

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

POLITICAL NOTES.

THE "row" in the House of Commons of March 3 gives us an indication of what is coming, if we take it along with the hints as to what the Coercion Bill is likely to be. The Chief Secretary's insults and tall talk mean pretty much the lion lashing his tail just before his wrath (or hunger) takes the practical form of a spring and a blow. Or perhaps it may with greater accuracy be compared with the demeanour of the Highlanders, walking about and snorting to stimulate their warlike spirits before they pull out point-and-edge, as described by Walter Scott in 'Rob Roy.'

The Tory supporters of the Government have bidden them to get angry and act. They are trying to get angry so that they may act, since there is no way out of it; but no doubt their feelings are not very enviable at present. They must be full of dismal forebodings that their action will draw on a state of things which only strong men could deal with and avoid the mingled curses and laughter which accompany absurd failure in "strong"—i.e., tyrannical—measures.

The Irish nation have shown such admirable qualities through this struggle, such steadiness of purpose, and persistence in union, that they may be trusted to deal satisfactorily with this long expected crisis; all the more as they must be seeing clearly final victory drawing nearer and nearer to them. But what allies will they have among English parties outside the sympathy of the outcast Socialists?

As parties or sections what allies can they have? It would be absurd to appeal to the Liberal party to further those aspirations towards freedom which it is its very business to restrain. And as to the Radical party, where is it and what is it except the feeble tail of this same feebly reactionary Liberal party?

The only appeal that can be made is to those few Radicals who have any title to the name to break off from their Liberal party if it shows, as it certainly will show, the slightest sign of wavering in steady opposition to coercion without any great nicety as to the means. For in good truth, if the Government are going to put forward an effective Coercion Bill, as according to all reports they are, they will give the signal for civil war.

Here is the position in all its simplicity. On the one hand a people determined according to its lights to win freedom for itself. On the other hand a government which is determined that this people shall not be free, and after having exhausted all half measures of mingled chicanery and force, with a thin gloss of professed respect for "constitutionalism" (whatever that may mean), is now driven to throw off the mask, and to say there shall no longer be any semblance of freedom in Ireland, and the expression of opinion shall be considered, or even the implication of opinion shall be considered, as treasonable action in the egg and shall be suppressed and shut up in jail accordingly. What is to come out of this position? Who is to give way, Ireland or the reactionary party of Great Britain? If the former is to be crushed, the struggle will not be long before it reappears, not as civil war in Ireland, but as civil war in England. W. M.

CRIMINAL LAW UNDER SOCIALISM.

PROBABLY few persons realise the extent to which crime is reducible to the question of private property. There are few orders of crime which are not traceable directly or indirectly to possession and the desire of possession. In the first place we have the largest and most important section of offences recognised by law, those which may be comprehended under the phrase "unlawful appropriation," i.e., theft and robbery in all their forms. Here, of course, is a vast body of crime which would be practically impossible in a state of society in which the necessities and comforts of life were within the reach of all, and when the fact of possession did not carry with it the possibility of surplus-value. Then, again, there is the indecent class of crime. This is largely a consequence of the hypocritical sexual relations at present obtaining, resulting from the institution of monogamic marriage, which is in its form based on our existing property-relations—although here matters of pure pathology have properly to be taken into account. Thirdly, we have the description of crime coming under

the head of *brutal assaults*, or malicious injuries (including murder). This last is usually associated with one or other of the two former departments, most frequently with crimes against property but not always. Fourthly, must be included perjury or false-witness in all its forms. We shall find that all serious crimes (as distinguished from mere misdemeanour, as it is termed, and from political offences) is comprised within these four categories, the first embracing all crimes primarily against property, the three last all crimes primarily against the person, it matters not whether the question of property enters secondarily into them or not.

Now, largely as the present condition of society is directly responsible for crime, and still more largely as it is so indirectly, we can hardly hope that a change of economic condition would do more immediately than efface the crimes directly connected with property. The gradual elimination of the remainder would be effected in the process of the development of the new order, but not entirely at once. We cannot, therefore, treat this question in the snakes-in-Iceland fashion we were able to do when dealing with civil law under Socialism in a previous article. But, nevertheless, I take it that the *régime* of a Socialist administration will involve an enormous change of attitude in dealing with crime. Firstly, it will without doubt reduce to the minimum the number of actions characterised by the law as crimes. Secondly, it will probably regard the greatest possible consideration for the criminal compatible with the maintenance of social existence at all, as its first duty in the matter. Thirdly, it will assuredly withdraw the right of prosecution from private individuals and vest it wholly and solely in the delegates of society.

The interest of the legal body, so influential in all modern legislatures, is to increase to the utmost the cognisance of the criminal law over actions. In this they are aided and abetted by a number of persons who entertain a pet hobby against particular vices (real or "so-called"), and are always prepared to agitate for their elevation to the rank of crimes. The legal luminaries who assist in this are quite indifferent to the fact, of which they must be well aware, that the wider the range of law-made crime, the greater the chance of innocent persons being, if not convicted at least accused, and their characters thereby blasted. And these, be it remembered, are the gentlemen who are so zealous in defending the law of libel as a necessary protection of character. It is monstrous, they pretend to think, that a man who has done an action deemed discreditable should have it proclaimed on the platform or in the press, but it is a "mere natural" misfortune incident to human affairs that an innocent person should be put to the annoyance and inconvenience of being hauled up before a police-court to answer a trumped-up charge, which it may nevertheless be very difficult to disprove to the satisfaction of the public.

Of course, all that these "legal gentlemen" care for, is to maintain and increase the business of the courts, civil and criminal. To such commercial principles are their zeal for the protection of character and the suppression of crime in the last resort reducible. A Socialist society, whose aim would be to reduce the machinery of law to the minimum, would rely for the preservation of public morals precisely on that publicity which the legal crime-manufacturer tries so energetically to suppress for the protection of character. And in the end, he would undoubtedly find this a more powerful agent for the repression of crime than the most elaborately comprehensive code, designed for laying direct hands on the persons of offenders. When there is no interest at stake in the maintenance of judicial machinery, the number of law-made crimes must inevitably diminish.

That a Socialist administration would treat delinquents with the utmost leniency consistent with the existence of society will, I take it, not be disputed. The failure of organised brutality as a correction to crime has been attested over and over again by experience. Were the brutal punishments of earlier phases of society effectual in repressing crime? The panegyrists of modern civilisation are never tired of impressing upon us the great advances made in respect of crime, both as to diminution and treatment. It has been shown constantly that a particular offence has actually diminished on the repeal of brutal enactments bearing on it. Yet, strange to say, these very panegyrists of modern civilisation are frequently the first to cry out for *deterrent* punishments and long sentences, and to dilate on the maintenance of prison "discipline" (the specious euphemism for the inhumanity practised in our gaols). To convince themselves of the needlessness of so-called "prison discipline," they have only to cast an eye on some of the Swiss cantons (notably Geneva), where imprisonment means little more than simple reclusion, and where they will find that even a bourgeois society holds together without any of the

acts of brutality and petty tyranny dignified in most countries by the name of "prison discipline." A brutal officialism and red-tapeism which pays no attention to individual cases must of itself breed crime.

The bourgeois moralist should at least be consistent. The chief and, indeed, only real advantage (outweighed by its many disadvantages) which the society of to-day has over that of the middle ages, is its relative security from brutal violence, and the relative (I had almost said the co-relative) absence of the more brutal forms of punishment. And the panegyrist of bourgeois society knows this and makes use of it. Of how many a declamatory newspaper leader and platform speech is it not the theme? And yet this same penny-a-liner or platform spouter will often be the first to condemn as sentimentality any protest against the still-existing brutality of our criminal code. He will be anxious to minimise to the utmost one of the few points wherein modern civilisation can show any sort of real superiority to that of earlier ages. Such is the consistency of the advocates of class-society and its methods.

Once more, we have said that a social administration would remove the right of prosecution from the private individual. As to this also I should imagine there could be no doubt, since the right of private prosecution exists only to facilitate recourse to the tribunals in the interest of the legal profession and its offshoots. If an action is injurious to society, it is plainly the part of society to take the initiative in dealing with it, and not allow the individual from his mere lust for revenge to set its judicial machinery in motion. This is also the work of lawyers, whose interest it is to multiply the business of the courts. The individual right of prosecution is a premium on extortion in all its forms and personal malice. As things are at present, the only safeguard a man has against malicious prosecution is the clumsy device of in his turn instituting a prosecution for perjury, which he will probably fail in bringing home to the delinquent. E. B. BAX.

(To be concluded).

SOCIALISM FROM THE ROOT UP.

CHAPTER XVI.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM—KARL MARX.—II. MONEY.

We have now come to the point] where it is necessary [to consider the circulation of commodities; the first means to this circulation is the establishment of a *tertium quid*, or universal equivalent. And in order to have a really universal equivalent it is necessary that use-value should be eliminated from it, since such an equivalent is required to express not the diverse *qualities* of all the various commodities, but the relative *quantity* of embodied human labour which they severally contain.

Money as a mere measure of value is imaginary and ideal, but the bodily form of it must express quantitatively equivalent abstract value—i.e., labour—and takes the form of the precious metals, finally of gold.

Gold has come to be the bodily form taken by the universal measure of value, partly because of its natural qualities—portability, durability, etc., but chiefly because the course of history has invested it with this function; and also because its value, instead of changing from, say, week to week, as is the case with other commodities, changes rather from century to century, so that its value may be considered stable relatively to them, just as one speaks of indigo as a permanent dye, which it is relatively to other dyes, although none are absolutely permanent.¹

Paper money is promises to pay gold, which is directly exchangeable with all other commodities. Paper money, therefore, is merely a symbol of the exchange really effected by gold.

