

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

Mr. Thompson has been able to lay before the public in the columns of the *Echo* the evidence in the case of our comrade Pole of the S. D. F., and it must be said that if the magistrates who sentenced him to two months' hard labour have nothing to say in contradiction of the facts as there stated, they cannot clear themselves of the crime of sending an innocent man to prison, whom they must have known to be innocent.

The public can scarcely fail to see this, and another blow will be struck at this monstrous abuse of the magistrates' court with its body-guard of professional witnesses, who, like all policemen, consider, and are bound to consider, that it is their business, if there is any breach of the peace, to get hold of a prisoner and to convict him when they have got hold of him, at whatever expense to truth and justice may be necessary.

The stupidity of the police in the case of Mdle. Drouin is only what might be expected of these gentry, and no doubt many dynamite scares have had about as good a foundation as this one; but how are honest citizens to guard themselves against it? Are we to have an artist and a chemist attached to every police centre to inform the guardians of law and order what modelling clay is, and to assure them that the only danger it is fraught with is that it may be worked up into futile and ugly images?

Among other cases of legal oppression comes the hideous tale of Mr. Justice Field and the luckless Welsh girl; concerning which what can words do to express due indignation against such a sentence? But one thing we must remember: these and similar cases of the injustice of the law are being brought to light plentifully now; but we must not suppose that they are uncommon, and that there is only by some accident a passing shower of them at present. It cannot be doubted that they are of constant occurrence. Nay more, bad as they are, they are only extreme examples of the ordinary deeds of the law; it works in this way habitually and can work no otherwise; it is a machine constructed for the production of injustice; that is the sober truth.

Whatever may be thought about the guilt or innocence of Lipski, the whole circumstances of the trial call for a remark on one point in criminal trials which jurymen should remember, and which they are too apt to forget, that it is *they* who are the *judges*; they, not persons educated by professional experience and—cant, into callousness and disregard of everything but the rules of the game; but citizens and neighbours discharging part of their daily responsibility for the good of the community, and judging the matter by the rules of common sense and the experience of ordinary daily life. This is still the theory of the jury, and before centralised bureaucracy had quite overlaid the customs of the freemen of the tribes it was the practice also; but as things go now, the judge oftenest usurps the function of the jury, and his summing up is the real verdict. Let any one who sits on a jury, especially in a criminal case, take this to heart, and, as far as he is personally concerned, redress it.

Meantime it is a good thing that the public are having their attention turned to its worst abuses; they will soon see that they are helpless to cure them, if only they begin to try; for their conception of the law is that it is an impartial power that enforces respect to the due rights of the citizens, that it arranges personal differences between man and man. This is just their mistake, its real business is to defend property at the expense of personal rights.

Mr. Bradlaugh has received what may be called a new title at the hands of Lord Wemyss; he has been dubbed the "defender of the faith," so to say; protector of the sanctities of "free contract" (*i.e.*, the leave to whack one's own nigger) against the original sin, which is now discovered to be a part of nineteenth century human nature, of paying some attention to the general welfare of the community. It may be doubtful as to how much Mr. Bradlaugh relishes this distinction, in spite of his anti-Socialist proclivities; it is not doubtful that the whirligig of time brings about curious revenges. Who are to be the next allies, I wonder?—Chamberlain and Salisbury, Wemyss and Bradlaugh! It is no use hazarding a guess; yet strange things may happen to Socialists if ever they get into the House of Commons, and they may have queer distinctions thrust upon them; they had better keep out of it altogether.

W. M.

## A LABOUR POLICY.

WHEREVER there is oppression there is rebellion—if there be any vitality in the people at all. The form this rebellion takes almost entirely depends on the stage which the oppression has reached. If the oppression be in the growth of its power the rebellion will simply mean resistance to each fresh development, but if the oppression has reached its height and its power begins to wane, the rebellion assumes a definite and aggressive shape—it becomes revolution; that is, it not only resists the wrong, it prepares to stop it and to replace it by a just system. This has been illustrated by English history. Since the tyranny of the capitalists began, rebellion against it began. At first the workers could only protest by riots, insurrections, machinery-breaking and strikes against the wrongs under which they had to labour. As time went on their rebellion became more systematic. Now the time is at hand when the working-class must no longer be satisfied with protests against their misery; they must prepare to end it and to organise a happier state of society. Socialism is simply this most advanced stage of the labour movement. It aims at changing the present system of society in which the rich idlers live by plundering the poor workers, and the poor live only on the sufferance of the rich, into a system where both are merged in one body, all doing their meet share of the world's work, and enjoying a like share of its wealth.

The Socialist party has no interests in antagonism to other labour organisations. It only differs from them in this, that they fight for the interests of a *part* of the people, while Socialism aims at the good of *all*; they try to cure *part* of the economic evils, to stop *some* of the plundering, while Socialism aims at *preventing* the evils and bringing about an honest system. For instance, trades' unionism means securing to the workers a larger share of the fruits of their labour; Socialism means securing to the workers the full fruits of their labour. Co-operation means checking the shopkeeping section of the traders from cheating the people; Socialism means stopping all sections of traders from cheating the people. Therefore, there cannot be any antagonism between these movements and the Socialist movement. Socialism embraces all other Labour movements, and the very gist of the Socialist policy is to combine all sectional Labour movements into one solid array with a clearly defined aim; to focus the energies of the societies which are struggling here and there, and direct the whole united force to the achievement of the economic emancipation of Labour.

This task is a heavy one, and not to be hastily dismissed. There will be a good deal of jarring before the different sections agree and get into their right places. But it is now the urgent duty of all who seriously wish to advance the cause of labour to consider how the different movements having practically the same interests will regard each other. There has been too much sneering and gibing between Reformers and Revolutionists, and too little useful discussion. It is because reform is useless that revolution is necessary. The people must have justice. If justice cannot be gained by *reforming* the present system that shows the inherent badness of the system, and the only thing to do is to abolish it and replace it by another system.

It is now clear that as foreign competition and the development of machinery increases, the lot of the labourer is becoming more precarious. During the last fourteen years the condition of the workers in all the great industries has been steadily getting worse; wages have gone down, and employment is less secure. The employers allege that they are also getting worse off, which is true to a large extent. The simple and sensible explanation of our chronic trade depression is the production of goods beyond the power of our markets, both at home and abroad, to sell at a profit for the investors or capitalists. For profit-making purposes, there is a glut of goods and a glut of the means of production. Not only are our warehouses overflowing, but the land is lying waste, the machinery is going to rust, and the army of unemployed is regularly growing larger and larger. The capitalist and the working-class are alike helpless in this position of affairs. So long as both maintain the present system of production for profit this state of things can only go from bad to worse until the system is changed.

In future papers I shall try to lay down the Socialist attitude towards Trades' Unionism and Co-operation, and to sketch a line of action by which Socialists who are in these movements may work them on to the right lines of action. In thus trying to conciliate other working-class organisations, let it be understood that I am not in the

least wishful to compromise the Socialist aim. I don't wish Socialists to turn mere reformers, but to make reformers Socialists by showing them that they can only retain and develop in the future the good they have done in the past by coming right abreast of the advanced guard of the labour movement of today.

J. L. MAHON.

## FEUDAL ENGLAND.

(Continued from page 267.)

THE order and progress of Henry I.'s reign, which marks the transition from the mere military camp of the Conqueror to the Mediaeval England I have to dwell upon, was followed by the period of mere confusion and misery which accompanied the accession of the princes of Anjou to the throne of England. In this period the barons widely became mere violent and illegal robbers; and the castles with which the land was dotted, and which were begun under the auspices of the Conqueror as military posts, became mere dens of strong thieves. No doubt this made the business of the next able king, Henry II., the easier. He was a staunch man of business, and turned himself with his whole soul towards the establishment of order and the consolidation of the monarchy, which accordingly took a great stride under him towards its ultimate goal of bureaucracy. He would probably have carried the business still further, since in his contest with the Church, in spite of the canonisation of Beckett and the king's formal penance at his tomb, he had really gained a victory for the Crown, which it never really lost again; but in his days England was only a part of the vast dominion of his house, which included more than half of France, and his struggle with his feudatories and the French king, which sowed the seed of the loss of that dominion to the English Crown, took up much of his life and finally beat him. His two immediate successors, Richard I. and John, were good specimens of the chiefs of their line, almost all of whom were very able men, having even a touch of genius in them, but therewithal were such wanton blackguards and scoundrels that one is almost forced to apply the theological word "wickedness" to them. Such characters belong specially to their times, fertile as they were both of great qualities and of scoundrelism, and in which our own special vice of hypocrisy was entirely lacking. John, the second of these two pests, put the coping-stone on the villainy of his family, and lost his French dominion in the lump. Under such rascals as these came the turn of the baronage, and they, led by Stephen Langton, the archbishop who had been forced on the unwilling king by the Pope, united together and forced from him his assent to Magna-charta, the great, thoroughly well-considered deed, which is conventionally called the foundation of English Liberty, but which can only claim to be so on the ground that it was the confirmation and seal of the complete feudal system in England, and put the relations between the vassals, the great feudatories, and the king, on a stable basis, since it created or at least confirmed order among these privileged classes, among whom indeed it recognised the towns to a certain extent as part of the great feudal hierarchy: they had begun to acquire status in that hierarchy.

So John passed away, and became not long after an almost mythical personage, the type of the bad king. There are still ballads and prose stories of these in existence, which tell the tale of this strange monster as the English people imagined it. As they belong to the fourteenth century, the period I have undertaken to tell you about specially, I will give you one of the latter of these concerning the death of King John, for whom the people imagined a more dramatic cause of death than mere indigestion, of which in all probability he really died; and you may take it for a specimen of popular literature of the fourteenth century. I can make bold to quote from memory, since the quaint wording of the original, and the spirit of bold and blunt heroism which it breathes, have fixed it in my mind for ever. The King, you must remember, had halted at Swinestead Abbey in Lincolnshire in his retreat from the hostile barons and their French allies, and had lost all his baggage by the surprise of the advancing tide in the Wash; so that he might well be in a somewhat sour mood. Says the tale: "So the King went to meat in the hall, and before him was a loaf, and he looked grimly on it and said, 'For how much is such a loaf sold in this realm?' 'Sir, for one penny,' said they. Then the King smote the board with his fist and said, 'By God, if I live for one year such a loaf shall be sold for twelve pence!' That heard one of the monks who stood thereby, and he thought and considered that his hour and time to die was come, and that it would be a good deed to slay so cruel a king and so evil a lord. So he went into the garden and plucked plums and took out of them the steles [stalks], and did venom in them each one; and he came before the King and sat on his knee, and said: 'Sir, by St Austin, this is the fruit of our garden.' Then the King looked evilly on him and said, 'Assay them, monk!' So the monk took and ate thereof, nor changed countenance any whit: so the King ate thereafter. But presently afterwards the monk swelled and turned blue, and fell down and died before the King: then waxed the King sick at heart, and he also swelled and died, and so he ended his days."

