

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

VOL. 3.—No. 86.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1887.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

A newspaper correspondent, on a visit to the City dust-bin, seems to have been a good deal filled up by the boss there, who vaunted the superior attractions of the occupation of—well, *dirt-shifting* and *stink-smelling*. So that it seems we are all wrong together in our attempts at sanitation; or perhaps the dust boss was a liar, which seems on the whole the simpler explanation. Anyhow this job of dust-shifting is one of those concerning which one gets asked after lectures as to who is to do such and such things under Socialism. Well, however hard the question might be to answer as to the future, it seems to me that at present M.P.'s might work at it between the squalls. It would teach them the difference between metaphor and fact for one thing, and probably they would prefer their old habitual way of eating dirt after all. To be serious, the real job is not fit for anybody else—except the lawyers.

Mr. Bradlaugh is in luck; after being canonized by Lord Wemyss, he has received a still more important testimonial from the *Daily News*, which classes him amongst "thoroughly sound and moderate politicians"! After this it will be strange indeed if he is not a member of the coming Gladstonian Government. Some persons will think indeed that it must be rather a strain to keep up a reputation for "soundness and moderation;" and whatever has been in the past, that will probably be true in the future, and even before very long, when when there will only be two parties—the party of the people and the party of reaction. You can only be moderate when it is possible to say "perhaps" instead of "yes" or "no." Which of these two latter will Mr. Bradlaugh say!

Meantime, on this Irish matter there are Gladstonians with greater claims to moderation than Mr. Bradlaugh. The meeting Liberals held recently to discuss the help to be given to the Irish in the present stress was in its moderation worthy of the study of a Molière. Even allowing for the disclaimer of the accuracy of the report in the *Daily News*, the general tone of it must have been pretty accurately given in the report, and it is curious how anxious certain members were—especially Mr. Howell—not to commit themselves to anything definite. One need hardly warn the Irish party not to trust too much to the Gladstonian M.P.'s, they will have reckoned them up long ago; but the English democracy, which is sincere in its conversion to the cause of Irish independence, should look a little sharper after its "representatives."

The delusion as to the recovery of trade which was spreading, or rather, perhaps, being industriously spread, a little time ago, probably as a part of the Jubilee decorations, is vanishing with the brilliant memory of those decorations; and it has now to be confessed for one thing that the falling off in the railway receipts is serious. The coming winter will bring home the fact of the failure of expansion in English trade very sharply to the millions of the slaves of commerce. And the trading class also will be feeling more and more the result of the revolution which is going on, though neither class will know what is the real cause of the pinch, but will put it down to "free trade," the immigration of foreigners, and other sticks and straws that are floating on the vast current of fully-developed commercialism.

It is Socialism only that can explain the conundrum offered to us by the capitalists, "Livelihood is so cheap that it is hard indeed to live." Truly even when thieves are disreputable persons they are inconvenient members of society; but when successful stealing is the aim of all respectable persons, and thieves have got to be looked upon as benefactors of society; when legalised theft is so gloriously organised, and the art has reached such a pitch of refinement that the thieves steal their slaves ready-made, instead of buying them honestly in the market, or boldly risking their lives in battle to conquer them; then indeed the less successful of us may well find it hard to live.

Indeed even the stealing is accomplished vicariously by these full-blown geniuses in the art, for, as Mr. G. B. Shaw was explaining to us the other night, the slaves themselves are forced to offer themselves as unbought property to their masters. Ancient society, with its brutal chattel slavery, did its business with discreditable want of economy compared with capitalist civilization.

The captive Salvationists are being championed by mightier prints and persons than we can bring forward. So little need be said about their case, though it cannot fail to be interesting to us who have been in the same trouble and shall be again. The crime for which they are punished—of speaking in public on ground that belongs to the public—is familiar enough to us, and the cause for the attack on them is one of the causes for which we were attacked—lack of respectability, to wit. We can only hope that those who are defending freedom of speech in this case will do so again when our turn comes round.

W. M.

"THE" TEXT.

As is only fitting in a great industrial country, our government has made a collection of the finest of the products of the labours of every race of man. In this manner it means to preach to us a silent sermon, and point the way to a more "profitable" national life; and, not to be otherwise than strictly orthodox in its method, it points the moral of its teaching in a scriptural quotation, which is at once its text and "application." This text, which is emphatically "the" text, being given forth by "authority" for all engaged in productive labour, is:

"The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure: and he that hath little business shall become wise. How can he get wisdom that holdeth the plough, and that glorieth in the goad, that driveth oxen, and is occupied in their labours, and whose talk is of bullocks? He giveth his mind to make furrows, and is diligent to give the kine fodder.

"So every carpenter and work master that laboureth night and day: and they that cut and grave seals, and are diligent to make great variety, and give themselves to counterfeit imagery, and watch to finish a work: the smith also sitting by the anvil, and considering the ironwork, the vapour of the fire wasteth his flesh, and he fighteth with the heat of the furnace: the noise of the hammer and the anvil is ever in his ears, and his eyes look still upon the pattern of the thing he maketh; he setteth his mind to finish his work, and watcheth to polish it perfectly; so does the potter sitting at his work, and turning the wheel about with his feet; who is always carefully set at his work, and maketh all his work by number; all these trust to their hands, and every one is wise in his work. Without these cannot a city be inhabited: and they shall not dwell where they will, nor go up and down; but they will maintain the state of the world, and their desire is in the work of their craft."

These words are to be found, then, written in large letters around the principal Court of the South Kensington Museum, and they are also to be seen on the large window of the great staircase of the same building.

Really this text seems to have been expressly devised and set up to serve as a peg on which to hang a revolutionary dissertation; and its society tone, which admits that, after all, "without these a city cannot be inhabited," but consoles itself with the determination that "they shall not dwell where they will, nor go up and down," is truly nineteenth century, as also is the forgetfulness that the artist who gives himself to counterfeit imagery; the inventor who is diligent to make great variety; the foreman who watches to finish a work, and all the actual producers, happen to be the city itself; while the leisurely fed are but parasites, without whom a city could indeed be well inhabited.

Nothing could be more significant of the real aims of the ruling classes in this country than this inscription placed on an institution ostensibly for the advancement of the industrious mass of the community; nor could anything more openly betray the hypocrisy of the movements which have been made for the so-called benefit of the working-man. The South Kensington Museum, nominally erected for the training of art-workmen, by the very fact of it being the "South Kensington" Museum, proves the hollowness of all its professions of utility to the workers themselves; for the site of the building, miles from the industrial districts, and in the midst of an aristocratic quarter, shows that its real intention is for the convenience of those who have the greatest facilities for using it—the rich. And it is here that their class-hatreds are inflamed, their pride of caste flattered by having placed before their eyes this precious text telling them it is their right to control the men whose brains and lives produced the masterpieces of art surrounding them: that they, the men of leisure, the whore-master and the pigeon-shooter, are the divinely authorised disposers of the lives and productions of the potters and the smiths—the Palissys and Cellinis; and it is here that both genius and plodder, not to speak of the millions of the toilers, when by chance any such being wanders from his habitation to this far-off palace, are insulted by these words, which, however true and forcible to the pride of those who placed them there, are a threat and a challenge to every man and woman in

any manner engaged in productive labour who may enter the building—their especial building—the national museum of industrial arts.

The selection and use of this text is a circumstance which fairly indicates the true state of feeling on the part of the idle and other ruling classes towards the industrious population. In itself it is but a slight thing; but, however small it may be intrinsically, it is the keynote of the strain of caste superstition by which we are mastered, and the fact of its being put forward as a kind of governmental shibboleth in the manner it is makes it, I consider, a most valuable text for Socialists and all democrats. One may be able to mention a thousand things more characteristic of the relative positions of the industrious and the idle in this country, or bring to mind thoughts of the condition of mines and ships; remembrances of tragical intensity before which a merely written defiance is all emptiness; nevertheless the text should be regarded, for it is the official expression of the relations the "leisurely" governors intend to maintain towards the over-wrought millions of the country.

G. P.

FEUDAL ENGLAND.

(Continued from page 274.)

THE Great Council of the Realm was purely feudal; it was composed of the feudatories of the king, theoretically of all of them, practically of the great ones only. It was, in fact, the council of the conquering tribe with their chief at their head; the matters of the due feudal tribute, aids, reliefs, fines, sentage, and the like—in short, the king's revenue due from his men—were settled in this council at once and in the lump. But the inferior tribe, though not represented there, existed, and, as aforesaid, was growing rich, and the king had to get their money out of their purses directly; which as they were not represented at the Council, he had to do by means of his officers (the sheriffs) dealing with them one after another, which was a troublesome job; for the men were stiff-necked and quite disinclined to part with their money; and the robbery having to be done on the spot, so to say, encountered all sorts of opposition, and, in fact, it was the money needs both of baron, bishop, and king which had been the chief instrument in furthering the progress of the towns. The towns would be pressed by their lords, king, or baron, or bishop, as it might be, and they would see their advantage and strike a bargain. For you are not to imagine that because there was a deal of violence going on in those times there was no respect for law; on the contrary, there was a quite exaggerated respect for it if it came within the four corners of the feudal feeling, and the result of this feeling of respect was the constant struggle for *status* on the part of the townships and other associations throughout the Middle Ages. Well, the burghers would say, "Tis hard to pay this money, but we will put ourselves out to pay it if you will do something for us in return; let, for example, our men be tried in our own court, and the verdict be of one of compurgation instead of wager of battle," and so forth, and so forth. Well, all this sort of detailed bargaining was, in fact, a safeguard for the local liberties, so far as they went, of the towns and shires, and did not suit the king's views of law and order at all; and so began the custom of the sheriff (the king's officer, who had taken the place of the earl of the Anglo-Saxon period) summoning the burgesses to the council, which burgesses you must understand were not elected at the folk-motes of the town, or hundred (of which more hereafter), but in a sort of hole-and-corner way by a few of the bigger men of the place. What the king practically said was this: "I want your money, and I cannot be for ever wrangling with you stubborn churlcs at home there, and listening to all your stories of how poor you are and what you want; no, I want you to be *represented*. Send me up from each one of your communes a man or two whom I can bully or cajole or bribe to sign away your substance for you."

