

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

VOL. 2.—No. 41.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1886.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON PASSING EVENTS.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL'S declaration of policy has been received by the Tory party on the whole as they must receive anything from those of their party who have any capacity, as something, namely, which they must support, though they may not either understand it or agree with it. There are some signs of restiveness. Mr. Chaplin, for instance, has found out that all that talk meant little beyond muzzling the Irish members, and is a little uncomfortable; since he thinks that the turn of the wheel may one day put the Tories in the position of their Irish foes. He threatens opposition, but will probably have to give way; all the more since as a matter of party tactics he is wrong and Lord Randolph is right. The Tories, indeed, are not likely to have a majority by themselves, but in alliance with the Whigs they are likely to be in a perpetual majority; the Liberal-Radical party only exists as a criticising minority.

The rest of the press has been very rough on the *Daily News* for its announcement of a Government Home Rule scheme. The *Pall Mall*, especially, has exceeded in scorn. Naturally; since the latter journal has had such success in mares'-nesting, that it may well feel that it should be privileged in that occupation. But after all is it not likely enough that a Tory communication *was* made to the *Daily News*? It would not be a bad move to play: to feel the pulse of the political world by means of a hint to an adverse journal, to go on if the public seemed to approve, and if not to repudiate the hint and thereby to damage the said adverse journal, would really be a good stroke of business in that Art of Lying in which English statesmen are past-masters.

It is pretty clear that the Austrian revolutionary story was an excuse for the arrest of "dangerous" persons. The press now says that the matter has been much exaggerated, that the saltpetre bottles were, in fact, dummies, and so forth. It is rather weak of the authorities to let this sort of thing leak out after the concoction of such a vigorous romance. On the whole the matter is of bad augury for European peace, and looks as if the Austrian Government were anxious to have as many as possible of its "dangerous" subjects under lock and key before it takes the field.

A case of white-lead poisoning reported in the press this week is worth a little notice by workmen generally. Stripped of verbiage it amounts to this, that a man was killed by being compelled to work in a place where white-lead was flying about, and that no precautions were taken to prevent his dying speedily. A shilling a-week extra was the handsome sum given to the poor man thus murdered in compensation for his being killed. It is quite impossible that the man's employers did not know the risk he ran of this speedier death, and the certainty of his being poisoned sooner or later, and yet all that the jury durst say about the matter was "to express a hope that Mr. Lakeman (the factory inspector) would be able to make representations to the Home Office with reference to the case, to show the necessity for some extra precaution being taken for people working in mixing factories."

Yet further, this is only an exaggerated example of the way in which the lives of working-people are played with. Under present conditions, almost the whole labour imposed by civilisation on the "lower classes" is unwholesome; that is to say that people's lives are shortened by it; and yet because we don't see people's throats cut before our eyes we think nothing of it. After all, probably Tamerlane was a blessing to the world compared with the factory system.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

At Southwark last week John Sullivan, aged forty, a chintz-gazier, a very respectable looking man, was charged with breaking a public street lamp. The defence was that he had been out of work for three months, and though he had first-rate recommendations, he could not get employment. With wife and family starving at home, he had broken the lamp in sheer desperation, so that he might obtain food and shelter. Mr. Sheil, the sapient presiding magistrate, remarked that starvation was no excuse for breaking the law, and remanded the prisoner. Workmen, you must starve in quiet, and not break the laws your masters have made for you! I wonder if the well-fed magistrate had been in Sullivan's position, would he have the same respect which he evidently possesses at the present time for the laws of this free and happy country?

An inquest was held on Tuesday October 12 at St. Giles Coroner's Court by Dr. Danford Thomas as to the death of George Hibbert, a carpenter, who committed suicide on the preceding Saturday. In a notebook that was found on him, directed to the coroner, was the following statement: "The cause of this act is my inability to get work during the present depression of trade. I have not been able to earn a proper living for the last five years. Being physically weak and naturally slow, I have not been able to cope with quicker men in these days when speed is everything. If I were twenty years younger I should be more hopeful." The jury returned a verdict of "suicide while of unsound mind." Their verdict should have been "murdered by the system of competition." D. N.

In East Surrey a child nine years of age has died from starvation. She was one of six children; her father was a bargee and had been three months out of work. The family had been eking out a subsistence on a small piece of bread each once a day and some water. This is not an uncommon occurrence. What comment can one make on facts like this?

Here we live in a society, most of us uncomplainingly, and we calmly and callously read of the slow murder of little children, and take it as a matter of course. Their lives are sacrificed merely to sate the greed of one class, and the system is borne with and even supported by the folly of both. Perhaps ten years hence the father of that child will be struggling by the side of his fellows against the class that murdered his child; and if his passion, inflamed by this bitter memory, lead him to excesses, his conduct will be pointed to as an example of the horrors of revolution. And yet nothing he could do or would dream of doing would be half as repulsive as this one horror of civilisation.

The Salvation Army week of self-denial has brought out some curious results. A Manchester merchant sent £500 as the result of his week of "self-denial." Has the gentleman sent this as the sum of his business profits and the extravagances of his living? Capitalists don't often practice self-denial, but as the result is so good when they do, it might be worth while to make them frequently, or even constantly, repeat the experiment. To put the matter in a very blunt way, this capitalist, having taken the £500 out of the working-men's pockets, denied himself the usual pleasure of putting it in his own. What he had stolen from the people's stomachs he generously spent in saving their souls.

It is all very well for Mrs. Fawcett to pitch into Mrs. Linton about her commercial view of the education of women, but the unfortunate thing is that Mrs. Fawcett is in the clouds, while Mrs. Linton usefully reminds one of what *can* be done. The worst of Mrs. Linton's opinions is that they are correct. As long as the commercial system lasts every profession must be subservient to it. As long as we have a profit-grabbing Society, the chief end of women's education will be and must be to fit them to grab like the rest. Any higher education will only unfit them for their surroundings.

A Conference of Delegates of 20,000 Tyneside workmen has been held, and a movement for an Eight Hours' Working-day begun. Of course, tradesmen are right in making the best of the present system, but it is to be hoped that the next working-class movement entered on by the trades' unions will be of a more comprehensive kind. Do they intend to include the sewing-women of London, etc., in their agitation for a shorter working-day? The great fault of these petty agitations is that they are only for the benefit of a *section* of the workers. Even a reformatory movement would do good if it aimed at uniting all parts of the working-class for a common object; indeed, if the workers of all kinds could be got together and well organised for any purpose it would be a great step in the right direction. For, once get them together and make them feel a real singleness of purpose and interest, and their way to Socialism will be clear and easy enough.

The winter will produce its crop of associations for relieving the distress. All sections of opinion, from the amiable idiocy of the promoters of "mother's meetings," who think to reform the world with a few basins of soup, to the fanatical dynamitard who thinks to revolutionise Society by smashing a few panes of glass. The former are undoubtedly the greatest nuisance, while the latter are, after all, perhaps only a few sharp-witted glaziers who are trying to carry out the teachings of orthodox political economy.

The schemes of reform and alleviation which are brought forward by the philanthropists may be well illustrated in their working and effect by a story told of the Scotch way of making mutton-broth for the inmates of the workhouse. A large pot filled with water is put on the fire. A leg of mutton is then got and hung up on the wall about fifty yards off, but in such a position that its shadow will fall into the pot. The cooking then proceeds; the shadow is thoroughly boiled and duly seasoned, and the resulting soup is given to fatten and gladden the workhouse inmates. The reforms doled out by the upper class are very much like this broth, and with certainly not more substance in them.

J. L. MAHON.

THE LAW AS TO CHURCH PROPERTY.

V.

BEFORE dealing with the question as to Church property, there are one or two matters on which I may say a few words in reply to queries very often put forth by the friends of the Church. We are constantly told that there are a large number of livings where the stipend is less than the wage of our artisans or mechanics. No one will deny it. In the Church there are the extremes of wealth and poverty, just as in the outside world. Indeed it is one of the characteristics of all aristocratic institutions that high salaries go with very little work, and that where the most labour is to be done, there the poorest reward is given. It is the same through all the ramifications of society, not only in England, but throughout the civilised world. The following cases, copied from the Clergy List of 1877, are not given as the worst that can be found, but as a sample sufficient to show that in the Church, as in the world at large, the same inequality exists; that the Church is just as unholy, and just as corrupt, as any other institution in existence. Instead of the Church being a beacon of light, leading the people onward higher and ever higher in all that is holy and pure by its example, it tends to debase and degrade them, and to prevent as far as possible that regeneration of society which is the hope and the aim of every lover of humanity.

Benefice.	County.	Popula- tion.	Value of Living. £	Value per head of Population. £ s. d.
Alderkirk ...	Lincoln ...	962 ...	2000 ...	2 1 7
Alston-Moor ...	Cumberland ...	1811 ...	5 ...	0 0 0½
March—St Mary's ...	Cambridge ...	500 ...	2000 ...	4 0 0
Marske ...	York ...	1943 ...	50 ...	0 0 6½
Settington ...	York ...	777 ...	1609 ...	2 1 6
Norton—Mid Sumner ...	Somerset ...	1131 ...	29 ...	0 0 6
Rowley ...	York ...	516 ...	1300 ...	2 10 5
Erith ...	Kent ...	2700 ...	33 ...	0 0 2½
Upwell ...	Cambridge ...	866 ...	1596 ...	1 16 9
Metford ...	Norfolk ...	1676 ...	48 ...	0 0 6½

Such a state of things is not only a disgrace to the Church, it is a disgrace to the country that tolerates it. Here are five livings with a total income of £8503, or an average of over £1700 each, and five other livings with an aggregate income of £165, or an average of £33 each. And yet we are told that this Church is free from corruption, pure and holy, and invulnerable to the attacks of both atheist and revolutionist. These extremes of wealth and poverty exist not only among the regular clergy, but among the higher dignitaries of the Church. The following is also for 1877:

Cathedral Bodies.	No. of Officials.	Net income. £	Average Incomes. £ s. d.
Oxford ...	9 ...	12,203 ...	1355 17 6
Llandaff ...	13 ...	654 ...	50 6 0
St Paul's ...	4 ...	12,746 ...	3186 10 0
Chester ...	7 ...	634 ...	90 11 0
Canterbury ...	13 ...	15,982 ...	1229 12 0
St. Asoff ...	13 ...	382 ...	29 9 0
Durham ...	13 ...	27,933 ...	2147 18 0
Ripon ...	10 ...	265 ...	26 10 0

The above needs no comment. It is no better than the world, of which it forms a part, and from which it cannot separate itself. Yet by its lofty pretensions it fills the human soul with idle hopes and childish fears, while by its example it scatters corruption all around and tends to debase and demoralise all that comes within the sphere of its influence.