For a while after the death of John and accession of Henry III. the baronage, strengthened by the great Charter and with a weak and wayward king on the throne, made their step forward in power and popularity, and the first serious check to the tendency to monarchical bureaucracy, a kind of elementary aristocratic constitution, was imposed upon the weakness of Henry III. Under this movement of the barons, who in their turn had to seek for the support of the people, the towns made a fresh step in advance, and Simon de Montfort, the leader of what for want of a better word must be called the popular party, was

forced by his circumstances to summon to his parliament citizens from the boroughs. Earl Simon was one of those men that come to the front in violent times, and he added real nobility of character to strength of will and persistence. He became the hero of the people, who went on to canonise him after his death. But the monarchy was too strong for him and his really advanced projects, which by no means squared with the hopes of the baronage in general: and when Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I., grown to his full mental stature, came to the help of the Crown with his unscrupulous business ability, the struggle was soon over; and with Evesham field the monarchy began to take a new stride, and the longest yet taken, towards bureaucracy.

Edward I. is remembered by us chiefly for the struggle he carried on with the Scotch baronage for the feudal suzerainty of that kingdom, and the centuries of animosity between the two kingdoms which that struggle drew on. But he has other claims to our attention besides this. At first, and remembering the ruthlessness of many of his acts, especially in the Scotch war, one is apt to look upon him as a somewhat pedantic tyrant and a good soldier, with something like a dash of hypocrisy beyond his time added. But, like the Angevine Kings I was speaking of just now, he was a completely characteristic product of his time. He was not a hypocrite probably, after all, in spite of his tears shed after he had irretrievably lost a game, or won one by stern cruelty. There was a dash of real romance in him, which mingled curiously with certain lawyer-like qualities. He was, perhaps, the man of all men who represented most completely the finished feudal system, and who took it most to heart. His law, his romance, and his religion, his self-command, and his terrible fury were all a part of this innate feudalism, and exercised within its limits; and we must suppose that he thoroughly felt his responsibility as the chief of his feudatories, while at the same time he had no idea of his having any responsibilities towards the lower part of his subjects. Such a man was specially suited to carrying on the tendency to bureaucratic centralisation, which culminated in the Tudor monarchy. He had his struggle with the baronage, but hard as it was he was sure not to carry it beyond the due limits of feudalism; to that he was always loyal. He had slain Earl Simon before he was king, while he was but his father's general; but Earl Simon's work did not die with him, and henceforward while the Middle Ages and their feudal hierarchy lasted, it was impossible for either king or barons to do anything which would seriously injure each other's position; the struggle ended in his reign in a balance of power in England which, on the one hand, prevented any great feudatory becoming a rival of the king, as happened in several instances in France, and on the other hand prevented the king lapsing into a mere despotic monarch. I have said that bureaucracy took a great stride in Edward's reign, but it reached its limits under feudalism as far as the nobles were concerned. Peace and order was established between the different powers of the governing classes; henceforward, the struggle is between them and the governed; that struggle was now to become obvious; the lower tribe was rising in importance, becoming richer for fleeing, but also it was beginning to have some power; this led the king first, and afterward the barons, to attack it definitely; it was rich enough to pay for the trouble of being robbed, and not yet strong enough to defend itself with open success, although the slower and less showy success of growth did not fail it. The instrument of attack in the hands of the barons was the ordinary feudal privilege, the logical carrying out of serfdom; but this attack took place two reigns later. We shall come to that further on. The attack on the lower tribe now growing into importance in this reign was made by the king; and his instrument was—Parliament.

I have told you that Simon de Montfort made some attempt to get the burgesses to sit in his Parliament, but it was left to Edward I. to lay the foundations firmly of Parliamentary representation, which he used for the purpose of augmenting the power of the Crown and crushing the rising liberty of the towns, though of course his direct aim was simply at—money.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be continued.)

**PAINFUL SEQUEL TO THE MIDLAND STRIKE.**—An ex-Midland Railway driver, named Ling, drowned his three children and committed suicide near Derby last Friday. He was a leader of the recent strike and depressed by not being able to obtain employment.

**METROPOLITAN AND CITY SECTION OF SHOEMAKERS.**—A meeting was held at the "Cherry Tree," Kingsland Road, on Monday Aug. 22, to consider ways and means of supporting the men on strike of Cove and West's, Northampton. Two delegates from that town attended and explained the position, and a resolution pledging the meeting to support the strikers was carried unanimously.

**ONLY TWO PARTIES.**—Speaking at Liverpool last Sunday, Mr. Bradlaugh, after severely castigating Mr. Chamberlain and the Dissident Liberals, remarked that "as to the future there would soon only be two distinct parties, the party of the aristocracy and the party of labour and manufacturing industry." The statement might be amended by omitting the three concluding words, which if they mean anything, seem intended to cover the employing class; and the preposterous idea that the interests of Labour and Capital are identical, finds few believers nowadays. However, it remains to be seen on which side of the fence Mr. Bradlaugh intends to alight and under which flag he intends to serve. The people are preparing for a great, and it is to be hoped final struggle with their oppressors, and must needs treat as their enemies all those who stand aloof. The man whom Earl Wemyss deigns to honour can hardly be a fit and proper person to look after the interests of the workers.—T. B.

## SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN IN SOUTH WALES.

ON Saturday 13th inst., laden with literature, we left London for Cardiff, in a train overcrowded with Welsh folk returning from the Eistedfodd. We passed the night in Cardiff, and started the next morning by first train to Pontypridd. We experienced many delays and misdirections before meeting the friends expecting us there, and found our luggage, consisting of an enormous sack filled with literature and bag ditto, terrible encumbrances. After receiving a hearty Welsh welcome from friends met at last, we proceeded to our business by holding the first meeting on the Rocking Stone. This stone stands in the centre of a depression in the soil, and is surrounded with a circle of other smaller unheven stones fixed in the ground. They are evidently Druidical remains. The oscillatory motion of the centre stone gives it its name. From this bold situation, overlooking the whole of the valley and town beneath, and in the midst of mountains, we began our work—a work, we believe, that will be crowned with lasting success—in these valleys. Our audience poured towards us from all points. They listened attentively to our exposition of Socialism, and cheered us to the echo. The only opposition came from a local schoolmaster, a dogmatic sort of pedagogue, whose ire was aroused by Mainwaring's outspoken way of calling thieves thieves. The audience would not tolerate his interruptions, and at the conclusion of the meeting a workman stepped forward and suggested that we should call for a show of hands as to whether the workers present agreed with us or not. The show of hands was unanimously in our favour.

At the afternoon meeting the stone and its vicinity was alive with people awaiting us. A splendid meeting was held, our pedagogue again interrupting with no success, the meeting enthusiastically in our favour. The *Western Daily Mail* showed the importance of the gathering by a virulent and scurrilous report of the proceedings.

We left Pontypridd amidst expressions of goodwill and promises of help, and trudged along the Rhondda Valley to Tylors Town, calling at Coedcae and other collieries on our road to distribute leaflets. At Tylors Town we held a good meeting amongst the colliers, only marred by the interference of a burly boss contractor who stuck up for his queen, he did. We now know that he has recently had a house built for himself, at an expense of some £2000, which explains his loyalty.

From Tylors Town up and over the mountains by narrow and precipitous paths, where a false step meant a fall of fifty or sixty feet, with the pulsing gasps of the engines and whirring of the windlasses of the collieries in the valleys below resounding around us, and past colliers' homes that we shall describe later on, we walked into Aberdare. Here we abandoned the projected meeting in order to look over the ground and secure the names and assistance of local men towards forming a branch. We got a hearty reception and promises of help, and agreed to hold our meeting on our return from Merthyr, where we went the same evening. We spent Wednesday in going over the Welsh Inferno, Dowlais Iron Works, now partially closed through want of water. This gigantic place employs some 9000 "hands," men, boys, and girls. Iron and coal mining, engineering, and brickmaking constituted the chief industries carried on. In gloomy dens, deprived of daylight, men were washing coal by a Belgian process to fit it for use. Truly, if noise, grime, filth, steam, smoke, and mountains of rubbish are marks of progress, then is Dowlais a progressive place. There is a plentiful crop of cripples made by all this progress, and they are kindly allowed to work as labourers about the works at wages varying from 15s. to 18s. per week. Shorn of a leg or an arm, they were painfully fulfilling their part in "progress."

In Merthyr at night we held a splendid meeting, a forest of hands being held up in our favour; and having secured a meeting-place for a branch, we held a second meeting on Thursday. A large crowd was present, amongst which were some local bigwigs, a magistrate and justice of the peace, but no opposition was offered at the meeting indoors. We secured some names for a branch, and have made agents for *Commonweal*.

On Friday we returned to Aberdare, and held a great meeting in the Boot Square. Having secured agents for *Commonweal* and distributed a vast amount of literature, we proceeded to Pontypridd on our way home. On Sunday morning at eleven o'clock we had a good meeting at the Rocking Stone, and another at two o'clock. This last was an immense gathering. At its conclusion a branch was formed and steps taken towards securing a meeting-place and forwarding the movement in the neighbourhood. In our next report we will give an account of the workers of South Wales and the conditions under which they live.

S. MAINWARING and F. KITZ.

SLAVERY IS THE WORD.—Our attention has been called to a terribly hard case tried at the Guildhall a few days ago, in which certain things were divulged that at first sight appear incredible. A carpet-weaver named Wm. Wilson, fifty-nine years of age, was accused of being in unlawful possession of a small bundle of wool-yarn, the property of his employers. One of those employers stated in court that the prisoner had been in their service for twenty-nine or thirty years, and had *always held responsible positions*, and enjoyed their confidence! After this statement it might be supposed that the prisoner's salary was a handsome one. As a matter of fact, his wages at the time of his arrest was SEVEN SHILLINGS PER WEEK!! His employer and prosecutor was not ashamed to acknowledge that this was the average remuneration the man had received for some years past. At the time he was found in possession of the yarn, his children were actually without bread. It seems monstrous that Englishmen should be so hard pressed as to occupy "responsible positions" for such scandalous wages as seven shillings a-week. Slavery is the only word that adequately represents such unremunerative toil.—*London Evening News*.