Under these circumstances it is no wonder that the towns were not very eager in the cause of *representation*. It was no easy job to get them to come up to London merely to consult as to the kind of sauce with which they were to be eaten. However, they did come in some numbers, and by the year 1295 something like a shadow of our present Parliament was on foot. Nor need there be much more said about this institution; as time went on its functions got gradually extended by the petition for the redress of grievances accompanying the granting of money, but it was generally to be reckoned on as subservient to the will of the king, who down to the later Tudor period played some very queer tunes on this constitutional instrument.

Edward I. gave place to his son, who again was of the type of king who had hitherto given the opportunity to the barons for their turn of advancement in the constitutional struggle; and in earlier times no doubt they would have taken full advantage of the circumstances; as it was they had little to gain. The king did his best to throw off the restraint of the feudal constitution, and to govern simply as an absolute monarch. After a time of apparent success he failed, of course, and only succeeded in confirming the legal rights of feudalism by bringing about his own formal deposition at the hands of the baronage, as a chief who, having broken the compact with his feudatories, had necessarily forfeited his right. If we compare his case with that of Charles I. we shall find this difference in it, besides the obvious one that Edward was held responsible to his feudatories and Charles towards the upper middle classes, the squirearchy, as represented by Parliament: that Charles was condemned by a law created for the purpose, so to say, and evolved from the principle of the representation of the propertied classes, while Edward's deposition was the real

logical outcome of the confirmed feudal system, and was practically legal and regular.

The successor of the deposed king, the Third Edward, ushers in the complete and central period of the Middle Ages in England. The feudal system is complete: the life and spirit of the country has developed into a condition if not quite independent, yet quite forgetful, on the one hand of the ideas and customs of the Celtic and Teutonic tribes, and on the other of the authority of the Roman Empire. The Middle Ages have grown into manhood; that manhood has an art of its own, which, though developed step by step from that of Old Rome and New Rome, and embracing the strange mysticism and dreamy beauty of the East, has forgotten both its father and its mother, and stands alone triumphant, the loveliest, brightest, and gayest of all the creations of the human mind and hand. It has a literature of its own too, somewhat akin to its art, yet inferior to it, and lacking its unity, since there is a double stream in it. On the one hand, the Court poet, the gentleman, Chaucer, with his Italianising metre, and his formal recognition of the classical stories; on which, indeed, he builds a superstructure of the quaintest and most unadulterated mediævalism, as gay and bright as the architecture which his eyes beheld and his pen pictured for us, so clear, defined, and elegant; a sunny world even amidst its violence and passing troubles, like those of a happy child, the worst of them an amusement rather than a grief to the onlookers; a world that scarcely needed hope in its eager life of adventure and love, amidst the sunlit blossoming meadows, and green woods, and white begilded manor houses. A kindly and human muse is Chaucer's, nevertheless, interested in and amused by all life, but of her very nature devoid of strong aspirations for the future; and that all the more, since, though the strong devotion and fierce piety of the ruder Middle Ages had by this time waned, and the Church was more often lightly mocked than either feared or loved, still the *habit* of looking on this life as part of another yet remained: the world is fair and full of adventure; kind men and true and noble are in it to make one happy; fools also to laugh at, and rascals to be resisted, yet not wholly condemned; and when this world is over we shall still go on living in another which is a part of this picture. Note all, and be as merry as you may, never forgetting that you are alive and that it is good to live.

That is the spirit of Chaucer's poetry; but alongside of it existed yet the ballad poetry of the people, wholly untouched by courtly elegance and classical pedantry; rude in art but never coarse, true to the back-bone; instinct with indignation against wrong, and thereby expressing the hope that was in it; a protest of the poor against the rich, especially in those songs of the Foresters, which have been called the mediæval epic of revolt; no more gloomy than the gentleman's poetry, yet cheerful from courage, and not content. Half-a-dozen stanzas of it are worth a cart-load of the whining introspective lyrics of to-day; and he who, when he has mastered the slight differences of language from our own daily speech, is not moved by it, does not understand what true poetry means nor what its aim is.

There is a third element in the literature of this time which you may call Lollard poetry, the great example of which is William Langland's 'Piers Plowman.' It is no bad corrective to Chaucer, and in *form* at least belongs wholly to the popular side; but it seems to me to show symptoms of the spirit of the rising middle class, and casts before it the shadow of the new master that was coming forward for the workman's oppression. But I must leave what more I have to say on this subject of the art and literature of the fourteenth century for another occasion. In what I have just said, I only wanted to point out to you that the Middle Ages had by this time come to the fullest growth; and that they could give expression, which was all their own, to the ideas and life of the time. That time was in a sense brilliant and progressive, and the life of the worker was better than it ever had been, and might compare with advantage with what it became in after periods and with what it is now; and indeed, looking back upon it, there are some minds and some moods that cannot help regretting it, and are not particularly scared by the idea of its violence and lack of accurate knowledge of scientific details; but, however, one thing is clear to us now, the kind of thing which never is clear to most people living in such periods, namely, that whatever it was, it could not last but must change into something else.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be concluded.)

Who would have thought that Mr. Bradlaugh would ever become popular with the Tories. Yet Earl Weymss, who looks upon even Lord Salisbury as a dangerous Revolutionist, holds Mr. Bradlaugh up as an example to those who wantonly attack the right of property. The hon. member for Northampton thinks that £10,000 is not too much for a Lord Chancellor, and he was very indignant at the wickedness of his esteemed colleague, Mr. Labouchere, who wanted to reduce it to £8,000. Mr. Bradlaugh is so enamoured of the principle of competition as applied to workmen's wages, that one wonders he does not propose to put the post of Lord Chancellor up to competition. In these times of trade depression, even among the legal profession, we could surely get the work done at a cheaper rate than £10,000 a-year. But is it not strange that the head of the Liberty and Property Defence League, a body renowned for its championship of the rights of the classes to plunder the masses, should find occasion to praise so highly such an advanced Democrat as the hon. member for Northampton? A few years ago the Tories literally thirsted for Iconoclast's blood; now they laud him to the skies, "He is such a nice man, so different from those rude Irish members, and that insufferable Labouchere." Mr. Bradlaugh is doubtless proud of his popularity. A Radical member (?) whom the Tories are fond of is a curiosity that cannot be enough admired.—DIOGENES, in *Norwich Daylight*.

CHANGING THE DISHES.

Two parliamentary Select Committees have lately reported in favour of certain small changes, and perhaps have brought us within sight of the changes being made. One of these, referring to Sunday work in the post office, even if carried out, would be of the dignity of the proverbial half-loaf, which is all that our legislators, in their wildest excitement, ever dream of. The Post-office Committee recommend that letter-carriers and sorters and other employes (not the Postmaster-General and the big-wigs) should be off duty on alternate Sundays, should in fact have to keep one day holy in a fortnight, unlike the poor hard-driven postmasters, M.P.'s, bishops, etc., who have to keep one such day each week. It is unfair. As I see these last-named people toiling about in frock-coats, chimney-pot hats, and episcopal gaiters on a hot Sunday, their suffering must be dreadful, and they surely ought to have the first claim to be let off duty on alternate Sundays. Indeed for my own part I am almost in favour of letting them off altogether, and the postmen too. The question of their stipends, when so let off, presents a good deal of difficulty. It would hardly do to pay them the same after as before the relaxation. Perhaps some of the released postmasters, M.P.'s, bishops, etc., not having much to do on weekdays, might try to turn an honest penny by sorting and delivering letters on a Sunday. They could report at the end of a few years whether their change of fare was satisfactory to them.

The other Select Committee has issued a report on Perpetual Pensions, and suggests alterations which remind one of the Change of Dishes at the Barmecide Feast.¹ The Barmecide's first dish, or clause 1, seems very satisfying. It is called "A solution of iniquities," or "The cessation of payments to those who have rendered no service." The second and third dishes are called in like manner "Salaries and duties," and "Inheritance clipped and trimmed." The Barmecide calls to his attendants to put on such viands in plenty, and bids his hungry constituents "Eat, O my guests, for ye are hungry, vehemently so, and in absolute want of food." And his constituents twist their mouths about as though they were eating, saying within themselves, "Verily this is a man who loveth to jest with others." And the Barmecide orders different kinds of viands and commutes the first dishes for others, with provisions of a different sort called *Annuities for Lives, Twenty years' purchase, etc.* He "proceeds to enumerate the various different kinds of viands, and to describe their several excellencies," and how they will ensure a real and substantial satisfaction to the appetite of his guests. And "all this time the constituents move their heads and mouths, and roll tongues between their cheeks, as if they were enjoying themselves." They exclaim, "O master, we have had enough," though in fact "their hunger is such that they long for a cake of barley-bread."

Suppose, however, that the guests reflect upon the situation, and upon the manner in which this man has jested with them, and say within themselves, "By Allah, I will do to him a deed that shall make him repent before God of these actions!" and that they follow this up "by taking the host unawares, and striking him such a slap upon his neck that the chamber shall ring at the blow." The Barmecide will perhaps begin with "What is this, ye vilest of the creation?" But surely he will then "utter a loud laugh, and say to his guests, Verily, for a long time have I made game of men. My dishes were empty and did not really contain the meat heretofore paid over to those who have rendered no service. That change would destroy both House of Lords and House of Commons; and Barmecides desire reform not abolition, and wish to keep these houses for those who have sagacity enough to conform to all their ideas. My dish of clipped inheritances only contained the filigree-work of Marshals, Grand Falconers, and High Stewards, and took nothing from the real Grand Pensioners, who are settled on the National Debt, and on the hereditary offices of dividend-receivers. The fact is that when I speak of a real and substantial saving, which will accrue to the benefit of my guests at this feast of ours, what is meant is that the published total of imperial taxation will be diminished. There is no real reduction, for I do not propose to interfere with the skilful man of business getting as many as possible to work the corvée for him, and so increasing in a quiet, private way the amount of the unpublished taxation of the people. This is my jest, and I see labour representatives among you, who fall in with the trick; they shall be my companions in reality, and shall never relinquish me, and we will leave the empty dishes over which we have joked for the well-filled ones which the Sons of the Parliamentary Barmecides have always ready in their palace." C. J. F.