We have seen in the previous articles that the clergy rose to supremacy partly by their arrogance and their lofty pretensions, aided by the ignorance and credulity of the people, and partly by the force of law; that they acquired their wealth and their right to rob the community by force of law; that amid their riches they are quite indifferent to their duties, not only in relation to the people, but in all their relations with each other. We have seen, too, that it is in virtue of law that they are able to plunder the people to-day—to take from the labour of the toiling masses millions annually to keep them in idleness and luxury. And we have now to see that to all intents and purposes, by the law of the land, Church property is State property.

As far back as the time of the Norman Conquest, Church property was regarded as State property to the extent that the Crown had the right to meet its requirements, when necessary, by helping itself to the property of the Church. In the 13th century an Act was passed (1285), the 13 Edward I., ch. 61, which declared that if any Church lands or other property be sold or alienated the purchaser shall forfeit

the same to the Crown. In 1404, Parliament formally declared all Church property to be State property. Ten years later (1414) it repeated the declaration. In 1534, 25 Henry VIII., an Act was passed to give the first-fruits and tenths to the Crown. The next year an Act was passed to suppress 376 monasteries with incomes of less than £200 each. Four years later another law to suppress all the great monasteries, a number of hospitals, colleges, etc. In 1545, another Act to suppress the remaining colleges, etc., and in 1547, another Act to secure to the Crown all the property of the Church. This was making Church property State property with a vengeance. In the same year another Act was passed to enable the Crown to seize all chantries, free chapels, lay guilds, etc. In 1571, 13 Eliz., ch. 16, the Act of Edward I. (1285) was re-enacted; and in 1576, the 18 Eliz., ch. 11, another law to prevent the evasion of the former one. But though the Crown had the right, by law, to take possession of the whole property of the Church, it left eleven sees and the same number of chapters untouched, the value of the property of which in 1871, was returned at £14,898,000. Henry also established a number of foundations, with grammar schools, in connection with the cathedrals. These endowments were by the 31 Hen. VIII., ch. 9, the following being the preamble: "To the intent that God's word may the better be set forth, children brought up in learning, clerks nourished in the universities, old servants decayed to have living, alms-houses for the poor folks to be sustained in," etc. (Report of School Inquiry Com., 1868, p. 268). But, true to their general character, the clergy swallowed up what should have gone to the poor, and left but very little for grammar schools or any other purpose.

The 17 Geo. III., ch. 53, gave facilities to the clergy to erect glebe houses, giving the incumbent the power to purchase one if necessary, and to raise the means by the sale of part of the glebe land, or of a part of the tithes. By the 50 Geo. III., ch. 147, the clergy obtained the right to exchange the parsonage or glebe houses and lands for other houses and lands, as well as to purchase land, which lands "so purchased shall be ever, from and after the grant and conveyance thereof, be, and become annexed to and glebe of such benefice." The incumbent was also empowered by the sale of timber to purchase a parsonage house or glebe lands. It will thus be seen that every kind of Church property has been dealt with by the law of the land.

At the time of the Reformation it became the custom for the higher dignitaries to lease their estates for very long periods. This was soon found by the Government to be injurious to such property. To curtail that evil the 13 Eliz., ch. 10, was passed, which declared that "for that long and unreasonable leases made by colleges, deans and chapters, parsons, vicars, and others having spiritual promotions, be the chiefest causes of the dilapidations and the utter impoverishment of all successive incumbents of the same; be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from henceforth all leases, gifts, grants, feofments, conveyances, or estates, to be made, had, done, or suffered by any master and fellows of any college, dean and chapter of any cathedral church, master or guardian of any hospital, parson, vicar, or any other having any spiritual or ecclesiastical living, or any houses, lands, tenements, or other hereditaments being parcel of the possessions of any college, etc. (other than for the term of one and twenty years, or three lives from the time as any such lease or rent shall be made or granted, whereupon the accustomed yearly rent or more shall be reserved and payable yearly during the said term), shall be utterly void and of none effect." By the above Act it will be seen that the State not only claimed but exercised full control over the property of the Church. "The State made its own regulations as to the disposal, and to prevent the waste of that property which belonged to itself which had been devoted to ecclesiastical uses." The clergy were not consulted in the matter. It was simply the action of the State with respect to the property of the State.

By the 1 & 2 Vict. ch. 23, permission is given to convert old benefice houses into farmhouses for tenants of the glebe, or the said houses may be sold and the proceeds paid over to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, to be applied to purchase or hire other houses. But two very sweeping measures were passed in 1871-72. By these Acts, 34 & 35 Vict. ch. 43, and 35 & 36 Vict. ch. 96, it is provided that surveyors of parsonage houses and glebe lands shall be appointed in every diocese; the archdeacon, rural dean, patron, or incumbent, can at any time request that an inspection be made. If any repairs are needed they must be made on the report of the surveyor. All expenses, including the surveyor's charges, have to be paid by the incumbent. Likewise all the costs of the repairs. If the incumbent cannot meet the above charges, he can borrow from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty a sum for the purpose not exceeding three years' net income. If the incumbent refuses to do anything the repairs are made and the benefice is sequestrated until all expenses are paid. Even previous to the above Acts the law was, according to the Commissioners' Report of 1832, "If any spiritual person holding any preferment for life allow the parsonage house, stables, barns, or any other of the buildings, or the fences, or the property of the Church, to fall into decay, or commit, or allow to be committed, any wilful waste on the same, he may be proceeded against in the Ecclesiastical Court, and compelled to make the necessary reparation. In the case of accident by fire the same responsibility attaches." Sir R. Phillimore ('Ecc. Law,' p. 1610) says: "It is obvious that no ecclesiastic can enjoy his benefice or preferment for more than his life at farthest; and in the eye of the law every person in succession in an ecclesiastical corporation sole is a quasi tenant for life, having the freehold and an estate for life in his benefice or preferment, but no more." It may just be stated here that a clergyman cannot even insure the parsonage house

or other property in his own name. It must be insured in the names of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty.

But since the clerical returns of 1835, and the two septennial returns of the Bishops already referred to, the Government does not depend on the action alone of the great ecclesiastical bodies. That was found to be no longer safe. These bodies are now controlled by a purely lay commission, known as the English Land Commission, whose authority is based on the Universities and College Estates Acts of 1858, 1860, and 1880. The consent of this Commission is required to all sales and purchases of lands, and to other dealings with land by enfranchisement and exchange, and to the raising of money for certain purposes, under their Acts, by mortgage or otherwise, by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham, and the Colleges of those Universities, and by the Colleges of Winchester and Eton. The total transactions up to the end of 1884, under the sanction of the Commission, amounted to the sum of £5,390,214. Truly there is not much power left to the clergy as far as the property of the Church is concerned.

In 1876, a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enquire into the operation of the Dilapidation Acts. The Rev. D. S. Wrangham, of Darrington, in his evidence before the Committee, said: "I cannot see any reason why ecclesiastical property should be fenced round with an elaborate system of defence, from which lay property is entirely free. After all, clergymen as a body are a body of gentlemen, and it seems to me that the position which we are put into under this Act is that we are either treated as if we were children, or as if we were rogues. We are tied up at every turn; one may not insure one's house in one's own name, but in the name of Queen Anne's Bounty as well, and every farthing of Dilapidations, or every farthing under the insurance, has to be paid into Queen Anne's Bounty, and the work has to be done by the surveyors and not by ourselves, and the money only to be paid under their certificate. It seems to me to be putting a very large body, and I hope a very respectable body, of men into a position which their lay fellows would resent very much about their property." (Par. Paper 258, Sess. 1876, Ans. to Ques. 686). The rev. gentleman could not see that Church property is State property, and must therefore be controlled by the State.

I have shown that Church property is the property of the public, of the people, that it is held as State property, its management controlled by the State, and that it is for the people, when they are wise enough and have the will, to apply that property to any other purpose.

J. SKETCHLEY.

THE WORK OF SOCIALISTS TO-DAY.

The great stock objection everlastingly thrown at Socialists is the charge of being impractical. "You hold out a beautiful ideal," they say, "and we admit its beauty; but you can never reach it—it is an impossibility. Lay down a practical line of action and we will follow you." I propose to lay before such opponents (!) what I take to be the practical work of Socialists to-day.

We are men holding an idea that men might live without poverty if they would only unite to do it. We see that our present system of society is full of forces tending to destroy that system, its own rottenness being not the least of these forces; we see that shortly these destructive forces will reach a climax, that the continued poverty of the workers, the corruptness of the ruling class, long-enduring depressions of trade, will shortly bring about an upheaval, a revolution: it is not our work to make this revolution; we can see it is coming.

We hold an ideal of what society might be after this upheaval. We know the causes of the corruptness of the present system, and we believe that this revolution may be a starting point for a new system in which these causes will be absent, and consequently poverty would be absent also. Our practical work, then, is to lay before our fellows what we believe are the reasons of the poverty of so many citizens to-day, and to form a party who accept our ideas, so that when the revolution comes (and the only fear is that it will come too soon) we may be ready for it, and be able to guide it successfully into a better state than existed before. If it comes and finds no party ready, it will then be a mere flare-up of destruction, sinking down again into worse chaos than before. The revolution is growing now, wherever the workers are learning the cause of their position, wherever discontent is spreading through the mass of the toilers. Let us, then, get ready for the climax. Let us get hold of trades' unions and societies and every means that will enable the workers to take hold of the means of production and manage them when the day comes. Let us gather together a party of men who know what they want, who see clearly the lines along which the new society will move, and who in time of revolution will be a nucleus in the midst of the mass of aimless discontent, guiding it aright.

