

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

VOL. 3.—No. 100.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1887.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

A CERTAIN Mr. Pynes offered a petition to Lord Hartington as he made his triumphal entry into Dublin the other day, and his lordship declining in a royal way to accept it, Mr. Pynes adventurously threw it into the carriage, whereupon the police arrested him and he was brought before a magistrate next day; but luckily for him he was in Dublin and not in London (where there is no Coercion Act), so the magistrate dismissed the charge.

"The police, excited by the hooting, behaved like ruffians, and dealt blows with clenched fists to utterly harmless individuals who had remained within arm's length."—*Daily News*.

What! is the *Daily News* coming round, then? Why, we shall have Mr. Gladstone next taking some notice of the bludgeoning of "harmless individuals" by our "admirable police"—Nay, stop a little! This report is from *Paris*, not *London*!

For the information of our comrades and other readers in the country I should mention that, however incredible the account of the behaviour of the police to the prisoners of Bloody Sunday, as published by the *Pall Mall*, may seem to them, there is no doubt that it is true, and they must believe in it. Indeed, after all, is there anything to wonder at in it? Such brutality is the blossom of the slum-life enforced on the "lower classes" by our civilisation. Enlist that brutality in the service of a class whose one business is to uphold the oppression on which it lives; when occasion demands it, harass your enlisted brutality by sending it fools' errands up and down, and down and up; make it clear to the servants of law and order that in such service they can only commit one fault—to wit, behaving civilly and decently; promote men like Mr. Superintendent Shepherd, to show your "admirable police" what model they should follow; and then sit down quietly and without fear, enwrapped in your respectability, and you may be quite sure of the results.

The preliminary trial of Cunningham Graham and Burns in Bow Street was curious to witness and sufficiently damaging to the Government and its tool Wooden Warren—*i.e.*, it would have been if the evidence for the defence had not been suppressed by the daily papers. Of course if Mr. Vaughan had not been practically under orders he must have dismissed the case, but equally of course it was more than his place was worth to do. The police gave their evidence in the usual way, and if there is any truth in an old saw, there must be few pots in the neighbourhood which have kept their legs, especially after Shepherd had done *his* duty. He was well "sorted" by Mr. Asquith in cross-examination: the latter, by the way, was a brilliant contrast to that Knight of the Doleful Countenance, Mr. Poland, and I am really sorry that he is a lawyer.

The evidence for the defence was so clear and unanswerable that Poland had nothing for it but the regular traditional brow-beating, which served his turn very poorly, not only, as was to be expected, with such an old stager as Mr. Bradlaugh, or with Mr. Hyndman (who he had the impudence to ask to give the names of the others who formed the group about Mr. Graham and Burns), but even with the ordinary witnesses. In short, Poland tried hard to establish that the Government had with great difficulty quelled a dangerous riot headed by the defendants, and only succeeded in showing that the police attacked Graham and Burns as they attacked other citizens on that day.

Of course, unless the jury is very well packed, our friends will be acquitted; but one can't help asking, supposing Burns had been by himself, what would have happened? And again, how about the victims of the drum-head court-martial, with no clever Mr. Asquith (he is clearly very clever) to defend them, and no respectable witnesses like Sir E. J. Reid and Mr. Bradlaugh on their side? We shall have to ask, as we asked before, if these men are acquitted or only have a formal sentence, what is to be done to compensate the defenceless men who have been sentenced, and what ignominious punishment is to be meted out to their sentencers?

I came in for a quaint little piece of coercion last Friday. I had been invited to lecture on Socialism and the "disturbances" in London in the parish school-room at Buscott, a little village high up the Thames, by the rector, our friend Mr. Oswald Birchall. It had been

agreed some little time back by the squire and other village magnates, who at the time wanted the said school-room for Primrose League purposes, that it should be free to speakers of all parties; so I went down expecting the usual quiet meeting; but at the last minute the said magnates forbade the meeting, I believe on the grounds that they expected a riot if I showed there. Then they stole a march on Mr. Birchall by locking up the room and taking the key away and "picketing" the room to send away anyone who might come to the meeting. We tried to get the publican to let us have a room, which, however, he declined to do, fearing, not without reason, the wrath of the squire and farmers. However, things went pretty well, as, in spite of all precautions, a few of the right sort had gathered round the school-room and with these we adjourned to the rectory, where we had a very useful meeting, the men listening very attentively and sympathetically. The true story of the "riots" was clearly quite new to them, the *Pall Mall* (not to speak of the *Commonweal*) being of course tabooed in the neighbourhood; but they were clearly much impressed by it, and will spread it about wherever they go. I may say that men like this are not slow to learn the facts of their present position, their slavery to the farmers being so direct that it presses on them every day. A good distribution of leaflets would be fruitful among such men; though many of them cannot read, they would get them read to them.

Mr. Thompson did his best to get a mandamus to compel Mr. Vaughan to hear evidence about the police attack on November 20th on a band of harmless processionists. It was a matter of course that the two "Justices" stuck close to their brother Nupkins of Bow Street, but it is not a very cheering prospect for those who believe that the law will do anything to protect "discontented" people; whether they are "discontented" at having the results of their labour stolen in the lump, or at having their musical instruments stolen every now and then directly to the tune of "Wigs on the Green."

A show of pet dogs opened at St. Stephen's Hall is a good example of the way in which labour is organised amongst us at present, to produce luxuries and to stint the people of necessities, to say nothing of comforts. Perhaps Alderman Knight will suggest that some of the unemployed should have the job of combing the dogs.

Meantime, poor Linnell lies dead, slain by what, I suppose the bourgeois press, when they are forced to say something about it, will call a "lamentable accident." It is, however, the kind of "accident" which is likely to become common enough as, on the one hand, the workers become conscious of the fact that they are robbed of the greater part of their earnings, and become less and less inclined to put up with it, and as on the other hand those who live by the robbery get more and more frightened and therefore more and more repressive.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin is sent to prison, in spite of all his state in a sort of mediæval fashion: but the authorities have been afraid of sending him as a proper prisoner, and so have spoiled their joke in a very contemptible manner. I remember when I was a boy I used to hear a good deal about "gentlemen-farmers" (a profession which I suppose has now ceased to exist, what between agricultural depression and the elevation of all farmers to the rank of gentlemen). It seems as if a similar addition must be made in these cases also, and that some people must serve their time as gentlemen-prisoners. The Lord Mayor deserves and has our condolence in having to submit to this insult of gentlemanliness.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

A VOICE FROM AMERICA.