## A SONG OF 'DEATH.

(Written in 1848 by FERDINAND FREILIGRATH. Translated by J. L. JOYNES.)

On the hills he stands in the dawning red,  
With his sharp sword drawn in his sinewy hand—  
I am Death who enfranchise the heroes, he said,  
When they die for mankind and their own dear land:  
Not he who comes gently at dead of the night,  
And the weary at rest for eternity lays;  
Nay, but he that stalks fierce through the thick of the fight,  
And the youth in his triumph triumphantly slays.

'Neath the glorious tent of the clouds as I pass  
I make thin with my shadow the warriors' ranks,  
When I hurl them down headlong to die in the grass,  
On the pavements of stone or on moss-covered banks.  
O 'tis grand in the battle to welcome its brunt,  
And 'tis brave in the frenzy of fighting to die!  
How they lie with their scars and their wounds in the front,  
And their blood-besmeared faces a-stare on the sky!

Thus they lay o'er the land from the North to the South,  
Where the dark forest waves or the fair river flows,  
Staining all the pure streams from their source to their mouth,  
The defenders of Freedom shot down by her foes.  
Thus they lay who in April had followed their fate,  
Far and wide o'er the land in their hundreds they lay:  
Now beneath the long grasses they peacefully wait,  
Till their graves be made bright by the roses of May.

Is it roses alone that May brings for her boon?  
Is it song that she breathes on her balmier breath?  
Nay, 'tis hurting of shot, and the trumpeter's tune,  
Din of battle, and Me, the enfranchiser, Death!  
For from tyranny's chain ye must shake yourselves free,  
Lest the gold on your banner that loftily waves  
A mere badge of your shame and your servitude be,  
Yea, the guilt that disfigures the trappings of slaves.

For the year forty-eight has arrived and is here,  
And ye cannot postpone it, do all that ye may;  
And the lightning and thunder and storm that ye fear  
Even now are approaching to sweep you away.  
See, flash upon flash out of cloud upon cloud,  
As in thunder the bolts of God's anger are hurled!  
By the breath of his mouth the dark heavens are bowed,  
As he clears of corruption this rotten old world!

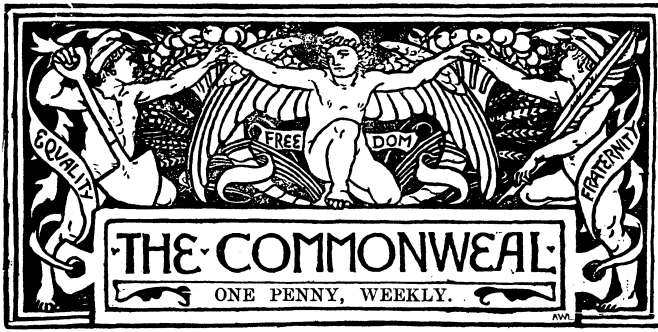
He has sent me himself. Yes, I came in the spring,  
And with turmoil and tumult and terror I ride,  
As I chill the brave hearts with the shade of my wing,  
Bring to nothing their triumph and trample their pride.  
Thus I ride o'er the ranks of the fighters and slay,  
With the incense of anguish and joy in my breath,  
Till the sunrise make perfect the dawn of the day—  
I must on! Ye have seen the enfranchiser Death!

### Address by the "Associated Iron and Steel Workers of Great Britain" to the Workmen connected with the above Trades.

"Fellow-workmen,—The Executive of the above newly-formed Association desire to appeal to every workman in the iron and steel trades who has not taken advantage of the opportunity to become a member of the Association, to carefully consider their own and fellow-workmen's position owing to their present disorganised condition. Let them remember that when united they are strong and powerful to protect; disorganised they are weak and helpless against the action of capital. Think, men, of your wives and little ones, and the hard struggle to obtain even the common necessities of life for them; and remember it is your duty to them, to your fellow-workmen, and yourself, to assist in defending their and your joint interests. Look around you on every side, and the fact is forced upon you that every other class recognises the necessity of organisation. See how the rich landowners, manufacturers, and men of all professions—whether in landed interests, trade, politics, or religion—combine together to extend their influence, defend their interest, possess more power over those they have to treat with or employ, and increase their incomes. When this is made clear to your comprehension, ask yourselves the question, if, with all the advantages of power and wealth combination is necessary for these classes, how much more so is it necessary to the working-classes, whose bread depends upon their labour and whose earnings are under present conditions so small as to prevent any provisions for the future being made.

"Is it not by the skill of your hands and the application of your strength that the wealth is produced and capital increased; and can you, in your present disorganised condition, obtain a fair share of the results of your skill and labour? Is it not true while the wealth of manufacturers increases and larger fortunes are accumulated through the result of your labour, that when you are overtaken with sickness, or old age creeps upon you, and your strength begins to wane, unless by combination with your fellow-workmen you have made provision for your support, you are entirely dependent upon charity for your daily bread? Do you wish for this state of things to continue, or do you desire a better state of things? If no change is required, then continue in your present helpless and apathetic condition; but be honest and declare it, and not mislead those who desire to fight your battles and improve your position.

"If you desire improvement, remember 'United we Stand, Divided we Fall,'—that he who helps others helps himself, and the assistance of every man is needed if success is to be attained. All prejudices must be sunk, and one and all work for the common good. The interests of all men in the trade are identical, and the produce of their labour enters into competition in the same market; and that which affects one branch, one works, or one district must eventually affect all branches and works, and all districts. The experience of the past proves that no branch of trade or any district associations can successfully compete with capital. To do this a powerful National Association is needed, embracing all districts and all branches of the trade. We therefore appeal with confidence to all districts and all workmen engaged in the trade to be in earnest and organise themselves, or honestly and candidly declare they would rather remain in their present slavery than make an effort to be free."



"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!"

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Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 24.

<p>ENGLAND</p> <p>Justice Anarchist</p> <p>Londner Arbeiter-Zeitung</p> <p>Norwich—Daylight</p> <p>Labour Tribune</p> <p>Worker's Friend</p> <p>Jus</p> <p>UNITED STATES</p> <p>New York—Der Sozialist</p> <p>Truthseeker</p> <p>Leader</p> <p>Volkzeitung</p> <p>John Swinton's Paper</p> <p>Freiheit</p> <p>Boston—Woman's Journal</p> <p>Chicago (Ill.)—Labor Enquirer</p> <p>Vorbote</p> <p>Hammonton(NJ)Credit Foncier</p>	<p>Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volkblatt</p> <p>San Francisco (Cal) The People</p> <p>St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole</p> <p>Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer</p> <p>Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West</p> <p>Detroit (Mich.)—The Advance</p> <p>Kansas (Mo.)—Sun</p> <p>FRANCE</p> <p>Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)</p> <p>Le Revolte</p> <p>Lille—Le Travailleur</p> <p>BRIGIUM</p> <p>Liege—L'Avenir</p> <p>Brussels—L'Avant-Garde</p> <p>Antwerp—De Werker</p> <p>Ghent—Vooruit</p> <p>SWITZERLAND</p> <p>Geneva—Bulletin Central</p>	<p>HOLLAND</p> <p>Hague—Recht voor Allen</p> <p>Amsterdam—Voorwaarts</p> <p>ITALY</p> <p>Milan—Il Fascio Operaio</p> <p>Naples—Humanitas</p> <p>Marsala—La Nuova Eta</p> <p>AUSTRIA</p> <p>Arbeiterstimme</p> <p>Berlinia—Volks Tribune</p> <p>ROUMANIA</p> <p>Jassy—Lupta</p> <p>DENMARK</p> <p>Social-Demokraten</p> <p>SWEDEN</p> <p>Stockholm—Social-Demokraten</p> <p>Malmö—Arbetet</p>
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A NOTE ON PASSING POLITICS.

THE Gladstonians are very naturally triumphant at the Northwich election, and the Tories as naturally have been attempting to explain away their defeat; which, however, taken in conjunction with the other bye-elections, does seem to an onlooker to mean the extinction of the Chamberlain party, the absorption into definite Toryism of Lord Hartington and a few other nobodies, and in short, the defeat of the revolt in the Liberal party against Mr. Gladstone, who seems destined to have one more triumph before he dies. To some ardent Liberals the way seems so direct to Liberal victory that the *Pall Mall Gazette* urges the Gladstonians to force on a dissolution by means of obstruction at once. That no doubt would be good tactics for them if the party were really what the writer of the article in the *Pall Mall* seems to think it—a party with principles and a steady aim. As it is, one may be quite sure that they will attempt nothing so revolutionary or anti-respectable as that: their advent to power will come by a longer road, with many more turns in it. For the respectable part of them have no very burning desire to pass a real Home Rule measure, and indeed don't think much about that or anything else except the mere party triumph. However, doubtless in the course of time we shall see a Liberal ministry in power again, with somewhat more pretensions to Radicalism than a ministry has had yet, and with the mandate to pass a Home Rule Bill. The said Bill will also, of course, be one of compromise; but we may suppose that it will do something to give the Irish question a little rest, though with its accompanying Land Bill it will not be so easily settled, even temporarily, as some people seem to suppose. But a truce once made with the Irish troubles, what will the new Gladstonian government do next? That is the rub. It will be expected to do something, and if it values its life must try hard not even to appear to do anything. To appear, I say, because, except as regards the franchise, the instrument of parliamentary democracy, there is no longer anything for that democracy to do. There may, and probably will be, a sharp fight in Parliament over the franchise, which will split up the party once more and give the Whig-Tories another innings; but when that is over and the democratic sword sharpened duly, where will be the enemy to be smitten by it? Doubtless there will be a new Allotments Acts, a Leasehold Enfranchisement Act, and other devices for dividing the power of our landlord masters without lessening it; and also doubtless some rubbish about perpetual pensions and the cultivation of grouse-moors and the like. But all this will be but using the newly-whetted democratic sword for cleaving a pat of butter instead of a helmeted head: it will be doing nothing. Nevertheless it will have an appearance of doing something and will lead to the death of more than one "Liberal" ministry, if constitutionalism lasts as long; so that what between disgusting real democrats with really doing nothing, and terrifying respectability with seeming to do something, the Gladstonian party is likely to have a rough time of it, and may well pray for a continuance of the Irish quarrel, in which

they have managed, after a deal of standing on alternate feet, to take up a position apparently not (to their thinking) too dangerous to constitutionalism.