This universal equivalent takes the place of barter, which is the primitive and direct form of exchange,² and at which stage the distinction between buyer and seller has not arisen. It now gives place to the first form of indirect exchange, in which a third term is interposed between the articles which are to be parted with and acquired. Now for the first time the above distinction takes shape. The seller has a commodity which he does not propose to consume, and therefore he acquires with it money, with which money he buys in turn another commodity equal in quantity to that with which he has parted, but different from it in quality. Marx has formulated this transaction by the well-known and useful formula, Commodity, Money, Commodity: C—M—C.

The habit of hoarding which is common amongst ancient societies, and also among barbarous peoples, is a natural concomitant of this stage of exchange, and is the first germ of Capital. It is brought about by the arrest of the above process at its first phase thus, C—M—the seller of the commodity does not go on to buy. Under these con-

ditions money becomes a social power; and being a commodity like other commodities, can be acquired by private persons, whom it invests with social power. Therefore in those states of society which had not outgrown their primitive social ethics, money was considered the embodiment of all evil.

This stage of exchange marks the pre-commercial use of money; after a while it tends to develop into another stage, which carries the exchange a step further. The holder of a commodity which he does not propose to consume exchanges it for money, which he again exchanges for a commodity to be used, not for his personal consumption but to be exchanged once more for money. He would have no object in doing this if his aim were merely that of the simple exchanger (C. M. C.), namely, to obtain an article of consumption different in kind to that which he has exchanged, since in money there is no inherent difference of quality and therefore whatever difference there may be must be one of quantity. Accordingly the object of the exchanger in this second stage is amount, not kind. In going through his process of exchange (the formula for which may be stated thus:

$$C - \overbrace{M - C} - M - C,$$

the second quantum of money must be more than the first, or else he will have failed in his object; will have made a bad bargain, as the phrase goes. On the other hand, though this form of exchange differs essentially it nevertheless connects itself with the earlier form, in which money occurs only as the middle term between commodity and commodity, thus distinguishing it from simple barter, because even in the later form the result of the merchant's transaction is a commodity with which he intends to begin a fresh transaction—

$$C - \overbrace{M - C} - M - C.$$

This is the form of exchange which was the practice of the developed classical world in its commercial operations. The break up of the Roman Empire, and the confusion that followed, dislocated this commerce, and largely brought exchange back again to its earlier and simple form of the exchange of a commodity for money with which to buy another commodity to be consumed, which was for the most part the character of the exchange of the Middle Ages.

This second form of exchange leads without a break into the third or modern form of Capitalistic Exchange, in which the exchanger, beginning with money, buys a commodity in order to exchange it for money; which money, as in the foregoing stage, must be more in quantity than that with which he began, or his transaction will be a failure. This process differs from that of the last-mentioned stage of exchange in that the result of the transaction is always money, and not a commodity (that is, a use-value), the latter in the long-run appearing only nominally in the transaction.

To make this clearer, we may give concrete examples of the three forms of exchange:

In the first stage, illustrated by the proceedings of the Craftsman of the time of Homer, which were pretty much those of the Mediæval Craftsman also, the village potter sold his pots and with the money he got for them, which, possible trickery apart, represented just the *value* or embodied labour of the pots, he bought meal, oil, wine, flesh, etc., for his own livelihood and consumed them.

The merchant of the later classical period shipped, say, purple cloth from Sidon to Alexandria, sold his cloth there, and with the money bought gum-Arabic (from the Soudan) and frankincense (from Arabia), which he sold at Athens, where again he shipped oil for another market. He always handled the actual goods he professed to trade in, and the wares which he thus exchanged against the universal equivalent, money, were of various kinds. Similar commerce went on in the Middle Ages, as with the merchants of Amalfi, Venice, etc., side by side with the primitive exchange of the feudal manor, and the market-town with its corporation and guilds.

The modern man of Commerce necessarily begins his transaction with money. He buys, say, indigo, which he never sees, receives for it more money than he gave for it, and goes on steadily in this process, dealing (unlike the ancient carrier-merchant) with one class of goods only; and all the goods in which he deals represent to him so much money: they are only present in his transactions nominally. Money is the be-all and end-all of his existence as a commercial man.

This is an example of the pure form of capitalistic exchange, wherein money is exchanged for commodities, and these again for money plus an increment; the formula for which, as given by Marx, is M—C—M.

The next question we have to consider is how the surplus, the increment above-mentioned, obtained by this process of exchange is realised,—or, in plain language, where it comes from.

E. BELFORD BAX AND WILLIAM MORRIS.

¹ As a deduction from this, we may say that while on the one hand there was no abstract necessity for the measure of value taking the form of gold, though there was a necessity for it to take a form embodying a certain definite amount of labour; on the other hand, since it has taken that form, labour notes, or mere promises to pay which are of no value in themselves, cannot as long as exchange lasts take the place of gold, which is a commodity having a value in itself and the particular commodity which has assumed that function through historical selection.

² There are transitional stages between barter pure and simple and exchange operated by a universal equivalent, which only partly fulfilled this office: e.g., cattle, in the primitive ancient period, from which the name for money (*pecunia*) is derived; or ordinary woollen cloth, as in the curious and rather elaborate currency of the Scandinavians before coin was struck in Norway: which currency, by the way, has again, in the form of blankets, been used even in our own times in the Hudson Bay Territory.

MAGDEBURG, March 3.—A large crowd assembled last night in the Kaiser Strasse in front of the office at which the result of the election for this city was announced, and by hissing and shouting gave expression to their displeasure at the defeat of the Social Democratic candidate. The police proving powerless to cope with the rioters, the authorities sent for the military. Many arrests were made.

It is the sheerest folly ever to suppose that lawyers can ever take any side but that of the vultures of society. They are but the too ready tools of all kinds of class trickery and fraud in legislation. The grossest villainy, once finding its way to the Statute Book—and that is easy enough—is, in the eyes of the plundering classes, entitled to receive all the respect due to the Ten Commandments. Immorality, by the stroke of a pen, is transformed into morality.—*Pioneer*.

AFFAIRS IN AUSTRIA.

ZNAIM IN MORAVIA, Feb. 28.—In Trebitsch in Moravia, a Socialist prosecution has taken place. The Socialist Horak, expelled from Vienna, went to Trebitsch, where he obtained great influence over the workers. By this he attracted the attention of the police. He was arrested and charged with scattering seditious pamphlets and with breach of public quiet. Owing to this arrest there happened riotings, and even attempts to rescue. The police were in readiness, and prepared a very shocking story; in an inn a cake was sold by auction on behalf of Horak. That was a new sign that a plot was projected. The houses of the Trebitsch Socialists were searched. At Benesch's they found three copies of an Austrian labour paper, of songs, some writings, and a letter, in which the writer says: "Do you exercise since Horak is imprisoned?" At Krenek's they found some money orders to a labour leaf and to Horak, and in the dress of his wife a photograph of Horak; at Sankoss's seditious writings, eighteen cartridges, and a visiting-card of Horak! With this important booty the State Prosecutor sat down and wrote an indictment charging five Socialists with Socialist intrigues and with being members of an illegal society, according to 285 sec. and 28 p. of the penal law. But he had made a great mistake. He had not charged the defendants before the Superior Heretic Court at Prague, and therefore they were discharged.

The Government has explained its position against the Labour Chamber Bill. The Marquis Bouquehem said the bill has a tendency to create an organ for guarding the special interests of the labourers. But already on the basis of existing laws, organisations can be founded for that purpose. He referred to the trade courts, to the arbitration courts, to the institution of the trade inspectors, to the commercial and trade chambers, to whoever had published judgments on the labour situation. All these corporations and institutions would be injured in their efficacy. Extreme elements would take possession of the labour chambers, which then would utter only wishes not to be fulfilled. The Premier, Count Taaffe (from an Irish landlord family, who emigrated at the time of the glorious revolution in 1689), spoke very evasively. He said the bill objects to the principle that the legislation consists of the representation of interested groups, not of classes of society, to the principle that only men paying a direct tax can have the suffrage, etc., etc. Such important principles being the matter in dispute the Government cannot give a decisive answer! According to these words of the two Ministers, the labourers find their best friends in the Government. But the facts of the feudal party speak a too distinct language to expect a conversion of the labourers by such hypocritical words. We never can trust in a Government which considers social reform as a reform of the poor law, and which has issued exception ordinances against the labour movement. In spite of having suppressed a true labour press, so that our organs must weigh every word before uttered, in spite of having dissolved legal unions, in spite of having forbidden assemblies, in spite of having incarcerated arbitrarily our comrades, in spite of having passed coercion laws against us, the Government has the impudence to speak of their labour friendliness, while everything protests loudly against these infamous lies! This kind of men will totally have deserved the fate destined for them.

The Low Austrian Peasant Union will present to the Emperor a memorandum describing the melancholy situation of the Austrian peasant. But it must be said that much of this peasant movement is not to be understood. First they fight against landlordism, and petition the Emperor, the upper landlord; they condemn Parliamentarism by showing that our Reichsrath is the representation of the exploiting classes, and are for absolute monarchy; on the other hand, their organ, *Mittelstrasse*, published in a late issue an article praising and sympathising with the Social Democrats. In short, the opinions of the party have not yet classified themselves, but it is remarkable how our peasants begin to feel their interest in the universal labour movement.

To-morrow the delegations will meet. They will debate a credit demanded by the Minister of War, amounting as it is supposed from 50 to 55 millions of florins. His ministerial Excellency will, as all Ministers of War of our times do, horribly brandish the sabre, with much babble about patriotism; and as the delegations compete to surpass each other in this patriotism (read servilism), the credit will be granted without delay. How long this "armed peace" will last not even the great Otto in Berlin knows according to his avowal, but what we know is that such a situation sharpens the present economic crisis, furthers the process of proletarianising of a part of the less well-to-do, and so promotes the revolutionary opinions of the great mass.

