weavers has taken place in this town, and rising out of this a disturbance between the strikers and the non-associates who have taken their place, the president of the trade society and others professing Socialist ideas being arrested for taking part in the affair.

## ITALY.

PRISON JUSTICE.—In an account of his long imprisonment, just terminated, Cipriani tells, among other things, of one old man who was condemned to penal servitude for life. The brilliant hope was held out to him that after twenty years of good conduct he should be released. The prisoner thereupon held out bravely during most of the appointed time of purgatory, and with the hope of a few years of liberty and broken health (if he lived so long) led in prison, we are told, "the life of a saint." But one day, excited by the prospect of being at the end of his time, he happened to pass the governor of the prison without saluting him. Being heavily ironed for this contumacious conduct, he menaced in impotent anger a gaoler who jeered at him in passing, and for this menace he had three years more on a bread and water diet.

THE ROYAL JOURNEY.—The Republicans and Socialists of Italy send up their cry of protest to heaven against the king's journey through Romagna, and the expenses and pomp thereof. Inwardly they must thank the royalists for the move, it being a godsend to the Republican journals in a slack season; it provides them with copy for so long beforehand, if they are provident and begin upon the subject early enough in the year. M. M.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

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

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

## FREE SPEECH FUND.

YARMOUTH.

Our comrade Poynts, of the Norwich branch, was last week fined here £1, and upon application by his friends for his release the amount demanded by Government was £2 19s. 4d., for holding meetings on the Church Plain, a very large open space, at which no conceivable obstruction can take place to the little traffic which passes. They moved to this spot from the Quay side at the suggestion of the police, who explained we might meet there without interference. Blue Ribbon and Salvation Army meetings are still allowed on the disputed spot, so that it is clearly a persecution for opinion's sake. The authorities in this district have probably taken this action in the hope of stemming the enormous spread of our ideas which is going on here, and as a preliminary step to stopping our meetings elsewhere, a course of action which the local papers at Norwich are already beginning to urge them to do. Reynolds has also been summoned this week, and will probably join Poynts in prison before this paper is printed, while several other comrades are ready to follow them in support of the right of Free Speech in the open. In the first case a mother, and in the second a wife, are depending upon our comrades for a living, and we earnestly appeal to all friends and sympathisers to help us in fighting this matter through to the end, and also in forming a Fund for use on whatever occasion may arise, as will surely be the case again before long in other parts of the country.

All amounts will be acknowledged in this column.

F. CHARLES, Sec.

## COUNTRY PROPAGANDA FUND.

Some comrades have arranged to commence a tour of the Suffolk villages, distributing leaflets and other literature, and holding meetings in the various suitable spots throughout the county. This is work that urgently needs doing in all parts of the country, and we appeal for funds to enable the Socialist League to extend their field of operations in this manner.

The following amounts have been received, and all future sums will be duly acknowledged in this column:—13, Farringdon Road, 8s. 3d.; Clerkenwell Green, 1s.; W. Morris, 7s. 6d.; Regent's Park, 3s. 10d.; Hyde Park, 3s. 0½d.; Leman Street, 1s.; Berner Street, 1s. 6d.; Victoria Park, 3s. 6d. Total, £1 9s. 8d.

F. CHARLES, Sec., 13, Farringdon Road, E.C.

## REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—On Sunday evening, August 19th, Turner and Blundell addressed a good meeting at Clerkenwell Green. We collected 1s. for the Country Propaganda Fund, and there was a fair demand for the *Commonweal*. In the hall comrade Brooks lectured on "The Influence of Theology on Present Society" to a fair audience. Some opposition from a Christian Socialist. The lecturer replied to the satisfaction of the audience.—B.

HYDE PARK.—Brooks, Leah, Chatterton, Henderson, Murphy, and Turner spoke. Slight opposition. Audience generally appreciative. Collection, 3s. 0½.

MERTON.—On Sunday, 12th, we held a good meeting on the Fair Green. In evening the audience consisted of the showmen and others gathered for the annual fair of 13th. Good reception. Local inspector out of sorts; threatened to run us in for causing obstruction and begging, as he termed our collection. Cantwell, Kitz, Eden, Dalchow, speakers. 19th, in morning, good meeting, addressed by Rochmann and Eden. In evening, at club-house, controversy between Kitz and Dalchow on "Anarchism v. Social Democracy." Agreed that we hold a set debate, on Sunday evening next, on same question, Dalchow to open at 8 prompt.—F. K.