[The following brief account of the events which led to the murder of five working-men and the living death of three others, shows how seriously this terrible and shameful event has stirred people in America in contrast with the interested lying silence of our bourgeois press and the lamentable apathy (the result of ignorance one would fain hope) of our working-classes.—Ed.]

THE EIGHT HOURS' MOVEMENT.

IN October, 1884, the Federation of Trade and Labour Unions of the United States and Canada, then in Session in Chicago, resolved that on and after the first day of May, 1886, eight hours should constitute a day's work, and determined to use every endeavour to make the movement a success. In November, 1885, a few individuals in Chicago met and organised the "Eight Hour Association of Chicago." They issued a manifesto, and concluded with the following words, to-day full of significance: "Do you think that capitalists are justified in using

all the powers of the Government and Society to reduce the working people to wage-slavery, and to accumulate all the results of societary work in the hands of a small number of millionaires and soulless corporations, and in case of a general movement for eight hours' daily work among the people of the United States, would you demand the interference of the army, police, and sheriff's posse, and employ Pinkerton's hirelings and other mercenaries to coerce the people into submission, and would not such course if adopted inevitably lead to bloodshed, chaos, destruction, and social death?"

Owing to the activity of this Association the movement became general in Chicago, and other cities aimed at emulating it by their co-operation. During the beginning of the agitation our now murdered and imprisoned comrades held aloof from it, not because they were opposed to a reduction of the hours of labour, but because the movement did not strike at the root of the evil. But eventually they were carried away by the overwhelming enthusiasm, and gave it their full support. Possessing the confidence of the great body of wage-workers, whose cause they had for years espoused, they naturally became the champions of the movement owing to their recognised ability, intelligence, and sincerity. Both sides were preparing themselves actively for the great conflict on the coming 1st of May. On the 16th of February, 1886, McCormick's Harvester factory was closed down, and 1200 men were locked out. The dispute arose over a demand on the part of the men that a guarantee should be given that no man in the factory or any one serving on an eight hour committee should be discharged for having acted as a representative of his comrades. This was absolutely refused. On the 2nd of March the locked out men assembled in mass meeting, and were addressed at length by A. R. Parsons and Michel Schwab. The meeting had been called not only for the purpose of stating their grievances, but to protest against the armed force which had been enlisted against them—four hundred uniformed police and three hundred Pinkerton detectives, all armed to the teeth. To beseech an employé not to take the place of another became an attack on the State, and the armed men employed by the State came forth at the behest of capitalists, struck down the peaceable citizens, clubbed and searched them, and cast them into the patrol wagons and hustled them off to prison. The banditti of "law and order" maintained the legal right of capital to do what it pleased with labour, and the authorised "pickpockets" searched every workman for weapons of defence. These stormy scenes but intensified the general feeling of resistance and determination to unite in making the strike of May 1st universal.

THE CHICAGO RIOTS.

The eventful day at last arrived. Fully 25,000 men laid down their tools, and by the 4th of May this number was doubled.

On the 1st of May, the Chicago *Daily Mail* used the following sentence in an editorial: "These two fellows, Parsons and Spies, have been at work fomenting disorder for the last ten years. . . . Mark them to-day. Keep them in view. Hold them personally responsible for any trouble that occurs. *Make an example of them if trouble does occur!*"

On the 3rd of May the strike had become general. On that day a riot occurred near the McCormick works, arising out of an attack by the strikers on the "scabs" who had taken their places. Police and Pinkertonians were quickly hurried to the spot, and opening a murderous fire soon cleared the field. It was to protest against the growing tendency to shoot workmen on slight provocation that the now famous meeting at the Haymarket was called. Six men were killed and many wounded by the murderous attack of the order bandits on the McCormick men.

On the 4th of May the following handbill was scattered broadcast through the streets of Chicago:—

"Attention, working-men! Great mass meeting to-night at 7.30 o'clock at the Haymarket, Randolph Street, between Desplaines and Halsted. Good speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious acts of the police—the shooting of our fellow-workmen yesterday afternoon.—The Executive Committee."

An immense mass meeting assembled in the Haymarket. Spies spoke first for about twenty minutes. Then Parsons spoke. The audience was very quiet and attentive. Parsons confined himself to the eight hour question. Fielden began to speak at about 10 o'clock. Soon after a dark and threatening cloud moved up from the north. Two-thirds of the people fearing it would rain left the meeting. Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, inspected the meeting. On leaving, he called at Desplaine's police-station, told Captain Bonfield that the speeches were tame, the meeting peaceable, and that he might order the reserves to go home.

When the people left the meeting in swarms, Fielden, who was then on the stand, said: "Stay just a minute longer; I will conclude presently." One minute later 200 policemen formed into line at the intersection of Randolph Street, and marched upon the little crowd in double-quick step. Raising his club in an authoritative way, Captain Ward, addressing his words to Fielden, said: "In the name of the people of the State of Illinois, I command this meeting to disperse." "Captain, this is a peaceable meeting," retorted Fielden, while the Captain turned around to his men and gave the command, "Charge upon them." At this juncture a terrible detonation occurred. A bomb exploded in the lines of the policemen. In an instant the fusillade of the police began. Everybody was running. All this was unexpected, as if suddenly a cloud had burst. Immediately after the explosion the police pulled their revolvers and fired on the crowd. An incessant fire was kept up for nearly two minutes, and at least 200

shots were fired. The air was filled with bullets. The crowd ran up the streets and alleys, and were fired on by the now thoroughly infuriated police. Many of the crowd had taken refuge in the halls or entrances of halls and saloons. As the firing ceased they ventured forth, and were instantly fired upon by the police. At half-past eleven, curiosity and a desire to find friends drew a large number to the spot, and another charge was made and two volleys were fired, which dispersed the crowd. The capitalistic *Tribune* confesses in plain words: "Goaded to madness the police were in that state of mind which permitted of no resistance, and in a measure they were as dangerous as any mob of Communists, for they were blinded by passion." Eight police were killed or died in consequence of wounds received; sixty-six police were disabled. About seventy working-men were wounded; how many were killed and wounded could never be truly ascertained, as they were mostly picked up by friends and relatives and carried home.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

(To be continued.)

"BROKEN CISTERNS."

(Continued from p. 387.)