With the liveliest interest we here have followed the course of the hot fight of our brethren in Germany. The *Gleichheit* opened a subscription on behalf of the electoral fund, and sent 330 fl. to their aid, a sum small indeed, but proportional to the heart-rending situation of the Austrian workers, and given gladly as a sincere sign of the solidarity existing between us and our fellow-fighters, as a sign of the internationality connecting comrades in the common opposition against brutal oppressors, not hindered even by political boundaries. Even Slav labourers took part in the subscription, showing so their abhorrence of the national hatred of the corrupted bourgeoisie, to which they with joy leave degraded fanatical race division. The immense increase of the votes given for the Socialist candidates shows that our brethren will not for long suffer from the mean rule of united capitalism and landlordism, and from these elevating victories we take the hope that also for the other proletariat, especially for the Austrian workers, that hour will soon strike, the hour of the great social revolution, which will totally and for ever destroy the present infamous "order" of Society, and will bring to all down-trodden the dawn of the better and truer time.—F. S.

In the House of Commons last Friday, Mr. Matthews, in answer to Mr. Fisher, stated that the number of police employed at the Social Democratic Federation meeting in Trafalgar Square, on the 29th of August last, was 2,373. At the demonstration at St. Paul's the number was 3,094, of whom 746 were City policemen specially employed.

A released convict, imprisoned for dishonesty, stated that, while in durance vile, he was employed making pasteboard soles for solid leather boots and shoes! John Bright once declared adulteration of goods to be but another form of competition. This is quite consistent with the hypocritical policy of our class rulers. They set in motion machinery provided at the public expense to punish petty offences against property, even when sheer starvation is the impelling force, but they legalise for their own benefit crimes against life and property thousands of times greater in magnitude! Legality and morality are very often not synonymous.—*Pioneer*.

THE CASEMENT CROSS.

(FERDINAND FREILIGRATH. Translated by J. L. JOYNES.)

THE king a hunting-party gave within his royal castle hall,
The seats were crammed with noble guests, the court musicians lined the wall,
The servants with the foaming wine went hurrying round from side to side,
And in the sultry summer heat the windows all stood open wide.

The nobles leaning out for air, where those high windows open stood,
Saw stretching far and wide beneath the alleys of the cool green wood;
The wood wherein the king so oft mid sound of hoofs and hunters' horns
Would ride till he forgot the cares that made his crown a crown of thorns.

How stiff and stark those castle walls! How troublesome this Prussian land!
How confidently firm and proud upon her rights she still would stand!
And not her noblemen alone! Her towns were throwing off the yoke;
And those there were who fain would free from serfdom e'en her peasant folk.

Brave hearts that knew not how to yield! True heritage of precious things,
Thou sacred love of liberty so hateful to the soul of kings!
As emperors grow pale to-day to see thy flaunting flag unrolled,
So trembled and grew sick at heart the lords of Brandenburg of old.

The king sat feasting with his court mid steam of meat and foam of wine—
"What matters all this petty prate of Parliament to me and mine?"—
When lo, there hurried up the hall a booted rider faint with heat,
A messenger from Parliament with blood-stained spurs and dusty feet.

He gave his budget to the king—"What fresh impertinence is here?"—
The royal hunter glanced it o'er, and paled for anger or for fear.
Across his brow a fitful frown of wrath and indignation passed,—
"Oh foolish folk, your cup is full; this insolence shall be your last.

"As surely as this apple here"—and lo, he grasps with hasty hand
An apple ripe and ruddy-cheeked from out the basket where they stand—
"As surely as this apple now deep into yonder wood I send,
So sure will I of Prussia's pride and boundless insolence make end.

"So surely shall they own their lord, and on my royal pleasure wait;
So surely will I crush the pride of this too haughty subject State;
So surely."—And he raised his arm, and bent his body back to throw—
The nobles stretched their heads to see, and hardly dared to whisper low.

Forth flew the apple—to the wood?—Nay, not so fast! 'Twas wildly thrown;
It whistled through the crowded hall, and—hit the casement's mullioned stone,
Then tumbled on the floor.—Well done! 'Tis but to make a steady stand!
So let this mullioned casement's cross thy pattern be, my Fatherland.

SOCIALISM IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES.

ON Sunday February 20 I addressed a meeting of three or four hundred in St. Mary's Plain, Norwich, at 11.30. Good sale of literature. At three in the afternoon I spoke in the Market Place. No opposition; meeting very attentive, and took up the points well. Cheers were given for Mowbray and Henderson, and also for Cuninghame Graham, M.P., for his Socialist speech in the House of Commons. In the evening we had a meeting opposite the Agricultural Hall, and at 8 I lectured at St. Benedict's on "Radicalism and Socialism," a good discussion following. On Monday February 21 I spoke outside Colman's factory at 1.40 to about 400 work-people, and was well received; and at 7 we held a meeting outside Smith's shoe-factory of about 200, many of whom followed to hear the lecture on "Land and Rent," given at St. Benedict's, which again was very well received, and good discussion by Mills, Lestner, and other comrades. On Tuesday 22 E. Curson read a paper on "Socialism" at the Queen's Road Improvement Society, the members receiving us with great courtesy and allowing three Socialists to speak in support—Mills, Morley, and myself availing ourselves of the opportunity; and we were convinced that a very good impression was made, and we were invited to come again. On Wednesday we journeyed to Yarmouth, and held a good meeting on the Hall Quay from 3 o'clock to 4. About 500 gathered to listen. An elderly cad, "very much over-fed and under-educated," tried to create a disturbance, but was quickly shouldered out by a sturdy labouring man, and another who attempted to interrupt by asking how much I was paid for speaking, was in turn sent to the right-about, the audience being very sympathetic. A good number of leaflets were given away. On Thursday I again spoke at Colman's, this time to about 700, leaflets being freely distributed. Altogether we had a very good meeting; it could easily be seen they were deeply interested. On Friday we attended an anti-vaccination meeting at St. Faith's, comrade Crotch and myself speaking of the necessity for Socialism to about 400 villagers; and at night I addressed the members at St. Benedict's on Organisation, etc. On Sunday February 27 we had a good meeting at 11.30 at St. Mary's Plain, which was kept up about two hours. In the afternoon, at the Market Place, we had a splendid meeting—about 7000. Darling took the chair, and I addressed the meeting for about an hour and a half. A Christian Mission man named Adie opposed, with the Bible in one hand and Bradlaugh in the other. "Nice man," but his arguments had no hold on the audience, who listened to him with evident impatience. Comrade Crotch also spoke, and was well received. Our opponent's twaddle was easily replied to, and three cheers were given for the social revolution. 11s. 6d. collected, and all *Commonweal* sold. At 7 o'clock I again spoke opposite the Agricultural Hall to about 500, and at 8 lectured at St. Benedict's on "Human Nature and Socialism," the audience being very much interested. Comrade Slaughter announced that he had at last succeeded in securing "Gordon Hall" permanently, and the meeting broke up full of hope for the future success of the Branch. On Monday February 28 I lectured in the Gordon Hall on "Objections to Socialism" to good audience, followed by a good crop of questions. The meeting finished by singing "No Master" and the "Marseillaise." On Tuesday we mustered in strong force at St. Faith's, and had a very good meeting; the "White House" was packed. Comrade Curson took the chair, and I lectured on "Socialism: What it Means." Comrades Muls, Darling, Shore, etc., strongly supported. On Wednesday March 2 we had a good meeting at Ipswich on the Cornhill; 500 or 600 assembled and showed their approval. JAMES TOUCHATI.



"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.

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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.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday March 9.

ENGLAND	FRANCE	GERMANY
Justice	Boston—Woman's Journal	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde
Jus	Darwen (Col.) Labor Inquirer	Liege—L'Avenir
Norwich—Daylight	New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	Antwerp—De Werker
Cotton Factory Times	Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Glasgow—Pioneer	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Naples—Humanitas
Worker's Friend	Portland (Oreg.) Avant-Courier	Cadix—El Socialismo
Christian Socialist	Petersen (N.J.) Labor Standard	Arbeiterstimme
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung	Chicago (Ill.)—Vorworte	Jassy—Lupta
Practical Socialist	Detroit (Mich.)—The Advance and Labor Leaf	Le Revolte
INDIA	FRANCE	Le Socialiste
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Guise—Le Devoir
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Le Revolte	Lille—Le Travailleur
Adelaide—Our Commonwealth	Le Socialiste	Hague—Recht voor Allen
UNITED STATES	Swedish Social-Demokraten	
New York—Volkszeitung	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten	
Freiheit	NORWAY	
Der Sozialist	Kristiania—Social-Democraten	
John Swinton's Paper		

NOTES ON NEWS.

By some accident or other the people have been granted the wonderful boon of being allowed to boat in the London parks on Sundays—those who can pay for the privilege, be it understood.

That the folk are so miserably beaten down that an hour or two's amusement on some particular day is a great thing to be thought of even by the "comfortable artisan"; this is bad enough in all conscience, but that there are so many found willing to take even this one small streak of colour out of their leaden lives is beyond endurance.

The time is past when the people could be kept quiet by the forcible application of a crude ideal of ineptitude and sanctimonious self-mutilation, or bribed into inaction by the promise of celestial delights.

They want their heaven here and now.

Would it not be well for the present-day "rulers of men" to see what they can do toward a gradual approach to social justice? Lest when we deal with the matter our dealing be characterised by a decisive promptitude eminently subversive of their dignified serenity!

By this is not meant Sunday-boating or very much more extended applications of the *panem et circenses* policy. The people may be amused and so kept quiet for awhile, but the smile presently has rather a grim under-meaning to it, not of good augury for the amusers.