Meantime, after all the Tory Government is not going to die tamely; they have plucked up heart to pass the Lords' amendments to the Land Bill and proclaim the National League, and seem to be going to put their foot down; probably because they perceive that their Chamberlainist friends are of no value to them, and that they must play their last card of attempting to drive the Irish people into violent action, which might turn the respectability of the Liberal party against Home Rule again. Fortunately they are probably too late once more; the mind of the ordinary person not pledged to the cause of reaction is getting used to the idea of Home Rule, and any outbreak on the part of the Irish that is not systematic will be looked on as a mere incident in the struggle.

Some measure of Home Rule is now certain; and all we Socialists can hope is that it will not be too long in coming; for what we want now is a professedly popular government in power, which, face to face with the real question of the day—whether labour is to be free or the slave of monopoly—will not be able to deal with that question, because it and the parliament which has produced it are and must be essentially the guardians of that very monopoly. WILLIAM MORRIS.

IS LIPSKI'S CONFESSION GENUINE?

So Lipski has confessed and all is right, "he has been brought to a frame of mind that has enabled him to make the reparation," says the *Daily News*. Bourgeois justice and the Home Secretary are triumphantly vindicated. Thus, doubtless, thought the "respectable" world on Monday morning.

There is nothing to be surprised at in Lipski's confession. Indeed, it was just what was to be expected; those who have never believed in his guilt have no need to do so now, the evidence is entirely against such an hypothesis; but that under the circumstances the world should be given to understand that he has confessed, and "admitted the justice of his sentence," was absolutely essential to the stability of the government, of the system of capital punishment, and to the credit of our judicial machinery generally. What goes on within the walls of a prison is known only to those in the swim of the bureaucratic trade, and we do not pretend to decide dogmatically with respect to the origin of the document. We need only call the reader's attention to the fact that the bureaucrat is by the necessities of his profession a liar, skilful or unskilful; the value of official disclaimers is proverbial.

Who knows what kind of cajolery or even threats might not have been employed, since the occasion was so urgent and so much was at stake?

In connection with this it is well to remember that the witches who were burnt in the seventeenth century almost always confessed their guilt, and "admitted the justice of their sentence"—or were said to have done so. It must not be forgotten, moreover, that Lipski, who came from Russian Poland, remembering that in his own country a confession of guilt is necessary before a condemned criminal can be executed, and that there torture is admitted to be used on occasion to extract such a confession, might have a confused idea that the same thing might happen here, and seeing his case was hopeless and that he had to die, submitted to what he might think was a general formula for the sake of dying without unnecessary worry.

Anyhow the document bears upon it the stamp of unguineness. Lipski says that he had not begun to search for money before Miriam awoke and alarmed him. Does it seem likely that a man not being a maniac would murder a woman for fear of discovery, simply because she had found him in her room, and before he had committed any crime?

He says the aquafortis he swallowed had no effect on him. Is this probable?

He didn't know how his arms were abraded, and did not feel it at the time. Is this probable if the statement next above is true?

These objections lie on the surface of the confession, but no doubt other discrepancies will occur to other searchers into the document. Under any circumstances the main point to be remembered is that the evidence on the trial was insufficient for a jury to convict upon if undirected by the judge, and bearing in mind the maxim so often put forward by those who boast of the immaculate nature of English law, that a doubt should be interpreted in favour of the accused.

E. BELFORT BAX and WILLIAM MORRIS.

THE SCOTCH PLOUGHMEN.—Some hopes were entertained that the Scotch Ploughmen's Union would develop into a thoroughgoing labour organisation; but at the last annual conference one of the officials stated that the union was strictly a benefit society, and not in the least way connected with trade union or political purposes. It is certainly a pity to see such a large and important class of workmen, who might wield a great power in the labour movement busying themselves with a mere benefit society. If they are determined to rigidly exclude themselves from all interference with the great social problem that confronts the working class, they need not expect that their flourishing financial condition will interest anyone but themselves. A working-class body which deliberately refuses to have anything to do with the great economic question, and repudiates any connection with even trades' unionism and politics had better call itself a "slate club" and drop such a title as the "Ploughman's International Union."—J. L. M.

## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

## ITALY.

VENICE.—In the general strike of bakers at Venice lately, the men have been holding out for a slightly increased rate of wage, and a 12 hours' day instead of one of 16 hours. The Syndic and Prefect of the town have stood by the masters with a beautiful fidelity, sending to other towns so that the once great Lady of the Adriatic should not go breadless.

The gondoliers of Venice are also on strike, this move being caused by the result of the late deliberations of the Common Council, which was to give orders that the small steamers of the Finella Company should run by night as well as by day. The Syndic had a notice posted up, threatening the gondoliers and boatmen with the suppression of their licences if they do not give in immediately. This is good-bye to the picturesque and jovial "cabbies" of Venice. Well, as wrathful lovers of the city have often exclaimed on beholding the zeal with which the Venetians hasten and disfigure its decay, the sooner the Grand Canal is filled in and fitted up, *a la boulevard*, with toy trees and tram lines the better; then no more need be said or thought about the place, the gondoliers transforming themselves into tram-car conductors, good luck to them.

SANT ELENA (VENICE).—In what was once, and not many years since, one of the pleasantest of the outlying Venetian islands now hideous with coal and smoke, a little incident occurred a week or two back which, as descriptive of the pretty little ways of Italian foremen, I reproduce. In the pursuit of his work one of the men met with an accident, which the doctor pronounced mortal, bidding him be conveyed to an hospital. A gondola was procured, and two of his fellow-workmen prepared to accompany him to do their best to comfort his last minutes of life, when the foreman interfered with an absolute refusal to let the men go. What! because one of their companions took the liberty to become fatally entangled in machinery did it follow that they might slack work for a few hours on a sentimental plea of *cameraderie*?

CATANIA.—When some "cheap kitchens" were opened here lately, the *Fascio Operario* says that thousands of starving folk took the place by storm. The carabinieri were obliged to oppose the rush of the crowd, and in the struggle some people were hurt. The distress in Sicily is great, augmented by the spreading cholera. M. M.

## BELGIUM.

As we said last week, the transactions at the Workers' Congress at Mohs were far from being orderly and quiet, and the delegates divided into two camps, each of them holding a separate conference. Now, the split is complete among the Belgian labourers, and the first cause of it is certainly to be found in the strong desire for centralisation continually shown by the Executive Council of Brussels. The *Parti ouvrier* (workmen's party) has been shortened a good deal by the disaffiliation of several federations, which have formed themselves into a new body, to be called the "Belgian Republican Socialist Party" (a strange title, indeed: are there now in Belgium royalist-Socialists?). This new body will hold their first congress at Liège. The old *Parti ouvrier*, with a newly elected executive at its head, has refused to adopt the idea of an immediate general *black* strike. It seems to me that this resolution will matter little on the very day when the workers will resume their struggle against their oppressors. The following corporations have left the *Parti ouvrier*: the Labour League of La Louvière, the Socialist Union of Fontaine-l'Évêque, the co-operative societies of Wasmes, Paturages, Frameries, and Dampremy, the Miners' Unions of Jumet-Gohyssart and Courcelles, the Labour Leagues of Dampremy, Bouffou, and Chatelet, the Co-operative Union of Trieu-Ormon, the Bee-Hive of Chatelaineau, the Working-men's Federation of Gilly, and Co-operative Union of Montceau-sur-Sombre. A delegate from the S.D.F., Headingly, who, of course, was on the side of the Executive Council of Brussels, has been expelled from Belgium.

As we gave two weeks ago a list of the pamphlet literature of the German Socialists and Anarchists, we give now the list of the series of pamphlets issued by our Belgian workers. They publish once or twice a month a brochure of no less than 120 pages, and often even of 180 pages, at the very low price of 25 centimes—*i.e.*, 2½d. But I am not inclined to say that the quality of these pamphlets is always adequate to their quantity; nevertheless, as a whole, they are worth noticing and recommending. 1. 'Dead for the People,' by Ansele (social-novel, 3 vols.); 2. 'Social Evolution in Belgium,' by Arnould; 3. 'The *Parti ouvrier* and its Programme,' by Bertrand; 4. 'Belgium in the year 1866,' by the same (2 vols.); 5. 'Democratic Letters,' by Adelson Castiau; 6. 'The Lace-women in Belgium,' by De Greef; 7. 'The Abbé Delacollonge,' by Enne (novel, 2 vols.); 8. 'A Nook of the Pauper's Life,' by Heusy; 9. 'The Right of Idleness,' by P. Lafargue; 10. 'Religion of Capital,' by the same; 11. 'My Uncle the Lawyer,' by Picard; 12. 'The Quintessence of Socialism,' by Schaeffle; 13. 'The Vicar of Noirval,' by Pergameni (a novel); 14. 'The Radical Programme,' by Arnould; 15. 'The Venality of Journalism,' by Chirac.

Comrade Bracekelaere, who has undergone five months of imprisonment as publisher of the Socialist paper *Vooruit* of Ghent, was released last week.

## FRANCE.

GLASS-BOTTLE MAKERS' STRIKE AT MONTLUÇON.—We are glad to announce that the International Glass-bottle Makers' Association, on the intervention of the Strike Committee of the Socialist League, has sent to the secretary of the strikers the sum of £50 (the Lancashire Union has given £25, the Yorkshire Union £20, and the Dublin Union £5). Comrade James Hunter, General Secretary of the International Union, left St. Helens last Thursday, the 18th inst., *en route* for Canada, where we hope he may do the same good work as he did among the glass-bottle makers in this country.

At Montataire 1200 ironworkers are now on strike. Their wages have been reduced by 15 per cent., and are paid monthly instead of fortnightly. They ask the withdrawal of this reduction and the usual former mode of payment.