MORE EVICTION OUTRAGES.—*Omaha Philanthropist*: "I've been in Ireland and seen some hard things, but—" *Politician*: "Sit right down, sir, and use this house as your own. What can I do for you?" "I have called, sir, to secure your influence in behalf of some fifteen or twenty families who—" "More evictions! I'll call a mass meeting at once—this very week, sir." "They are now living in miserable tents, and—" "Put me down for a hundred dollars, sir, for their relief. I want to head the biggest kind of a popular subscription. Did you get the news in a private letter, or did it come by cable?" "The families I refer to are right here in Omaha, and I have just been talking with them." "Glorious! We'll have them on the stage at the mass meeting. How did they get across the ocean?" "Oh, they were born in this country, you know, and were evicted from Omaha shanties for not paying their rent." "Oh, them? See here, you meddling milk-sop, those were my shanties, and if you don't attend to your own business I'll make daylight shine through ye!"—*Syracuse Labourer*.

¹ 'Arabian Nights': Story of the Barber's Sixth Brother.

IT IS THE DAY.

O thou long-suffering Son of Man,
awake, lift up thy voice, and cry;
for, lo, the fulness of the plan
of thy redemption draweth nigh;
soon shall thine eyes behold the smart
of them that keep thy soul in thrall;
already, rotten at the heart,
their kingdom totters to its fall.

O thou long-suffering Son of Man,
what strife, what struggle has been thine,
urged ever, since thy race began,
by force of discontent divine!
How keen a conflict didst thou wage,
what slavery still dost undergo!
long has been tamed fierce Nature's rage,
thy fellow yet remains thy foe.

O thou long-suffering Son of Man,
rejected, crucified, betrayed,
break through the bondage and the ban,
shake off the shame upon thee laid.
See how thine old oppressors quake,
the idle fool, the busy knave;
now, now thy righteous vengeance take,
and dig for both a speedy grave.

O Son of Man, at last, at last,
over the wide and waiting earth
the herald beams are spreading fast,
glad earnest of the daylight's birth.
The night is spent, the stars are wan,
rose are the peaks that late were grey;
lift up thyself, O Son of Man,
arise, awake, it is the day!

C. W. BECKETT.

A LABOUR CONFERENCE.

WE have much pleasure in giving further publicity to the following appeal, which has been forwarded to all Trades Unions and kindred bodies throughout Norfolk:

Norfolk Labour Conference Committee
5 Duke Street, Norwich.

FELLOW WORKERS,—During the last few years you have doubtless often thought about the present relations between Labour and Capital; and often wondered, in face of the growing seriousness of the position, what kind of future we should be able to hand on to the generation that will follow us; and where and how this unceasing struggle between the worker class and the master class would end. No one at all acquainted with the facts of the case can now deny that everywhere Labour Organisations, Trades Unions, etc., are not only failing to hold their own, but are distinctly losing ground; that the number of male adults employed in several of our most important manufacturing industries is decreasing, being displaced to an alarming extent by improved methods of working, better machinery, and by the cheaper labour of women and juveniles; that all labour is becoming to a larger and larger extent precarious and uncertain; that trade depressions seem to come more and more frequently and intensely; and that we now seem to be in a period of declining wages all round with no brighter future outlook in any direction.

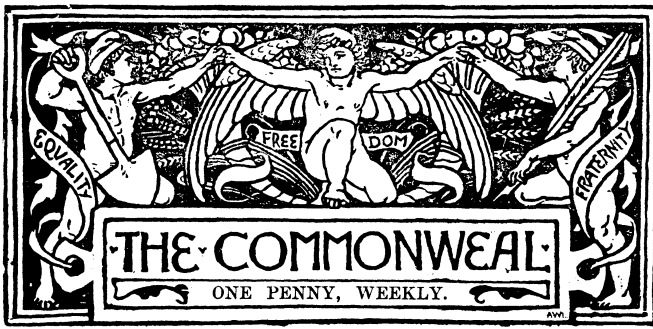
We as workers, feeling that this serious statement only too truly expresses the real position to-day, after all the boasted progress of this wonderful 19th century, would earnestly urge the extreme importance of at once consulting together as to whether some other line of action cannot now be taken which will promise us a better position than it seems possible to achieve with the existing isolated organisations; and also to discuss before it is again quite upon us what can be done in connection with the question of the unemployed which is now become of such great and capital importance each winter.

It is proposed to call a Norfolk Labour Conference to meet in Norwich during the third week in September; and to invite delegates from all the labour organisations existing in the county; and if possible to arrange in some way for the attendance of unskilled or non-union workers. The Gordon Hall has been placed at our disposal for this purpose. One point amongst others which is suggested for consideration is some scheme of federating all existing labour societies throughout the county. We should be glad if you would kindly consider this matter at your next meeting and let us have your opinions and suggestions upon this subject as early as possible.

A. SUTTON, Secretary *pro tem*.

Statistics in support of the statements made in the appeal are given, compiled from the reports of eight of the largest trades. This is a good move in the right direction. Who will follow? We should like to hear of every county in the "three kingdoms" following this example and then combining their local organisations into one great body. S.

TEA COOPERS AND GENERAL LABOURERS' ASSOCIATION.—At a mass meeting of the members of this association, held in the Pilgrim's Hall, New Kent Road, on Aug. 26, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "This meeting of dock and wharf labourers expresses its unmeasured indignation at the reductions being made all round the trade, and calls upon all friends of the working classes to assist those whose only property is their labour." Representations as to the hardship of the existing state of things were made, and the meeting was a very enthusiastic one throughout.



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

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors. Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN.—We are always glad to hear from you. Your letters are interesting and useful, even when, like the last, they are written from the way-back scrub with the bottom of a tin dish for a writing-desk.

A. D.—You should take the proverbial advice and "mix it with brains." Read Bernard Shaw's articles in three recent numbers of *National Reformer*. L. P.—It was Defoe who said "Restraint from ill is freedom to the wise."

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 31.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ENGLAND | Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt | HOLLAND |
| Justice | St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole | Hague—Recht voor Allen |
| Norwich—Daylight | Denver (Col.)—Labor Enquirer | Amsterdam—Voorwaarts |
| Labour Tribune | Port Worth (Tex.)—South West | ITALY |
| Railway Review | Detroit (Mich.)—The Advance | Milan—Il Fascio Operaio |
| Die Autonomie | Albina (Oreg.)—Weekly Courier | Marsala—La Nuova Eta |
| Jus | New Haven (Conn.)—Work- | SPAIN |
| INDIA | men's Advocate | Barcelona—Acracia |
| Bankipore—Behar Herald | FRANCE | PORTUGAL |
| Norwich—United Socialist | Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) | Voz do Operario |
| New York—Der Sozialist | Le Socialiste | AUSTRIA |
| Truthseeker | Le Revolte | Brunn—Volksfreund |
| Leader | Guise—Le Devoir | ROUMANIA |
| Volkszeitung | Lille—Le Travailleur | Jassy—Lupta |
| Freiheit | BELGIUM | DENMARK |
| Boston—Woman's Journal | Liege—L'Avenir | Social-Demokraten |
| Liberty | Brussels—L'Avant-Garde | SWEDEN |
| Chicago (Ill.)—Labor Enquirer | Antwerp—De Werker | Stockholm—Social-Demokraten |
| Vorbote | Ghent—Vooruit | |
| Hammonton(NJ)Credit Foncier | GERMANY—Volks Tribune | |

SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN IN SOUTH WALES.

THE *Pontypridd Herald*, in commenting upon our advent, says that for the first time in its history the district has been invaded by the advance guard of Socialism, and in the course of a very fair article upon our doctrines, the same journal significantly says: "A State cannot be governed in accordance with the eternal principles of equity which permits Lazarus, repulsive from dirt, disease, and starvation, to sit daily at the gate of Dives, clothed in purple and fine linen, whatever the sequel of the history may be," and further:—

"Looking at our social arrangements as they now stand one cannot fail to perceive how utterly at variance they are with any system that has for its object 'each for the other and God for us all.' In fact the genius of society as at present constituted seems to find its fitting expression in the formula 'each for himself and the devil take the hindmost.' Were it not for the cohesive influence of the human virtues which ever and anon have crumpled the social fabric would verily fly into pieces. It certainly does seem cruelly unjust that a workman, steady, industrious, aiming at the highest standard in the character of the work he turns out, and in every respect a kind husband, a tender father, and an intelligent citizen, should, as a producer of wealth, simply get a small percentage of the profit on the work he does, while the larger percentage of profit enriches the man who employs him. The consequence is that should Labour be stricken down with a heavy reverse of fortune, sickness, and what not, in a few weeks his family become pauperised. Capital, however, is exempt from such an affliction."

If the only result of our first visit is to cause an ordinary bourgeois journal to write in this strain, what may be possible if another descent is made?