THIS brings us to the examination of such phrases used by the workers as "There are too many of us," "There is not work enough for us all"; and the ideas which give rise to these expressions also give rise to many of the doings of workers which are so much objected to. Why does the plumber make a hole in the gas-pipe just where it will be hardest to get at? It will find work when the leak is discovered and has to be set right. Why does he rejoice in a frost? For the same reason; it bursts pipes and finds work. Why do men in making and repairing machinery not like to make too good a job of it? It would last too long; they want to see it back again to find them work. What is the foundation for this idea which underlies so much of the action of working men? It is that they are wage-workers; they get no wage except they get work, therefore they desire work. The political economists try to show them and others that if a fire reduces the amount of wealth it must reduce the amount of wages, that bad work which needs doing again leaves so much less to pay wages in another direction. But here they lose sight of the fact that wages are a share of a much larger whole—namely, the produce of the country. Now any increase of that share is a gain to the workers. If by the destruction of a certain portion of wealth in the larger share the workers have more wages it matters not to them whether the total wealth is reduced thereby. The same applies to the introduction of machinery. It is always said that though it throws out of work men in that line it creates a greater demand in another line; but this is not always so, for we must remember that the workers only get one-third of the amount saved—only one-third goes in wages, two-thirds is consumed by non-producers.

Another great source of such actions as I have described above by the plumber, is the competition between different trades for their share of the general purchasing power. This is a branch of competition which has not received as much attention as some others. It is not only that grocer competes against grocer, plumber against plumber, but grocer competes against draper and plumber against confectioner. The frost which is a harvest to the plumber, or the hole he puts in the pipe which finds him another job, takes so much from others; for if a man has an income of two pounds a-week, if ten shillings has to go to the plumber there is ten shillings less to go to grocer, draper, etc. This competition helps the general glut, for not only is each competitor trying to get a large share of the effective demand, but each trade as a whole is trying for a larger share. It is also the cause of partial gluts; each trade tries to persuade the public that it wants a larger proportion of its goods, and offers constant temptations in the form of novelties. After the issue of each successful novelty there is a rush on that trade for a while, but the public are soon satisfied, and go off on another trade, leaving the former one with heaps of stuff for which there is no demand. This constant fluctuation of the amount of work, and so of employment, required in each trade causes a vast amount of uncertainty and misery to the workers. Even in times of general prosperity some freak of fashion will often throw a whole district into poverty, and while the capitalists lose their profits the workers starve. These freaks of fashion are of course sometimes started by the public themselves, but are often the result of competition between firms or trades.

Surely in a rational society demand should come before and be the gauge of supply; now, supply seeks to force demand. Let the people choose what they want, and want things before they are thrust at them, instead of having a thousand trades shouting in their ears "Spend your shilling in this," and this, and this. Tons of rubbish would never be produced but for this forced demand; the proportion between trades would be fairly constant but for this; and the amount of useless work and of misery saved would be simply enormous.

Competition between nations is another form which tends always to reduce the wages of all competing countries down to the level of the lowest amongst them. The employers are constantly pointing to some other country and saying to the workers, "See, their labourers work so many hours longer each day for so many shillings less wages; how can I compete with them?" Then down comes their wages.

This brings us to another root-cause of much of the evil which we want to set right—namely, the opposition of interest between the

employers and employed. The economists try to show that their interests are one and the same; they say that good times are good for both and bad times bad for both; that high wages and high profits go together. This may all be true, but it does not show that their interests are the same. Two animals fighting for a carcase are in the same fix, the larger the carcase the better for both, the larger the share of the stronger the more he is likely to allow the weaker to get. Yet, are their interests the same? Each wants the whole, and they fight for it. Why are wages highest when profits are, and lowest when profits are lowest? Why, because the employer takes care to have fifty per cent. profit before he gives twenty per cent. rise in wages. But wages are a share, and when two are fighting for the larger share their interests are hardly identical. The master wants to get as much work as he can for as little pay, and he wants to produce his goods with as little labour as possible; on the other hand, the men want to get as much pay as possible for the smallest amount of labour, and they want to put as much labour as possible into the goods, for the more labour the more men are provided with wages. This opposition is at the root of most of the disputes between men and masters; it is the reason why the State has had to step in and compel the employers not to push their interest further than a certain point; to make them responsible to some extent for any accident happening to their men; to make them take precautions against accident; or to force them not to make contracts with women and children which shall keep them at work more than a certain number of hours a-day. This opposition of interest is at the root of a very great deal of the evil we are seeking to remedy, and no reform which leaves this opposition will bring a satisfactory issue.

We may then sum up this search for the causes of our evils into three main heads, first, bad distribution or unjust division of the produce of labour; second, competition in all its different forms, some of which only have been touched on here, others were referred to in a former article. The forms dealt with in this were competition between manufacturers causing or hastening gluts, competition between different trades, and competition between nations tending to lower wages to the level of the lowest standard. One result of competition I have not named is the enormous waste of labour there is in the armies of men whose sole business is to carry on this competition, such as many business managers, all commercial travellers, agents, advertisers, with all the attendant adjuncts of each; it is sufficient here to name this, we all realise it in our every day experience. The third cause is the opposition of interest between employers and employed. This might be called another form of competition, but I think is better kept separate, as it is of a rather different nature to ordinary competition, though ordinary competition gives rise to opposition of interest, in fact our whole system consists of warfare more or less veiled, every man is fighting against his neighbours and every association against every other.

Having traced our evils somewhat to their sources, we shall now be in a better position to judge whether trades unions and co-operation can either or both go to the root of the evils and remove the three main causes we have seen. The real aim of trades unions is to raise wages in one way or other, either by increasing the money wage, reducing the hours worked, or improving the conditions under which work is done. It assumes that the workers are always going to be wage workers and therefore that their interests will always be opposed to those of the masters. This being the case it seeks to organise the workers in such a way that they shall be in a position to dictate terms to their masters. We saw that this opposition of interest was one of the causes which will have to be removed and trades unions as at present organised offer no chance of settling that part of the question. Nor do they touch competition, which is another cause of the evils. The only cause which they touch at all is the bad distribution. So far as they are successful in raising wages, they improve the distribution of wealth; but even here their power is very limited. Supposing the workers were much better organised than they are now, so that they could compel the capitalists to pay as high wages as they could afford, they could still only get a share of the produce, and that probably not more than half. For the individual capitalist will not work or allow them to use his capital unless he can make some substantial profit. That point wages can never pass which takes away the profit from the average employer. But the wages which will allow the average employer to make a profit will leave some employers making vast fortunes. For these having greater business faculty—in other words, more cunning, more gambling ability—will be able to get to themselves the best of the trade and make most profits, even when the average employer is only just living. The trades union could never get any of this. Then again, as I said, competition is not touched, therefore all the waste of competition would still go on; and in short, trades unions could do but little on their present basis to improve the condition of the poor. The time of their success was in the time of enormous increase of our foreign trade; and their success amounted to this, that when the profits of employers increased fifty per cent. wages were with difficulty increased ten or twenty per cent. That great increase of foreign markets, humanly speaking, can never come again, and it is already evident that much of the power of the unions has gone with the narrowing of foreign markets. We must go nearer to the root of the matter than trades unions do if we are to solve the problem.