## SPAIN.

The Socialists in Spain are divided in three or four different fractions, of which the two principal are, the Collectivist-Anarchist Federation, with its centre at Barcelona, and the Social-Democratic Federation, centralised at Madrid. The Collectivist-Anarchist Federation proceeds from the former International Working-men's Association, who acted under the inspiration of Bakounine. Their Anarchism is somewhat different of that of the other countries, as its comprises in its ranks the organised trades' unions, encourages the various strikes occurring in the Peninsula, and aims at the economical federation of all the workers.

The second organisation is established on the same footing as the Social-Democratic parties of Germany, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, etc. Last year this organisation was only composed of the four groups of Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga, and Quadalajara, but actually some twenty associations have joined the central body. A third fraction, composed of corporations of skilled and unskilled artisans, works between the two former fractions, with a view of arriving at a complete amalgamation of the various existing bodies. The fourth fraction is that of the Communist-Anarchists, which is progressing favourably, but in small groups, all over the country.

All these organisations have their organs. The Collectivist-Anarchist Federation recognises as its official paper, *La Cronica de los Trabajadores*, mostly devoted to statistics, and as propaganda papers, *El Socialismo* at Cadiz, *El Cuadro Estado* at Orense, *Acracia* and *El Productor* at Barcelona.

The Social-Democratic Party is represented in the press by *El Socialista*, published at Madrid.

The third fraction, which is the most moderate, publishes *El Obrero* at Barcelona, and the Communist-Anarchist groups, after having had the paper *Unahoja*, are now represented by *El Productor* of Barcelona. D.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## A SOCIALIST SONG-BOOK.

As I am preparing a Socialist Song-book (words and music) for the press, I should be glad if any of your readers would send me contributions towards the same. What I want is good words matched to good tunes—or if only the names of verses and tunes which will match each other be supplied, it will be a help. Of course I don't engage to accept all that are sent, but rather want a good number to select from. Songs that are in actual use among Socialist bodies will be specially welcome.

Commonwealth Café, Scotland Street,  
Sheffield, Aug. 22.

EDWARD CARPENTER.

## "FREE" LABOUR.

Sir,—I am a carpenter and joiner by trade, and I should be glad if you could find space in your paper to allow me to call attention to an act of gross injustice perpetrated by Messrs. Temple and Graham, builders, of Holcrofts Estate, Fulham, on about thirty of their men.

The men employed by Messrs. Temple and Graham have an annual outing, which, by the bye, is promoted and used by the firm rather as an advertisement than for any benefit it may confer upon the men. Let me give some facts about this year's beanfeast.

Saturday, the 13th of August, was the day fixed for the "treat," and those who intended going subscribed so much per week for the six weeks previous to this date, in order to make up the 8s. necessary for the expenses. About 50 men took part in the outing.

On the Holcrofts Estate, Messrs. Temple and Graham employed about 30 carpenters and joiners, and these men, much to their surprise, were informed on Friday, the 12th August, that they would no longer be required, and on asking the reason were told by the foreman that it was on account of their not joining the beanfeast.

Was there ever a greater piece of injustice? Many of these men had only been engaged on work for the firm two or three weeks, and had previously been out of employment for some considerable time, which, of course, meant back rent to be paid, and many other things known only too well to workmen in our days. I for one deny the right of any man to dictate to me the manner in which I shall spend my earnings, and sincerely hope (and I fancy I see signs of it coming) that my fellow-workers, be they skilled or unskilled, will join together in one great party, and then, *and only then*, will a stop be put to such dirty work as that which I have described.—Yours, etc.,  
"A VICTIM."

August 22, 1887.

## "CONCERNING USURY."

I have read with attention, in last week's *Commonweal*, the letters of Mr. J. Haldane Smith and Mr. T. S. Barrett on this subject, but must respectfully decline to entangle myself in the mere metaphysics of Socialism. Life is too short to indulge in such unprofitable exercises.

At the same time if—as would appear to be the case—it is of any consequence to these gentlemen or to others to know, I may say frankly that I am perfectly ready to supplement the wages of the workers not merely by the rent (interest) of money, but by the rent of land and the rent (profit) of machinery as well. If, as seems to be the drift of Messrs. Smith and Barrett's contention, the abolished usurer should take refuge in profit-mongering, why then the profit-monger's turn for suppression must come next.

But better far one thing at a time and in order. The average Briton's mental digestion is weak at the best, and it would never do to *surfeit* him with novel ideas. In truth, I have a doubt whether it is altogether wise to lay sacrilegious hands on the usurer before we have finally disposed of his elder brother the landlord. The machine-lord or profit-monger is the residuary legatee of both, and his immolation will naturally come last. Why Socialists should strive to push this particular malefactor to the front is, from the strategic point of view, entirely beyond my comprehension.

J. MORRISON DAVIDSON.

P.S.—May I be permitted to add that, thanks doubtless to the effective medium of the *Commonweal*, and the intrinsic interest of the subject, my trifling contribution to this vastly important question has, according to evidence before me, been surprisingly successful in arresting attention in altogether unexpected quarters.—J. M. D.

THE ANT AND THE BUTTERFLY.—A Busy Ant was carrying a grain of Wheat down a Garden Parth. When asked to stop by a gaudy Butterfly, the Ant replied that it must carry its load to the Storehouse. "But," said the Butterfly, "what does a single grain amount to?" "Ah," replied the Ant, "you forget that others are bringing more. It is by Union Labour that we fill our Storehouses." The Butterfly rose disdainfully in the sunshine, and was seized by a Hungry Bird, while the Ant proceeded gaily with its grain.—*Moral*: It is not Individual Effort that accomplishes the great things, but the Concerted Labour of the Multitude.—*John Swinton's Paper*.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

**SCAVENGERS' WAGES.**—At Belfast the scavengers are paid 12s. a week, and the men recently struck for an advance of 2s. per week, and this the City Council refused to give, and the men had to submit or be idle.

In consequence of an unprecedented falling off in demand, the proprietors of the leading hem-stitching firms in Lurgan have put the operatives of their factories on three-quarter time. The depression, which will affect thousands, is attributed to a falling off in the production of cambric goods.

**GLASGOW TRADES' COUNCIL.**—At the meeting of council on the 17th inst. the delegates from the pump, boot, and slipper makers reported that they were still on strike, and that at a full meeting of the men they had resolved still to hold out.

The Midland Railway Company have put a number of the men engaged in their large locomotive shops at Derby on short time this week, owing to scarcity of work. The men principally affected are those of the erecting, repairing and paint shops. Instead of six days they have only worked four.

At the monthly meeting of the Bolton Trades' Council the question was discussed as to forming a labour association to assist workmen to Parliament, Town Councils, and other representative bodies, and to educate the workers by lectures, public meetings, and distribution of literature relative to all labour questions.

The employés of Messrs. Martin and Taylor, padlock manufacturers, Sandwell Road, West Bromwich, have received notice of a 10 per cent. reduction in the price of work. The workmen employed at these works are already receiving less wages than are paid by the trade generally, and to ask for an additional 10 per cent. reduction is outrageous.

**THE RIVETERS' STRIKE AT CLYDEBANK.**—The strike of riveters of James and George Thomson, shipbuilders continues, and there are no signs of a settlement on either side. The carpenters and joiners who are at present employed will in all likelihood soon be suspended unless the riveters and employers come to a speedy settlement.

**THE DALMENY OILWORKS STRIKE.**—A few days ago the men on strike at Dalmeny Oilworks made an offer to their employers to resume work at half the amount of the reduction intimated—namely 2d. per day. The employers now decline to comply with the request. The men are suffering great hardships, and it is likely that an appeal will be made for support to trades' unions and the public generally.

**STRIKE RIOT NEAR BIRMINGHAM.**—The strike in the Birmingham nail trade has resulted in another serious disturbance. A party of about twenty strikers went out in a brake to Bromsgrove, where they encountered a number of men who were put on in place of the old hands. A desperate fight followed. Three men sustained dangerous injuries, several had minor injuries, and a number of bystanders were badly hurt with missiles.

**BOLTON—ANOTHER STRIKE.**—On Monday morning, August 15, the local members of the Packing-Case Makers' Society left work for an advance in wages. They have been in receipt of 31s. 6d. per week, but the Manchester employers have conceded a demand for about 1s. 6d. advance. There are not many of the trade in Bolton, Messrs. Horrocks and Sons being the chief employers, with about 20 hands.

**NORTHAMPTON.**—The strike of shoe operatives at Northampton threatens to assume alarming proportions. The masters have endeavoured to overcome the difficulty by sending work to adjacent towns, but the men, discovering the source from which the work came, have refused to execute it. The boot-lasters and finishers of Mr. J. R. Marks came out on strike on the 19th, demanding higher wages. The sympathy in the town appears to be in favour of the men, and public subscriptions have been opened.

Consternation is the word used to state the condition of the various Government dockyard towns. Sheerness, Chatham, Portsmouth, Davenport, are adding thousands to the army of unemployed. The winter of 1887 promises to be a memorable one in the annals of distress. The men of Chatham are appealing to their member of Parliament, who is also a member of the Government. Bitter irony!

**EDINBURGH JOINERS STRIKE.**—The joiners held a meeting last week, when it was announced that the strike was practically at an end, as nearly sixty of the biggest employers had conceded the demand of the operatives. Work is now resumed by those who were actually out, and the men expect that, under a threat of stoppage of work, those of the employers who are still persistent in refusing the increase will withdraw their opposition, the trade being at present very busy in the city. The men chose the right time, stuck together well, and success is the result.

**MANCHESTER AND SALFORD TRADES' COUNCIL.**—An important meeting was held on the 19th inst., to discuss the question of a better arrangement as to the class of subjects to be brought forward at the next annual Trades' Union Congress. A resolution was ultimately arrived at, appointing a committee of five members, to whom the whole business of the Congress is to be remitted. Their duties will be to see that all questions upon which resolutions have been passed by the various trade organisations throughout the kingdom are brought under notice, and that henceforth the precedence of subjects on the agenda-paper of the Congress shall be decided by ballot. This resolution is to be submitted to the forthcoming meeting which assembles at Swansea.