FRED HENDERSON.

Socialism proposes to stop the wastes of Society by having none of its members uselessly employed or idle, and by turning the great army of non-producers into a brotherhood of producers.

THE APOTHEOSIS OF SHODDY.—"Woollen goods, which were formerly only used for the production of Prussian blue and inferior paper, and for the most part were thrown on the waste-heap, have now become raw materials, as well as silk and cotton refuse, for re-use in textile industry, and thus render respectable clothing material accessible to persons of very moderate means. . . . Who can deny that, when one observes the use made of waste materials, during a certain given space of time, a new picture of civilisation unfolds itself."—Archibald Regnier, in presidential remarks to the Imperial Commission of the Vienna International Exhibition for 1873.

THE LORD OF BURLEIGH.

(FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF HIS DISAPPOINTED RIVAL.)

THAT head-stone? Yes, it is new—and neglected so soon! Would you know Yet more of the tale of the life of the lady that lies below? I can tell you; I once was her friend, and she was a friend to me; Though there she lies in her grave, and I stand here, as you see. Oh, yes, you are right, quite right. We might have been married, we twain, And have taken our chance together of shadow and sunshine and rain. Well, many things might have been, and are not; and it little skills To brood over vanished hopes, and count them for present ills.

She lived, you must know, in the valley, and I on the further slope Of the mountain that lifts its head to the skies, as if ever in hope That the careless clouds that pass, as you see them passing now, Will yet take pity and heal the heat of its aching brow. How oft have I crossed its ridges! There is not a single stone In the whole rough length of the path that I have not noticed and known, And loved and been glad to greet, as we greet the face of a friend Whose welcome is always sure when we reach our journey's end.

And a welcome was mine in the valley whenever I cared to come, And daily I came and went, till the days made up the sum Of the best bright years of my life, when its skies were undimmed. Ah me! About them abode a glory I never again shall see. For still as I climbed the ridge in the light of the afternoon, My heart was aglow with the thought, "I shall see my darling soon." And late when again I returned, one thought lit all my night, "Again on the morrow's eve I shall sun my soul in her sight." "Strong summer was hot on the hill when I roamed its ridges across; But summer died off into autumn, and left no sense of a loss In my heart as I came and went, though the wind and the wintry rain Stripped all the shivering trees of the pride of their summer gain. Nor tarried the autumn longer, but winter wild and cold, With dint of his iron heel a-tramp on the frozen wold, Locked all the runlets fast in the grip of a crystal vice, And set to the sound of my footfall the ridges a ringing with ice. But little I recked of the rain, and less of the cold and frost; There was that had been mine in the summer that was not in the winter lost— The passion of ardent love, the glow of a gift divine, That warmed the veins of my heart with a warmth that was better than And winter went by, and was done with, and yielded its place to " And again by the stream in the valley I heard the nightingale; And again was the garment of green soft-spread over herbage; But what was the spring's bright robe or the nightingale's note Nay, the nightingale's note and the spring's new raiment were. And doubly sweet each change that came with the changing year For ever before me now sweet spring seemed spread in my view, And a nightingale sang in my heart the whole black winter thru

And daily in spring as in winter I came to the cottage that stood By the bank of the winding stream where it lost its way in the w And daily I saw my love, and at eve of each glad day We talked long hours together, and ever had much to say Of our hopes and our fears for the future, and many a care and do. And many a sage opinion the world could have done without, And not been much the loser; but what to us was the world? Our eyes were undimmed by the dust that the wheels of its chariot w Our hearts were clear of the curse that has clung to its lips from of ol Our hands, though hardened with toil, were clean of the grime of its g

And our talk was of fields and of woods, and of birds whose nests were beg And of all things free that rejoice in the sight of the strengthening sun. And we spoke of the dismal city, and pitied the dwellers there, Dim-lighted with gas for their sunshine, and fog for the fresh free air; Foul, murky for miles and miles; and we talked of the rich and great, And the squalid starving poor, whose souls are cankered with hate, And their bodies with fever and famine—a horrible festering sore That ever from year to year Lord Dives sees at his door, And heeds not at all its horror, nor hearkens at all to the cry That Lazarus million-throated sends up to the pitiless sky, Knowing well that on earth is no pity, and asking 'twixt hope and despair, If haply its home be on high in the vast dim vault of the air. And we talked of the homes of the wealthy, and well we agreed that we Would still say No to the chance, if ever such chance should be, That might, mayhap, enthrone us in one of their high-built halls, Where all too thick are the hangings, and all too strong are the walls, To let the lament of the poor and the noise of the vulgar and rude, On the delicate ears of the owners with hateful insistence intrude.

No, nought would we have to do with the lordlier lot of the great, Not even if we were enriched by the turn of the wheel of fate. And then we planned in our wisdom how this and that we would do, And much that was wrong should be righted, but little, alas, we knew Of the change of heart that comes with the change of rank and degree And the hopes whose bloom is blighted. Yet wise in our way were we For wiser it surely is to take what the fates may send, Nor overmuch to murmur at ills that we cannot mend, Though all our hope make ship-wreck, and all its cargo of bliss In the shallowing straits of fortune be steered awry and amiss, Till it strike on the rocks and sink in the gape of the swallowing wave. For caught in the swirl of despair, when hardly his soul shall he save, If haply a man remember the joy that comes not again, The bliss remembered in sorrow is only the keener pain. Nay, let him a little be happy, nor mar his present mirth With the woe in the womb of time ere its sorrow be come to the birth.

J. L. JOYNS.

(To be continued.)

COPENHAGEN.—The Supreme Court here has sentenced the editor of the *Social Democrat* to fourteen days' imprisonment for infringement of a provisional law with regard to press prosecutions. It is probable that this judgment will have important results.



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

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. can only be 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.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE TO ALL SOCIALISTIC NEWSPAPERS.—The *Commonweal* will be regularly sent to all Socialistic Contemporaries throughout the world, and it is hoped that they on their side will regularly provide the Socialist League with their papers as they may appear.

J. JONES.—The article "Christian Socialism" was written by E. B. Bax. The signature was through mischance omitted by the printer.

L. Bingley.—The letter in the *Mechanic* will be seen to. In future would kindly send a marked copy of newspapers as it saves a lot of trouble.

Cables received during the week ending Wednesday October 20.

AND	New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	SWITZERLAND	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
ht	Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	ITALY	Rome—La Tribuna
nty Record	Paterson (N. J.)—Labor Standard	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	Brescia—Lo Sperimentale
DIA	Detroit (Mich.)—Labor Leaf	FRANCE	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)
's Friend	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	FRANCE	Paris—Le Socialiste
pie's Budget	PARIS—Cri du Peuple (daily)	FRANCE	Le Revolte
6	La Revue Socialiste	FRANCE	Lille—Le Travailleur
NADA	HOLLAND	HOLLAND	Hague—Recht voor Allen
r Reformers	BRUSSLS	BRUSSLS	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair
D STATES	En Avant	EN AVANT	Liege—L'Avenir
reihheit	Antwerp—De Werker	ANTWERP	Antwerp—De Werker
r			
st			
Lon's Paper			
man's Journal			
ol.) Labor Inquirer			
ti (O.) Unionist			
J.) Industrial News			
eld (Ill.)—Voice of Labor			

LIVED.—"The Kernel of Socialism" — "Copyright and Piracy."

THE UNEMPLOYED AND EMIGRATION.

THE middle-class mind is now exercising itself on the "unemployed question." As long as there are just enough unemployed to keep down the wages of those in work no heed is taken of them. But when their number grows large enough to become threatening, all sorts of plans for getting rid of them are turned over. It is not pity for their misery but fear of their strength that moves the upper class. To them the question is not "How shall we right the wrongs of these men?" but "How shall we make them less dangerous?" For want of a better or cheaper plan, some are falling back upon emigration. It seems so easy and plausible to tell the workman that he is miserable at home because there is too many of his kind, and that if he but make tracks to some of our glorious Colonies he will find plenty of work, big wages, a fine country, and an easy road to fortune.

It was well known ten years ago that some of the fine countries had villainous climates, and abounded in rattle-snakes, that wages although large in money were very little above the means of subsistence, and that work was as scarce there as it generally is here. As to fortune, if you have a small one to start with it is possible to turn it into a big one; but if you are as penniless as most emigrants, the road to a small fortune, or even a decent living, is very difficult indeed. The emigration agitation, in short, is a fraud from beginning to end—a mere shallow subterfuge of the capitalist class to put a safe distance between the unemployed and themselves. Shipping companies used to get so much a head for the emigrants they could fetch, and as the cargoes did not go to them they went in search of cargoes. Agents were sent out who lectured the working-class, and lied amazingly—both by tongue and limelight view. The clergy took a hand in the work, although it is only their due to state that some of them turned against the fraud as soon as it was explained to them. At last the Socialists attacked these agents, and soon had them hissed by every audience in London and in many parts of the provinces. To-day no advocate of emigration dare show himself at any public place in the metropolis. Still, efforts are being made in many places to ship off people, pay their passage, and then let them look after themselves as best they can. The Colonial governments are head over ears in debt, and until lately

have maintained a flow of immigrants in order to keep up their credit with European money-lenders, who were led to think that a colonising country was good ground for investment. The infamous conduct of the rings of stockjobbers who call themselves the Colonial governments cannot be too strongly denounced. They have deliberately brought men over only to swell an already enormous army of starving unemployed. They enticed girls out when they knew they were going to a life of prostitution. The Colonial governments who have spent their borrowed money in promoting immigration, are the most corrupt and heartless gang of blackguards that ever ruled a country. It is impossible to use too strong language about men who, to ensure the success of their financial schemes, have made the colonies like plague-stricken places where deaths by starvation occur in thousands, and where the suicide of unfortunate girls is spoken of by the police as a common affair that they cannot attend to in every instance.