REGENT'S PARK.—Brooks and Turner spoke. A little opposition from Whelan, who has, however, developed as far as State Socialism, but still holds rather foggy ideas on many points. Collection, 3s. 10½d.

ABERDEEN.—No meeting held on 11th, in consequence of rain. At indoor meetings, on Monday nights, we have had good lectures and discussions. On Tuesday, 14th, Leatham addressed an open-air meeting at Woodside, under auspices of Woodsides Dialectal and Industrial Association. Party from Aberdeen Branch sang "Hark, the Battle Cry!" attracting a large crowd, which followed Leatham indoors, where he delivered an address on "The Sweating System, and how alone to Abolish it." Good meeting held on Castle Street, on Saturday night, Aiken acting as chairman and Leatham as lecturer.—J. L.

EDINBURGH.—Very short of speakers this summer. Open-air work generally has been done in co-operation with the S. D. F. On 12th and 19th, however, Davidson, Noble, and John Smith held forth at our old station in Queen's Park. Very successful meetings. Have adopted system of lending pamphlets in streets contiguous to winter meeting place.—J. H. S.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday, at 5, Glasier and Burgoyne held our usual meeting at Paisley Road. There was, as usual, a large and very attentive audience. At 6.30 we held a meeting on the Green, near the Monument, some 500 persons being present, including a knot of Orangemen, who, as on the previous Sunday, enlivened the proceedings by their interruptions. A Tory "working man," who is kept on stock for political use in the west of Scotland, put a series of questions—mostly irrelevant—to Glasier, which were answered.

IPSWICH.—Our comrades here are carrying on an active propaganda, holding meetings weekly at Westerfield, Sproughton, Ipswich, and two at Needham Market. At all these places they are well received, and our ideas are decidedly making headway in this district. A very large quantity of old *Commonweals*, leaflets, &c., have also been distributed in the surrounding villages, and there appears to be every likelihood that Ipswich will soon become as important a stronghold for Suffolk as Norwich is already for Norfolk.

LEEDS.—On Sunday morning Hill, Paylor, and Maguire spoke on Hunslet Moor. At night Paylor, Hill, and Sallett addressed a large crowd in Vicar's Croft. Maguire lectured at Shipley in the evening on "The Breakdown of our Industrial System."

LEICESTER.—On Sunday, 5th, we were accused by a policeman of causing obstruction, and ordered out of Russell Square, but we refused to go. Our individualist friend Slater came up on Sunday, 12th, to help us fight for the right of public meeting, but we, not being interfered with, had a fierce discussion with him instead. On the same evening comrade Robson and James Holmes, secretary of the Hosiery Union, debated at the Secular Hall on "Socialism False in Principle and Subversive of Individual Liberty." On the 19th we had a rattling discussion of the nature of interest and of the results of nationalising the land only.—T. P. B.

NORWICH.—On Friday last a very good meeting was held on St. Catharine's Plain, addressed by Morley, Mowbray, and Cores (London). On Sunday morning successful meetings were held at North Walsham, Diss, and Market Place. In the afternoon a large meeting was held in the Market Place, addressed by Mow-

bray, Reynolds (Lowestoft), Cores (London); after the meeting the members adjourned to Gordon Hall, where several songs were rendered by the comrades. A meeting was also held at Croxtwick by comrades Adams, Darbey, and A. Moore. In the evening another large meeting was held in the Market Place; three new members joined; good sale of *Commonweal* and fair collections.

**WALSALL.**—Last Monday Rowson read a paper on "Co-operation and Socialism," and, after discussion, was followed by other comrades with readings from revolutionary poets. On Saturday a large audience listened to Sanders, Donald, and Richards, a good impression being made.—J. T. D.

**DUBLIN.**—On Saturday last, at 22 Astons Quay, the International Bottle-Blowers' Association, Dublin, presented comrade Schumann with a purse of sovereigns and entertained him at supper in recognition of his services in the great strike of the bottle-blowers a few years ago. Comrade Fitzpatrick addressed the meeting on the question of international union amongst working men, and expressed a hope that the International Bottle-Blowers' Association was only the first step in the great union of the workers of all nations. After many years' residence in Dublin, Schumann is about to return to Denmark, of which country he is a native. On Sunday the members of the Dublin Socialist Club assembled to bid "good-bye" to comrade Fitzpatrick on his departure for London. "Fitz" has always been an earnest, consistent propagandist of the cause, and his loss will be much felt here.