RAYMOND UNWIN.

(To be continued.)

Owing to a wages dispute in the Havannah cigar trade, ninety-five factories have been closed, throwing 12,000 workpeople out of employment.

A SOCIALIST MARCHING SONG.

(To the tune of "GARRYOWEN.")

COME all brave lads and loudly sing,
The Red Flag to the sky we fling,
We care no rap for priest or king,
The People's day is coming;
Too long the wolves of capital
Have drunk our blood and filched our all,
But from their power they'll have to fall,
The People's day is coming.

Chorus—Above all colours exalt the red,
It fills a tyrant heart with dread,
And while it proudly floats o'erhead,
Advance the Men of Labour.

We've had the husks and they the grain,
They the pleasure and we the pain,
We'll toil no longer for their gain—
But make them earn a living;
The idler fat and the worker lean,
This is the way that things have been,
But from the beggar unto the queen,
All soon must earn their living.

Chorus—Above, etc.

No more shall men with arms arrayed
Against their fellow-men parade,
We'll stop the soldiers dreadful trade,
And men shall be as brothers;
As soon as freedom has been won,
Away shall go the sword and gun,
There's nothing with them to be done,
When men shall be all brothers.

Chorus—Above, etc.

We'll hear the wise and help the fool,
And put the idlers all to school,
Until they learn the golden rule,
To do as they'd be done by.
With stern resolve into the fray,
We go to sweep the wrong away,
To bring the brighter better day,
And do as we'd be done by.

Chorus—Above, etc.

H. HALLIDAY SPARLING.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LANDLORDS.

THE following letter from a Donegal landlord, named Nixon, to the parish priest of his tenants was published by the Dublin Conservative papers as if the tone were commendable, and the threatened action worthy of imitation. It is an instructive example of telling the truth as it is seen, and is an almost perfect specimen of the true spirit of landlordism:—

"Yacht 'Finola,' Nov. 11. . . Now, in as few words as possible, I will answer your letter. Owing to the very offensive wording of the resolutions and speeches, which show me plainly that it is useless to deal kindly any longer with those tenants, I may tell you that I would not now accept 99 per cent. of all rents and costs due to me, as I am going to clear the two townlands of Brinlack and Glassagh, and it is my land I want now. Remember they are merely living on my land as long as I let them, and I will not regard costs in carrying out my plans: I have ample private means, and will set aside a certain sum yearly until all are out of that. In doing this I am only following out the Scriptural precept that 'a man may do what he likes with his own.' I am determined on this, and in five, or, at the most, ten years' time there will probably not be a single family left there. It will be no hardship to the people to have to go elsewhere, as, according to you, they are in such circumstances they can hardly live, and besides, according to you, each one, as they are evicted, will be supplied with a house with three chimneys. In fact, I think, according to your showing, I will deserve their hearty thanks for evicting them, and, of course, I will level each house as I proceed, so you may look around for some sites for your three-chimneyed houses somewhere clear of my property. . . I need hardly tell a man of your shrewdness, or rather cunning, that resistance will be utterly useless, as it is only a question of time and money, of both of which I have plenty."

"They [the inhabitants of Bleeding Heart Yard] believed that foreigners were always badly off; and though they were as ill off themselves as they could be, that did not diminish the force of the objection. They believed that foreigners were dragooned and bayoneted; and though they certainly got their own skulls promptly fractured if they showed any ill-humour, still it was with a blunt instrument, and that didn't count."—*Dickens, in 'Little Dorrit.'*

Rest easy, capitalists and politicians; the working-men are in no hurry to break their chains. Have they not enough to satisfy the wants of slaves? Mayhap they can do with less—try them!—*Workmen's Advocate.*

Articles of interest to Socialists:—*Westminster*: "'Capital,' by Karl Marx"; "Charles Darwin," *Contemporary*: "The Unemployed," by Bennet Burleigh. *Nineteenth Century*: "Mr. Gladstone and the Irish Union," Dr. Duncan Ingram; "The Time it takes to Think," J. McK. Cattell; "Irish Land Purchase," H. O. Arnold Foster. *National Review*: "Peasant Property in France, 1787 to 1887," Lady Verney.



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.

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. Selected 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.

LEONARD HALL.—We have no leaflets specially addressed to the unemployed. Re Library, see *Commonweal* for March 19th (p. 95) and 26th (p. 103), 1887.
A. J.—“Mrs. Grundy” comes from Tom Morton’s comedy, ‘Speed the Plough,’ where Farmer Ashfield, annoyed at his wife’s continually citing a neighbour’s wife, exclaims, “Be quiet, will ye? always ding-dinging Dame Grundy into my ears—‘What’ll Mrs. Grundy say? what’ll Mrs. Grundy think?’”
E. TRESDALE; A. K. DONALD.—Will you please look up *Commonweal* for March 19, 1887, and March 26th, 1887. Books must be returned.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday December 7.

ENGLAND	Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	ITALY
Church Reformer	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Die Autonomie	Detroit (Mich.)—The Advance	Rome—L’Emancipazione
Jus	San Francisco (Cal.) The People	SPAIN
London—Freie Presse	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	Madrid—El Socialista
Labour Tribune	Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	GERMANY
Norwich—Daylight	N. Haven—Workmen’s Advocate	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Railway Review	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	AUSTRIA
NEW SOUTH WALES	FRANCE	Vienna—Gleichheit
Hamilton—Radical	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Arbeiterstimme
INDIA	Le Moniteur	HUNGARY
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Lille—Le Travailleur	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Madras—People’s Friend	Hague—Recht voor Allen	ROUMANIA
UNITED STATES	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts	Jassy—Lupta
N. York—Der Sozialist	BELGIUM	DENMARK
Freiheit	Serwing (Ougree)—Le Reveil	Social-Demokraten
Backer Zeitung	Ghent—Vooruit	NORTH AFRICA
Boston—Woman’s Journal	Brussels—L’Avant-Garde	Tunis—L’Operaio
Chicago—Alarm	Liege—L’Avenir	

COMMERCIALISM AND EDUCATION.

At last it seems that the question of the reform of education in our schools is to receive public attention. The disinterested pleadings of larger-minded educationists for a revision of old methods have had little effect; but the traders have discovered that the question is one which has “practical” bearings, and the fact is to be impressed upon the public. It is found that not only are Englishmen, through lack of training, getting worsted in their competition with the more tutored craftsmen and manufacturers of foreign lands, but that they are actually being driven out of the offices and counting-houses in their own country by the better instructed foreigner. So that the problem of educational reform is forced upon us by the sheer exigencies of competitive commerce. This fact lends special interest for Socialists to the proceedings at the meeting held in the city last week, at the instance of the London Chamber of Commerce, to consider what should be done to raise the standard of commercial education in England, so as to fit English youths for places now held by more competent Germans, and others.