**LANARKSHIRE MINERS.**—On the 18th a large proportion of the miners of Lanarkshire were idle. In the forenoon a meeting of the Central Board was held at Hamilton, when the delegates reported that, except as regards the collieries where the last reductions had not been enforced, the men were idle in the district of Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Blantyre, Burnbank, Hamilton, Motherwell, Holytown, Tannochside, Nackerty, and Airdrie. A mass meeting was afterwards held, Mr. Harley presiding. Mr. Small moved, seconded by Mr. Colvin—"This mass meeting of miners, being thoroughly convinced that the former policy of restriction—five days, eight hours, with a restricted output—is, meanwhile, the only alternative to secure an improvement, would strongly urge all districts immediately to revert to it." Mr. Bulloch moved, seconded by Mr. Furie—"Recognising that no progress is possible without union and amalgamation, this meeting would earnestly urge all collieries to appoint collectors to collect contributions and enroll members, with the view of securing unity of action." Both resolutions were adopted.

**ROYSTON, CAMBS.**—The outlook hereabouts in agricultural matters is becoming black. A severe drought and consequent sparseness of yield has been the last straw, following on low prices and foreign competition, to break up many of the farmers. The masters are at their small wits' end, and have mostly given up the idea that "times" will ever improve. It is noticeable

that this year fewer odd hands are employed on harvest work. On one large farm near there are fewer men at work by nine than last year. This is due greatly to the use of self-binding reapers and the impoverished resources of many of the masters. Those who are more wealthy take every opportunity of cutting down wages and reducing their staff, meanwhile complaining vastly of the "badness" and stupidity of the men. The winter promises to be worse for the labourers than last; many will be thrown out after harvest, with no prospect of regular work for three or four months at least.—P. C. W.

**ATHERTON—STRIKE OF WINDERS.**—The cop-winders employed by the Lee Spinning Company are on strike against a proposed reduction of wages. The company employ between 400 and 500 hands, and fresh lists showing the prices to be paid to winders, clearers, reelers, and gassers have been posted up, in consequence of the profits not realising 5 per cent., the firm say. The operatives objected to the fresh lists, alleging that they would mean a reduction in their wages from 10 to 20 per cent. The cop-winders who are out number from 120 to 130, and it is expected the clearers will turn out next week, and if so the reelers will have to suspend operations. This is the second reduction this year the firm are trying to impose, the former being one of 10 per cent. Of late the operatives say they have not earned more than would procure them a bare existence.

**THE CHAINMAKERS' AGITATION.**—At a meeting of chainmakers held on Thursday 18th inst., in the Salvation Army Barracks, Cradley Heath, Mr. Thomas Homer, who presided, stated that there were still about two-thirds of the operatives partially employed at the 4s. list of prices, and one-third were unable to obtain employment. This was owing to the fact that there was not a great demand for chain, and a small number of the employers still refused to concede the 4s. list of prices. Owing to the hearty support of the press and the determination of the operatives, he believed the prospects of the chainmakers were now brighter than they had been for years. It might not be generally known that a chainmaker now earned as much for making 3cwt. of half-inch chain as he did for 10cwt. before the strike, but such was the case. During the week 500 loaves of bread and £17 in money had been distributed amongst those still out on strike or unable to obtain employment.

**THE BOLTON ENGINEERS.**—The fifteenth week of the strike shows no sign of a settlement. The trades and the public are supporting the men with funds, and the utmost unanimity prevails. An indignation meeting was held on the 17th, protesting against the extra police in the town; and in a letter from the military authorities it was pointed out that if the masters require the services of the military again, they must provide proper accommodation, as camping out had injured the horses. The Town Council met, decided to get ready a disused warehouse, and have now converted it into a temporary barracks, notwithstanding the protests of the ratepayers. Thousands of men have been allured into the town to take the place of the strikers, but only about 200 are working. Great efforts are being made by "disinterested parties" to get the men to submit to arbitration. It is to be hoped they will not fall into the trap. Never was a better conducted struggle, never better chances of success.

**THE SPINDLE AND LOOM—THE STATE OF TRADE.**—*Bury and Elton.*—The greater portion of the large mills in the Bury district are, in consequence of the indifferent state of trade, working short time. Among these may be mentioned the Barn Brook Spinning and Manufacturing Company, who are working four days a-week; John Openshaw, Son, and Company, Pimhole, who are working from Tuesday morning till Friday night, and have been doing so for the last three or four months; William and George Openshaw, Pimhole, working four days a-week; and Wrigley and Schofield, Chesham, who have had a portion of their looms stopped for some considerable time. *Castleton.*—At Westbrooke Mill, Messrs. William Yates and Sons, a notice announcing that the workpeople will cease work on Saturdays and Mondays has been posted. The stoppage is said to be due to the warehouses being overstocked. The concern has weaving and spinning. *Whitworth.*—The spinners at Messrs. Smithson Bros. are only working four days a-week. *Hegwood.*—Messrs. Norris Brothers' top and botton shops are working short time. The weavers are making about three and a half days and the spinners four days a-week. The short time is being worked in consequence of the warehouse being overstocked with fustian cloths.

**BRADFORD AND DISTRICT TRADES' COUNCIL.**—A public meeting was held last week for the purpose of stating the case for the Midland strikers and the engineers on strike at Bolton. There was a large attendance. The president of the council, Mr. John Hollings, took the chair, and said: "In times like these, when some men had so much wealth, means were placed in their hands by which other men were crushed down to a condition of abject slavery, and were regarded as mere machines, to be treated as machines were treated." Going on to speak of the condition of the working classes, he said: "Labour created capital; but those who had the wealth spoke very little indeed of the labourer. The chairman of the Midland Railway Company had said that the leaders of the strikers were agitators; but was he himself not an agitator for the company and the shareholders?" Mr. Stevens (delegate from the Bradford strikers) said that only three out of ninety men in Bradford had been reinstated, consequently the rest were left to do the best they could. A resolution was carried, condemning the Midland directors and shareholders, and also one expressing sympathy with the Bolton strikers. A collection was made at the close for the Bolton men.

**BROXBURN SHALE-MINERS DISPUTE.**—The delegates of the men on strike had an interview with the managing director to discuss their differences of opinion, with a view to a settlement. One of the miners having stated the case for the men, the director said he could hold out no hope of the company conceding any part of the reduction, and even should they accept the full reduction, they would have to consult the Mineral Oil Association before opening the mines. The men would also have to be more "loyal" to the company, and abide by the rules of the works. He did not, however, state what he meant by "loyal." The works manager, Mr. Henderson, then said that in future they would have no interference by third parties, and took the deputation to task for letters inserted in a local paper by their agent. Instead of having their grievances brought up in public meetings and in letters to the press, he thought they should first complain to the managers. The men explained that they had always appealed to the "tender mercies" of the managers, and always without success. After the conference a meeting of the men was held in the Public Hall, which was crowded. The meeting unanimously agreed not to accept the employers' terms, but would take a few days to consider the matter before coming to a final decision.

**THE MIDLAND RAILWAY STRIKE.**—The *Cotton Factory Times* has the following excellent observations on the late strike:—"The strike of the drivers and firemen on the Midland Railway system has collapsed. There is no use beating about the bush. It is the most complete failure of any strike of modern times. Those of our readers who perused our remarks of

last week on the subject would see that we indicated this in the last few lines, when we said that 'if the dispute convinced the railway servants of the necessity of greater unity than had characterised their action in the past the lesson, though dearly bought, would not have cost too much.' It was not at that time politic to speak plainer, seeing that the dispute was undecided, and that we were anxious that the men should have every encouragement, of which they stood sorely in need. Now, however, that the affair is settled by the unconditional surrender of those who came out there can be no harm in applying the lessons taught. The first of these is that no strike of such magnitude, or for the matter of that no strike at all, should be undertaken unless there is a practical unanimity amongst all the workers involved. In this case it appears that 74 per cent. of the drivers and firemen employed by the company remained at or returned to their posts within a day or two after the strike commenced. In no occupation, even with poor employers, could a strike be successful under such circumstances, let alone against a wealthy and influential corporation. Further than this, however, if we take into consideration the signalmen, porters, guards, and the thousands of workmen employed in miscellaneous work about a large railway system like the Midland, all of whom know more or less of the road and the general work, the number of those who came out on strike becomes infinitesimal by comparison. To make such a strike successful, it is absolutely necessary that the work of the company attacked must be brought to a complete standstill. To do this, at least three-fourths of the whole of the employes—drivers, firemen, signalmen, porters, etc.—should all come out. It may be that only one section are affected by some new proposals, but in the long run it is found that they are all in the same boat. In the present state of railway organisation this is, however, impossible. The only real trade union amongst railway servants is the Amalgamated Society. This, though one of the wealthiest in the kingdom, only numbers about 10,000 members, or less than one in twenty of those eligible to join. Whether it be railway servants, or any other class of workers, their position is exactly what they choose to make it. Never had men a better case than the drivers and firemen of the Midland. In no occupation could men strike with such force if united, and yet the company managed to carry on their business and defeat the men in a week for want (in the men's case) of that unity which is strength. There are now being bandied round recriminations about being betrayed, and the officials of the union not doing their duty. This is worse than useless. Let the railway servants put all this on one side, and make their union one not only in name but in reality, and we should soon find that to all reasonable demands, the companies would be as amenable as they are now the reverse."