The vitality of the Welsh language and the depth of national feeling is strikingly evident throughout these valleys, where one scarcely hears a word of English, but when spoken it is spoken with a purity surprising to a sojourner from Cockaigne. The recrudescence of national feeling shows itself in two aspects, the commercial and the Celtic. The first received adequate expression in the remarkable speech of Henry Richards, M.P., at the Eistedfodd, wherein he advised the Welsh to learn English in order "to struggle with them and fight the battle of life" on equal terms, and although the remainder of the speech was devoted to the praise of Wales and everything Welsh, and hopes for their preservation as such, yet the cloven hoof was shown. It is this bastard nationalism which allows unquestioned the colossal robberies of Scotch Bute, who, claiming to own nearly the whole of Glamorgan and its vast mineral resources, exacts a toll of 1s. per ton from the labours of the underpaid and overworked collier, and hands over the

finest portion of the country to be disfigured and despoiled by Jew and Gentle land thieves and labour robbers of any nationality. It is a nationalism that lends everything to gain and is fittingly expressed in the six letters composing the word *Pr-o-f-i-t*, something akin to the feeling which prompted the pedagogue mentioned in previous letter to tell Kitz he had no business in Wales because of his German origin, and yet he would lick the boots of a man of exactly the same breed, because, forsooth, he is the "Prince of Wales."

The Celtic feeling, however, is that which causes "grave disquiet" to the friends of "law and order," and which antagonises at every step the progress of Anglo-Saxon commercialism. In Wales it is opposition to tithes and mining royalties, and I am glad to be able to add now, landlordism. In Ireland and Skye it is the land war. It has a trinity of tribunes in Davitt, Pan Jones, and Macdonald. It harks back to the historical times when the Celtic tribes were free from the curse of landlordism; and whilst, of course, it would not revive the cruelties of those olden days, it yet clings to the old tongue that has no equivalents wherewith to give expression to the modern profit-grinding which has blighted the land of their fathers.

Your ordinary beef-necked shop-keeping capitalist sneers at the sentimentalism which mourns over the spoliation of a whole country side, in order to build up the fortunes of the Butes, Crawshays, Windsors, and Dowlais directors, but deep down in the warm, generous hearts of the South Welsh workers is a feeling which we found easy to stir, which asks the question, What is the good of it all to us? A writer in the *South Wales Echo*, speaking only of comparatively recent times, says of the Rhondda Valley:—

"Business called me to the Rhondda Valley, which I had not visited for a good many years; and I found an enormous development and a striking change. It is little more than twenty years ago that there were game birds to be found on the mountains above Treherbert, and now the slopes are scarred with colliery works or deformed by mining refuse. In a more recent time I remember when trout still haunted the pools of the river, and along its banks there were long reaches of pasture land from which cattle grazed upwards towards heathery meadows; while men and boys would bathe in waters scarcely yet defiled. Now I see an almost continuous series of towns from the higher water of the Rhondda, and its junction with the Taff at 'Newbridge,' as the railway had endeavoured to have it named; the pastures have almost entirely disappeared on the low lands; and low lines of decidedly ugly cottages have taken their place; while, as regards the river, never was a sight more pitiable to behold. For the lovely Rhondda, of which friends spoke to me years ago, and the beauties of which I could still discover traces, there has been substituted a stony track of boulder stones and debris, through which a foul stream you could step across slowly dribbled, and defamed as it dribbled the memories of not so long ago. Much of that which I saw may be traced to the extraordinary drought of the present spring and summer. I was assured at Treorky that within a year or two there has been a good flow of water in the river; but what kind of water I did not care to ask. But, blame Nature as you like, you will generally find that what are called her deformities are due to man's own wilfulness or want of knowledge.

"The Vale of the Rhondda Vechan, which is now better known as Fenn-dale, presented a similar transformation to one who remembers it at the time of the first of the great explosions at what were then known as the Blaenllechau collieries. A curiously sequestered and picturesque valley, it could only be approached from the Aberdare side by a pony-ride, or a stiff walk from Cwmanan over moorland and morass. There was, of course, a mineral railway, but it could only be used by passengers by favour. It was a small community, as self-contained, and, to the best of my remembrance, as well ordered as those which sober English settlers are putting up in the American western plains, or under the shadow of the Canadian half of the Rocky Mountains. There was, probably, an inn, and of that I am not sure; but there was only one store which could supply to a tired and agonised enquirer on an immemorable melancholy occasion nothing more than 'British wine' and a ginger cake. These people were remote; but they were not 'melancholy, slow.' They thought nothing of a twenty-mile walk to setting out for a Cymanfa, nor did the length of the walk deter them from attending a funeral away beyond a double range of mountains. Their amusements were chiefly of the domestic order, though some of the younger spirits would snuggle a few bottles of whiskey up from Porth, or over from Aberdare:—thus, singing contests, and 'pies' and provision had been made by the thoughtful proprietors for Sunday worship; but for the rest it was out of the world. I wonder whether it would be right to say that they were the happier for not being in it?"

Truly an "enormous development." The same writer, after describing the heaps of filth which cover the banks of the once beautiful Taff, speaks of the whole business as indicative of thriving prosperity. Such is the ingrained perversity and mental obliquity begotten of commercial instincts. The hideous "tips," mountains high, composed of rubbish from the mines and blast works, meet one on every hand. Where they abut on the residences of my lord Aberdare or other prigs they are planted over with shrubs to hide their ugliness; elsewhere they disfigure and block the landscape with their hideous deformity. If ever Macaulay's New Zealander should in future ages visit these scenes, he will wonder at the stupidity of people who manufactured mountains. Along the sides of the natural hills, where the narrow roads are lined with the wretched cottages inhabited by colliers and quarry men, heaps of cinders, rags, paper, bones, and a dead cat or two beautify nature's handiwork.

In Miskin and Mountain Ash typhoid fever is raging, and as one result of enquiries into the cause of this devastating epidemic, the authorities find that the people are living upon the barest necessities of life. No wonder they fall ready victims to the disease. In one case a miner was found who, after paying—at the master's office bear in mind—3s. for rent, and 1s. 3d. for coals, had but 2s. 6d. left for food for a family of four children and himself and wife. Food and rent is relatively as dear as in London.

And the wages for which these men risk their lives range from 15s.

to £1 and £1 4s. per week. The average is below £1. The better paid class of workmen manage to have cleanly homes, and will dress well on Sundays; but an accident—and they are common—a spell out of work, and all comfort disappears. The conspicuous failure of their members, including Abraham, M.P. ("Mabon"), to affect any beneficial alteration in the Mines Regulation Bill, and the general neglect and even hostility shown by the Parliamentary hacks to their claims, caused them to lend a ready ear to the preaching of non-Parliamentary Revolutionary Socialism, and the thirty-six millions royalties paid to those who never dug a shovelful of coals in their lives is also a powerful ally. The other allies are the Marquis of Bute, 116,000 acres, rental £231,931, without coal royalties; Windsor, 37,454 acres, £63,778 rental, quarry-owner; the robbery of about 30,000 acres of common lands in Glamorgan alone; and the helpless dependency of the population upon the greedy grasping capitalists.

S. MAINWARING and F. KITZ.

THE DANGEROUS CLASS.

WHICH is the dangerous class? This question is answered by each from his own standpoint. Every antagonism is dangerous to its opposite, and as society in its present anarchical state is one vast agglomeration of antagonisms, we all belong in this sense to a dangerous class. Nay, if we take the Individualist at his word, and reduce the classes to their component parts, we are all dangerous individuals, since under a competitive system every individual interest clashes with every other interest, and so becomes dangerous. Pure individualism, however, does not exist; man sees that he has interests in common with other men, hence the evolution of classes and class interests, finally to end, judging from present tendencies, in the elimination of all economic antagonisms and the growth of one homogeneous class—society.

But whence arises the term "dangerous class" as understood by the bourgeois society of to-day? In the depths of the middle-class mind there looms up a consciousness full of bodeful misgivings that its pre-eminence as a class rests upon a rotten foundation, viz., upon the negation of the class below; that is to say, the bourgeoisie owes its monopoly of knowledge, power, and wealth to the lack of these qualities in the proletariat, or as Victor Hugo tersely puts it, "the paradise of the rich is made from the hell of the poor;" but once let the workers know and feel this clearly, once let the many know how and why they starve while the few live in superabundant plenty, and the foundations of class supremacy will crumble into dust. Knowledge precedes power, and cannot co-exist with wage-slavery. Thus, to the mind of the bourgeoisie the workers so enlightened become a "dangerous class," and we see why certain ideas are labelled "dangerous."

But there is another and in a far more fatal sense dangerous class. Hitherto the barons, the bourgeoisie, and lastly, the proletariat, have each in turn been dangerous to the powers that be, only because they acted in obedience to that natural instinct which is the law of social growth, and which has everywhere and always burst all bonds of restraint in its struggle upward to larger liberty and wider knowledge. But what shall be said for the class which now arrogantly places itself and its pretensions athwart the stream of progress, and madly seeks to dam back the waters and stay their natural flow, until they accumulate and grow ever stronger and stronger in their pent up fury, finally to burst their banks and sweep away everything in their lawless, aimless rush? What shall be said about a class grown so wise in its self-conceit that it takes to making laws which contravene the laws of nature, and thinks it can enforce them by its horse-hair justice against the fiat of the eternal powers themselves?

How shall we name this class which by its sacred commercialism has brought the workers of the world to such a pass, that the more wealth they create the poorer they become, and which even then adds insult to injury by coolly telling us that the wage-workers are better off now than ever before, whilst thousands are dying by the torture of slow starvation?

What shall we think of a set of men of a governing class, with minds so warped and twisted that they invert the natural and moral order of things so far as to place expediency above justice, policy above principle, and idleness above industry?