In reckoning the advantages of emigration to the most successful emigrants, it is best to leave aside figures of rates of wages and keep in mind the plain and undeniable fact that the social condition of the people is as bad there as it is here. In many places there is practically no family life; the labourers never have a chance of settling into homesteads, and prostitution is glaring and rampant in most places. Some time ago a benevolent lady sent a large batch of young girls to Brisbane under the impression that they would have a chance of a decent livelihood, but in less than a month more than 70 per cent. of them were in the streets. This appeared in the Brisbane papers, and was in no way an extraordinary story. It was merely an ordinary fact that illustrated the condition of the colony in a striking, but not in an exaggerated, way.

An emigration circular issued by some big-wigs in Ipswich, who are interesting themselves in getting the discontented mass of the people out of the way, put the main question very fairly. In extolling the charms of Colonial life, this circular says: "Society there is organised on the same basis as Society here." This is quite true, and nothing worse could be said of "Society there." The Colonies are the "private property" of a gang of thieves—just as this country is. The government of the country is of a bastard democratic form, where the stockjobbers direct the foreign policy, and the capitalist manufacturers and landowners direct the home policy. The "People" are an unorganised mass, too miserable to think of their rights, too feeble to enforce them: only dimly conscious of a great wrong, and waiting for the chance to avenge it. The government agents, consols, etc., are all in the same boat; they must look after the "commercial interests," and not trouble themselves with the condition of the people at all.

The aim of the upper class is to send the miserable people abroad, and send their misery with them. Life in the "home" country is bad enough, but a worse life awaits the emigrant who is foolish enough to think that he can find a decent living and peaceful labour anywhere under British rule. This country is large and fertile enough, and its sons strong and skilful enough, to support all the people in it (or three times as many) if only the people were free. There is no need for emigration, and no good in it if there were need. The only obstacle to the people's happiness is the capitalist class, and the only obstacle to the abolition of that class is the people's ignorance. Let us cast aside all thought of leaving our country, even if there was a better one to go to—which there is not. Our duty is to make our own worth living in, and that can be easily done through Socialism. The people have the power, but they have not yet shown the intelligence, the organisation, and the determination. When they acquire these qualities, and direct their power with them, there will no longer be the wish nor the need for wholesale emigration.

It is very difficult to advise the unemployed. Tens of thousands of them are in actual want and are clamouring for immediate relief. It seems mockery to preach to them about ultimate aims and great social changes which can only be brought about in the course of years, while hunger is gnawing at their vitals now. But it is far worse to delude them with schemes of relief which are unlikely to be carried out and practically useless if they were. The message to the unemployed should be plain, even if it be harsh. If they agitate for mere relief, if they only beg a crust from the rich man's table, they are doing nothing thereby to affect the causes of their misery. If they get the crust it will be steeped in gall. Their duty, and the only thing worth an effort, is to demand their full rights as members and workers of society. This is the truly practical course, because it is most likely to get them some temporary relief and it keeps the end in view. If the upper class hear a wail for bread they will only grant it grudgingly if they grant it at all. But if they hear a determined demand for their own abolition, if they find the working class have a clear idea of the position they should occupy, any amount of half-way measures will be granted. These concessions may be accepted, but not as a settlement. The demand for a change should be as loud and as uncompromising as ever. And the workers should never rest nor be silent till the master class have delivered up the industries of the country to the people of the country. By this means the present will more likely be bettered and the future will be assured.

J. L. MAHON.

Every cable brings intelligence of some new scheme on the part of Europe's crowned thieves and their ministers to suppress Socialism. Those heaven-born statesmen think the true way to prevent an explosion is to pile weights on the safety-valve. Their example is a little infectious, and the American variety of the same species of fool is trying repression in the United States. If monopolistic fools continue to feed the fire under the boiler with land, railway, and money plunderings, and monopoly's tools continue to sit on the safety-valve, we may reckon with certainty on the inevitable explosion.—*Canadian Labor Reformer.*

SOCIALIST CAMPAIGNING IN SCOTLAND.

FORMATION OF A BRANCH OF THE LEAGUE AT HAMILTON.

THERE is a story told of a worthy Scotchman who, on being dragged on a sight-seeing tour through Italy by his daughters, expressed but little wonder or interest in anything he saw. The cloudless skies and exquisite landscapes delighted him not. One day, however, the sky grew dark and the rain came down in torrents. The Scotchman's face brightened, and he exclaimed in pathetic joy, "Noo, that's gran'—I could almaist imagine I wis in Scotland!" Alas, rainy Scotland! I might apologise for and even justify thy raininess, but I fear my patriotism would be more admired than my judgment.

The above is obviously a prelude to something about a rainy day.

For some months past our Glasgow Branch of the League has been carrying on a vigorous propaganda in the shape of Saturday afternoon out-door meetings at Hamilton. The reception accorded to our teaching by the people who assembled to hear us, and the well-known favour with which our doctrines are regarded by the miners of the district and their leaders, made us determine that a branch of the League should be formed in that town. Knowing that comrade Andreas Scheu would be in Scotland, we fixed Sunday last as the date of opening. On Saturday evening we held a very successful out-door meeting at the Cross, and distributed handbills through the town announcing our opening meeting; and we returned to Glasgow confident that we would have a most successful gathering on the morrow.

When the morrow came, however, it was wet—very, very wet—and it did not clear up until it was just about time for us to start. In arranging for a conveyance, the perfidious hirer advised us to take an open drag, as he was quite certain, he said, that it would clear up and become a beautiful afternoon. We took his advice—and regretted having done so immediately after, for we had scarcely started on our twelve miles drive when the rain came down as nothing but rain can.

Now our friend Brown, who has a measure of propagandist enthusiasm it does one's heart good to see, had purchased the night before a brilliant red silk handkerchief for the occasion. Brown, I know, would never think of buying a cheap article if a dear one could possibly be had in the market, so I must attribute the subsequently demonstrated shoddy material of said handkerchief entirely to the commercial dishonesty of the dealer. No sooner had we got out of the city than Brown, despite the torrents of rain, boldly obtruded the red silk handkerchief fastened to a walking-stick. M'Lean eyed this proceeding with evident disfavour, and even Scheu did not exhibit any warm appreciation of Brown's enthusiasm. Indeed, some remarks positively depreciatory of the red flag demonstration were made. Downie and I backed up Brown as well as we could, but the majority were against us, so lest Scheu might call us anarchists, I advised Brown to suppress the emblem. Brown compromised the matter by furling the flag and affectionately hugging it to his bosom. Now it was that the deceitful quality of the material was exhibited, for the red dye, dissolved by the rain, flowed in sanguinary streams from the fabric, and Brown's hands were as crimson-stained as though he had just finished disembowelling a capitalist.

At this stage M'Farlane, who I grieve to say has a mild propensity for betting, offered to wager Scheu ten shillings that we would not have more than three of an audience. Scheu looked gloomily upon the rain in front—calculated his week's expenses—and concluding he could not afford to lose ten shillings, declined the offer. Some one now proposed a song. Scheu said he never knew a Scotchman who could sing. To this calumny upon my countrymen, I replied that I was certain he never knew of a Scotchman who had not at least the courage to try. Not wishing, however, to stake my country's reputation upon my own slender but laudable efforts, I asked comrades Brown and Warrington to redeem the honour of Scotland's minstrelsy. They manfully complied, and thenceforward there was no lack of song; and I am certain—although I was too indignant to ask—that Scheu considerably modified his opinion about Scotchmen's singing capabilities before the end of the journey.

When we reached Hamilton it was raining wildly. Scarcely a living soul could be in the streets; and we all of one accord commended Scheu's discretion in not taking on M'Farlane's bet. Nevertheless the meeting turned out better than we expected. Despite the weather and rain some 200 people attended. Mr. M'Munn, president of the Lanarkshire Miners' Union, took the chair and spoke very sympathetically of our programme. The meeting was then addressed by Warrington, Scheu, M'Lean, Glasier and Small. Scheu vigorously denounced the present wage-system and lucidly expounded the principles of social co-operation which Socialists propose to erect in its stead. His address and that of all the other speakers were received with entire approval by the audience; and on a show of hands being taken, every man in the hall held up his hand in favour of Socialism. Over 40 names were enrolled and the first meeting of the Hamilton Branch of the Socialist League was then held, comrade Small taking the chair. William Marshall, an intelligent looking young man, of whom I expect to hear well in future, was appointed secretary. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Branch should be held on Thursday in the British Workman coffee room, when rules and matters of organisation would be discussed and arranged.

It was, no doubt, at first very disheartening to see such a small audience after we had done our best to make the meeting a success, and when we knew that but for the weather the hall would have been crowded to overflowing; but the earnestness and enthusiasm of those who did attend and who enrolled themselves under the banner of the League, revived our spirits. Quite exasperatingly, however, the rain stopped and the wind calmed as soon as our meeting was over. We drove home under the moonlight, singing snatches of revolutionary songs and discussing the work of the future.

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

WORTH ABOVE WEALTH OR STATION.—Amongst all the things that have given me pain during my life, nothing has given me so much as to see meritorious industry and labour seeming to bow the knee, and willingly to acknowledge superior worth in rank accompanied by worthlessness; and in wealth no matter how acquired. When Society is in this state, when men adore power and riches, without any regard to the conduct or character of the possessor, real freedom cannot exist. When rank and riches have been acquired by foul and disgraceful means; when they have been the effect of tricks and contrivances, properly characterised by being called frauds; or when they are used as the means of insulting and oppressing the commons instead of the means of protecting them; then to see the knee of industry and of labour voluntarily bow before them, is to see that which ought to convince every man that liberty has taken her flight from that community; that all sense of political right and wrong is at an end.—*William Cobbett.*

SOCIALISM IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK.