**THE WEAVERS' STRIKE AT PRESTON.**—On Wednesday evening, Aug. 17, a mass meeting of the weavers, winders, and warpers of Preston was held at the Weavers' Institute in that town, for the purpose of hearing an explanation of the state of affairs in connection with the strike at Messrs. H. C. Owtram and Co.'s Manchester and Castle Street Mills. Mr. John Marshall occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. J. Barrows (Padiham), Mr. A. Buckley (Oldham), and Mr. Luke Park, secretary of the Preston Weavers' Association. There was a large attendance. The chairman, explaining how the strike was brought about, said that for months and months the velvet weavers of this firm had been very dissatisfied with the prices paid for the goods they were weaving. A little over two years ago they were paid 18s. a cut, while now they received only 15s., and the employer did not intend to stop at that.—Mr. A. Buckley said the fact was that velvet goods were being woven at this place for less than plain calico pieces. They wanted to have peace and quietness with the employers if possible, but when a man paid 6s. or 7s. a cut under other people, and could not be quietly persuaded he was in the wrong, they were bound to try what a little pressure would do. In Oldham the weavers got a lot more money for the same work. Here was one sort: 52 in. loom, 41 in. yarn, 64 picks, 74 reed, 60's double twist, 56's weft, 137 yards long. For that they were paid at Messrs. Owtram's 15s., while in Oldham they were paid 20s. 7d. For another cloth of the same pick, reed, counts, and length, but 48 in. wide, the Oldham price was 21s. 4d. Naturally Oldham employers would not stand this sort of thing, and but for the action of the Preston weavers notices would have been placed in the Oldham mills last Saturday or Saturday week of a reduction of 10 or 15 per cent. At their two mills Messrs. Owtram had something like twelve hundred looms. In Oldham they had almost as many thousands of looms on velvets, and if this strike had not taken place all those in Oldham would have been stopped. He had even been told by an Oldham employer that if they had submitted to the prices paid in Preston, it was the intention of the Oldham velvet manufacturers to bring their weavers down to Preston prices. This would have meant a reduction of 5s. or 6s. a cut, a very serious matter indeed. It was for that meeting to say what the result should be. If they showed a good example, other towns would be encouraged to subscribe liberally, while if they let this reduction be made, they might depend on it that it would not end there. The employers would say that if they could beat the operatives at this one point, they could beat them at others, and the consequences might be very serious.—Mr. Barrows, who was enthusiastically received, said he did not want to quarrel with Mr. Edleston or any other employer. If there was any one to blame in this matter, it was the weavers for allowing him too much latitude. They had been told that three years ago he was paying 18s. for a cut, and was now only paying 15s. for just the same work; but they were not told that the 18s. was 3s. less than the proper price. In the last four years Mr. Edleston had been keeping from his velvet weavers that which did not belong to him. If he had taken it out of their pockets it would have been a robbery, but as he had only prevented it going into their pockets of course it was not. What would they do in Preston to help these weavers? He confessed he had more faith in districts outside, which had never seen a velvet and never wanted to see one, than he had in those of Preston. They wanted there very different organisation than they had now, and until they got it they would have men like Mr. Edleston to deal with. His was not the only place in Preston where the employers were not paying what they ought, and until the operatives were better organised, and roused themselves to a defence of each other, they would always have this sort of thing going on. If they once gave Mr. Edleston a good thrashing he would be better to deal with in future.—The chairman stated that mill collections were started last week, and they expected that this week the majority of the mills would have collections inside.—Mr. Barrows said that if they paid 3d. a loom they could beat Mr. Edleston into fits.—A female weaver moved that the contribution be 1 1/2d. per loom, and this was seconded. A male operative proposed that it be 1d. per loom, which, he said, would be sufficient if every one paid to give those on strike 2s. 6d. per loom. It was no use one paying 1 1/2d. and the next weaver nothing.—The original motion was withdrawn in favour of the amendment, which was carried unanimously, and the meeting ended.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

**Library.**—The Library is open to members of the Socialist League and affiliated bodies. LIBRARY CATALOGUE, containing the Rules, 2d. D. J. NICOLL and W. BLUNDELL are the Librarians.

### BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League) to June 30. Clerkenwell, Hammett-Smith, Mitcham, Walsall to July 31.

### "COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

A. M., 4s.; E. B. B. (2 weeks), 1s. Weekly Subscriptions—K. F., 1s.; C. J. F., 2s.; J. L., 6d.; P. W., 6d.; W. B., 6d.; Llednalb, 6d.

P. WEBB, Treasurer, Aug. 16.

### THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

For Mrs. Mowbray—A Few Fabians, per Annie Besant (weekly), 10s.

J. LANE, Treasurer.

### FOR PROPAGANDA.

Collected at Mitcham and Merton, Aug. 21, 3s. 9d.

**Midland Strike.**—Received of Mr. Lane the sum of 12s. 9d. for Midland Strike Fund.—EDW. HARFORD, for Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

## REPORTS.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Wednesday, August 17, Sydney Webb lectured on "The Political Duty of Socialists." The lecturer maintained that it was the duty of Socialists to get their names on the register, and so become a part of the voting power of the country. Considerable difference of opinion was expressed as to the utility of this by several members. On Sunday, August 21, an open-air meeting was held on the Green, addressed by Turner and others. In hall, Thos. Shore lectured on "Land Nationalisation." Good discussion followed. Fair sale of literature.—A. T. and W. B.

**HACKNEY.**—No meeting was held at the Broadway on Wednesday owing to the thunderstorm. A short meeting was addressed by Turner at the Salmon and Ball, on Sunday morning. A good discussion followed. A discussion on "Socialism" was held at the club on Sunday evening.—T. R. C.

**HOXTON.**—On Thursday evening, comrades Jas. Allman and Turner addressed a good outdoor meeting opposite Hoxton Church. On Sunday morning a very successful meeting was held at same place, comrades Wade and J. Pope speaking. *Commonweal* sold well. On Saturday, the members and friends of the League held a successful concert. On Sunday evening in the hall, Wm. Morris gave a lecture on "Monopoly" to a good audience, followed by a good discussion.—C. J. Y.

**KINGSLAND GREEN.**—On Sunday morning, we held our first meeting on Kingsland Green, which was addressed by John Allman, Flockton, and Nicoll. A large and attentive audience assembled. At the close of the meeting we had some opposition from Freund, who has been several times charged at the Mansion House for preaching in and out of St. Paul's Cathedral of the doom of the Great City. *Commonweal* sold well. Two names were taken towards the formation of a branch.—J. F.

**MARLBOROUGH.**—We held our usual meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon. Cantwell, Nicoll, and Bartlett spoke. No discussion.—T. C.

**MERTON.**—On Sunday morning at 11.30, Eden, Bull, and Harman opened fresh ground in Haydon Road, near Recreation Ground. On Sunday evening at 6.30, an enthusiastic meeting of between four and five hundred people, addressed by Eden, Hardesty, and Harrison. Good sale of *Commonweal*.—W. G. E.

**MILE END AND BETHNAL GREEN.**—On Tuesday, the 16th inst., a large meeting was held on the Waste, Turner, Allman, and Davis speaking. Good sale of paper. On Sunday, 21st inst., a very enthusiastic meeting was held in Victoria Park by Morris and Davis. Some opposition was offered by an Individualist, whose remarks were replied to amidst cheers. *Commonweal* sold well.—H. M.

**MITCHAM.**—We held good meeting, addressed by Sparling, who dwelt chiefly on the Midland strike. The speaker was listened to with great attention. 3s. 9d. collected for propaganda. *Commonweal* sold well.—R. C.

**NORTH LONDON.**—Our meeting at Ossulston Street on Tuesday night was very successful. Cantwell, Graham, Flockton, and Brooks spoke. Some questions were replied to satisfactorily.—T. C.

**STAMFORD HILL.**—On Sunday afternoon, a most successful meeting was held at Stamford Hill, which was addressed by James and John Allman, Turner, and Brooks.—J. F.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—Donald addressed a meeting in the Bull Ring on Sunday, and one at Spring Hill. At Spring Hill the police again interfered.

**BLOXWICH.**—Sanders addressed a meeting on the Green. The bad weather made our meeting less than last week, when we had above three thousand.

**DUDLEY.**—A meeting of huge dimensions was addressed by Sanders on Tuesday in the Market Place. The police have persistently attempted to suppress us here, but in spite of their animus we held our meeting, a Tory town councillor taking part in the discussion. They have suppressed the meetings of Church and the Salvation Army in order with more face to suppress us. However, we go to the market as vendors of books, and intend to insist on having the same right to puff our wares as any other merchant. We sent a letter to the Town Council asking permission to hold our meetings, but have been refused.

**GLASGOW.**—On Saturday afternoon, Paterson and Downie addressed a good meeting at Cambuslang. At Jail Square on Sunday forenoon, Glasier and Bullock spoke to a large audience. In the afternoon, our usual meeting was held at Paisley Road Toll, Glasier and Bullock being the speakers. The meeting was a large one, and listened with great attention to our comrades. In the evening another meeting was held in Jail Square, and Glasier, Bullock, and D. Stewart (S.D.F.) delivered stirring speeches to an audience of 1,000 persons with a fair sprinkling of policemen. At each of our meetings on Sunday, collections were taken on behalf of the locked out shale miners of Broxburn. The amount collected was £1 0s. 4 1/2d. *Commonweal* sold well at all the meetings.—A. M.K.

**GREAT BRIDGE.**—On Tuesday, Donald and Weaver lectured here in the Market Place. The audience of 500 or so listened with marked attention and frequently applauded.

**HANDSWORTH.**—Meetings were held at Tangy's Works on Friday and Saturday, addressed by Donald. Good sale of literature both times. Men likely to aid the cause have turned up.

**LEEDS.**—Three good open-air meetings held since last report.—T. P.

**PELSALL.**—Weaver addressed a meeting of miners and ironworkers on the Common on Wednesday. There is every prospect of a strong branch being developed, and our Pelsall comrades intend to increase their efforts to attain same.—J. T. D.

**WALSALL.**—We addressed a large meeting at the Sister Dora Statue on Saturday. Our speakers were well listened to.—J. T. D.

**WEDNESBURY.**—Large meeting in Market Place was addressed by Donald, Weaver, and Sanders, on August 18th. Good sale of literature.—J. M.

**DUBLIN.**—At the Labour League on Thursday, August 18, I. O'Gorman lectured to a small but attentive audience on the "Demands of Organised Labour."

He traced the gradual evolution of the wages slavery of to-day from the chattel slavery of old, showing in what respects "the free labourer" of the Christian nineteenth century was worse off than the chattel slave of benighted heathendom, and advocated Socialism as the only remedy for the industrial depression. An interesting discussion followed, in which I. B. Killen, B.L., J. S. Hall, Keegan, Gabriel, and King took part. Mr. Raftann, Scottish Land Restoration League, in criticising the lecture, appealed to Socialists to take political action, and assist Radicals, Land Nationalisers, et hoc genus omne, in advocating reforms on which all could unite. He was ably answered by Fitzpatrick, who pointed out the futility of such a course.—K.

**SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS.**—On Sunday, August 14, the Sheffield Socialists mustered in strong force at their usual meeting-place for open-air propaganda. Messrs. Garbut, Drury, and Bullas addressed the meeting. On Monday the 15th, we had a somewhat lively meeting; comrades Story, Bullas, and Mrs. Usher were the speakers. There was some noisy but weak opposition, which was easily and effectively answered, the people evidently thinking the message of Socialism is worthy of their consideration.—M.