Once more has the City corporation identified itself with a gigantic piece of bribery, but it is quite vain to heap obloquy upon its members as is now being done.

Allow a gang of dacoits or brigands to entrench and arm themselves and store up a mass of plundered wealth; can you then wonder that they defend their position with what weapon comes to hand?

It does no good to stand around and complain to all the gods of their unfair fighting; what must be done is to come to handblows as soon as may be; to resolve on the final extinction of monopoly, upon which rests the power of them and all like them, and then to "fight it out on that line if it takes all summer"!

Meanwhile it is funny to see how impeccable philanthropists, and other self-advertisers-from-the-purest-motives, wriggle and squirm when

the foulness is exposed that lies behind the fair show they turn toward the world.

The report of the Committee of Enquiry into the accommodation for prisoners awaiting trial has been presented and reveals a state of things fondly supposed to have died out with the "Holy Inquisition."

An article dealing with the report will appear in these columns as soon as can be arranged; meanwhile may we suggest to the Government the advisability of instituting a companion enquiry—one into the nature and origin of the causes for there being prisoners to be tried?

The *Spectator* is exceeding wroth over those who look with lenient eye upon "disorder" among an oppressed people. A defender of reaction, it cannot see that *émeutes* in Ireland, Russia, Alsace-Lorraine, etc., are healthy signs in that they show that the healthy instinct of revolt against oppression has not been dragooned or "civilised" out of existence.

H. H. S.

Our heavy contemporary *Punch* has lately had a cartoon a long way "after" Albert Durer's marvellous cut of the Knight and Death, illustrated by a "free adaptation" from Fouqué's *Sintram*, to commemorate Bismarck's victory (?) over the Socialists. Our wooden friend with a naïve stupidity quite characteristic of the professional bourgeois jester, has had the impudence to omit the not unimportant figure of Death from his cartoon, although if he had not been quite so dull or so impudently lazy he might have extracted something from Fouqué's romance which would have helped his lame allegory to totter on a step or two.

However we may leave Fouqué's gratuitous interpretation of Durer's immortal work to ask what Durer really did mean by it. For the imagination of the honest and serious craftsman of old Nuremberg, fertile as it was, and though it led him into wild and strange places, was free from any touch of the hysteria which disfigures Fouqué's elegant and even beautiful romances. Durer always meant something definite; and in this case modern historical research has found out what he did mean: his cut is a commemoration of a notable victory over a robber-knight who had long plagued the good town of Nuremberg, and implies a warning to those in high places who live by violence and robbery. The armed man on the war-horse is riding towards no victory, but a shameful death; he has come to "the net end of all his villainies"; and the awful *thing* that follows him is a tangible image of the crimes of his past life; his greed, rapine, cruelty, fraud, and reckless violence.

So that we may be well content after all to take Albert Durer's "Knight and Death" with his own meaning still cleaving to it, as a figurement of the doom of Blood and Iron of our own day; especially if we look not so much upon the man Bismarck, whom the course of circumstances has so curiously placed in his high position of infamy, but rather upon the type of the armed bourgeoisie, "the strong man keeping his house," which to-day owns all that is made and all that makes, and which after a long period of that confidence of living for ever, which is the natural gift of youth and manhood, is now entering the valley of the shadow of death, and has become conscious of its coming defeat, and of the companions it has made for itself, and so rides on warily and fearfully, Crime behind it, Death before it.

W. M.

THE TRADER'S INTERESTS v. THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS.

MR. GEORGE HOWELL, M.P., writes in last month's *Fortnightly* on the "State of Trade," which shows how completely he has failed even to see the question, much less to grapple with it. After wading through pages of statistical calculations, he comes to the conclusion that trade is not alarmingly depressed after all. That we are only going through the usual slight depression after an unusually great expansion. Production has been continually expanding, while it is *prices* (not the volume of trade) that has fallen. Now, granting that Mr. Howell has proved what no one ever disputed, how much better are we for his investigations? Mr. Howell alleges that the merchants have suffered a large decrease of profits, and everybody else admits that the workers have suffered a large decrease of wages and suspension of work. What a magnificent system of society we live in; capitalists are getting worse off, and the people are getting worse off, yet "trade" is, on the whole, improving! Profits fall and wages fall, yet production is expanding! Then what are we producing, and what use is it in going on producing if nobody benefits by it? Who the devil cares for trade being prosperous if the people are getting worse off in consequence of its prosperity? For it seems, according to Mr. Howell, that it is competition only and not decline of trade that is doing all the harm. Orthodox political economy is getting into the last stages of idiocy in the process of its decline; and, like a certain poet now in his dotage, will go on babbling long after the time for silence has come. Of course, Mr. Howell cannot be regarded as an economist, but his application of orthodox notions to questions of the day forms an interesting though dismal study. The old fallacy—that the interests of commerce and the interests of the people are identical—has long since been shown up, but it still finds adherents here and there, and they are useful. By their advocacy they bring ridicule on the cause they champion, and thus ensure its complete defeat. Mr. Howell had better go on with his work of explaining the ways of the current economy, and he is certain to bring ridicule on it and himself.

J. L. M.

SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN IN THE NORTH.

On March 2 I got to Newcastle, and lectured to the Socialistic Discussion Society in the Good Templars' Hall. This society was started some time ago by comrade Pease of the Fabian Society, and has been very useful in bringing Socialism before the public. The audience seemed in favour of the views I took of Socialism and the labour movement. On March 3 I went to Backworth in Northumberland, and addressed about 1000 of the miners now on strike. They received Socialism very well indeed, and were anxious to hear more about it. On Sunday March 6 I addressed two meetings, one at the Sandhill, a place where large numbers of men meet on Sunday mornings, and another in the Haymarket. Both were very successful.

The position of the mining population in Durham and Northumberland is very trying just now. In Northumberland 20,000 men are on strike against a reduction of 12½ per cent. on the wages of all who are earning more than 3s. per day. If the resistance to the reduction fails in Northumberland the Durham mine-owners will undoubtedly insist upon a similar reduction. The Northumberland men are very determined and hopeful, but it is far from certain that they will succeed. The combination against them is powerful and well organised. At the same time there is only too much reason to fear that the labour leaders are not unwilling that the strike should fail. This may seem a hard thing to say, but evidence is strongly in favour of it. The labour leaders are, to say the least, half-hearted. They know that the fight between capital and labour must, in the long-run, end in favour of the capitalists, if the antique methods of trades-unionism are to be the only weapons. Their reluctance to continue the fight is, from the orthodox point of view, justifiable. If the present system is unalterable, as they think, the future of the workers is quite hopeless. To struggle against reductions is only adding to their sufferings. These men, however, refuse to submit without a struggle; and even if they fail—as let us hope they won't—they will have shown that sturdiness of spirit which is only too scarce among the people to-day. The workmen have listened to counsels of moderation too long; they are sick and ashamed of submission to one after another of the slurs cast upon them. If they succeed in warding off the reduction they will still be discontented, and if they fail they will go back to the pits with sore hearts and bitter feeling.

The breach between the miners and their leaders is widening, and before long, I feel sure, the old system of organisation and the old lines of the movement will be radically altered. And there is much need for alteration. I was told by some of the leading men here that the miners were better off now than they had ever been before. If this were true it is a poor boast. There are plenty of miners (not coal-getters though) working for less than 3s. per day; and I was told that, after deducting cost of powder, lamps, and other like charges upon the wages received, the average amount taken home by the miners was from 10s. to 15s. per week. But whether the miners are a little better or a little worse is of little consequence. The main point, and the one ignored by the leaders, is that they are not nearly as well off as they should be. And it is very plain that the miners are ready for a thorough revolutionary movement. Next week I shall have a good deal more to say upon this aspect of the question.

I have now arranged for a thorough campaign amongst the men of Northumberland and Durham. On Friday last I issued a programme of meetings and a short address on a leaflet. I sent a paragraph to all the papers, which many of them inserted. I called upon the editor of the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* and explained my object: was courteously received, and invited to state my views and plans in a special article. This I have done, and the article, which appeared in the issue of Monday March 7, seems to have made a good impression. John Williams, of the Social-Democratic Federation, had been here a week before I came, and H. Parker, sent by the Strike Committee of the Socialist League, about ten days earlier. At the end of last week J. Hunter Watts also turned up, so that there is now quite a force of Socialist speakers here. The talk is chiefly of Socialism, and it is easy to see there is a strong feeling in our favour. I have worked quite harmoniously with the S. D. F. members, and hope to continue to do so.

There is a splendid chance of pushing the Socialist propaganda here. The workers have got tired of the orthodox movement, and are ready to embrace Socialism. There is no part of the propaganda of such practical and pressing importance as the support of a vigorous missionary expedition among the miners and iron-workers of the north. I trust that friends of the propaganda will not fail to subscribe what they can to the expenses.

I shall write fully every week on the progress of the campaign.

J. L. MAHON.

RIOTOUS BEHAVIOUR OF POLICE IN HYDE PARK.