Now although there is great need for the reform of school education in this country, it will obviously be a great pity if this reform is to be carried out merely to meet the requirements of the traders; and we must be on our guard against their recommendations. They want cheap and competent native clerks, efficient wage-servers, and would wish to bend education to meet their “practical” requirements.

We must, however, protest against any attempt to narrow the scope and objects of education to suit the profit-makers. The object of school training is not simply to turn out good clerks, or good mechanics, or good artisans, but also and chiefly to help the making of well-developed men and women and good citizens. And indeed the superiority of the young Germans as clerks is not due to specialised training in commercial technicalities, but to their superior all-round education, or, as Dr. Percival (one of our very best educationists) said at the confer-

ence, “to the habits of industry and method they had acquired through having their intellectual tastes systematically cultivated.” It is really absurd to suppose that a special course of instruction is needed to enable a boy to become a clerk. Any intelligent and well-informed lad will pick up the details of mercantile procedure in a very short time; and his true training for the superior work, such as book-keeping, should be got in the office, as the young artisan (who needs a very much longer apprenticeship) gets his training in the workshop.

The truth is that the spirit of competitive commercialism cannot but be antagonistic to true educational interests, and it is to Socialism that we must look for the rescue of education from its fatal clutches. Under our present system everything has more and more to subserve bread-winning and mammonite interests. The struggle for existence becomes more and more an intellectual contest, and necessitates increasing specialisation of human function, thwarting the full development of our manhood. The first care of parents must be how to equip their children for life’s hard battle; a career has to be early decided upon for each boy and girl, and to secure success in it, even at the cost of everything else, is the main purpose of education. Nor does the struggle cease with the adult. Men and women can often only maintain a position, or at any rate advance their position, in business by an exclusiveness of attention to business affairs which leaves neither leisure nor inclination for the pursuits of a thoroughly human life. (What a common thing it is to find a man who leaves his office at night only to continue his business work at home!) The evil has already attained alarming proportions, and must increase with the growing stress of competition; bread-winning, which should be a means to living, and to the education of our human powers and aptitudes, becomes the absorbing aim of life.

Under such a condition of things, what can we expect but the debasement of education? Instead of becoming the leisurely and natural development of our capacities, and the culture of mind and heart to rejoice in the beauty and wonder of the world, it becomes a hurried and sordid training to enable each to outrun his brother in the severe race for subsistence. It is for Socialists to emphasise this fact, and to show the incompatibility of our present ruinous system with the higher aims of human life. And meantime, whilst supporting any wise reform in educational methods, let us keep an eye upon the designs of those who, although they may profess a desire to advance the interests of their countrymen, may nevertheless be injuring the great cause of education, which is the cause of human progress.

PERCIVAL CHUBB.

PRISON LIFE IN ENGLAND.

(Continued from page 378.)

THE general feeling among the prisoners, so far as I could judge, was one of very great disgust at hearing a special prayer offered up for one whom they cursed (as loud as they durst, for fear of being punished); and many were the bitter oaths taken against the system which made them commit crime in order to live. I risked punishment many times in order to drive as much Socialism as I could into my next door neighbours, but I am sorry to confess that it seemed a very hard task; but a few crumbs of bread cast upon the waters will undoubtedly turn up after many days. I was greatly amused whilst at exercise on the Jubilee day to hear a voice from behind me call for three cheers for the Socialist and damn the royal family. Of course this caused a commotion amongst the warders—who are generally known as “screws”—but though they blamed several, they failed to catch the right party; but nevertheless they punished a poor fellow named Stone, who is doing two years; and for the instruction of the busy “screws,” I may inform them he was in A. 2, 10. Of course these “screws” could not stand by and hear their beloved royal family “damned” without someone being punished, hence an innocent man must suffer when the guilty one cannot be caught. I may say that talking was very prevalent, in spite of the activity of the “screws.” I should say here that I do not wish to assert that all these unfortunate “screws” are bad; on the contrary, were it not for the parson, who is a “screw” in clerical garb, and the governor and doctor, who are “screws” of the higher grade, always dodging about to see if they can catch any of the lower “screws” sympathising or pitying any of the prisoners, the ordinary warders would be a great deal more humane. But they dare not; the alternative to being a brute is, vulgarly speaking, the “sack.” I will pass over a few weeks, as nothing particular occurred, and endeavour to describe what occurred to me toward the latter end of August. I had for some considerable time been passing notes to another prisoner, whom I was trying to convert to Socialism, and strange to say I made the warders my corresponding medium. Of course they did not know what they were doing. It happened this way. The other prisoner was a tailor, and I pressed his work for him, as he had no fire; and when sending in his work to him I put a note inside the garment by prearrangement. We never were caught whilst the warders carried

our messages, but I fancy we were suspected, for one Sunday I passed a message to the other prisoner in chapel, and gave another to one of the cleaners to drop in his cell; the schoolmaster, however, caught us, and the result was three days bread and water with solitary confinement—1 lb. of bread and as much water as you wish. In solitary confinement you are not allowed outside your cell for any purpose whatever (short of being buried), and you have a plank bed. You must also put your clothes, boots, books, etc., outside your cell door every night, and all books are taken away except the Bible. The note which was intercepted in transmission contained among many other things a wish for the Social Revolution to break out, and that all prisons should be put an end to. In return I got the above punishment, together with fourteen days' plank bed and oakum-picking. I was also removed from A. 3, 33, where I had a fire, and put back in A. 2, 6, and here I finished my time. I, however, endeavoured to pass my time in as lively a manner as I could, and arranged with my next-door neighbour a set of rapping signals, using one for A, two for B, and so on, with a short pause between the words and a series of loud raps at the end of a sentence. This enabled me to teach my neighbour a few Socialist rhymes and songs, and every Sunday at four o'clock we gave three series of loud raps as cheers for the Revolution. Of course rapping was not allowed, and we had to be very careful that the "screws" did not catch us. We managed, however, to evade their vigilance, and passed many a pleasant hour in exchanging messages, using our slates and pencils for taking them down. I always had a Socialist song on my slate for the instruction of the warders who used to inspect the cells when the prisoners are at exercise. I may in passing say that the prisoners when at exercise are supposed to keep about four yards apart, but as the prisons are worked on the short-handed system (like most factories now are), we used to get a little closer in order to talk, having to separate when the warders caught sight of or suspected us.