It is only a few months since the Norwich Branch of the Socialist League was founded, but by its vigorous propaganda it is already one of the largest and strongest Branches of the League. There is a club-room and a shop for the sale of literature, while a popular local weekly paper devotes two columns of its space every week to the explanation and discussion of Socialism. The Branch does not confine its meetings to its own rooms, but holds them indoor and outdoor in all parts of the town, and also in the villages within a few miles. For the indoor lectures the School Board rooms are generally engaged, as they hold several hundreds of people, are well known, and can be had cheap.

Since the Branch started several speakers from London have visited the town, some of them staying for several days and giving a series of lectures. Morris has made two or three visits. Kitz and Sparling have also been there. On October 6th, I left London on a propagandist mission, and a report of it may interest the other Branches, as well as give an idea of what the other visits were like.

On the Wednesday preparations were made for holding the meetings. One part of them was a midnight bill-posting expedition. This is a favourite work among the members, some of whom have developed wonderful agility in dodging the police and a still more wonderful facility in arguing the poor constables out of their duty. The rights of property in bill-posting stations meet with scant respect, and even a church notice-board has been decorated, to the parson's rage, with a flaring announcement of a revolutionary address. These excesses, however, are discountenanced by the Branch as a body, and are only indulged in by the recklessly zealous members. On the Thursday night I addressed an attentive audience on "The Meaning of Social Revolution." On the Friday I addressed another meeting in a different part of the town on "The Trades' Congress." Some discussion which could hardly be called opposition ensued. Many trades' unionists, co-operators, and favourers of labour representation were present, but took no strong objection to the severe criticism of their views. My statement that the Congress was merely a ring of more or less corrupt leaders met with general approval. One gentleman rather ludicrously tried to prove that the bees presented a warning against a socialist society, and an argument in favour of maintaining capitalists. On the Saturday I went to Ipswich (of which more anon) and on Sunday afternoon addressed a crowd of over 1000 people in the market-place. The meeting was orderly, and very much in agreement with Socialism. One gentleman was rather disturbed at my unpatriotic views about the Empire, but a little discussion seemed to reassure him. After this I hastened off to speak at St. Faith's, a village about five miles from Norwich, and got there at the end of a tussle between a Socialist speaker and the village parson. This gentleman has lost his Sunday congregation since the Socialist open-air meetings began. Last week he issued a circular in which the following horrible accusations were made against us: "Beware of these men! They revile the Queen, calling her a German pauper! They revile the clergy and the landowners, calling them thieves! They say one man is as good as another, and the land was made for all! What a dreadful set! . . . Beware of these men, and touch none of their papers!" A few days after this was issued the village circulation of the *Commonweal* trebled. The parson quoted the Bible against covetousness, whereon a member of the Branch remarked that a covetous man was a parson with two livings, for one of which he got £200 a year, and engaged a curate to do the work for £80, pocketing the balance. This exposure of curate-sweating hit home to the reverend gentleman, who did not deny it, but avowed that he now paid his curate more than that; at which a villager sententiously remarked: "If the curate gits his wages rose he'll have to thank the Socialists." On the Sunday evening, I gave a rather dull dry discourse on "The Study of Political Economy," in which, I was agreeably surprised to find the members took a good deal of interest. On Monday night, Morris lectured to over 2000 people in the Victoria Hall on "Socialism, its Aims and Methods." The audience was almost entirely of the working-class, and was very attentive and enthusiastic. The literature sold well, and in every respect the meeting was a splendid success.

The Ipswich Branch is a month old, and has now about fifty members, and is doing some good work for the Cause. Some time ago a hole-and-corner meeting of capitalists and other local big-wigs was held to promote emigration, at which our members were not allowed to speak. On Saturday, the 10th October, an anti-emigration meeting was held by our members, and I went up from Norwich to address it. The Co-operative hall was filled with about 1200 people, who were well aware of the fraudulent scheme to expatriate them under pretence of "philanthropy." The Socialist speakers were all well received, and their most Socialistic utterances most loudly cheered. The promoters of emigration were completely defeated, and on a division only three hands were held up against our resolution. On Monday night I lectured to a compact audience in one of the large rooms of the Co-operative Society on "A Plea for Socialism," and found the people in hearty agreement with the communist aims and revolutionary means put forth.

My experience of this and of other parts of the provinces is that the people are anxious to hear about Socialism, and willing to give a sympathetic hearing. It is to be hoped that other provincial Branches will be encouraged by the success of Norwich and Ipswich, and that they will adopt similar means of pushing on the agitation. And if they but form their plans and take the initiative, they may depend on the help of their London comrades.

J. L. MAHON.

"Every government should provide for every subject the means of living both honestly and at ease. We should bring out of every man and every creature as much utility as we may. Now much utility will never be produced unless we render life easy and comfortable. If all men and women would labour six hours in the twenty-four, some mentally, some corporeally, setting apart one day in the seven, all work would be completed that is requisite for our innocent and rational desires."—*William Penn: Landor's 'Conversations.'*

"Poverty is the great, the never-failing badge of slavery. Bare bones and rags are the true marks of the real slave. What is the object of Government? To cause men to live happily. They cannot be happy without a sufficiency of food and of raiment. Good government means a state of things in which the main body are well fed and well clothed. It is the chief business of a government to take care that one part of the people do not cause the other part to lead miserable lives. There can be no morality, no virtue, no sincerity, no honesty among a people continually suffering from want; and it is cruelty in the last degree to punish such people for almost any sort of crime, which is, in fact not crime of the heart, not crime of the perpetrator, but the crime of his all-controlling necessities."—*William Cobbett*

THE NATIONALISATION OF THE LAND.

MANY earnest people urge that if private property in land were abolished, all the miseries of the present deadlock would disappear like mist before the sun. The only good thing I can see in the proposal is the sincerity with which I believe it is made. The small "economic value" which remains to the owner, as he is called, of the land would be completely lost in the maw of the class now below him, viz., the tenant-farmer or the owner of house property, who are now sufficiently powerful. It is true that very few are morally fit to be owners of property, but the removal of their power would not prevent employers from taking advantage of the forces now below them, and no proper use can be made of the land until it is used for all the inhabitants. There is now an outcry, from people calling themselves Christian philanthropists, for emigration. Why emigrate our best men when their native land remains uncultivated? It never will be cultivated while the system is for 15 persons to work for the profit of one, and that one an idler. It is no exaggeration to say that all the food required for 36 millions of people can be grown in the British Isles, nor is there any reason to apprehend such an increase in population as to require an importation of food provided the profit system were first exported. It is the profit hunger, and it only, which causes bad cultivation and no cultivation. The workers possess all the knowledge their employers possess; but here is a specimen of what becomes of the result of their work.

A— is a parish containing 4000 acres, devoted entirely to agriculture, and occupied by ten individuals who think themselves very much master farmers, some of whom admit they receive for produce of all kinds a sum equal to five pounds for every acre, others admit that this return would remain after paying for cattle-foods of various kinds and artificial manures, and the general opinion is that if the return is not £5 it ought to be—the aggregate annual growth of produce is, therefore, about £20,000, after feeding the draught horses on part of it. The wages of labourers, smiths, wheelwrights, and every other service done towards securing this result, cannot be shown to amount to more than half the above amount; of the remainder over £1200 is known to be paid away as tithe, and a further £5000 or more for rent. Some of the recipients of said rent have not set foot in the place for years. This leaves £3800 for the ten families of "master" farmers. The workers are paid a bare subsistence wage, 10s. to 12s. a week, are wretchedly housed, and generally speaking show a physical deterioration, the result of want, ignorance, and misery, acting and reacting each to produce the other.

Can Land Nationalisation stay this havoc? Would it not rather remove one evil to strengthen another? The remedy is not security for capital, but security for labour. The half of the product of labour now exploited would convert the parish into a paradise for double its present population, because when excellence of workmanship takes the place of profit-grinding, the soil would have its due help from the hand of man; it would be to the interest of the inhabitants to keep up its fertility. No system like the present can possibly ever secure the full fruits of the earth.

JOHN DELVER.

How to Abolish the Wage-System.

The people should cause the issue of money by the government in sufficient quantities to provide for the conduct of business upon a cash basis. Credit would then cease, practically, and there would be no more need for borrowing. And, if loans were made, the interest thereon should only represent the value of the labour in effecting and looking after the loan. Working-men would find it more profitable to combine their savings, or borrow money for a short time, and establish industries upon a co-operative plan, electing the different co-operators to the various positions in the factory or business, and thus employing themselves, than by working for wages as now. This would abolish the wage-system, and this is the most feasible way of doing so. With the present monetary system, which not only admits of, but practically compels the borrowing of money, we shall always have two classes—the men who work for a living and produce all things, and the men who lend money and prey upon the necessity of others. The latter class is injurious to the welfare of society, and altogether unnecessary. Working-men should insist upon having a monetary system that will furnish them with their own capital, render borrowing unnecessary, and thereby do away with capitalists as a class. Then arbitration would not be required. Men with huge fortunes would be at liberty to spend them, but not in a position to sweat out any more of labour's life-blood in their support. Industrial co-operation, national, provincial, municipal, and voluntary, must yet succeed the wage-system, but this must go along with the greatest possible liberty of the individual.—(Toronto) *Labor Reformer*.

International Conference of Glass Bottle Makers.

A four day's Conference of Glass Bottle Makers was commenced at 13, Farringdon Road, on Saturday last, attended by delegates from England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, and Holland. The purpose of the Conference was to establish an International Trades' Association. The business was got through rapidly, and the utmost kindness and good feeling prevailed amongst the delegates. Comrade Dave acted as interpreter, and will write an article on the Conference for next week's issue. The delegates were invited to supper with a few members of the Socialist League on Tuesday evening. The chief purpose of the gathering was to interchange opinions and promote good feeling and solidarity with the workmen of different nations. This is the first really International Trades' Union that has been founded, and in taking a step so far in advance of the other trades, the glass bottle makers deserve the good wishes of all workmen. The delegates were as follows:—*England*—Yorkshire: Christopher Sweeting and T. S. Beedel; Lancashire: J. Hunter and C. Canning; Sunderland: J. J. Good; Beaham Harbour: R. Turnbull and C. Adamson; Brierly Hill: E. Wright. *Scotland*—Glasgow: R. Mustard. *Ireland*—Dublin: William Graham. The other countries were represented by Beutling and Voelkel.—J. L. M. [Exchanges please copy.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

A PROPOSAL.