LAST Sunday, Hyde Park was made the scene of another scandalous attempt on the part of the police to create a riot. The usual meetings were being held near the Marble Arch by Socialists, Home Rulers, and Christians. Shortly after the speaking had begun about fifty police, led by an inspector, appeared on the scene, and began to hustle the people about who were standing on the pathways. It must be understood the way was quite open to all who desired to pass through, so it was an act of pure officiousness on the part of the police to interfere at all. If they wished the pathway to be kept clear, the proper way was to have asked the speakers to invite those who wished to listen to them to come inside the railings. Instead of acting in this common sense manner they hustled the people about in a most disgraceful fashion, which ultimately so exasperated the crowd that they formed themselves in tolerably compact masses and retaliated in like manner on the police. Some mounted police appeared on the scene, which was the signal for more pushing and rushing. Two men were arrested because they objected to be dragged by the police. This riotous behaviour completely spoilt our meetings. This game of the police is a very artful one. They wish to make these disorderly scenes Sunday after Sunday for a few weeks, and get lying newspapers to report "riotous scenes caused by Socialists in Hyde Park," and so endeavour to create an opinion in the public mind that a new rule must be issued prohibiting all meetings in the Park. We ask all friends of freedom to prevent this miserable little trick of the police being successful. In future it would be well to invite the people that listen at our meetings to keep within the railings, and so prevent the police having any pretext for hustling and creating disturbances. I ask the men who read this to consider whether they are prepared to pay police rates, not to get protection but to get assaulted. These policemen, who ought to be looking after preventing the burglaries and other crimes that are continually being perpetrated, are to be found bullying the citizens who feed and clothe them, who have met in their own park to discuss public affairs. This is not the thin-end of the wedge that has been got in long ago, this is evidently a deliberate attempt of the police to suppress public discussion. We have yet to learn that Englishmen are prepared to tolerate such impertinence! One would have thought Sir C. Warren would have left the business of creating disturbances at public meetings in the hands of the Fowler, Kelly, and Kenny gang, but it seems not.

ALEX. DONALD.

CHARITY.—It is a mistake to suppose that the rich man maintains his servants, tradesmen, tenants, and labourers; the truth is, they maintain him. It is their industry which supplies his table, furnishes his wardrobe, builds his houses, adorns his equipage, provides his amusements. It is not his estate, but the labour employed upon it, that pays his rent; all that he does is to distribute what others produce, which is the least part of the business.—Dr. W. Paley, D.D.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE AMBLESIDE RAILWAY BILL.

If you can spare sufficient space I would like to lay a few facts respecting the above project before your readers, so that they may judge whether the outcry raised against it (mostly by ignorant outsiders) has good cause or not.

It is proposed to project the Kendal line from Windermere to Ambleside, a distance of only six miles, and not through the "Lake District" but a trifling portion of it. The line will run through woods most of the way, and will thus be hidden from view. It will keep at a considerable distance from the margin of the adjacent lake, Windermere, which although the largest is also the least interesting.

As things stand at present tourists are landed at Windermere Station, an uninteresting place two miles from the Lake, and if, as is natural, they desire to go to Ambleside they must take the coach and pay 2s. or else walk, and this for persons who are only down for the day is a great inconvenience, and an unnecessary expense to those who like myself are not in such favoured circumstances as Ruskin or our friend W. Morris. Once arrived at Ambleside, no one objects to a mile or two of walking to Rydal and Grasmere, but it doesn't pay most folks if they have walked the other part of the way as well. In the *Commonweal* 'Notes' last week, we workers are enjoined to wait for the Socialist millennium before we enjoy the Promised Land even for a day. The Ambleside people will benefit greatly in cheaper coals and provisions, and the artisans of the North will benefit if the hindrances to a proper enjoyment of the neighbourhood are removed. We Cumberland and Westmoreland people yield to no one in our love and respect for the beauties of the district, but we are unanimous in favour of the Bill, and if we had local autonomy would pass it speedily.—Yours fraternally,
Carlisle, Feb. 27.
Tom Muse.

[It seems to me that our friend in his enthusiasm for railways is unconsciously playing into the hands of the capitalist robbers, who are the only persons who will be really benefitted by it as things go. In the first place this railway is meant to be the first step in the invasion of the Lake country, and will certainly not stop at Ambleside if the projectors can help it. The question is nothing less than this, Is the beauty of the Lake country, and the natural wish that people have to see it and enjoy it, to be handed over to be exploited without limitation by a company who looks upon the public as so much material for exploitation? If it is to be so, its beauty will soon be a thing of the past, and when you have taken the trouble to bring people into the once lovely and romantic country they will find that they have come indeed, but come to nothing, and might almost as well have stayed at home, and had far better have strolled into some country side less renowned for beauty, and therefore not so tempting to the runners of those horrible pests, the tourist railway and the tourist hotel. The intention of the capitalists in this matter is to make the Cumberland and Westmoreland "show-country" a mere appendage to their filth-heaps of Manchester and Liverpool, and they allege the necessities of their filth-heaps as a reason for this. But the rest of the country have a good right to say, The concoction of your filth-heaps is no valid reason for your destroying the wealth of the whole country, nay, the wealth of the world; something of the natural beauty of the face of the country has been left in spite of your foul greed and disregard of other people's rights, and that, wofully little as it now is, we are at last impelled to guard against your greed. For my part, while admitting that it is seen in queer places, I cannot help thinking that the spirit which takes this view is a part of the great wave of social feeling which will one day sweep away monopoly and enable every one to have his due share of the pleasures of the world; whereas the feeling of jealousy of local interests and prejudices, even when expressed by a Socialist, is but the remnant of the unsocial feeling forced upon him by the present conditions of life. One may say in passing that the presence of the railway in a new district is not a benefit to it; it brings more trade to it, more employment, and therewithal more competition for employment; it cheapens one thing and raises the price of another; or, if it cheapens things generally, it is clear that it will lower the wages of the labourers, though doubtless it will increase the incomes of those who live on them, which once more is its object. I entreat our friend not to help in killing the goose that lays the golden eggs; it is true that to the company which wishes to exploit us it is of no importance that the golden eggs should cease to come, since they will be other people's eggs; but to us the rest of the public, both that are and that are to come, it is of much importance. Short-sighted brutality wherever it is met with, and whoever and whatever its source may be, is *unsocial*, and should be attacked by all Socialists.—Ed.

'The Industrial Problem Solved,' by W. B. Robertson (Modern Press, 1d.) is a brief but forcible exposé of the current fallacies anent overpopulation and overproduction. It is worth reading.

The verbatim report of the debate on "Is Socialism Sound?" between Annie Besant and Mr. Foote, is announced as shortly ready, price one shilling. We hope that the "cheers" which followed Mr. Foote's melodramatic attitudinising, and other expressions of the audience, will be omitted. The "points" are generally lost when the matter is printed, and the average reader has little interest in the particular feelings—sometimes very partisan—of the audience.

TAKING HIM AT HIS WORD.—At a public meeting held at Enderby, in the Harborough division of Leicestershire, on Thursday evening, March 3, the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting, accepting in all good faith the statement made in the House of Commons on Monday Feb. 28 by the the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in reference to the wages of copyists employed by the Government, that 'men who are in the position of trustees of public money are bound to see that public money is not wasted beyond what is the market price of labour,' beg to call the attention of the Secretary to the fact that in the present condition of the labour market Secretaries to the Treasury might be obtained for less than £2000 each per annum; a Lord Steward of Her Majesty's Household, who would do something for his salary, at less than £2000 per annum; a Lord Chamberlain for less than £2000 per annum; a Master of the Horse, possessing some practical knowledge of horses, at considerably less than £2500 per annum; Grooms-in-Waiting for less than £334 each for a few weeks' waiting; and Lords-in-Waiting who would consent to bear her majesty company at dinner without being paid £702 each for about six weeks of such honourable duties."

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

This department is under the direction of the Strike Committee. Labour News and Contributions to the Fund should be sent to T. BINNING, at the Offices.

BRITAIN.

WEAVERS' STRIKE IN ABERDEEN.—The weavers in the employment of Messrs. Richards, Broadford Works, numbering 700, have struck for a five per cent rise in their wages.

THE AYRSHIRE MINERS.—The strike in Ayrshire is now at an end, the men having resumed work on the understanding that whatever settlement is come to in Lanarkshire will also apply to Ayrshire.

YARMOUTH.—The smacksmen are about to strike against a "rearrangement of wages" dodge of Messrs. Hewitt & Co. It is expected that 3000 or 4000 men will be affected.

SOUTH STAFFORD.—The ironworkers of this district have given notice to the employers, through the secretary of the Wages Board, of a demand for an advance of 10 per cent. on the present rate of payment. The claim will be considered at the meeting of the board next month.

At a conference of miners representing 50,000 men of South Staffordshire and district, it was resolved to make a general collection in aid of the North of England miners now on strike.

At a meeting of the Hetton Branch of the Durham Miners' Association, it was decided to contribute £10 to the Strike Fund, and they recommend that a contribution of £1000 be at once sent the Northumberland men from the General Fund, the amount to be repaid by a levy of 6d. per member.

The Sleatburn Branch of the Durham Miners' Association have agreed to a levy of 6d. for men and 3d. for lads for the support of the Northumberland men as long as the strike lasts.

The Bolton branches of the amalgamated engineers, engine makers, and metal planers have demanded an increase of wages of 2s. per week, bringing them to the same rate as in the early part of 1886. The masters refuse, and a strike is expected.

The chainmakers strike still continues and there is little likelihood of its terminating. Funds are wanted; great distress prevails; trades' unionists should bring the matter before their respective societies. Next week will be reprinted from the *St. James's Gazette* an account of how chains are forged at Cradley heath.

THE SCOTTISH MINERS.—The miners have all returned to work pending the conference between the Lanarkshire men and their masters. Little hope is entertained of an agreement being arrived at. The men appear sanguine that if the conference fails a national strike will take place, in which case they are confident of victory.

BURNLEY—REDUCTION OF THE HOURS OF LABOUR.—The miners and all other classes of workmen in the employ of the executors of Colonel Hargreaves, many of whom had to work till 4 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon before they received their wages, have been ordered to cease work at 1 p.m. in the future, and all wages are to be paid by that time. This is a distinct gain to the men, who will have three hours of work less and can enjoy a full half holiday on Saturday like all other classes of workpeople.