C. W. MOWBRAY

(To be continued.)

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

It is all over, once more, in political France. The bourgeois people have a new President, and it is not Ferry the Tonkinese. So France has escaped a revolution. We don't care after all, for the social revolution will not be kept away from there, and that's the only one we are looking for. If our readers are desirous to know the fresh master the bourgeois have given themselves, we may tell them in a few lines who is M. Marie François Sadi Carnot. He was born at Limoges, on August 11, 1837. He is a grandson of Carnot, the member of the Committee of Public Safety and of the National Convention. His father is a Senator, and was Minister of Public Instruction in 1848. M. Sadi Carnot, who is an engineer by profession, entered the Polytechnical School, where he attained the highest position. His first appointment was as government engineer at Annecy, and he remained in that position until the collapse of the Empire. In January, 1871, he was appointed Prefect of the Seine Inférieure and Commissioner of National Defence for that department, the Eure and the Calvados. He first entered Parliament as member for the Côte d'Or, which he represented until now. He was in turn Under Secretary and Minister of Public Works, and Minister of Finance. To tell the truth, we must say that he displayed a good deal of firmness all along in opposing the Elysee favouritism of Grevy and Wilson. But, *absit omen*, Sadi Carnot also has a son-in-law!

Now let us look at some more interesting facts. Our colleague, *La Révolte*, has kept its promise to give its readers a literary supplement. Two have already been issued, and the various matters which they bring forward are of the most attractive character. We feel sure that these supplements will greatly contribute to the growing success of this excellent Parisian organ.

A new Socialist paper has been started at Sidi-ali-Azons (Algeria) under the title *L'Operaio* (The Worker). This weekly is also supported by the Anarchist groups of Tunis. In the last named town, the Socialists are about to publish another paper entitled *Tunisia*.

On the 1st of January next, a new Socialist paper will be started at Lyons, wherein the different schools of Socialism will be at home. *L'Egalité Sociale* (Social Equality) will be an organ of revolutionary union, conducted by Bessy, Deschamps, Farjat, Labrosse, Perrin, of the *Parti Ouvrier* (Workers' Party); by Bernard, Blonde, Burnichon, Monier, Sibylat, and Rivet, of the Lyon Anarchist groups; by Bonard, Delanges, Durgniat, and Etienne, of the Central Revolutionary Committee; and by Claverola, Drevet, Mathien, Péronnat, Roussel, and Watier, of the Independent Socialist groups. We hope that the representatives of these various schools of Socialist thought will agree together, and at all events, we wish them good luck and success in their new experiment.

HOLLAND.

Whereas Socialism is spreading too rapidly in Holland, the Dutch Parliament intends to bring in a bill to the effect of considerably reducing the right of public and private meeting, which has existed there without restriction up to the present time. The Dutch bourgeoisie begin to fear for the maintenance of their privileges, and the best thing they can do, as they fancy, is to muzzle the workers. Happily, that won't do. The answer of our Dutch comrades will be the daily issuing of their organ, *Recht voor Allen*, which now appears three times a week.

BELGIUM.

A fact worth noticing. *Vooruit*, the Almanack for 1888 of the Socialists of Ghent, has been published four or five weeks, and in that short time the whole edition, 10,000 copies, has been sold out. A second edition of 10,000 copies is in preparation.

In the same town, the society of compositors and printers has started a monthly trade paper, called *The Printing Press*, which will represent the interests of the compositors of Flemish Belgium and of Holland. The com-

positors of the French part of Belgium have a French trade paper, entitled, *Guttenburg*.

Some of our Belgian comrades, who had been sentenced in the month of July, 1886, in connection with the great miners' strikes of last year, have at last seen their sentences reduced to a certain extent. Comrades Poty and Bourgogne, condemned to imprisonment for life, have their terms reduced to twenty years. We hope that this reduction is only a first instalment. Comrades Schmidt and Falleur, sentenced to twenty years, are reduced to seven years; comrades Klaus and Pierard, sentenced to fifteen years, are reduced to five; comrades Defrane, Collet, Baudoux, Hulet, and Vincent, sentenced to twelve years, reduced to four; comrade Priels and Taton, sentenced to ten years, are reduced to three. But we again express confidence that they soon may be set free altogether, for we know very well that all these monstrous sentences have been dictated by mere class-justice, that is to say in spite of all justice.

Comrade Lootens, editor of *Opstand*, who was tried at the Court of Assizes of Ghent for having fired a revolver on his assailants, has been acquitted by the jury. But he declares at the same time that the *Opstand* stops its publication.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Austrian police are as silly as the German. Paul Lafargue's pamphlet, 'The Right of Idleness,' has been forbidden there; and so has another book entitled, 'The Condition of the Working-classes in Bavaria,' by B. Schönlanck. This last work is a very remarkable one; the dreadful facts therein stated are all of indisputable truth, as they have been gathered from the most reliable sources.

At Brunn, the *Volksfreund* (The Worker's Friend) has also commenced the publication of a Socialist library. The first pamphlet, entitled 'What exists and what we want,' has been confiscated by the police. A second edition, expurgated, has now been issued. It is a handsome brochure of 32 pages, popularly written on the general principles of modern Socialism.

ITALY.

We may recommend to our comrades who understand Italian, the pamphlets of the *Bibliotheca Humanitas*. Six have already been issued, which are entitled: 1. 'The End of Parliamentarism'; 2. 'The International Anarchical Alliance'; 3. 'The New Religion'; 4. 'Victims and Prejudices'; 5. 'The Apostles of Socialism in Russia'; 6. 'Pisacane, and the Modern Socialism.'

On the 1st of January, a new Socialist paper, *L'Operaio* (The Worker) will be started at Reggio Calabre.

V. D.

Free Speech Demonstration in Glasgow.

On Sunday, December 4th, one of the largest and finest meetings ever held, assembled on Glasgow Green. The demonstration was promoted by a committee of men from the Irish National League, Socialist League, Social Democratic Federation, Land Restoration League, and other bodies. On reaching the Green the speakers found an enormous mass of people stretching several hundred yards from the four sides of the monument at which the four platforms were placed. The resolution affirmed the principle of free speech, protested against the growing despotism of the police and called for the punishment of those responsible for the outrages at Trafalgar Square, Mitchelstown, and other places, and pledged the people to back up Graham and Burns in their defence of public rights. Graham was unable to attend owing to the serious illness of his wife. Burns and Saunders were the chief speakers, but a large number of others including Shaw Maxwell, Murphy, Mahon, Murdoch, Hutcheson, Glasier, Stewart, Macmillan, Curran, and M'Farlane, also addressed the meeting. Mr. Wm. Saunders spoke in a very eloquent and effective style, and was exceedingly well received. Burns, who spoke with great force, roused the audience to an extraordinary pitch of enthusiasm. The demonstration was a complete success. The occasion was made use of to move resolutions in regard to the unemployed, which were heartily carried. A good meeting was held at night in the Albion Hall, at which the same speakers attended. Saunders gave a pithy and amusing account of his experiences in London, and Burns delivered a masterly exposition of the doctrines of Socialism.—J. L. M.