Then, too, there is this wonderful commercial system of ours, this Moloch of the nineteenth century, with its competition, supply and demand, and production for profit, entailing as it does the degradation and misery of the masses, the robbery of the poor, and the consecration of fraud, all carried on under the guise of honesty and respectability at the behest and for the benefit of this same bourgeoisie, which worships in the name of the Nazareth carpenter whilst it prays for the perpetuation of such a system. Can we say that such a class is a safe repository of power and an enlightened user thereof? No; the bourgeoisie is the dangerous class. It is infinitely more dangerous to-day, and in quite another and more fatal sense, than when it carried the banner of political and social progress against the barons. Then it was giving expression to the evolution of the race at an important stage of its development. Now it is seeking to strangle a similar expression by another class. Then it was in the path of progress, now it is in the rut of retrogression. Then it was warring against a class only, now it is blindly combating the very necessity of things, and foolishly trying to turn the stars from their courses. Power so used becomes dangerous indeed—how dangerous let the fate of the old French régime testify

Clearly the time has come when the bourgeoisie must pass on the fiery cross of progress to other hands, which will carry it to the issue above referred to,—the abolition of all classes by the fusion of the whole mass into one humane and truly civilised Society. In the meantime the proletariat will continue to grow more and more dangerous to the bourgeoisie as it is reinforced by the spread of knowledge and the development of events, while the bourgeoisie will continue to grow more and more dangerous to itself and the whole world as it seeks to repress the natural process of evolution, and thus make itself another example of the axiom, "Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad."

W. T. HORN.

"BE YOUR OWN MASTERS."

UNDER this heading the *Flint Glass Makers' Magazine* of May contains a most interesting article, signed "Cato," from which we extract the following:—

"Glass workers, like workers in every trade of the present day, suffer from the rapacity and voracious greed of employers, who pile up profits by any and every means, not the least of which is the enslavement of those under them, which, sooner or later, produces starvation wages, want of employment, strikes, and all the evils attending them. The real makers of the wealth of a country are its millions of workers, and to them alone is due its wealth. Why are they robbed of their due? Because they have not believed in their own strength sufficiently, but have cringed, bowed, and not held themselves up as men in face of their employers—well called their "masters"—who still openly, or covertly, despise them for it. Glass makers know this to their cost. These same masters, as a rule, cannot take hand or part in the formation and bringing forth of the articles out of which they make their profits. The very thought of this should be enough to inspire workmen with confidence to conduct their own business, and reap the full benefit of their labours.

"The world's markets are open to the workmen who firmly and intelligently combine in their own interests, who say that they do not mean to go on for all time slaving for covetous, unfeeling, unimaginative, and ignorant masters, who absorb all the surplus profits of labour. What are the surplus profits? They represent fifteen shillings for the employer out of every pound sterling earned by the workers in the course of the year. If two hundred workers in a factory have among them a weekly wage of £300, the employer—taking one week with another all the year round—pockets £900 over and above this sum. His money, as a rule, comes in quarterly, and, at this rate, each quarter would bring him alone £10,800—the sum paid to the two hundred hands for the whole year's labour. Some manufacturers make more than this per head, some less. At the lowest calculation, according to official statistics, we find the annual income of this country is £1,250,000,000, of which sum the masses receive £450,000,000; therefore, the classes, composed of our lazy nobility, gentry, and snobs, take between them the small amount of £800,000,000.

"I say the world's markets are open to the makers of the produce sold in them. It is the prerogative of workmen acting in combination to out-do all masters in the quality of their work, and workmen alone can best govern its supply. What could masters do against such a combination? Nothing. The spirit of internationalism is enlarging every day, workmen of each country, despite the power of capital—which they created and foolishly allowed to be used against themselves—are now becoming aware of their value, and the necessity of combining for their common good."

The Executive of the Glass Makers' Society of Great Britain and Ireland strongly advises its members to consider the recommendations of "Cato," and in doing so pertinently asks:—

"What is the relationship at the present time between capital and labour? Nothing more than one continual heart burning—the employer ever seeking to reduce the producer lower in the social scale of modern civilization. It therefore remains for the producer, as it were, with a great moral revolution to throw off the cringing attitude he has assumed, and to stand out as a bold man, and declare his independence and his right to receive the profits of his labour in spite of the capitalistic civilization of the nineteenth century. Unless he does this he will be assuredly thrust lower down than he is at the present time. This is a great and noble work, and can be accomplished with ease if only the little word *unity* is observed. This mode of working is sure to come, and, in our opinion, is the only means of preserving the commerce of the world. Time and circumstances must be left to perfect the work, but we would advise our readers to think out the matter, and then act. Let a working man picture to himself how different his social life would be working for himself, instead of for one who has no sympathies in common with him.

"We do heartily advise our readers to work out this great problem. It must come, and, in these modern times, it will be the regeneration of the working class. Unless co-operation is accomplished, the capitalists will not cease to tyrannize until the producer is brought down to slavery. We ask our readers can it be said how many of the working class go down to a premature grave, simply for want of proper nourishment to keep up their strength, in order to carry out their labourious labour? Had they received the profits due upon their labour, there is not the slightest doubt but thousands would have been alive to-day; but they have had to succumb to the inevitable—a prey to the circumstances of the times. Time, however, has wound his way on, and the eyes of the working classes are now beginning to dawn on a new era. Laws have been made only to be broken when the rich and powerful did not like them. Coke, the great lawyer, in his Institutes, expressly declares that 'all usury is directly against the law of God, indeed it was not till the time of Henry VIII., and what Cobbett not unjustly calls the Protestant devastation, that we find the great scourge of usury sanctioned by Act of Parliament. By 37 Henry VIII., the rate of interest was fixed at 10 per cent., not more.' Here is a law which has not been repealed, yet it is broken hourly. But, if a working man breaks the law, it matters not how old the act may be, even to the reign of Edward III., it is brought against him."

That so important a society as the Flint Glass Makers should be considering the advisability of starting business on their own account, of working for themselves, shows that the efforts made by the Socialist League to permeate the workers with Socialist principles have not been in vain, but are bearing fruit in good earnest.

H. A. B.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

A STRIKE AT GLASGOW SETTLED.—The strike amongst the harbour labourers at Glasgow has been settled, the stevedores having conceded the 7d. per hour demanded by the men.

STRIKE OF STEEL WORKERS.—The steel workers of the Monway works of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, Limited, Wednesbury, are on strike against a reduction of 10 per cent. in their wages. The men have issued a handbill appealing for help to enable them to resist this unjust reduction.

The smiths and hammermen employed at the well-known signal works of Messrs. Saxby and Farmer, at Kilburn, London, have struck work against a proposed reduction of 10 per cent. in their wages. The men are firm in their action.

THE CHAIN MAKERS' STRIKE.—Mr. Thomas Homer, the president of the Chain Makers' Association, to whose energy the success attending this agitation is due, was last week fined £5 and costs for alleged intimidation. At the same time two chain makers were fined £2 each. Notice of appeal was given.

SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE IN THE PADLOCK TRADE.—The operatives at Messrs. Martin and Taylor's, padlock manufacturers, West Bromwich, have agreed to resume work, the notice of 10 per cent. reduction having been withdrawn. The prices previously paid remain as before, except in the common work, which is to be paid for at the same price as given by the Walsall employers, and to be made under the same conditions.

DEPRESSION IN THE LACE TRADE.—The continued depression in the lace trade at Long Eaton has rendered it necessary for many of the masters to close their establishments for a fortnight. The wakes commence on Sunday, after which it is hoped there will be a move. Such a condition of things as exists in Long Eaton has never before been experienced. Many of the hands have not done any work for three months.

THE DISPUTE AT BICKERSHAW COLLIERY.—The dispute between the colliers and the proprietors of the Bickershaw Colliery, Plank Lane, West-leigh, continues. The notice given by the men in the four foot mine to come out in support of those on strike has expired, but it has been deemed advisable to postpone the notice another week in the hope that an amicable settlement may be arrived at. From the second report issued by the strike committee it appears that the sum of £51 4s. 8d. has been contributed towards the support of those who are affected by the dispute.

THREATENED STRIKE IN THE WROUGHT IRON NAIL TRADE.—At a meeting of delegates in the wrought iron nail trade, held at Halesowen on Saturday, a deputation was appointed to wait upon all the nailmakers in the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire districts, calling upon them to pay for all nails at rates 10 per cent. less than the list framed in 1879, which means an advance on present prices. The deputation were instructed to inform the employers that unless they agreed to this the men would strike on the 10th of September. It was stated at the meeting that the wages had been reduced from 55 to 65 per cent. below the lowest price paid under the 1875 list.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS.—A meeting of delegates of the Northumberland miners was held at Newcastle on Thursday, Aug. 25, when, after considering the rules, it was decided that the stoppage, relief, and labour departments be amalgamated, and that there should be only one fund. The effect is that instead of men out of employ being paid 10s. a week, with 1s. a week for children under 12 years of age, they will be paid at the rate of 8s. per week, and nothing for children or rent. It was also decided with respect to Parliamentary representation that a vote should be taken throughout the county as to whether or not money should be paid out of the funds for political purposes.

THE DOCKYARD REDUCTIONS.—Notices were issued last Saturday for a further discharge of men from the boiler department of Sheerness Dockyard, making the second reduction within a month. An order was received from the Admiralty in the afternoon, directing a fortnight's notice to be given the men instead of the week's notice which has hitherto been the custom. Some of the men have served over twenty years under the Government, and will be granted a gratuity of a week's pay for every year of service.—About 300 more of the hired mechanics and labourers were discharged from the dockyard last Saturday. Those of the number who had been working for seven years and upwards received a gratuity of four week's pay.

LIMERICK—THE DOCK LABOURERS' STRIKE.—The dock labourers' strike against the use of steam winches in outputting coal still continues against the Clyde and the Limerick S.S. Company. Their boats now bring on board each trip the number of hands for unloading, in addition to their permanent staff there. Last Saturday night one of these latter, a man named Shaughnessy, was attacked by a party of men, and stones were thrown at the windows of his house. The police dispersed the crowd and arrested two men named Naughton and McCarthy, who were taken before the magistrate and remanded.