**EAST END PROPAGANDA.**

Fortnightly debates are to be held at Berner Street Club, for cultivation of public speakers. Good meetings at the usual places, and a new station opened at London Fields. A fund to be raised to send Cores and Reynolds on a missionary tour. Arrangements are being made to hold on November 4th a commemorative meeting for the Chicago comrades.—W. B. P.

**LECTURE DIARY.**

**LONDON.**

- Acton.**—Any information from Secretary Harnett, 7 Redmore Road, Hammersmith.
- Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Sunday August 26, at 8.30, W. B. Parker, a lecture. Wed 29, at 8.30, F. Charles, "Society, Present and Future." Wed. Sept. 5, Turner, a lecture.
- Fulham.**—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday at 8 p.m.
- Hackney.**—Enquiries, communications, etc., to E. Lefevre, Secretary, 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Rd., Hackney Wick.
- Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday August 26, at 8 p.m. H. H. Sparling, "The Cato Street Conspiracy."
- Merton.**—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singlegate.
- Mile-end and Bethnal Green.**—95 Boston St., Hackney Road.
- North London.**—Secretary, Nelly Parker, 143 Cavendish Buildings, opposite Holborn Town Hall. The business meetings will be held on Friday evenings at 6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, after the open-air meeting at Ossulton Street. All members are asked to attend at Ossulton St. at 8 o'clock.
- Plaistow.**—A branch has been formed here and is commencing a vigorous propaganda in this district.
- St. Georges in the East.**—A meeting of the members of this branch will be held at 23 Princes Square, on Sunday morning after the meeting at Leman Street. Rochmann, secretary.

**PROVINCES.**

- Aberdeen** (Scottish Section).—Secretary, J. Leatham, 15 St Nicholas Street. Branch meets in Oddfellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8.
- Bradford.**—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivegate. Meets Tuesdays at 8.
- Carnoustie** (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. H. M'Cluskey, Millar Street, Secy.
- Dundee** (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.
- Edinburgh** (Scottish Land and Labour League).—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8 p.m.
- Galashiels** (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., secy.
- Gallatown and Dysart** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatown Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.
- Glasgow.**—34 John Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. On Thursday evening at 8, Choir Practice; all musical members invited.
- 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, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.
- Lochgelly** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (*pro tem.*), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.
- Norwich.**—Monday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting. Tuesday, at 8, a debate will be opened by C. W. Mowbray and Mr. Adie, in the Temperance Hall—subject, "International Revolutionary Socialism"; all seats free. Wednesday, at 8.30, Choir Practice. 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 26.**

- 10.30...Starch Green .....Hammersmith Branch
- 11.30...Latimer Road Station ...Hammersmith Branch
- 11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....The Branch
- 11.30...Regent's Pk...Cantwell, Mrs. Schaack, Parker
- 1.30...Walham Green .....Fulham Branch
- 3.30...Hyde Park .....Mrs. Schack & Parker
- 7 ...Weltje Road, opposite Ravenscourt Park .....Hammersmith Branch

**Tuesday.**

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

**Friday.**

- 7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street .....The Branch

**EAST END.**

**SUNDAY 26.**

- Mile-end Waste ... 11 ...East-end C'mittee.
- Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Charles.
- Well Street, Hackney... 11.45...Mainwaring.
- Victoria Park ... 3.15...Mainwaring.
- Triangle, Hackney Road 8 ...Brooks.
- Stamford Hill ... 7.30...Nicoll.

**TUESDAY.**

- Mile-end Waste ... 8.30...Fast-end C'mittee.