The Government are adding to the list of Irish martyrs at a rapid rate. Lord Mayor T. D. Sullivan lies in Richmond Gaol, the editor of *United Ireland* in Tullamore; Mr. Timothy Harrington, the soul and centre of the National League, was arrested last week, and a warrant is said to be out for Mr. Timothy Healy. There can be little doubt that Mr. Dillon will share the fate of his colleagues as soon as he returns to Ireland. In England the same Government is doing the same work; and those who read history can see that in days to come it will be known as the Government of Suicides. The wrathful sense of wrong spreading among the workers; the swift sorting of reactionaries from the men of the advance,—these things are hastening the revolution more even than all our propaganda.—S.

NEW WORDS.—It will be a thousand pities, by the way, if the present discontents do not enrich the vocabulary of the English language. Various suggestions for new coinages have been made with reference to Irish matters. The *St. James's Gazette*, for instance, has proposed, not unhappily, when, or if ever, Mr. Gladstone falls into another inaccuracy, to say, "Mr. Gladstone has been *dopping* again." Several correspondents have written here, on the other hand, pointing out various uses for a verb "to *balfour*." But the termination of one already accepted neologism—namely, *boycott*—at once suggests a word that ought to be imported from the ways of the London police. "To bear false witness which is yet not legal perjury," that is terrible mouthful, and yet in these days the expression is constantly wanted. One word, of course, will do it: *to endacott*. When the police reformation comes, "Thou shalt not endacott thy neighbour," will appear in every table of the law.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, Dec. 3.

RAILWAY "ENTERPRISE."—There was a rocky valley between Buxton and Bakewell, once upon a time, divine as the Vale of Tempe; you might have seen the Gods there, morning and evening, Apollo, and all the sweet Muses of the Light. . . . The valley is gone and the Gods with it; and now, every fool in Buxton can be at Bakewell in half an-hour, and every fool in Bakewell at Buxton; which you think a lucrative process of exchange—you Fools every where!—*J. Ruskin*, 'Fors Clavigera.'

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

A demonstration of the unemployed took place at Dundee on Monday. About 400 gathered, and after being addressed by a Socialist lecturer, they marched the streets. Six of their number waited upon the provost and magistrates, and submitted their case to them. The authorities agreed to keep a register of the names of the men for investigation, and stated that work would soon be provided at the extension of the esplanade and water-works.

Under the auspices of Mr. Dunkerley, an effort commenced on Monday morning of taking the census of the unemployed in every constituency of London. Sixty offices opened at noon, and will open each day during the present month from twelve till nine o'clock to register the names of the unemployed, and their various capacities for work. The committee trust that employers of labour will second their efforts in finding a great number employment. No district is without an office for registration, and working men can always find the address by applying to their nearest police-station.

THE RUSH FOR WORK.—On Monday morning nearly a thousand men attended at High Street, Islington, in response to an advertisement for 100 assistants at a new "Home and Colonial stores" there. The great crowd about the doors considerably impeded both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and the services of the police had to be obtained to restrain the eager assembly. The greater portion of the applicants were of a very respectable order.

THE YORKSHIRE MINERS' ASSOCIATION.—An adjourned County Conference was held on Saturday at Barnsley in connection with the Yorkshire Miners' Association. Mr. Pickard, M.P., was present, and it was decided to demand a 10 per cent. advance on the present rate of wages. It was likewise suggested that a Board of Conciliation should be established for the district, which would regulate the payment of wages. Most of those present were in favour of restricting the output. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the colliery owners in the district.

BERMONDSEY—TIN-PLATE WORKERS.—For the last seven weeks a struggle has been going on between Messrs. Harding and Sons of Long Lane and their employes, owing to a threatened reduction in wages varying from 20 to 50 per cent., which has not as yet been put into force because of the contracts the firm have now on hand, and which they are compelled to execute within a specified time. The men, however, seeing danger ahead, sought protection by joining the East London Tin-plate Workers' Society. Messrs. Harding and Sons, while "allowing full freedom to their men to do as they please," refuse to keep in their employ those who have joined the Union, and are endeavouring to weed them out of the firm individually, seeking by that means to avoid an impending strike.

WEST CUMBERLAND IRONWORKERS.—On Saturday notices were posted by the masters at most of the ironworks in the West Cumberland district stating that all engagements between themselves and their workmen will terminate in fourteen days from date. The ironmasters have taken this step in consequence of the determination of the blast furnacemen not to accept a reduction of five per cent. in wages. At a conference between delegates and ironmasters, held on the previous afternoon, the chairman, Mr. Baird, of the Lonsdale Ironworks, Whitehaven, said the masters had been too long in asking for a reduction. He suggested a reduction of 2½ per cent., and the adoption of a sliding scale. If iron went below 44s. 6d. per ton, the men would have to submit to 2½ per cent. reduction, but for each 2s. 6d. advance above 44s. 6d., an advance of 2½ per cent. in wages would be given. These terms were declined by the men, who asked for further time. The masters refused to wait longer, hence the posting of the notices. Should the threatened lock-out be proceeded with, about six thousand men will be affected.

YOUNG WOMAN CLERK WANTED. Neat writer, correct at figures. Must give three months. Salary commencing at 10s. weekly after. Hours 8.30 to 7 p.m.; Saturday 2 p.m. Close to Westbourne Park Station. Letter stating age, to—*cc.*

"Is it possible that any human being could offer such remuneration for ten and a half hours' work a-day?" asks an esteemed correspondent. Not only possible, but he will think himself a good man to give so much! Dozens of such advertisements could be gathered daily; for instance, here is a submissive angel wanted who is required to be "cheerful" under trying circumstances:

LADY HELP (quite young) WANTED, not afraid of work. Must be good-tempered, cheerful, early riser, strictly clean, and especially refined. Very good, cheerful home, no children, but only £6 or £8 a-year to commence.