I have seen lately in the *Commonweal* that there has been some difficulty in getting the Branch subscriptions, and it is in relation to this that I trouble you at present with a plan, which I think will rectify this hindrance to the progress of Socialism. My plan is this: (1) Do away with Branch subscriptions altogether, and in their stead by issuing membership cards (yearly or monthly as would be found most fit) connect the friends immediately with headquarters. (2) Print members names in the *Commonweal* when they join and when they renew their membership cards. (3) On the cards print the names of the different funds for collecting purposes. (4) The subscription to be a penny per week. I think the result would be a good one for two reasons. It would show us how many friends we were quite unaware of we had in the same provincial town, and the outcome would be the formation of a Branch, and also where the members were too few to form a Branch, their subscriptions would not be lost.

16 South Mansionhouse Road, Edinburgh,
September 20th, 1886

CHARLES WM. TUKE.

"DOG - MUZZLING."

COMRADE,—Permit me a word in reply to Mr. Barrett. There are certain diseases—rabbits, glanders, and syphilis—which are communicated solely by direct contact, and which it is clear can be checked in proportion as that contact is stopped. Now here, it seems to me, it is manifestly right that the whole society should step in and restrain individuals from carelessly doing anything which may tend to spread these diseases by every means in its power. Any act which may possibly have this effect ought to be treated as criminal and as a possible injury to society. The principle seems to me perfectly clear; and to say that checking that which is the direct cause does not check the disease itself is to my mind too preposterous an absurdity to argue against.

The only objection against regulation of this kind as carried out now is that it is done by State officials who are alien to the body of the people, and that it is liable to the abuses springing from this. But this does not invalidate the principle; it only shows the disadvantages under which it and every other principle, good in itself, works at present. A SOCIALIST.

[We cannot insert any more letters on this subject.—Eds.]

LITERARY NOTICES.

The *Roll Call* is a small four page journal, published monthly in Chicago, devoted to the anti-usury agitation. It is a smart, readable production, and should have effect.—S.

The last volume issued of the *Camelot Classics* (Walter Scott, 24, Warwick Lane, Is.) is a selection of Swift's prose-writings. It includes his famous essays on "Political Lying" and the even better known "Modest Proposal," in which he proposes to lessen beggary by making human flesh an article of merchandise. His mordant satire upon "remedies for poverty" is even more forcibly applicable to-day than when written.—S.

The Facts about the Unemployed, by H. H. C. (Modern Press) is a compilation written in the literary style of a Parliamentary blue-book. It deals chiefly with the action of the S.D.F. in the recent phases of its agitation. For the palliation of the distress, the writer puts forward a number of well-known and well-worn schemes, which he rather strangely admits will operate only "until further development of machinery and invention increase the productivity of labour, and bring about a repetition of the miseries of the last few months." This admission seems to upset all the rest of the pamphlet, and the writer gives no indication of what is to happen when his plan of temporary relief has exhausted itself. The pamphlet, however, will be useful to those of the capitalist class who would like to save their skins and their social system. If the writer's views were adopted and fully carried out, we might have a bourgeois paradise where the poor would still be poor, but just far enough from starvation to keep them from becoming revolutionary. It is doubtful, however, if the capitalist class can be got to understand this, the only means of staving off Socialism.—J. L. M.

Daylight (Norwich) is a lively democratic paper which has always been very fair to the Socialist movement. When the Socialist League Branch started in Norwich and proved that it was making way among the people, *Daylight* set aside two columns of its space every week for the discussion of Socialism. Last week's number contains a verbatim report of Wm. Morris's new lecture on "Socialism: the End and the Means." Copies can be obtained at 13 Farringdon Road. Country Branches might order a dozen or a quire, and could have them sent with their usual weekly parcel of the *Commonweal*. It is to be hoped that *Daylight* will not suffer for leaving the usual narrow track of the weekly press, and being fair to the revolutionary movement.—J. L. M.

The Haymarket Speech of Albert R. Parsons, as re-delivered in the Court-room in Chicago on August 9, has been printed as a 12-page pamphlet, and is being sold to raise funds for the defence. It is a comprehensive review of the rights and wrongs of labour, a swift analysis and exposure of the present system, and a stirring appeal to the slaves to combine. It is logical, clear, and admirably moderate, though it is the speech which the hiring press described in such rabid terms when first delivered. Everyone who can should send for and read this now historic address. (Labour Press Association, 76, Fifth Avenue, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., 10c.)—S.

The Model Commonwealth is the organ of the Puget Sound Co-operative Colony, and is published weekly at the Seattle, Washington Territory. Its aim is the practical solution of the subject of Entire Co-operation: i.e., a separate community of collective industry, means, utilities, public and private, and of persons under a single management, and responsibility for the health, usefulness, individuality, and security of each and all.—S.

In Southern Russia a large number of Nihilists have just been arrested. Twenty-eight Nihilists are in prison at Resin and sixteen at Odessa, Nicolaieff and Yekaterinoslaff. It is curious to note that these arrests were made almost simultaneously with those connected with the suspected Anarchist plot to burn Vienna.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST AND LABOUR NEWS.

BRITAIN.

Williams, the member of the Democratic Federation who was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for obstructing Bell Street, was released on Saturday morning last. In order to prevent a demonstration, he was released at 5.45 a.m., instead of at the usual time, 8 a.m. He remained, however, in the vicinity of the prison until 8 o'clock, when a number of members of the Democratic Federation and delegates from the Radical clubs arrived to welcome him.

SCOTLAND.—Evictions still continue with almost undiminished severity amongst the Skye crofters. It seems probable that, owing to the severity of the landlords, there will be another rising amongst them before very long. In the district of Edinbane, where writs were served a few days ago, the poverty of the people is very great, as their squalid appearance shows.

On October 14 the miners employed by Messrs. Baird and Co. at Kilsyth, near Glasgow, were locked out. Several hundreds of men are thus thrown out of employment, and must starve with their wives and children until society will again permit them to work.

IRELAND.—Rents are being reduced all over Ireland from twenty to thirty-five per cent, so that although Mr. Parnell's Bill was not passed into law it has been put into practice. The only place where conflict appears inevitable seems to be on the Clauricarde estate, in county Galway. Here the landlord refuses to make any reduction in the rents. The National League has declared war and advised the tenants to refuse to pay more than the reduced rent.

DUBLIN.—The city van drivers are about getting up a society for their protection. These men are exposed to all weathers and the moment an illness comes on they are slung aside for the hospital or poorhouse.

During an inquiry held recently it transpired that a guardian's refreshments, who conducted the removal of a pauper imbecile from London to Kanturk Co. Cork, cost £2 16s. The idiot's came to 7s. 6d. What a gaudy time they must have had together!—*Evening Telegraph*.

CORK.—The Trades held a meeting lately to denounce severely the conduct of Nationalist and other members of the Corporation, who blocked a motion proposing to provide corporation employment for destitute artisans and labourers during the coming winter.

AMERICA.

NEW YORK.—TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PERSONS THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT.—In consequence of a decision of the majority of the members of the National Association of Knit-Goods Manufacturers, fifty-nine mills—located at Cohoes, Waterford, Hudson, Schectady, Little Falls, Philmont, Amsterdam, and Valatie, all of which are situated in the State of New York—will close on Saturday Oct. 16. Twenty-five thousand persons will thus be thrown out of employment.

RICHMOND.—One of the things most talked of in Richmond during the sessions of the K. of L. has been in reference to the social status of the coloured delegates. In the delegation of sixty-five members from D. A. 49, of New York, there is a coloured delegate, Frank Ferrell, who was refused admission to the hotel, upon which the whole delegation determined to take quarters in coloured boarding-houses. Brother Powderly made the next movement in the matter by asking Brother Ferrell to introduce him to the Governor and General Assembly. Among the nineteen Knights from Baltimore at the St. Charles Hotel was a coloured brother, whom the proprietor was compelled to admit on equal terms.—*John Swinton's Paper*.

CHICAGO.—THE CONDEMNED ANARCHISTS.—The triumphant prediction made by State's Attorney Grinnell, at the close of the Anarchists' trial, and echoed since by Capt. Schaack and others of the State's forces, that the verdict of death against Spies and his fellow prisoners was a verdict of death to Anarchism in Chicago, has not been made good by subsequent developments. Even at the time it was made, well-informed persons must have known that the boast was ill-considered or insincere. Most likely it was the former, for Grinnell but reflected the popular feeling that there was no real difference between Anarchism and Socialism, and that all concerned in either alike ought to be hanged. Proceeding upon this cheerful theory, there are not less than 30,000 candidates for the gallows in Chicago to-day—to say nothing of many thousands in other cities of the Union. Certainly there are fully that number of able-bodied workmen in this city who are daily labouring and contributing of their substance to the defence and support of the convicted eight now languishing in jail. The money of these sympathisers paid the expense of the trial, including 100 dols. a day for the services of Capt. Black; it has paid for the support of the wives and dependent relatives of the prisoners since May last, and it is pouring in in thousands to defray the expense of the new trial. There is no reason to doubt that there is an ample fund at hand for the prosecution of a long and expensive appeal to the Supreme Court of the State. In a word, so far is it from true that the convicted eight are alone and friendless, that they should rather be described as revelling in the substantial sympathy of their friends.—*Cor. N. Y. Sun*.