LEICESTER.—A strike has occurred in the Cardigan branch of Messrs. Pool, Lorrimer, and Tabberer's, hosiery manufacturers, Leicester. Two years ago the men submitted to a reduction of 10 per cent rather than see the machines removed elsewhere. Within the past few days the firm has asked that each workman should take two or three girls to work under him, or submit to see the machines removed to Foleshill, near Coventry. The workmen have refused to entertain the proposal, inasmuch as it would in every instance substitute two or three girls for the same number of men.

At a conference of miners representing 50,000 men employed in East Worcestershire, South Staffordshire, and Cannock Chase, held at Walsall, to consider the propriety of giving notice for a 10 per cent advance of wages, a committee was appointed to draw up a notice to be presented to the employers on the 19th of March (providing the Cannock Chase miners agree to such a course), requiring an advance of 6d. per day in the wages of men engaged in the thick coal seams, and of 3d. per day in the wages of those employed in the thin coal seams.

MANCHESTER BUILDING TRADE.—There are no signs of activity in building work here. The only job of note is the Jubilee Exhibition employing about 1,000 hands, which will be entirely finished in two months, and a large number of hands will necessarily be thrown out of work. The overtime question has again been raised. The majority of employers will not pay extra for any over-time the men are forced to work. A slight attempt has recently been made by the men employed on the exhibition job to defend their interests. A shop meeting was held to discuss the overtime question. It shows up the disorganised state of the men when the "Amalgamated" and "General Union" Societies stand "tamely" by whilst every advantage won by the men in past years is swept away. Manchester building operatives from 1833 to 1877 were to the front in labour movements, at present they are in the rear. When will the "leaders of the unions" lead the men to organise their forces? The Birmingham men are fighting bravely.—**CLEANER.**

THE ASHTON STRIKE.—This strike has now lasted ten weeks, and there is still no sign of settlement. The Northern Counties Amalgamation of Weavers seem fully able to carry on the struggle indefinitely. There has never been a strike in the weaving industry which has been so systematically supported. The funds come in steadily, and the "hands" have no need to be in a hurry. As to the reports that are being circulated in the employer's interest as to the number of looms running, the *Cotton Factory Times* says: "We have taken the trouble to ascertain the class of weavers that are at work in Ashton. The fact is, a great number of them are not weavers, nor likely to be for some time to come. Some of them are warehouse boys, and all sorts of odd hands who work about the mills. It would be nearer the mark if they would count heads instead of looms. We will give our readers a sample of what we mean. We saw an overlooker who was at work a short time since, and he told us that in his section he had fifteen weavers at work, counted by heads. But only two of these were his old weavers, and the other thirteen weavers were very successful in spoiling the work they wove. If the Ashton employers are thinking of being successful in the end by this means, they will find it very costly."

THE DISPUTES IN THE NOTTINGHAM ENGINEERING TRADE.—The fifty or sixty members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers, and Moulders' Societies, who recently struck work at Messrs. Man-

love, Alliott, Fryer, and Co., Blooms Grove Works (owing to the dismissal of unionists by that firm on their declining to accede to a reduction of 2s. on their earnings of 34s. a week), still remain out, and there is no prospect of any immediate settlement. So well organised is the intelligence department of the unions that many of the best skilled workmen have already found employment in the town and neighbourhood, and places so far distant as Southampton have helped to absorb the men who would otherwise have been a burden upon the societies' strike funds. On the other hand, a considerable number of non-unionist workmen remain in at Blooms Grove, and feeling runs high in Radford in consequence. A number of workmen, recently imported from London, returned on learning the true state of affairs. The monthly report of the amalgamated society just issued, records an improvement in trade generally, and the union officers are sanguine that they will shortly be able to find employment for the remainder of the men. The Strike Committee, which sits daily, is receiving every encouragement and assistance, not only from affiliated societies, but from trade union organisations generally.

LEEDS, March 7.—A strike is now in operation at Messrs. Fowler and Co., Steam Plough Works, Hunslet, against the attempt of the masters to introduce absolute piece-work amongst the turners, some 46 men and boys. They also complain of the actions of the manager, or the middleman, as they term him. It has been the custom so far in Fowler's that the men work for a weekly wage, but also get any balance they may have above the price laid down for the respective jobs. For the last three years there has been a gradual reduction of the prices, so that now, instead of the men making a balance, they are getting further into debt every week, and now the masters want to dock the deficiency out of their weekly wage. Some jobs for which they used to receive three shillings they now get eighteen-pence, and so on right through. There is a hope that the strike will be made general throughout the shop. The masters have been forcing other men in the shop to do the work of the strikers, but the union men say that if the same trick is done to-day (Monday) they will all put on their coats and leave the shop. The story of the men reveals such a system of robbery as would be hard to equal, instances having occurred where the prices have been reduced after the work has been done. On Sunday afternoon the strikers held an open-air meeting on Hunslet Moor. Two of the strikers gave a short address each, showing the terrible conditions under which the hands of Fowler's work. One of them named Bromley, a foreman, openly stated that the masters had offered him a bribe of four pounds weekly to introduce absolute piece-work among the turners, but he being an honest man, spurned the bribe, for which he was suspended. After these had spoken, T. Maguire of the Socialist League addressed the audience, and showed the necessity of the united action of the workers to defeat the masters. He was listened to with much interest, and lustily cheered. He is to speak again to-night at a mass meeting at Penny Hill. Further particulars later on.—**F. C.**

AMERICA.

The South Boston street railway employes, including track layers and car repairers, have struck for the ten hours' day.

Coopers of Chicago have organised a co-operative factory with 100,000 dollars capital. No one can hold more than twenty-five shares.

The Brotherhood of American Carpenters is the largest trades union in the United States. It now numbers 246 branches with 41,250 members.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—It is so rare that an architect, who thinks that he is boss and that mechanics are really machines, apologises to a walking delegate, that when one does so, it is really worthy of mention and record. Such a singular phenomenon occurred last Tuesday. The new walking delegate, Robert F. Farrell, of the United Order of Carpenters, entered a new building on Broadway, on a tour of inspection, in the course of which he ran foul of Architect Young, who ordered him off the building. He went. So did the carpenters. So also did the other workers, 250 in number all told. Then Architect Young saw his mistake, and after a conference with the Board of Walking Delegates, made the *amende honorable*. The delegates will not be ejected from that building during its construction.—*John Swinton's Paper.*

UNION OF CHINAMEN.—The universality of the labour movement is shown in the efforts of the Chinese of New York city to organise a labour union. Here is a despised race, lifted by contact with a higher civilisation than their own, preparing to assert their rights in common with their brothers of other nations. It is a pity our industrial system necessitates our prohibiting the immigration into this country of Chinamen, but so long as the present wages system lasts this prohibition is necessary to prevent our being dragged down to their level. It is not from the fact that those people are Chinamen that the workmen object to them, but because they can be and are made instruments in the hands of unscrupulous employers to bring Caucasians down to the level of the wants and desires of these Mongolians. Those that are here now we can handle, but no more must be admitted to our shores. Meanwhile may the Chinese laundrymen of New York city be as successful as one could wish in their effort to organise.—*Advance* (Detroit).

COLLAPSE OF THE GREAT STRIKE.

Notwithstanding the heroic efforts of the labour army engaged in this great struggle since the beginning of the year, it has been forced to succumb to the overwhelming forces arrayed against it on behalf of the monopolists. The necessities of the enormous multitude of unemployed labourers thrown destitute upon the streets by the operation of the competitive system of production, have once again been utilised by the cannibal capitalists to defeat the claims of organised labour. But though defeated it is not dismayed. The workers have shown in this fight greater solidarity than was ever known before, and the effect of the present temporary check will doubtless be to bring about such a combination as shall at no distant date not only retrieve the present disaster, but do something towards overthrowing the accursed rule of the exploiters. The freight handlers have suffered the worst of any of those who struck for "sympathy." There are 3000 of them, and their places have been filled in the majority of cases. The weavers' labourers in the Williamsburg sugar refineries have also lost heavily, platform scales having been introduced, by which 150 out of 300 will be without work. The following from *John Swinton's Paper*, of Feb. 20th, shows that the fight was still going on in some quarters: The International Boatmen's Union is composed of about a thousand men, 600 of whom own their own boats. The members have refused to allow their boats to be loaded by "scabs." They say their insurance policies call for skilled labour, and until they are assured that those who load and trim their boats are skilful they will remain tied up. They are a jolly set of hardy fellows, and a visit to

their headquarters the past week was refreshing, because one could see that although they had not earned anything since Jan. 1, they had sufficient to eat and were in good spirits. Many of them had been tempted with large offers of money to break away, but they have held fast. No one can tell how far the results of the strike will extend. Two weeks ago a committee called on the engineer at Jones' flour mills, Lewis and Bloom Streets, and asked him to strike. He refused. The committee threatened to "get even," and next morning the millers struck, 150 men being reduced to idleness. When the strike was declared off by 49, the men returned to work, but Mr. Jones said they must come back as individuals. Again they struck. The firm uses from 1,500 to 2,000 barrels a-day, and M. and E. Connolly, of New York and Brooklyn, had the contract to supply them. The millers induced Connolly's men to strike—160 in both cities. The coopers are well organised, and Connolly could not get men. The firm tried to get barrels from other sources. A. Briggs, of Cherry and Rutgers Streets, supplied some, and the hundred men there struck. Connolly got barrels from other cooperages, and before this reaches our readers there may be a general strike of the coopers.

FRANCE.

MEHUN-SUR-YEVRE.—A public meeting was organised last week by the Corporation of porcelain-makers in consideration of the still-continued strike here. Baudin came from Vierzon and addressed the meeting, which was well attended, and a resolution in favour of the continuance, by hook or by crook, of the strike was unanimously passed.