**WEDNESDAY.**

- Broadway, London Fields 8.30... "

**FRIDAY.**

- Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30... "

**SATURDAY.**

- Mile-end Waste ... 8 ... "

**PROVINCES.**

- Aberdeen.**—Saturday: Castle Street, at 8 p.m.
- Edinburgh.**—Queen's Park, every Sunday, at 3 p.m.
- Glasgow.**—Sunday: Jail's Square, at 12.30; Paisley Road at 5; Green, near Monument, at 6.30.
- Ipswich.**—Sproughton, Wednesday evening. Westerfield, Thursday evening. Neeham Market, Sunday morning and evening.
- Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.
- Leicester.**—Sunday: Russel Square, at 11 a.m.
- Norwich.**—Sunday: Market Place, at 11, 3, and 7.30. St. Faiths, Sunday at 11. North Walsham, Sunday at 11. Yarmouth, Church Plain, Thursday at 7.30. St Catharine's Plain, Friday at 8.15 p.m.
- Walsall.**—Meeting at Daw End on Sunday morning. Deakin, Guillemand, and Wesley, speakers.

**EAST-END PROPAGANDA.**—A meeting of all interested in the Socialist propaganda in the East-end of London will be held at the Berner Street International Club, Commercial Road, E., on Saturday at 8 p.m. The first of a series of fortnightly debates will be commenced on this occasion the subject being "How to Spread Revolutionary Socialism in the East-end."

**Obituary.**

Our comrade Mrs. Dyer, one of the oldest workers in the English Socialist movement, died on Saturday Aug. 11th, and was buried on the following Wednesday at St. George's Cemetery, Hanwell. There was no religious ceremony over the grave, this being the express desire of the deceased; and the funeral was conducted by the members of the Socialist body to which she belonged. Speeches were delivered above the coffin by comrades Murray, Fred Henderson, and W. Bartlett. Our dead comrade was one of the last survivors of the early followers of Robert Owen, and even at her advanced age was an earnest worker in the Cause, having spoken at her branch meeting only a month before she died.

**THE MATCHMAKERS' UNION.**

**THEATRE BENEFIT.**

Annie Besant and Herbert Burrows ask us to announce that on August 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, there will be a Ticket Benefit at the Royal Princess's Theatre, Oxford Street, for the Building Fund of the Women Matchmakers' Union. As soon as sufficient funds can be obtained, it is intended to build a hall in the East-end, in which the girls can meet for recreation; and all who wish to help in this work can do so by taking tickets for the benefit on any of the above dates. The tickets, prices 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., 3s., 6s., and 10s., can be obtained at 13 Farringdon Road or at 34 Boulevard Street. The piece now being played at the Princess's is the "Still Alarm," and one of the scenes is the realistic fire-engine incident, with the two trained Arabian horses.

**A GRAND CONCERT**

(By kind permission of the Clerkenwell Branch) will be held at HALL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE, ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 2nd, FOR THE BENEFIT OF **S. W. EDEN,** who has been out of work for several months, and is now in need of help.

Songs, Music, and Dramatic Readings by W. Morris, W. B. Parker, Blundell, D. Nicoll, F. Kitz, and other friends.

Admission by Programme, 3d. which may be obtained from Secretary, Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road.

D. NICOLL, Sec. W. TURNER, Treas.

**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.
- "All for the Cause!" Song. Words by William Morris; Music by E. Belfort Bax. 4to, 4 pp. 6d. per dozen, 4s. 6d
- Mrs. Grundy (Cartoon). By Walter Crane. Fine hand-made large paper. . 6d.

**No. 6 of "The Socialist Platform."**

JUST PUBLISHED, 24pp., 1d.

**TRUE AND FALSE SOCIETY.**

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

Price 1d.; post free, 1½d. Usual price to Branches or the trade.

Commonweal Office, 13 Farringdon Rd., London, E.C.

Just Published, post 8vo, 202 pp., 4s. 6d.

**SIGNS OF CHANGE.**

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

Being seven Lectures, delivered on various occasions for the Socialist League.

Reeves & Turner, 196 Strand; or *Commonweal Office.*

**THE ALARM**

A. R. PARSON'S OLD PAPER.

"Men die, but Principles live."

Subscription 8s. per ann. Address Dyer D. Lum, P.O. Box 1656, New York City, U.S.A.

**THE AUSTRALIAN RADICAL**

Advocate of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity New Lambton Road, Hamilton, Australia.

This journal is the organ of the Australian Socialist League. Copies may be had at the office of the *Commonweal*, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. 1½d. per copy, 1s. 6d. per quarter, post free.

**The Chicago Martyrs**

Containing the Speeches of the Men, an Abstract of the Record of the Trial, and a Brief Introduction With Portraits.

Price 6d., post free 7½d.

Apply for Copies at *Commonweal Office*, 13 Farringdon Road, London, E.C.