THE WEAVERS' STRIKE.—The bulk of the weavers of Messrs. Owtram and Co.'s Castle-street and Manchester mills remain out on strike. The Manchester Mill shed is altogether stopped, but it is stated that a few of the Castle-street hands went to work on the 25th. Up to the present there is no indication of a settlement of the dispute. The whole of the weavers at Fir Trees shed, Higham, near Burnley, tendered a fortnight's notice on the 25th to cease work at the end of 14 days, through not being paid the Blackburn standard list of prices. The masters have given 14 days' notice to other persons employed in the mill. At a public meeting of Burnley weavers, held in the Literary Institute, it was decided to institute collections at the rate of a penny a loom for the maintenance of the weavers now on strike at Barnoldswick and Preston, against reductions in their wages. Mr. David Holmes, president of the Weavers' Amalgamated Association, said the committee were compelled to fight for an improvement in the prices at Preston, or have to meet a general reduction in the velvet trade.

SCOTTISH MINERS FEDERATION.—At a meeting held last week, Mr. R. Chisholm Robertson in the chair, Mr. J. Keir Hardie gave in the report of the deputation which had been in London in connection with the Mines Bill, and pointed out the amendments which had been carried. He believed that by another session, when they introduced an eight hour bill for Scotland, that it would meet with a widely different reception from that given to the amendment moved by Mr. Williamson, as there was not less than 150 members of the House prepared to vote for such a measure. Other business having been transacted, it was agreed that the Federation should

be represented at the forthcoming Trades' Union Congress at Swansea. A motion expressing sympathy with the shale workers in their struggle and recommending their fellows to give them every possible support was also unanimously agreed to.

THE STRIKE AT THE LEE SPINNING COMPANY'S MILL.—The whole of the hands employed by this company, in consequence of the strike of cop winders, clearers, and reelers, ceased work on Friday night. On Tuesday the jenny spinners recommenced, and the following morning the manager sent round to the homes of the doublers asking them to begin work at noon. A number of them put in an appearance, and were requested to go on the clearing frames, but they declined and left the factory at two o'clock. The expedient of employing the scavengers as reelers and clearers was then tried, but did not answer satisfactorily. On Thursday morning the clearers and reelers had an interview with the manager, and after some discussion a compromise was effected. The clearers are to be reduced five per cent. on fine work, and have the old prices for coarse, and the reelers will also be reduced five per cent., but will have assistance in carrying up their bundles and sets down. Afterwards the cop-winders had an interview, and the dispute may now be regarded as settled, the men returning to work at the reduction.

The fifteenth week of the labour dispute in Bolton has terminated without further approach to a settlement. The joint committee of the men are very deliberate in their actions, and have not, as yet, taken decided action upon the Mayor's amended, or alternative, arbitration. A meeting of the joint committee was held on Aug. 28th, for the purpose of submitting to the men lately employed at the machine works of Mr. Richard Threlfall, Salop Street, an offer which had been made by the firm for the settlement of the strike. The offer was in effect that one shilling advance per week should be given to about one-third of the society men now out on strike. The firm had received a deputation from the joint committee, and the offer was reduced to writing. The deputation promised that in the consideration of the offer only the men affected at these particular works would be allowed to take part. The whole of the men—between 30 and 40 in number—were present at the meeting, and the settlement of the matter was left entirely in their hands, the members of the joint committee taking no part. After full discussion a vote was taken by ballot, which resulted in the unanimous rejection of the offer. Several cases of intimidation arising out of the strike have been before the magistrate, and sentence of a month's imprisonment passed in some cases. Importations of workmen continue, but many leave when the condition of affairs become known to them. The strike fund is well supported.

THE SHALE-MINERS' STRIKE.—PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION IN EDINBURGH.—The Edinburgh Trades' Council, at their meeting on Tuesday, August 23, had before them a letter from John Wilson, the Secretary of the Mid and West Lothian Miners' Association, asking whether the Council could see their way to give their assistance in organising a demonstration of the working-men of Edinburgh in support of the shale-miners on strike. The following is an extract:—"No greater struggle has been waged by workmen during the present century. Previous to the formation of their Association twelve months ago, the men were working from 10½ to 11½ hours in the mine. Through its action the hours were reduced to 9 hours from bank to bank. Against this change the companies have always rebelled. The men were enabled to appoint check weighmen, resist indirect partial reduction, and, through their meetings and the press, expose the conduct of the companies' officials. This has been gall and wormwood to them, and now, during the two and a half months of their slack season, they mean to destroy and root out, if possible, each and all of these changes and the organisation that gave them birth. Freedom of speech is a nonentity. The man who speaks in behalf of his fellow-workmen is indirectly edged out of their employment as soon as they can manage it. Besides the extinction of these rights, they mean to enforce a reduction of three shillings and fourpence in the £1, or about 17 per cent., in their wages. The men hitherto have struggled on without disorder of any kind, but one of the leading companies, the Broxburn Oil Company, are taking steps to evict them from their houses. It is their last resource. The men offered to accept half of the reduction. It was refused, and the men were coolly informed that it was the destruction of their combination that was the thing required. This struggle affects a national industry, and all the shale miners of Scotland, and the working-men of Edinburgh, by giving it publicity and material assistance, can and will confer a blessing upon mankind." Mr. Wilson stated that the men were not in the best condition. The money they had been able to raise among themselves and the public had been distributed amongst the most destitute cases. The condition of getting assistance was that it was required. A large portion of the men had been content to stand back, and give whatever assistance was going to their more needy fellows. The proposal was adopted unanimously, and a committee appointed. The intended evictions at Broxburn were strongly condemned, a member remarking that they required badly some Parnells or Healys in Scotland to prevent these taking place.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY STRIKE.—In 1874 the directors of the Midland Railway conceded a six-days' wages guarantee to the goods guards, but they withdrew the concession in 1876 on the plea of "the interests of discipline." What has followed to the guards? Reductions in wages and increased hours of duty, equivalent in all to a 25 per cent. decrease of earnings, and the introduction of the abominated trip system. These facts leave little doubt as to the real objects for which the guarantee was cancelled. The guards struck work in 1876, and again in 1879, against the encroachments on their earnings; and those periods, curiously, mark the beginning of the continuous decline in the dividends of the company. In the 1879 strike the directors were apprehensive that the enginemmen would make common cause with the guards, whereupon Mr. S. Johnson was commissioned to solemnly promise the drivers that their agreement of 1867 should never be tampered with. How honourably has the promise been kept! . . . Let the truth be told, even though directors hide it. The Midland contemplate reducing the average cost of locomotive labour on their line to the same level as that of the London and North-Western Railway, and other competing railways; and the abolition of the six-days' wages guarantee is, as in the case of the guards, an absolutely necessary preliminary step to this end. Other railways have long egged the Midland on to this step, because the conditions enjoyed by the Midland enginemmen encouraged worse paid employes to demand a levelling up. Hence, it came about that several companies joined hands to assist the Midland over the recent strike difficulties, regarding the conflict, in fact, as partly their own. They have done more—taught all railway men that in labour disputes they will have to fight, not one, but all the companies.—EX-SECRETARY of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, in *Pall Mall Gazette*.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The French "Republican" Government has expelled comrade Angel Diaz, a Spanish Socialist living at Dijon. The only reason for his expulsion was that he received Socialist papers from his country! Mind you, Angel Diaz doesn't know the French language! How dangerous he must have been to that "Republican" Government with Monarchical institutions!

We regret to announce that Valadier-Garreau, who acted as a government spy in the trial of the Lyons Anarchists, is still alive. The news of his having been drowned in the lake of Zurich has proved to be without foundation.

The *Cri du Peuple* has reproduced the article of comrades Bax and Morris in the *Commonweal*, last issue, referring to the confession of Lipski, and thoroughly agrees with its views.

GERMANY.

Week after week, and all over Germany, we have only to report of trials, imprisonment, and vexations of all kinds which Socialists have to endure there. We must really wonder at the magnanimity and patience of the German workers, and we are strongly of opinion that if such tyranny prevailed in other countries, Socialists certainly would have long ago made up their minds and appealed to more forcible means. Life in Germany under such miserable conditions seems no longer to be worth living, and it would not astonish us in the least if they became over night all Anarchists! Not only are the Socialists in every nook of the land thrown into prison, but inside the jails they are tortured to death. Breuder died in the House of Force (*Zuchthaus*) of Halle; Christupeit, after several years of ill-treatment, died a fortnight after his release; the brave Lichtensteiger, bodily one of the strongest men I ever saw, succumbed in the same way; another went mad after having undergone several corporal "punishments." Last week a new victim of the ferocious brutality of the prison warders, comrade Schuman, condemned to four years' hard labour, met his death at the Waldheimer prison. It is no longer the police who are everywhere in search of Socialists; the officers of the army have their share in watching their soldiers; the functionaries of the civil services are spies and detectives; and now even the rotten bourgeoisie, as in the case at Ludwighaven, volunteer to render police services and denounce the Socialists to the so-called authorities!

The trial at Cassel ended with the condemnation of ten Socialists to several months of imprisonment.

The *Volks Tribune*, of Berlin, announces that from the 1st of October next it will appear three times a week.

BELGIUM.

Last week the Belgian government once more acted in its usual brutal manner, by ordering a massacre of poor helpless working-men at Ostend. A quarrel arose between English and Belgian fishermen, the former overloading the Ostend fish market with their produce, thus considerably lowering the prices of fish. The Belgian fishermen have to work very hard for mere starvation wages, and seeing that they could no longer maintain their wives and children, they decided to force their English competitors to go back from where they came and sell their fish in England. I will not say that the way in which they acted was a very fair one; but, on the other hand, it must be understood that their action was only the symptomatic effect of a terrible situation, the profound gravity of which can no longer be overlooked, and that the exasperation of the Ostend fishermen against their English competitors has a more serious and sadder cause than a mere trade-rivalry, to wit, misery, hunger, starvation! The Belgian government, certainly the most perfidious and miserable that has been in power since 1830, at once sent its soldiers on the spot in order to settle that question of hunger by means of powder and lead. Two poor fishermen were shot dead, five others have died since from their wounds, and several others are lying in the hospitals waiting to be relieved from their sufferings! How long shall this situation continue to exist?