VIERZON.—The municipality of Vierzon has decided to divide between the strikers and those at work in their place at the Societé Française the modest sum of 500 francs which had been voted by the General Council of the Seine in aid of the victims of the stoppage of work there. The strikers decidedly object to this arrangement, and refuse to touch a sou of the sum in question if the "renegades" go shares.

SAINTE-ETIENNE.—A serious explosion here has caused much loss of life and trouble among the miners and their families. The scene of the disaster has been examined, and in the interior structure of the galleries some of the supports have been pronounced very insufficient and unsafe. Such catastrophes as explosions may be inevitable occasionally in such a dangerous occupation, but how gratuitous and easily prevented are the accidents arising from economy of material and economy of work necessary for safety of the miners down below!

A large meeting was held in Paris last week by the League for the Suppression of the "Bureaux de Placement" (agencies for procuring employment), at which the female sex, we are glad to note, was well represented. After a discussion concerning the rejection of the numerously-signed petition for the suppression of the "Bureaux" which was presented to the Chambre, a resolution was passed directing the deputies Basly and Camélinat, etc., to present for discussion before the Chambre as soon as possible a bill for the official or municipal organisation of gratuitous "Bureaux de Placement" throughout the country.

The current price in Paris for making and finishing a pair of shoes, the *Cri* tells us, is 1 fr. 60 c., which price a certain firm manages to reduce to 95 centimes, with the help of that precious institution, "division of labour," one of the three factors of the product being feminine—and paid accordingly. The workmen at this establishment work on the average eleven hours a-day, and can make 4 or 5 francs, the women work fourteen and fifteen hours, and make with difficulty and rarely 4 francs at this laborious occupation, both being subjected also to all sorts of reductions and trivial expenses necessary for their work.

CETON (Orne).—There is a certain excitement among the population of this town owing to the strike of 300 women in the glove-factory. The director of the workshops had for a long time subtracted 50 centimes a-day from the wages entirely on his own responsibility, making a little supplement to his income of 400 francs a-day. The strikers are exerting themselves in making house-to-house visitations among the women employed at the works, to encourage them to resistance. We gather from the journals that the inhabitants of the district (apparently in want of excitement) joined heartily in the drama, and executed a sort of cheerful war-dance outside the dwelling of the director, and were even impolite enough to burn his woman-kind in effigy. Gendarmerie are in the town—and history goes no further.

A workman at the steel-works at the Quai de Grenelle took it into his head last week to put an end to the pleasures and pains of his "boss" by a pistol-shot, and thereafter to shoot himself through the head. No particular reason for the enactment of this drama has been discovered. That the director had lowered the salaries to a great extent in the last three years, and further had hired Italian labour to the detriment of the natives, can scarcely be looked upon as a reason sufficient nowadays, when such trifles are constantly occurring. The criminal, who thus wisely evaded the law of his country, had been, however, the only member who had ever ventured to remonstrate at any bit of injustice, and had shown himself much discouraged of late by the course of events. His principles may have been those of a "bold bad terrorist," or he may have been merely a discontented worker, at odds with the world and himself, and not quite crushed enough to go along through life licking the shoes of his master and owner uncomplaining.

ITALY.

The Italian Government has undertaken the arduous task of crushing out of existence the young Socialist party, most of the 133 sections of which, especially those of upper Italy, are constantly dissolved, stifled in their birth, their funds, flags, libraries confiscated and the prominent members dispersed (witness the late trials, and Kerbs of the *Fascio Operaio* expelled from the country). Nevertheless the members of the party thus disintegrated have retained their activity and enthusiasm, and profess themselves as anxious as ever to "spread the word" individually, and we are certain they will do so, in the teeth of the police supervision and State repression which encompasses them.

GORDONA.—This little town becoming more and more impoverished, it was at last decided to refuse to pay the imports due, the result being an attempt at seizures of the farms and dwellings. But at the first farms the soldiers and officials were received by the country-folk with a shower of stones and were finally put to flight. There is a certain cheerful little process known as "trying to get blood from a stone" which the Italian manorial lord puts into practice with more brilliant success than most people. It is not, however, much satisfaction to hear of it failing now and then—it only means there is nothing to give up; the unselfish peasant would not be mean enough to keep goods for himself that were due to his lord and master!

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

Outdoor Propaganda.—The Council at their last meeting passed the following resolution:—"That the speakers at Hyde Park invite the audience to keep within the railings so as not to obstruct the foot-paths; and that all members of the League attending such meetings be careful not to obstruct the foot-ways on such occasions." Out-door speakers are requested to attend meeting to-night (Saturday) at 7 p.m., to consider question of outdoor propaganda.

Lessons in French.—Comrade Victor Dave has kindly volunteered to give lessons in French at the offices of the League on Tuesday evenings, at 8 o'clock. The names of those desiring to join the class should be sent to the secretary.

Reports for "Commonweal".—Branch Secretaries are requested to make their reports as brief as possible, dealing with points of general interest as to the progress of the propaganda, rather than attempting to give the substance of the lectures, for which there is not space, even if it were otherwise desirable. Notices should be confined to purely business announcements and written separately. Reports and Notices should be addressed to the "Printer," and cannot be guaranteed insertion unless they reach the office by 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.

Birmingham, Hackney, Hull, Leeds, North London, to August 31. Manchester, Merton, Norwich, to October 31. Bradford, to November 30. Croydon, Hammersmith, Leicester, South London, to Dec. 31, 1886. Bloomsbury, Lancaster, to Jan. 31. Clerkenwell, Walsall, to February 28. Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Oxford, to March 31, 1887.

STRIKE COMMITTEE.

W. M., 1s.; P. W., 1s.

T. BINNING, Treasurer.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

E. B. B. (weekly), 1s.; W. B. (weekly), 6d.; T. B. (weekly), 6d.; H. A. B. (two weeks), 1s.; Hammersmith Branch (two weeks), £1.
P. W., Treasurer, March 8.

THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

Our comrade Mowbray, who has been sentenced to nine months's imprisonment, leaves his wife and five children totally unprovided for. The costs of the trial amounted to £60; this has to be paid and the wife and family of Mowbray provided for during his imprisonment. This means altogether at least £100. Henderson has received sentence of four months' imprisonment. You are earnestly appealed to, to give them all the assistance you can.

Already acknowledged, £25, 2s. 1d. J. Davis, 1s. Collected: Glasgow Branch S.D.F., 3s. 6d.; Blackburn do., 3s. 10d.; Leeds Branch S.L., 2s.; Lancaster do., 5s.; Hackney do., 4s. 10d.; At Cleveland Hall, by Traunke, 7s. 9d.; do., by Cantwell, 1s. 4d.; By Heric, 1s. 6d. Webb, 1s. Arthur, 6d. J. T., 1s. 6d. N. P., 1s. M. G., 2s. 6d. For Mrs. Mowbray—A few Fabians, per Annie Besant (weekly), 10s.—Total, £27, 9s. 4d. J. LANE, Treasurer.

FOR HACKNEY FREE SPEECH—North London Branch, collected in Regent's Park, 3s.

PROPAGANDA FUND—Two German Comrades, 10s.

Comrade Henderson on the Tread-Mill.

The brutality of the bourgeois prison regulations have been strikingly shown in the treatment of our comrade Henderson, a youth of delicate health. He was set on the tread-mill, with the result that he fainted. The prison doctor's attention was drawn to his condition, but this functionary saw no reason to interfere in the matter, and Henderson was accordingly ordered on the "mill" again. He fainted again, and again he was ordered on the "mill"; and not until he had fainted three times did the doctor consent to his removal. If this kind of treatment is continued, the sentence of four months will virtually mean, to a youth of Henderson's delicacy of constitution, a sentence of death, or at best broken health for life.

BRANCH REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, March 2, Annie Besant lectured to a good audience on "Means for Staving off Revolution." She pointed out that the proprietary classes are busy in devising plausible schemes to enlist the aid of the workers in maintaining their monopoly, by the creation of large numbers of small holders of property, instancing the Allotment Scheme, Leasehold Emancipation, and Peasant Proprietary as measures which it behoved all Socialists most strenuously to oppose. Emigration was another matter that required particular attention, as it tended to denude the country of the most energetic workers, leaving those behind more and more at the mercy of the exploiters. Good discussion followed. On Sunday, March 6th, Laurence Gronlund gave a very interesting lecture on "Continental Socialism." Other Branches should secure the above lecturer for this subject. Several meetings have been attended during the week by members of this Branch. Literature has sold fairly well.

CROYDON.—On Sunday evening, G. Burcham lectured on "The Meaning of Socialism" in place of S. Mainwaring, who was summoned to Norwich. He dealt very ably and exhaustively with his subject, and pointed out the fallacy of supposing that the eight hours' movement or even land nationalisation were themselves Socialism, or that they were anything else at most than approaches to it. His remarks called forth much criticism, to which he replied. Collection good. Next Thursday, J. Fielding delivers a lecture at the West Croydon Liberal and Radical Club on "Malthusian Fallacies."—A. T., ast. sec.

GARRETT AND SUMMERSTOWN.—On Sunday morning last, the members of the Merton Branch mustered outside of the "Plough Inn," Garrett, from which we have been debarred indoor meetings through the action of the police, and we held a successful open-air meeting. A large amount of literature was distributed. We intend to meet the police intimidation by establishing a Branch in the neighbourhood.—F. KITZ.

HACKNEY.—On Sunday evening, H. Davis lectured to a good audience on "The Modern Trinity: Land, Labour, and Capital." Good discussion. We will give at this Branch a free concert on Saturday, March 19th, to welcome our comrade James Allman, on his release from Holloway Prison. We hope all comrades and friends will attend. All members of the Socialist League and friends that can spare the time should be at Holloway Prison to welcome him on his release on Saturday, March 19th, at 8 a.m. Received *Justice*.—H. MATTHEWS, sec.