**WOOLWICH.**—G. B. Shaw spoke here last Sunday evening to a crowd numbering several hundreds, on "Radicalism and Socialism." The way he handled his subject won the sympathies of all our former opponents, and at the close of his address one of our Radical friends made an appeal to the audience to support us in our work by subscribing to the Propaganda Fund. 7s. was collected, and long before the meeting closed our literature was sold out.—R. B.

**Scottish Land and Labour League.**

The usual meeting of the Edinburgh Branch was held on Thursday evening. Arrangement for the meetings in aid of the Shale Miners were completed. A good many members have joined during the last few weeks. On all hands the propaganda is going on satisfactorily.

**Carnoustie.**—Mahon visited this town on August 15, distributed some literature, and arranged for a meeting a fortnight later.

**Arbroath.**—A very successful meeting was held at Brothock Bridge on the 16th, addressed by Mahon. The utmost interest was evinced by the audience, and a good branch was formed at the close of the meeting. Sale of literature and collection satisfactory.

**Forfar.**—Owing to the heavy rain it was impossible to hold the meeting as announced. Arrangements for an indoor meeting a fortnight later were made.

**Dundee.**—An indoor meeting was held on Thursday the 18th, to organise the newly formed branch. The hall of the Educational Institute was crowded. Mahon delivered a short address. A meeting of members was held afterwards for election of officers, and arranging for another series of meetings.

**THE SHALE MINERS' MEETINGS.**

The meetings on Saturday afternoon in aid of the Shale Miners were only partially successful. Both meetings were fairly large and the people very much interested, but the attendance was nothing to what it should have been. The Shale miners have suffered in silence; they have been meek and mild and law-abiding, and public indifference to their wrongs is the reward of their good behaviour. Some very able speeches were made by Mr. Wilson, secretary of the Shale Miners, Bullock of the Scottish Miners' Federation, Small of the Lanarkshire Miners, and Tuke, Mahon, and Smith of the Socialist League. The collection amounted to £1 5s. 4½d. Another meeting will probably be held.

**Leith.**—Last Sunday's meeting on the Quay side was well attended. May and Mahon were the speakers. Satisfactory collection and sale of literature.

**Edinburgh.**—Afternoon meeting in the Grass Market was very lively. One or two opponents turned up and caused a very good discussion. The sympathy of the meeting was entirely with the Socialists. The Queen's Park meeting was larger than usual. Smith, Tuke, and Mahon spoke. In the evening a meeting at the Mound was held, Mahon delivered a short address, and then for over an hour a series of questions were put by some three or four gentlemen, who seemed deeply interested in the subject. Most of the questions were very intelligent. The meeting was adjourned at ten minutes to ten. Several of the enquirers promised to return on the following Sunday. CHAS. WM. TUKE, sec.

**LECTURE DIARY.**

**LONDON.**

**Bloomsbury.**—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Aug. 25, Business Meeting. Sept. 1. Fred. Lessner, "Socialism on the Continent."

**Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday August 28, at 8.30 p.m. H. Samuels, "Socialism and Parliamentary Action." Wednesday Aug. 31, at 8.30, P. Barry, "Scientific Boycotting for Trade Combination" (continuation).

**Hackney.**—23 Audrey Street, Goldsmith Row. Club Room open every evening from 8 till 11.30; Saturday, 7 till 12.30; Sunday 11 a.m. till 12 p.m. Lecture on Sunday August 28—Turner, "Co-operation and Socialism." Tuesday August 30, monthly general meeting; election of officers and other important business. All members are requested to attend.

A Free Concert will be held at the Club on Saturday September 3rd.

**Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday August 28, at 8 p.m. Ernest Radford, "Charity."

**Hoxton (L. E. L.).**—Globe Coffee House, 227 High St., Hoxton. On Sunday August 28, at 8, Thos. Shore, jun., of the Land Restoration League, will lecture—subject, "Land Nationalisation: a few words to some objectors." On Saturday evening, at 8.30 (prompt), Committee and general members' meeting—very important business. Members are earnestly requested to attend.

**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.

**Mile-end and Bethnal Green.**—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business meeting Friday Aug. 26, at 9 p.m., for election of officers and other business.

**North London.**—Branch meets at 32 Camden Road, N.W., for reception of new members and other business, on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock, until further notice. H. Bartlett, sec.

**PROVINCES.**

**Arbroath.**—Next meeting at Brothock Bridge, Tuesday Aug. 30, 7.30 p.m., lecture by Mahon. Secy. (*pro tem.*), Jas. Malcolmson, 3 Arras Street.

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

**Cowdenbeath (Fife).**—Secretary, John Duncan, 30 Arthur Place.

**Dublin.**—Irish Labour League, Carpenters' Hall, 75 Aungier Street, every Thursday at 8 p.m. Discussion on all subjects connected with Labour Question.

**Dundee.**—For meetings, see below. Secretary, A. Simpson, 10 Forge Lane.

**Dysart (Fife).**—Secy., A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

**Edinburgh (Scottish Section).**—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. (prompt) to transact business. Discussion Class at 8.30. Chas. Wm. Tuke, secretary.

**Galashiels.**—Secretary (*pro tem.*), John Walker, 6 Victoria Street.

**Glasgow.**—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Sunday Aug. 28, meeting of members in Rooms.

**Hamilton.**—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Every Thursday at 7.30.

**Hull.**—Merrill's Dairy, 56 Walker Street. Mondays, at 8 p.m.

**Lancaster.**—Addresses every Sunday morning on the Quay Jetty.

**Leeds.**—17 Chesham Street, Sweet Street. Club and reading room open every evening. Business meetings every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

**Leicester.**—Office of Hosiery Union, Horsefair Street. Fridays at 8 p.m.

**Norwich.**—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures every Sunday at 8 p.m. Business Meeting, Monday at 8.30. Speakers' Class, Sunday mornings at 10.30 and Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. Social Evening, Saturdays at 8. Sunday Aug. 28, at 8, H. Halliday Sparling, "English Gilds."

**Oxford.**—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m.

**OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.**

**LONDON—SUNDAY 28.**

- 11.30...Garrett—"Plough Inn".....Eden & Bull
- 11.30...Hackney—"Salmon and Ball".....Graham
- 11.30...Hammersmith—Beadon Road.....The Branch
- 11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield Street.....Barker
- 11.30...Kingsland Green.....Lane & Flockton
- 11.30...Merton—Haydons Road.....Eden
- 11.30...Mitcham Fair Green.....Wardle
- 11.30...Regent's Park.....Davis
- 11.30...St. Pancras Arches.....Dalziel & Bartlett
- 11.30...Walham Green.....The Branch
- 3...Hyde Park.....Mainwaring & J. J. Allman
- 6...Stamford Hill.....Flockton & Brooks
- 6...Victoria Park.....Lane
- 6.30...Hackney Road—Warner Place.....Graham
- 7...Clerkenwell Green.....Nicoll

**Tuesday.**

- 8...Ossulton St., Euston Rd. ....Flockton & Allman
- 8...Mile-end Waste.....Kitz & Davis

**Wednesday.**

- 8...Broadway, London Fields...Allman & Graham

**Thursday.**

- 8...Hoxton Church, Pitfield Street.....Barker

**WOOLWICH.**—Arsenal Gates, Sunday August 28, at 7 o'clock—John Burns.

**PROVINCES.**

**Glasgow.**—Saturday: Jail's Square, at 6 p.m. Sunday: Jail's Square, at 1; Paisley Road Toll at 5; Jail's Square at 7.

**Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, 11; Vicar's Croft, 7.30. Friday: Corner of Christ Church, Meadow Lane, at 8 p.m.

**Norwich.**—Sunday: Market Place at 3; Agricultural Hall Plain at 7.

**Dereham.**—Every Wednesday, Market Place at 7. **Yarmouth.**—Every Thursday on the Beach at 7.

**MEETINGS IN BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.**

Date.	Place.	Time.	Speaker.
25—	Wednesbury	...	7 Sanders
26—	Bloxwich	...	6.30 Donald
26—	Oldbury	...	6.30 Deakin & Weaver
27—	Willenhall	...	5 Donald & Weaver
27—	Wolverhampton	...	7 Donald & Weaver
27—	Darlaston	...	4 Sanders
27—	Bilston	...	6.30 Sanders
28—	Birmingham—Spring Hill	...	Noon Donald
28—	" Bull Ring	...	6.30 Sanders
28—	" Council House	...	6.30 Donald
29—	Handsworth	...	6.30 Donald
29—	Walsall	...	7 Austin
29—	West Bromwich Temperance Hall	...	7 Sanders
30—	Dudley	...	6.30 Donald
30—	Great Bridge	...	6.30 Weaver & Deakin
31—	Tipton	...	6.30 Sanders
31—	Pelsall	...	7 Donald
1—	Wednesbury Temperance Hall	...	6.30 Sanders
2—	Bloxwich	...	6.30 Sanders
2—	Oldbury	...	6.30 Deakin & Weaver
3—	Willenhall	...	5 Sanders
3—	Wolverhampton	...	7 Sanders
3—	Darlaston	...	4 Donald
3—	Bilston	...	6.30 Donald

**SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.**

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

**MEETINGS—AUGUST.**

- Thur. 25.—Dysart miners. Dabbie Green, 6 p.m.
- Fri. 26.—Cowdenbeath. Toll House, 4 p.m. Dunfermline. Public Park, 7.30 p.m.
- Sat. 27.—Lochee (near Dundee). High Street, 4 p.m. Dundee. Greenmarket, 7 p.m.
- Sun. 28.—Leith. Foot of Walk, 11 a.m. Edinburgh. Grassmarket, 3 p.m.; Queen's Park 6.30 p.m.; Mound, 7.30 p.m. Dundee. Foot of Hilltown, 11.30 a.m.; West Port, 2 p.m.; Barrack Park, West End, 3 p.m.; Magdalen Green, 7 p.m.
- Mon. 29.—Carnoustie. The Cross, 7.30 p.m.
- Tues. 30.—Arbroath. Brothock Bridge, 7.30 p.m.
- Wed. 31.—Forfar. Market Cross, 7.30 p.m.

**GREAT**

**DEMONSTRATION**

ON

**Trafalgar Square,**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH (TO-DAY),**

To denounce the

PROCLAMATION OF THE

**Irish National League.**

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