AUSTRIA.

The *Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung*, the journal of the Communist Club, Tottenham Street, has been prohibited here. This certainly will not matter much! The strike at Falkenau has come to an end, the workers having obtained weekly payment, as they wished, and the promise that no striker shall lose his work.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Government disposes of a yearly total sum of 1,800,000 roubles (£360,000), as stated by several papers last week, in order to buy the support of Western Europe. The papers who are in the pay of the Autocrat are divided into three categories: 1. Those who print all that is sent to them; these journals receive yearly 5,000 roubles and upwards, according to their importance. 2. Those who are only requested to speak in good terms of the autocratic government; this sort of scribblers are paid the total sum of 200,000 to 300,000 roubles a-year. 3. Those who insert from time to time an article sent in by the Russian diplomatic agent; such an article, according to its importance, is paid from 6,000 to 10,000 roubles. There are in Western Europe 89 papers in the pay of Russia: 16 in France, 4 in England, 28 in Germany, 20 in Austria, 18 in Italy, Hungary, Servia, Roumania, etc., 3 in Poland. Out of the total amount granted for that object, 900,000 roubles are still to be distributed. We are sure they will not remain "unproductive" for a long time: a bourgeois paper to be sold is a very common merchandise indeed! D.

EJECTING COLLIERIES ON STRIKE.—At the Linlithgow County Court, on Wednesday, the Broxburn Oil Company presented 121 petitions before Sheriff-substitute Melville for warrants to eject the total number of families from their houses in the vicinity of the company's shale mines at Broxburn. The dispute between the employers and the men, which has now lasted seven weeks, seems as far as ever from being settled, and the company, in order to clear the men out of the district and to make room for others, issued summonses against a number of men occupying the company's houses. Since the summonses were issued 30 of the men have cleared out, and are now located in the neighbourhood, some in temporary huts and others in tents, and others are being sheltered by their friends. Sheriff Melville granted the decrees of ejectment, with 10s. costs against each of the respondents who had not quitted their houses.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"HONOURS"

Several advertisements of Messrs. Sonnenschein having recently been issued in which the initials "M.A." are appended to my name, I should like to state, as I am not an M.A. nor can lay claim to any academical honours, that I am in no way responsible for the above ascription of such honours to myself. The occurrence is doubtless a pure accident, due to inadvertence on the part of the publishers or their agent. E. BELFORD BAX.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

London Members.—The Monthly Meeting of London Members will be held on Monday next September 5th, at 9 p.m.

Co-operative Store.—The Committee attend at the offices at 8.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. All Groceries can be had at current store prices. Orders over 10s. will be delivered carriage paid in London.

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, Hammer-smith, Mitcham, Walsall to July 31.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Weekly Subscriptions—E. B. B., 1s. K. F., 1s. C. J. F., 2s. W. B., 6d. J. L., 6d. P. W., 6d. Liednub, 6d. Oxford Branch, 2s. Hammersmith Branch (3 weeks), £1 10s. Hackney Branch (5 weeks), 2s. 6d.

P. WEBB, Treasurer, Aug. 30.

REPORTS.

[Note.—Senders of Reports would greatly help if they would avoid unnecessary wordiness. Our space is limited.]

BLOOMSBURY.—The monthly general meeting of members was held on Thursday last, at which it was decided to start a new open-air station at Clarendon Square, Ossulton Street, Euston Road, on Monday evenings. The first meeting was held here on Monday last, and in spite of a slight rain a large crowd listened to comrades Dalziel and Bartlett. There was a large meeting at St. Pancras Arches on Sunday morning, addressed by Dalziel, Bartlett, and Porter. There is evidence that the persistent efforts of the Bloomsbury Branch have resulted in awakening the workers of the district to a sense of their position.—U.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, August 24, William Morris lectured on "The Policy of Abstention from Parliamentary Action." The hall was crowded, and a lively discussion followed. On Sunday, August 28, H. Samuels lectured on "Socialism and Parliamentary Action." Brisk debate followed. *Commonweal* and other literature has steady sale.—A. T. and W. B.

HACKNEY.—Last Sunday we opened a new station at Warner Place; meeting addressed by Graham. There were about 300 present, and we distributed about 70 *Commonweal*.

HOXTON.—The usual outdoor meetings on Thursday evening at 8, and Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, were held opposite Hoxton church, several members of the branch attending and speaking. Good sale of *Commonweal*. On Sunday, in the hall, Thos. Shore, jun., lectured on "Land Nationalisation," followed by an interesting discussion.—C. J. Y.

KINGSLAND GREEN.—On Sunday morning, a good meeting was held here, addressed by John Allman and Turner.—J. F.

MILE END AND BETHNAL GREEN.—On Tuesday last, a good meeting was held on Mile End Waste, addressed by Davis and Brooks. On Sunday, J. Pope, Davis, and Lane spoke at usual meeting in Victoria Park. Some questions were asked and satisfactorily answered. Fair sale of *Commonweal*.—H. M.

MITCHAM.—We held good meetings last Sunday on Mitcham Fair Green in the morning and evening. We met with some opposition from the Salvation Army in the morning, but a resolution was carried by a large majority that we should strongly resist their attempt at our suppression. The meeting was addressed by Kitz and Wardle in the morning, in the evening by Kitz, Eden, Bull, and Wardle. Collected 1s. *Commonweal* sold out.—R. C.

STAMFORD HILL.—On Sunday, at 6.30, Flockton, Brooks, and Parker addressed a good meeting. Four names given in for branch.—J. F.

CLAY CROSS.—A good open-air meeting was held on Tuesday evening, August 23rd. Our comrade John Furniss spoke on "Socialism, and must we always remain Poor?" G. Smith was in the chair. A few words were also addressed by Turner and Unwin. Furniss urged the workers to unite against the common enemy, and not fight amongst themselves in isolated groups; showing what a much better life was open to us when we learn to form ourselves into a united brotherhood. He also spoke of the successful attempt that a few of them were making, in spite of the evil conditions, to live as Communists.—R. U.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday afternoon, Paterson and Downie addressed a good meeting at Cambuslang. Audience very sympathetic, and at the close of the speeches cheers for the social revolution given. Meetings will shortly be held with the view to the formation of a branch of the League. On Sunday forenoon, Glasier, Downie, and Paterson spoke on Jail Square, and in the afternoon Glasier, Bullock, and Paterson spoke at Paisley Road Toll. In the evening a large and enthusiastic audience assembled to hear Glasier, Bullock, and Paterson. Questions were invited, and an Orange missionary named Long (a friendly opponent of Mr. Bradlaugh's) entered the ring, and an exciting discussion was carried on for more than an hour. The immense audience was entirely with Glasier, and his clear exposition of the principles of Socialism was loudly applauded. *Commonweal* sold well at all the meetings, and 4s. 6d. collected for the Broxburn miners.—J. M. B.

IRSWICH.—On Sunday, Darley and Morley, of Norwich, spoke here. A wet morning interfered somewhat with our first meeting. We, however, did well. A fine afternoon made altogether a different affair of it, several hundreds listening to the speakers. Literature sold well. Three new members made.—J. R.

NORTH SHIELDS.—A meeting on the New Quay on Sunday morning, at 11, was addressed by Pease (of Newcastle) and John Comb (of Seghill Colliery), and they were very closely listened to by all present.—J. J.

NORWICH.—We had our comrade Sparling with us on Sunday. A good meeting was held in the Market-place, addressed by Sparling, who gave great satisfaction. Papers sold well. A good meeting was held on the Agricultural Hall Plain at 7. Sparling addressed a crowded meeting at the Gordon Hall at 8, on "The Old English Guilds," which pleased all present. Two comrades went to Ipswich and held two meetings with the comrades there. Collection was made for the Propaganda Fund.—T. M.

WEDNESBURY.—Sanders and Weaver, of Walsall Branch, addressed a large and animated meeting in the Market Place, on Thursday. There is great promise of success here.—J. M.

BILSTON.—Sanders opened up new ground at Bilston. He had to pay the market toll, 5d., and was attentively listened to by a very large crowd.

BIRCHILLS, WALSALL.—Sanders held a meeting for the first time at Birchills, on the outskirts of Walsall. Meeting very satisfactory.—J. T. D.

BIRMINGHAM.—Large meeting held on evening of August 28th by Donald at Council House, while Sanders and Weaver at same time addressed meeting at Bull Ring. Good sale of literature.—J. B.

DARLSTON.—Sanders addressed meeting on Saturday. We have been here once or twice before, always well received.

DUBLIN.—At the Labour League on Thursday, August 25, J. S. Hall lectured on the "Wrongs of the Working-classes and their Remedies," advocating most of the platform of the S.D.F. The views of the lecturer were opposed by Gabriel, Keegan, and Fitzpatrick, and supported by Killen and Karpel.

DUDLEY.—Our meeting here is thus reported in the *Evening Express and Star* for August 24:—"WALSALL SOCIALISTS AT DUDLEY.—Messrs. Sanders and Webb, agents of the Socialist League, from Walsall, commenced to address a meeting of working-men on Tuesday evening, in the Dudley Market-place. Police-sergeant Sansome ordered them to move on, the holding of such meetings being contrary to the regulations. Mr. Sanders defended his right to sell the League publications and speak in the Market-place, and offered to pay the customary toll if that was what was required. The toll collector, however, was not present, and the officer contented himself with taking Mr. Sander's name and address, for the purpose of reporting the matter to Mr. Chief-superintendent Burton. The meeting then proceeded, Mr. Sanders contending that he who came to speak to working-men about their rights and wrongs had an equal right to the use of the Market-place as Church and Salvation Armies, jugglers, and mountebanks. After offering for sale the *Commonweal* and other Socialistic publications, he delivered a few remarks on capital and labour, which were earnestly listened to by a large gathering."