MITCHAM.—On Sunday evening, comrade Hill, a local member, lectured on "Co-operation v. Competition." The audience, though not very large, was sympathetic. A good discussion followed.—S. G., sec.

EDINBURGH.—We have begun March month well. On Monday, in Free Tron Hall, Edward Carpenter lectured on "The Morality of Interest." On Tuesday in Trinity Hall, Leith, he had a crowded audience. The lecture is well reported in a local paper. This is perhaps the first Socialist lecture delivered indoors in Leith. On Wednesday, in large Tron Hall, E. Carpenter again lectured, his subject being, "Justice before Charity."—G.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday at midday, Glasier addressed a large and sympathetic audience on Jail's Square. In the afternoon, he delivered a lecture on "The Majesty of the Law" to Glasgow Branch of the Irish National League. The lecture, which was a wholesale condemnation of law and constitutionalism as the whips and fetters of landlords and capitalists, was well received by the meeting. At 5 o'clock, Edward Carpenter had an interesting conference with our members in our rooms. In the evening at 7, E. Carpenter delivered a lecture on "The Mammon of Five per Cent." to a good audience in the Assembly Rooms. The lecturer pointed out the immorality of the exaction of interest and profit, and made an impressive appeal for Socialism.—J. B. G.

HAMILTON.—On Thursday, under the auspices of the Lanarkshire Miners' Association, a mass meeting of miners was held in the Low Quarries. Cunningham Graham, M.P., delivered an address advising the abolition of royalties, and claiming for the miners a participation in the profits of their labour. J. R. McCutcheon, and comrades Small, McMunn, and Mavor also spoke. In the evening, the Branch held a good meeting in Paton's Hall, comrades McMunn and Glasier, of Glasgow, being the speakers. On Saturday, Edward Carpenter addressed an open-air meeting in the Low Quarries. The meeting, which was not large, owing to the announcement being insufficient, listened to the address with much interest. Comrades Muirhead, of Glasgow, and McMunn also addressed the meeting. Afterwards an open-air meeting was held at the New Cross, when Carpenter again spoke. McMunn and Glasier also delivered addresses.—J. B. G.

LEICESTER.—We held open-air meetings on Sunday, Feb. 27th, and again Sunday, March 6th, in Russell Square, at which Barclay, Robson, and Sullivan spoke to audiences about 200 strong. Had friendly discussion, and sold about thirty pamphlets; great interest shown.—T. B., sec.

LEEDS.—On Sunday afternoon, the members of this Branch attended a meeting held on behalf of the men on strike at Messrs. Fowler and Co., Steam Plough Works, Hunslet. After two of the men on strike had spoken, the chairman asked if any one would say a few words for them, upon which our comrade Maguire stood up and received a hearty welcome, and at the close of the proceedings he was invited to address another meeting to be held on Monday night at Penny Hill.—F. C., sec.

MANCHESTER.—Comrade Leonard Hall, of Lancaster, gave an address to the members in our club room on Saturday night. We held an open-air meeting on Sunday morning, at which comrade Prince and Hall spoke. In the afternoon, comrade Hall and Smart spoke at the Flat Iron Market, Salford. C. Hall gave a stirring address at the Crescent Inn, Salford, to the S. D. F. Branch.—F. H., sec.

NORWICH.—We held three outdoor meetings on Sunday, which were all well attended, the speakers being Mainwaring and Lane. The meeting in the Market Place lasted two hours, 6s. 7d. being collected for the Defence Fund. In the evening we had a good meeting at the Gordon Hall, where Mainwaring lectured to our members and a large number of visitors on "Parliamentary Action and Socialists," which resulted in opposition from one speaker, the others being in accord with the lecturer. We are keeping the ball rolling here, and mean to do so.—T. M., sec.

WALSALL.—On Friday, March 4, H. K. Austin lectured on "Socialism, the Why and How," in the place of the Rev. C. Peach, who was unable to be present. The audience was small but attentive.—J. T. D., sec.

DUBLIN.—A meeting of the unemployed, numbering about 3,000, was held on Sunday last at Harold's Cross Green. The chairman, J. B. Killen, B.L., Social Democrat, proclaimed the truth that the land and all the instruments of production ought to belong to the whole community, that the worker should enjoy the fruits of his industry, and that he was justified in using any means whatever in order to get rid of the idle class that fattened upon his misery. Other speeches, notably that of G. A. Apward, were very revolutionary in tone. A large quantity of Socialist leaflets were distributed.—D. K.

LECTURE DIARY.

London Branches.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street. Friday March 11, at 8.30. H. H. Sparling.
Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E. C. Sunday March 13, at 8.30 p.m. Debate: "Is Socialism the Cause of the Present Distress?" Affirmative: J. L. Lyons, Liberty and Property Defence League; Negative: T. E. Wardle, Socialist League. Wednesday March 16, at 8.30. A Lecture. See Lecture List in Pall Mall and Daily News.
Croydon.—Royal County House, West Croydon Station Yard. Sunday Mar. 13. Thomas Shore on "Socialism according to the Poets."—Committee Meeting every Friday at 8 p.m. sharp, at Parker Road.
Hackney.—23 Audrey Street, Goldsmith Row. Club Room open every evening from 8 till 11. Business Meeting every Tuesday at 8.30. Discussion Class Thursday evenings. On Sunday March 13, at 8.30., W. Morris, "Monopoly."
Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday March 13, at 8 p.m. W. Clark (Fabian Society), "Fallacies of Emigration."

Hoxton (L.E.L.).—New premises, 2 Crondel Street. Sunday March 13, at 8 p.m. A. K. Donald, "Political Economy from the Socialist Standpoint."

Merton.—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Club Room open every evening. Committee every Thursday. Discussions held every Sunday morning at 11.

Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11. Sunday March 13, at 8.30. Gregory, "Socialism as it was, is, and will be."

Country Branches.

Bingley.—Coffee Tavern. Every Monday at 7.30 p.m. Birmingham.—Carr's Lane Coffee House. Every Monday evening, at 8.

Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. Reading Room and Library open every Wednesday evening, 8 till 10.—In Free Iron Hall, Monday March 14, at 8 o'clock. William Morris, "Socialism: Its Aims and Means." March 21. Percival Chubb, "The Inner Spirit of Socialism." Admission 1s., 6d., and 3d.

Fulham.—Address Sec., 34 May Street. Glasgow.—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily.—On Sunday, open-air meetings on Jail's Square at 1 and 5 o'clock. In the evening, at 6.30, in Hall, No. 2, Carlton Pl., Clyde Side, R. F. Muirhead, M.A., will deliver a lecture on "Silly versus Sensible Socialism," a reply to Prof. Flint's recent lectures. On Tuesday 15, Monthly Business Meeting of Members, in Rooms, at 8 p.m.

Hamilton.—Branch meets every Thursday at 7.30 in Paton's Hall, Chapel Street.

Hull.—11 Princess Street, Sykes Street. Club Room open every evening. Lectures every Thursday and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Lancaster.—Owing to some organised boycotting on the part of fat aldermen and magisterial trustees, we have no fixed meeting-place at present.

Leicester.—Spiritualist Hall, Silver Street. Sunday Afternoon, at 2.45 p.m. J. Fowkes, "The Chaos of Capitalism."

Manchester.—145 Grey Mare Lane, Bradford, Manchester. Club and Reading Room open every evening 6 to 10 p.m. Lecture and discussion every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

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.

Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25 1/2 Pembroke Street. Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m.

Open-air Propaganda—Sunday 13.

11.30...Hackney—"Salmon and Ball".....H. Sparling
11.30...Hammersmith—Beadon Rd.....The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield Street...Wade, Pope
11.30...Garrett—Plough Inn.....Kitz
11.30...Regent's Park.....The Branch
11.30...St. Pancras Arches.....The Branch
11.30...Walham Green—Station.....The Branch
3.30...Hyde Park (near Marble Arch).....The Branch
3.30...London Fields—Broadway.....Flockton

PROVINCES.—SUNDAY.

Norwich.—St. Mary's Plain, 11; Market Place, 3.
Leeds.—Hunslet Moor, 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, 7 p.m.
Leicester.—Humberston Gate, 11 a.m.

SOUTH PLACE INSTITUTE, Finsbury.—A series of Debates on Socialism and Individualism will take place during March. II. Sunday 13, at 4 p.m., G. Bernard Shaw versus Rev. F. W. Ford.

CLEVELAND HALL, 54 Cleveland Street (near Portland Road Station). Sundays at 11.30 a.m. Mar. 13. W. B. Robertson, "Over-production and Over-population."

Paris Commune Celebrations.

An International Celebration of the Paris Commune will be held at SOUTH PLACE CHAPEL on THURSDAY MARCH 17.

The Socialists of Nottingham combined intend to hold an International Celebration of the Paris Commune on Friday March 18. Tea will be served at 7 o'clock, and after that an Entertainment will be given, and Speeches delivered by Frenchmen and Englishmen, to conclude with a dance.

NORWICH.—A Public Meeting will be held on Saturday March 19, at 8.30, in the Gordon Hall, Duke St., to commemorate the glorious struggle made by the workers of Paris to emancipate themselves from the tyranny and oppression of the landlord and capitalist class. Tochatti and others will speak. Tochatti will also lecture on "The Commune" on March 20 and 21.

DUBLIN.—An International Celebration of the Paris Commune will be held at 50 Dawson Street, on March 17. Tea will be served at 7 o'clock, after which comrade Fitzpatrick will deliver an address on "Archbishop Croke's No-tax Manifesto." Citizen Coulon, Gabriel, and Schumann will take part.

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