The Anarchists in Chicago have been sentenced to be hung on Dec. 3. Judge Gary, in passing sentence, admitted that the accused were not the actual murderers and that it had not been proved they had anything whatever to do with the throwing of the bombs. Nevertheless they are to be sacrificed to the cry for revenge that has arisen from the capitalist press. The authorities will soon learn that instead of in any way diminishing the ardour of the Anarchists, they will only have incensed them by this judicial murder of their comrades.

A first-class ticket, local, judicial, and congressional, was nominated upon a first-class platform by the Working-men's Convention, which was composed of about 400 delegates from the great labour organisations of Chicago. . . . The plan of organisation and platform prepared by the Committee of Twenty-One was adopted unanimously by the Convention. The platform is divided into three sections, National Demands, State Demands, and County Demands. The first covers the eight-hour law, government ownership of means of transportation, an anti-bank monetary system, an anti-contract labour policy, a tax on luxuries, the forfeiture of unearned land grants, and the disbandment of such private armies as the Pinkertons. The State platform deals with such questions as prison contract labour, the eight-hour law, the weekly payment of wages in lawful money, compulsory education, child-labour, the eligibility of women to service on school boards, and an employers' liability law. . . . The preamble to the platform is well worth quoting, as follows:—

"We, the representatives of organised labour of Cook County, in Convention

assembled, declare that experience has taught us that no legislation in our interests can longer be reasonably expected from either the Republican or Democratic party; that the power of aggregated wealth has such control over the managers of these parties that they have become the mere creatures of corporate monopoly, serving its purpose, obeying its mandates, and using all the functions of government to subjugate and enslave the labouring people; that henceforth, by manly, intelligent, and independent political action, we will endeavour to secure those measures of simple justice which our begging appeals and humble petitions have failed to obtain; that the time has come to drive the political gobetween from our ranks, for as no man can faithfully serve two masters, so it is impossible for a trades-unionist or a Knight of Labour to be an active political worker in the Republican or Democratic parties, and remain an honest man in the ranks of labour; that as the economic encroachments of aggregated wealth have caused the defensive organisation of the producers into trades' unions, Knights of Labour, and grangers, so must the political encroachments of the same aggregated wealth (which are still more dangerous to the liberty and existence of the people) inevitably force the people into defensive political organisations as distinct and antagonistic to capitalistic political parties, as the trade union is to the club, cabal, or clique of the monopolist; and that to the recognition of this fact is due the organisation of the united labour party."—*John Swinton's Paper*.

FRANCE.

Since the acquittal of Lafargue, Baudin, etc., Louise Michel who was convicted to three months' imprisonment for speaking at the same place and at the same time, has been offered her freedom; but she has refused to be liberated unless the Government will grant her a complete amnesty.

The Mayor of Levalois Perret, a large suburb of Paris, has opened a free registry for men out of work, by means of which over eleven hundred situations have been obtained for the unemployed within a few months.

M. Lockroy, Minister of Commerce and Manufactures, is just about to introduce a bill into the Chambers for the institution of State loans for the working-classes.

AUSTRIA.

It now turns out, as was pointed out in this column last week, that the reports about the Anarchist plot to burn down Vienna were grossly exaggerated, being founded, indeed, upon the slenderest basis. All the information came from a supposed informer who was pretty certainly merely a police spy. It was not to be expected, of course, that the authorities would object to any "corroborative details" of an alarming kind which might be added to his pretended disclosures by his fecund imagination. False as they were, they have served their purpose. The report of the plot sent a thrill of terror through Europe, the doom of the Chicago Anarchists has been made more assured, and the way has been paved for an international agreement by which Anarchists, Socialists, Nihilists, and kindred propagators of "sedition," may be given up to the tender mercies of their respective governments. However the three emperors may disagree politically, the police of their several empires will always be ready to unite against their common foe.—U.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.

Mile-end, to June 30. Birmingham, Bradford, Clerkenwell, Dublin, Hackney, Leeds, Merton Abbey, North London, Norwich, to August 31. Bloomsbury, Croydon, Hammersmith, Manchester, Marylebone, to September 30. Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Oxford, to Dec. 31.

BRANCH REPORTS.

(Reports and Notices should be addressed to the printer, and to insure insertion in the current issue must reach the office not later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.)

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, October 13, A. K. Donald gave a continuation of the subject, viz., "Education of the Proletariat," to a fair audience; an interesting discussion followed. The usual open-air meetings have been held on the Green. On Sunday, October 17th, Fred Henderson addressed a good meeting on "The Socialist Ideal;" a lively fire of questions and brisk discussion ensued. *Commonweal* has sold well at our meetings. Collected for the Defence Fund, 1s. 11½d.—W. B., sec.

HACKNEY.—On Wednesday, October 13, we held our usual meeting in the Broadway, London Fields, when Lane and Graham spoke. Graham also addressed meetings at Well Street and Victoria Park. The sale of *Commonweal* is increasing.—H. G.

HOXTON.—On Thursday evening, the usual outdoor meeting was held; Davis, Barker, Graham, and Pope spoke. On Sunday morning, Lane and Barker addressed a good audience outdoors. In the evening Chambers lectured on "Socialism Explained and Defended;" good audience and discussion; sale of literature good.—H. A. B., sec.

MERTON.—Last Sunday, comrade Burcham addressed our meeting on the Mitcham Fair Green, and in the course of an able address he said that the property classes had planted the fear of God in us to preserve their supremacy; it was our duty to plant the fear of man in them to achieve our emancipation. Sale of *Commonweal* and other literature good. In the evening we held a meeting at Merton club-room, addressed by comrades Kitz, Dalehon, and Gregory. Three new members made.—F. KITZ, sec.

MILE-END.—On Saturday, October 16, comrade Henderson addressed a good meeting on the Waste. He explained the economic position of the workers to-day, and showed how they were completely dominated by the landlord and capitalist classes. H. Davis also spoke, and appealed to the workers to join hands with the Socialists to obtain their rights.—C. BENSON.

NORTH LONDON.—Comrade William Morris gave a splendid lecture on "Socialism, the End and the Means," on Friday evening, at Milton Hall. In the face of a heavy storm of rain a good audience came to listen, and showed its sympathy with the principles of Socialism as our comrade laid them down. Some opposition was given, chiefly by a representative of the Liberty and Property Defence League.—A good meeting was held in Regent's Park on Sunday morning, addressed by Fred Henderson. The speaker was well received, and 7s. 2d. was collected for the Defence Fund. The report of the Harrow Road meeting will be found in another column.—F. H.

BIRKENHEAD.—We had a fair meeting on Tuesday night, and took two names. On the Saturday previous Lea and Shutt visited Keighley and sold 1½ doz. of *Commonweals*. We intend to try and spread the light there. On Sunday evening, the 10th inst., Lea read Morris's lecture on "The Labour Question," at the Glen Hotel, to an attentive and appreciative audience. There were a number of questions asked after the lecture, and we promised to go again.—J. W. L., sec.

EDINBURGH.—On the evening of Thursday, October 14th, members of the Edinburgh University Social Reform Society and their friends, were favoured with a most interesting economic lecture from Patrick Geddes, of the Edinburgh University. He reviewed the history of labour, from slavery through serfdom

to the present régime of "Wagedom." He pointed out that in passing out of one state into another, though there was gain, there was in other respects loss. By way of illustration he gave it as his opinion that though modern weavers were more rapid producers than those of Flanders in the olden time, they were utterly incapable of a military feat at all parallel to that brilliant exploit of the Flemish when they completely routed the flower of French nobility. The modern idea of life was very much as follows: Society was the sum total of individual lives, which lives had been called into existence in order that they might produce "things." When we had made the "things" we collected them into exhibitions—the modern cathedrals—where we worshipped said "things." He thought, however, that we might look forward to a time when this state of matters would be entirely reversed, when "things" would not be considered an end in themselves, but only as a means towards securing a greater efficiency in individual life, and individual life would exist for Society. An interesting discussion followed.—On Sunday forenoon, comrades McMillan and Gilray attended a lecture by J. H. Levy, of London, on "Freedom v. Socialism." The lecturer made little or no attempt to show how Socialism would extinguish Freedom. McMillan reviewed the lecture in a thoughtful and telling manner; and in reply to some Malthusian remarks of the lecturer, Gilray pointed out that it was impossible, even were it desirable, to manipulate the number of the workers to suit the ever-varying requirements of Capitalism. It was satisfactory to find that the Socialist speakers were not without sympathisers in the audience.—J. G.

GLASGOW.—On Wednesday evening, comrade Glasier addressed a meeting of the Govan district miners at the Polmadie Hall, Polmadie, where his exposition of the labour question was received with great approval. On Saturday evening, comrades Warrington, Downie, and Glasier addressed a large open-air meeting at Hamilton. On Sunday evening we held a meeting in the Harmonic Hall, Hamilton, for the purpose of inaugurating a Branch of the League. Comrades Scheu, Small, McLean, Warrington, and Glasier addressed the meeting. Over forty members were enrolled, and arrangements made for future meetings. Comrade William Marshall, Hamilton, was appointed secretary. On Sunday evening, comrade Adams gave a lecture on "The Commune of Paris," in the Secularist Hall, Glasgow, which was well received.—J. B. G.

LEEDS.—On Thursday evening, October 14, the members of this Branch held their first meeting in their fresh meeting-place at the New Fleece Inn, Pemberton Street, off Dewsbury Road. It was agreed that we should hold a meeting there every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. for the purposes of lectures, debates, and to transact the business of the Branch. On Friday, October 15, comrade Maguire delivered a lecture on the "Principles of Socialism" to the members of the Primrose Convivium. The only opposition came from an individual who trotted out the usual platitudes about thrift, etc., to the evident disgust of the audience. On Sunday morning, we held our usual open-air meeting on Hunslet Moor. Comrade Corkwell gave an address on the "Anomalies of the Present System." On Sunday evening, comrade Maguire went to the Royal Oak Hotel, Shipley, to take up the adjourned debate on the "Breakdown of the Present System."—F. C., sec.