GREAT BRIDGE.—Donald held usual meeting in Market-place; good crowd listened. Several of Mr. Bradlaugh's disciples were on the scene, one of whom was firmly convinced that Mr. Bradlaugh is a Land Nationaliser. Donald invited the man to write to the celebrated M.P. on the subject and bring the letter down to the next meeting.

NORWICH.—On Friday, good meeting held by Henderson at the gate of Colman's works, Carrow. Many of the great mustard monopolist's employes are already Socialists, while many others are "not far off from grace." A most attentive hearing was given; meeting is to be held weekly in future. Saturday evening, Henderson spoke in Haymarket. Rain somewhat spoiled Sunday morning's Market-place meeting, but in evening Henderson addressed a great gathering there. *Commonweal* sold out.

OLDBURY.—Deakin addressed meeting on Friday. The people are exceedingly poor, but were much interested in the address.—J. T. D.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS.—On Sunday, August 21st, we held an open-air meeting at 3 o'clock, John Furnace, J. Bullas, and Mrs. Usher were the speakers. On Monday evening, Bullas and Story addressed a large meeting at Bramhall Lane. A great many questions were asked and answered.—M. A. M.

TIPTON.—Large meeting addressed by Donald at Tipton, on Wednesday. This is the first Socialist meeting that has been held there. A little interruption from a Tory corn-dealer was quickly stopped on the crowd threatening to bonnet the offender.

WEST BROMWICH.—Donald opened up new ground at this town on Monday. Large meeting, and address attentively listened to.

WILLENHALL.—Donald addressed a meeting of lockmakers on Saturday afternoon near the Market-place.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Saturday evening, Weaver and Donald held a meeting at the Prince Consort Statue. It was decidedly the best meeting that has been held in the district. The crowd was enormous. A number of objectors and interrupters attempted to break up the meeting, but the men very soon learnt these worthies how to behave. As Donald got off the chair a sergeant of police ordered him off. On Donald remonstrating the constable drew his baton, and was going to give every one a lesson, but a little firmness made the bully hold his hand. A serious riot might have occurred owing to the behaviour of this nuisance. The crowd told us to be sure and come back.

WOOLWICH.—Sunday evening, Burns, S.D.F., spoke at the Arsenal Gates to at least 700, on "Trades' Unionism," and completely carried his hearers with him. No opposition was offered, and at the close of the meeting we collected for the Bolton strike 11s. 4d. Large quantity of literature sold.—R. B.

YARMOUTH.—Best meeting yet held at Yarmouth addressed by Henderson on Quay, Thursday last. *Commonweal* sale good.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

Galashiels.—Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd, very large and attentive. Branch being organised here.

Cowdenbrath.—On Friday a meeting was held at the Old Toll House. In spite of the rain the audience listened with great attention. Six new members enrolled, and a good number of *Commonweal* sold. This

branch is doing well. The miners take considerable interest in the business, and are eager to hear Socialist speakers.

Dysart and Dumferline.—Meetings postponed.

Lochie.—First meeting held here was addressed by Mahon and Gilray, of Edinburgh. The audience, though not large, was very attentive. Literature sold well. Several names taken for a branch, and arrangements for another meeting made.

Dundee.—Mahon's second visit to this town resulted in a very large increase of members, the holding of a series of most successful meetings, and a good impetus to the movement generally. On Saturday night a good meeting was held, and an address delivered in front of the Bank. On Sunday three lectures at different places were given on "Objections to Socialism refuted," "The Irish Question, economical and political," and "The Means of Realising the Results of Socialism." Plenty of questions and discussion, and good sale of literature. All Socialists in Dundee are requested to send their names and addresses to A. Simpson, 10, Ford-lane.

Edinburgh.—Sunday afternoon Smith and Tuke spoke in the Grassmarket. It was made evident that we are making some impression on the people there, by our old ground being occupied by six or seven gospel temperance speakers, who were loudly denouncing the Socialists. Smith ably explained the true cause poverty, viz., robbery, and not drunkenness. The same two speakers spoke in the Queen's Park in the evening to an audience numbering about 500. A good collection was made at the close of the meeting.

CHAS. WM. TUKE, sec.

—: Several Reports unavoidably crowded out:—

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Sept. 1, Fred. Lessner, "Socialism on the Continent." 8th. G. B. Shaw, a lecture. 15th. Sidney Webb, "The Political Duty of Socialists." 22nd. Hubert Bland, "State Intervention." 29th. P. Barry, "Scientific Boycotting."

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday September 4, at 8. 30 p.m. A Free Concert. Wednesday Sept. 7, at 8.30, H. H. Sparling, "The Labour Struggle." 11th. T. E. Wardle. 14th. Fredk. Lessner, "Continental Socialism." 18th. Free Concert by Wm. Blundell and Friends. 21st. Mr. Varley, "Socialistic Co-operation."

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

Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Sept. 4, at 8 p.m. C. J. Faulkner, "Law and War."

Hoxton (L. E. L.).—Globe Coffee House, 227 High St., Hoxton. On Sunday Sept. 4, at 8, C. J. Fitzgerald will lecture—subject, "Ancient and Modern Robbers." On Saturday, at 8.30 prompt, Special Members' Meeting to consider the affair of Crondall St.

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. Members and those intending to join Branch are requested to attend Business Meeting on Thursday Sept. 1.

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.—Secy. (*pro tem.*), Jas. Malcolmson, 3 Arras Street.

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

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

Dublin.—Irish Labour League, Carpenters' Hall, 75 Augier Street, every Thursday at 8 p.m. Discussion on all subjects connected with Labour Question. *Dundee.*—Business Meeting of Branch, Granite Hall, Overgate, 8 p.m.

Dysart (Fife).—Secy., A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St. *Edinburgh (Scottish Section).*—4 Park Street. Important business meeting on Thursday at 8 p.m., after which paper read by a member.

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 Sept. 4, 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.

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

Walsall.—Temperance Hall. Branch meeting every Monday.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 4.

9.30...Starch Green Hammersmith Brnch
11.30...Garrett—"Plough Inn" The Branch
11.30...Hackney—"Salmon and Ball" Graham
11.30...Hanmersmith—Beacon Road The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield Street Pope
11.30...Kingsland Green Brooks
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road The Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green J. Allman
11.30...Regent's Park Nicoll
11.30...St. Pancras Arches Dalziel & Bartlett
11.30...Walham Green Barker
3 ...Hyde Park Mainwaring
6 ...Stamford Hill J. J. Allman & Wardle
6 ...Victoria Park Brooks & Westwood
6.30...Hackney Road—Warner Place Graham
7 ...Clerkenwell Green Sparling

Monday.

8 ...Polygon, Somers Town Dalziel & Bartlett

Tuesday.

8 ...Ossulton St., Euston Rd. Nicoll
8 ...Mile-end Waste J. Allman & Flockton

Wednesday.

8 ...Broadway, London Fields, Graham & Flockton

Thursday.

8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield Street ... J. J. Allman
WOOLWICH.—Arsenal Gates, Sunday Sept. 4, at 7 o'clock—James Macdonald.

PROVINCES.

Bilston.—Saturday 10th, 7 p.m.—Sanders.

Birmingham.—Sunday 4th, Bull Ring, 6.30—Weaver; Council House, 7.30—Weaver. Sunday 11, Bull Ring, 6.30—Donald; Council House, 7.30—Donald.

Bloxwich.—Friday 9th, 7 p.m.—Weaver.

Darlaston.—Saturday 10th, 5.30 p.m.—Sanders.

Dudley.—Tuesday 6th, 7 p.m.—Sanders.

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

Cambuslang.—Saturday at 7 p.m.

Great Bridge.—Tuesday 6th, 7 p.m.—Donald.

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.

Oldbury.—Friday 9th, 7 p.m.—Sanders.

Pelsall.—Wed. 7, 7 p.m.—Deakin, Donald, & Sanders.

Tipton.—Wed. 7th, 7 p.m.—Weaver.

Walsall.—Monday 5th, 7 p.m.—Sanders.

Walsbury.—Thursday 8th, 7 p.m.—Donald.

West Bromwich.—Monday 5th, 7 p.m.—Weaver.

Willenhall.—Saturday 10th, 5.30 p.m.—Donald.

Wolverhampton.—Saturday 10th, 6.30 p.m.—Weaver; 7.30—Donald.

FRED HENDERSON'S NORFOLK MEETINGS.

Yarmouth.—Thursday, on the Quay at 7.30.

Carrow.—Friday, at 1.30, at Colman's gate.

Norwich.—Friday, at 7, outside Howlett and White's, Saturday at 8, Haymarket. Sunday at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., Market Place.

St Faith's.—Sunday at 3, on the Green.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

MEETINGS—SEPTEMBER.

Sat. 3.—*Burntisland* Links, 4 p.m.
Leith, foot of Walk, 7 p.m.

Sun. 4.—*Leith*. Foot of Walk, 11 a.m.
Edinburgh. Grassmarket, 3 p.m.; *Queen's Park* 6.30 p.m.; *Mound*, 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 7.—*Edinburgh*, Hunter's Square, 7.30 p.m.

Special Notice.—On Saturday October 15 a Concert will be held in aid of the 'Commonweal' Fund at 13 Farringdon Road, concluding with an original Dramatic Sketch by members and Friends.

A Free Concert will be held at the Hackney Club on Saturday September 3rd, at 8.30 p.m. At the close there will be a collection in aid of the Funds of the Branch. All members of the League invited.

THE BLOOMSBURY BRANCH of the Socialist League desires to appeal to readers of the *Commonweal* for help for the wife and family of comrade English, who has recently died. English was one of the originators of the Bloomsbury Branch, and for many years was an ardent and energetic worker for the Cause. After a long and painful illness he at last succumbed, leaving his family destitute. Contributions will be gladly received and acknowledged by the secretary of the Branch at the Communist Club, 49 Tottenham St., W., or by comrade Lessner.