MANCHESTER.—On Friday evening, comrade Unwin lectured on "Socialism and Happiness" at the Lower Moseley Street Mutual Improvement Society. There was a good attendance, and some spirited discussion followed. Comrade Parkinson made a very effective little speech in defence of our principles. Sunday was too wet for open-air work.—R. U.

IPSWICH.—Comrade Mahon delivered two lectures here on Sunday, in the open-air, to good audiences. In the morning he lectured on "Emigration and the Unemployed," and in the afternoon on "Socialism and the Unemployed." Four quires of *Commonweal* sold. In the evening, a meeting of several members of the Branch was held, when comrade Mahon impressed upon those present the great importance of each member doing something to help the movement, and to bring about a true feeling of brotherhood. The question of comrade Morris coming and giving us a lecture was also discussed, and it was felt that the week following the Lord Mayor's farce would be a fitting time for our comrade to visit us. We are certainly taking a firm hold of the workers here, and I hope our London comrades will do all they can to help us. The local papers and politicians are veiling with each other in their abuse of our London comrade, "Professional Agitator," "Paid to Gull the Public," and "A Foreign Importation with the Gift of the Gab," are among the elegant epithets used towards him.—C. REYNOLDS.

NORWICH.—We held our usual meetings on St. Mary's Plain and in the market place, our audiences being very large though the weather was showery. C. W. Mowbray lectured at No. 6, St. Benedict Street, at 7.30, to an overcrowded audience, many having to be refused admission; the subject was "Who Are Our Opponents?" A great quantity of literature was sold, and nine new members made. Our fortnightly sale of literature has amounted to £2 8s. 4d. Comrade Crotch and Slaughter also held the usual meeting at St. Faith's, and took four names for the formation of a Branch. C. W. Mowbray lectured last Monday evening on "The Unemployed."—C. W. M., sec.

The Free Speech Fight.

On Thursday October 14 Henderson appeared for the second time at the Marylebone Police Court on a charge of obstruction. The case was at once adjourned *sine die*. On Friday Mahon appeared at the same place on the same business. A sergeant and constable were witnesses for the Crown, and swore the truth, and more than the truth, and something else besides the truth, with a pleasant facility and unscrupulousness that was quite engaging. Mahon explained that the witnesses for the defence were not present, as it was expected that this case would be adjourned as the others were. He asked for an adjournment for a week, which was refused. He then explained that the Socialists were only asserting the right of speech that were enjoyed by other people; they had no wish to obstruct traffic or passengers, and did not persist in speaking at places where a real obstruction was caused; but they were not to be deprived of their right of free speech under pretence of a technical obstruction. Whatever the law might do or say, they were bound to defend that right even in defiance of the law. The magistrate was of opinion that Mahon (or "Mohann," as the police ingeniously Germanised it), had willfully caused an obstruction, and, but for some dispute about the Act under which the prosecution took place, would have dealt with the accused. The case was adjourned for a few weeks till this dispute was settled and the defendant would then be called upon to be dealt with by the court.—J. L. M.

CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST SOCIETY, Industrial Hall, Clark's Buildings, Broad Street, Bloomsbury.—Wednesday 27. Frederick Verinder, "New Testament Socialism."
ROBMOND SUNDAY AFTERNOON SOCIETY, Liberal Association's Room, ground floor, Grosvenor Buildings, Railway Station.—Oct. 31, at 3.30, Edward Snelling, "Socialism."

SOCIALISM IN NEWCASTLE.—A Society for the discussion of Socialism has just been formed in Newcastle. All Socialists and others interested in the subject are invited to join. The secretary is Edward R. Pease, 29, Claremont Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A CONCERT will be held at FARRINGTON HALL, 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C., on Saturday Evening, October 30, at eight o'clock, for the purpose of raising funds for the HACKNEY SOCIALIST CLUB. Admission by Programme (6d. each), which can be obtained at the Office.

LECTURE DIARY.

London Branches.

- Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street. Friday Oct. 22, at 8 p.m. W. A. Chambers, "How to Help the Cause."
- Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday October 24, at 7.30 p.m. J. L. Mahon, "The Trades' Congress." Wednesday 27, at 8.30 p.m. W. H. Utley, "Science and Socialism."
- Croydon.—Royal County House, West Croydon Station Yard. Sunday at 7.30 p.m. George Bernard Shaw, "Why we do not act up to our Principles."
- Hackney.—Kenton Coffee House, Kenton Road, Well Street.
- Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday at 8 p.m.
- Hoxton (L. E. L.).—Exchange Coffee House, Pitfield Street, opposite Hoxton Church, N. Sunday October 24, at 7.45 p.m. H. A. Barker, "The whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth."
- Merton.—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Club Room open every evening. Committee meets every Thursday.
- Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. The Club Room will be open after the 26th every evening from 7.30 till 11. A Concert will be held on the evening of the 26th.
- North London.—Business Meeting at 32 Camden Road Fridays at 8 p.m.

Country Branches.

- Bingley.—Coffee Tavern. Tuesdays, at 7.30 p.m.
- Birmingham.—Carr's Lane Coffee House. Every Monday evening, at 8.
- Bradford.—Scott's Temperance Hotel, East Parade, Leeds Rd. Wednesdays, at 8. Dublin.—102 Chapel Street.
- Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 8 p.m.
- Glasgow.—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John Street, open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. every day. On Saturday evening at six o'clock, open-air meeting on Glasgow Green.—On Sunday at 11.30 and 4.30, open-air meeting on Glasgow Green.—On Sunday comrade Andreas Scheu will deliver a Lecture on "The Socialist Systems of Owen, Blanqui, and Marx," in the Albion Halls, at 7 p.m. Admission, 3d. and 6d. Members earnestly requested to attend and bring friends.—On Monday evening at 8, open-air meeting at Parkhead Cross.
- Hull.—This Branch hopes to open a Club Room in a very short time, and gifts of money, pictures, books, etc., will be very useful. Address, Eugene Teesdale, 20 Shakspeare Street, Hull.
- Ipswich.—"George Inn," Woodhouse Street.
- Leeds.—New Fleece Inn, Pemberton Street, Dewsbury Road. Thursday October 28, at 8 p.m. Comrade Corkwell, "Nationalisation of Land."
- Leicester.—Radical Club, Vine Street. Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.
- Manchester.—145 Grey Mare Lane, Bradford, Manchester. Club and Reading Room open every evening. Business meeting every Thursday at 8 p.m. Afterwards discussion on the Manifesto. Members and friends please attend.
- Norwich.—No. 6 St. Benedict St. Lecture and discussion every Sunday and Monday at 8 p.m. Reading-room open every day from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Oldham.—Mrs. Wrigley's Coffee Tavern, 9 Old Market Place. Wednesdays, 7.30.
- Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m.

Open-air Propaganda for the Week.

LONDON.

Date.	Station.	Time.	Speaker.	Branch.
Sat. 23.	Hyde Park (Marble Arch).....	4	W. A. K. Donald	Clerkenwell.
	Harrow Road ("P. of Wales") 8		T. E. Wardle	N. London.
	Mile-end Waste	8	H. Davis	Mile-end.
S. 24.	Marylebone—corner of Salis- bury St. and Church St.	11.30	Somerville	Marylebone.
	Hackney—Well Street	11.30	T. E. Wardle	Hackney.
	Hammersmith—Beadon Rd.	11.30	Tochatti	Hammersmith.
	Hoxton Ch.—Pitfield Street.....	11.30	Pope and Lane	Hoxton.
	Mile-end Waste	11.30	H. A. Barker	Mile-end.
	Mitcham Fair Green	11.30	J. L. Mahon	Merton.
	Regent's Park	11.30	D. J. Nicoll	N. London.
	St. Pancras Arches.....	11.30	F. Henderson	Bloomsbury.
	Walham Green, opposite Station	11.30	The Branch	Hammersmith.
	Hyde Park (near Marble Arch) 3		W. A. Chambers	Marylebone.
	Victoria Park	3.30	T. E. Wardle	Hackney.
	Clerkenwell Green	7	H. Graham	Clerkenwell.
Tu. 26.	Euston Road—Osulton St. ...	7	Somerville	N. London.
	Mile-end Waste	8	The Branch	Mile-end.
	Soho—Broad Street	8	T. E. Wardle	Bloomsbury.
W. 27.	London Fields—Broadway, opposite "Sir Walter Scott"	8.30	Somerfield	Hackney.
Th. 28.	Hoxton Ch.—Pitfield Street...	8	The Branch	Hoxton.

PROVINCES.

- Leeds.—Hunslet Moor, 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, 7 p.m., Sundays.
- Manchester.—Corner of Gorton Lane and Ashton Old Road, Sundays at 11.30.
- Norwich.—St. Mary's Plain, 11 a.m.; Market Place, 3 p.m.—Sundays.
- Oldham.—Curzon Ground. Sundays, afternoon and evening.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Edward Carpenter	£5 0 0	Bloomsbury Branch (weekly)	£0 5 0
Collected by W. Morris for his lectures	2 10 0	T. B. (two weeks) ...	0 1 0
Hammersmith Branch (weekly)	0 10 0		£8 10 0
Mile-end Branch (by Davis)	0 4 0		PH. W., Treasurer, Oct. 19.

FREE SPEECH DEFENCE FUND.

By Mainwaring, collected in Hyde Park	£0 7 2	By T. Wardle, further on acct. of (Mainwaring) Concert	£0 1 6
Clerkenwell Branch (Oct. 10 and 17) ...	0 4 6½	Owing	£0 13 2½
		Deficit	£5 19 4½

(In last week's list, for "Mrs. Harris" read Mr. Harris, and for "Mrs. Beckett" read Mr. Beckett.) PH. W., Treasurer, Oct. 19.

THE

PRACTICAL SOCIALIST.

AN EXPONENT OF EVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM; BUT DISCUSSION OF ALL ASPECTS INVITED.

EDITED BY THOMAS BOLAS.

MONTHLY, ONE PENNY.

W. REEVES, 185 FLEET STREET.

Printed and Published by WILLIAM MORRIS and JOSEPH LANE, at 13 Farringdon Road, London