SCOTCH COTTARS.—A correspondent writes to the *Daily News*: I have the most absolute proof that in Lochs parish, Balallan, in some families as many as three and four invalid children are lying on lairs of straw on the damp floors of mud-hovels, without any bed-clothing to cover them. The medical officer prescribed a meal poultice for some, and there was not enough meal in the house to make it, nor had the neighbours any to give. In one instance of this kind one of the children died last Saturday, and several are beyond recovery. I sent a boll of meal last Wednesday to that township, and it was divided between twenty families. On Saturday I ascertained that in that township as many as five, six, and seven children are lying under measles, without as much meal in the house as would make a drink for the patients; yet the authorities have done nothing to meet their cases beyond that a few net at Stornoway, fifteen miles away, and passed a resolution asking the Scottish Secretary to appoint a commission to enquire whether the alleged destitution is a fact. At a large meeting of delegates from the various townships of Lochs, held in Balallan School last Friday, Mr. Donald Macrae, was appointed secretary and treasurer of the Relief Fund for Lochs, the parish in which the deer-hunt took place. Mr. Macrae has already distributed over twenty bolls of meal; in fact, he has done all that has been done in this direction. Funds are urgently required, and it is impossible to forecast what will next happen.

NORTHAMPTON.—STRIKE IN THE SHOE TRADE.—Dec. 2.—Rioting over the shoe trade dispute has commenced in Northampton, and, it is feared, will assume alarming proportions, as at the end of this week twenty thousand workpeople will be out of employment through the lock-out of the manufacturers. Considerable irritation is felt at the action of the police, who on Wednesday night attended a perfectly orderly meeting of four or five thousand workmen. Bodies of police have been drafted into the town during this week, and others at Leicester and neighbouring towns are awaiting telegraphic instructions to proceed immediately to Northampton. At Sheffield

a hundred soldiers are awaiting similar orders. The police nightly escort to their homes workmen employed at Messrs. Cove and West's factory where occurred the dispute which was the cause of the rupture. The police and men are followed by crowds hooting and throwing stones. Last night severe struggles took place between the people and police. The latter were roughly handled, and some few were struck by stones and other missiles. Three arrests were made. Eight police were injured. The magistrates have forbidden any assembly of persons in the vicinity of the factory of Messrs. Cove and West, and police guard it night and day. Dec. 5.—A renewal of rioting is feared by the authorities, who, in addition to large bodies of police from Leicester, Wellingborough, Kettering, and other places, on Saturday brought a force of 111 rank and file of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Regiment by special train from Sheffield. Arrangements have also been made for drafting a cavalry regiment into the town. The magistrates have passed some severe sentences on rioters. On Saturday morning Frank White, a shoe rivetter, was sentenced to three months' hard labour; Walter Brown, another rivetter, was sentenced to five months' hard labour; and a third participator in Thursday evening's disturbances was sentenced to two months' hard labour. A fourth man was fined £5, or one month, for window-breaking. To-day the factories belonging to the members of the Northampton Boot Manufacturers' Association will be closed in accordance with a resolution of a general lock-out. These factories include nearly all the largest in the town; and nearly 20,000 workpeople are affected. A public appeal for funds on behalf of these operatives has already been made, and is being generously responded to.—A special meeting of the School Board was held on Saturday to take into consideration the feeding of children sent to school without having had breakfast or dinner. Dec. 6.—Last night a mass meeting of the locked-out operatives at Northampton sent a deputation to the Town Council then sitting, asking for relief works. The destitution through the boot trade lock-out is making itself felt in Northampton. On Tuesday, 200 Board School children were found to have gone to school without having received any food since the previous day. A hot meal was immediately prepared for them at neighbouring cafés. The clergy and licensed victuallers are organising relief arrangements. On Tuesday afternoon a conference of masters and men sat two hours discussing the terms of re-opening the factories, but broke up without coming to a decision.

Socialists, Trades Unionists, and others, are earnestly urged to send regularly reports of all matters in connection with the "Labour Struggle" that come under their notice. Members of the various trade societies should endeavour to make the Commonwealth a recognised medium for announcing meetings in connection with their respective trades, and should send notice of disputes, number of unemployed, etc. Cuttings from local papers, with name and date of issue, are useful, and copies of trade journals, trade reports, etc., are also much wanted.

It is disheartening to find how little support those who sacrifice health, time, and money in running a Labour Paper receive from those in whose interests entirely it is that such a paper as the Commonwealth is published. It is discreditable to British workmen, that while they indirectly, if not directly, help largely to support their most deadly enemy, the corrupt capitalist press, which spreads broadcast its poisonous calumnies against the advocates of Labour, the papers which espouse the cause of the workers are left to struggle for existence against almost overwhelming odds, thus tending to delay the emancipation of labour, which can only be accomplished by the combined energy and self-sacrifice of the workers themselves.

T. BINNING.

PREPARING FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.—There arrived at Liverpool on the 29th ult. from New York, by the Cunard steamer Aurania, two cases of rifles and cartridges, addressed to the Marquis of Salisbury. The goods were forwarded to his lordship's address. He is said to be arming his household.

THE RED.—If Labour's banner were never before dyed crimson by the blood of her martyrs—if it had been white as snow it is red now. America has re-dyed the crimson flag, making it more truly the flag of the working-men of all countries. Let the enemies of labour not complain of the colour their cruelty has indelibly dyed the flag of all nations.—*Workmen's Advocate.*

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the Scotch-American millionaire, is writing fancy letters to the American papers. In his last epistle he declares that the masses of the people of Britain were never as well off as they are at present, and he also asserts that there is very little if any destitution in Scotland for which the destitute themselves are not to blame. I hope my Scotch friends will remember this.—H. F. C.

THE WORKING OF THE ALLOTMENTS ACT.—In South Lincolnshire the demand for allotments under the new Act is assuming gigantic proportions, and it is feared it will not be met without considerable difficulty. Up to Saturday night requisitions had been signed by labourers in the Spalding Division for over a thousand acres of land from three central towns. Seven hundred applications had been made. The majority of labourers ask for the maximum quantity of land allowed under the Act. None of the applications have yet been granted, the authorities declining to set the Act in motion, not being convinced that allotments cannot be obtained voluntarily.

PARSONIC OPPOSITION.—The following facts are of interest in view of the general opposition on the part of the clergy to Socialism or anything else that tends to the elevation of the masses. The Earl of Lonsdale (holy man!) has 43 livings in the Church of England in his gift; the Marquis of Aylesbury (the blackleg who was expelled from racing circles) holds 11; while among the comparatively respectable peers the Duke of Beaufort appears to have in his gift 24 livings; the Duke of Bedford, 25; the Duke of Devonshire, 38; and the Duke of Rutland, 25—112 livings in the hands of four dukes. More than 200 peers present to about 1,300 livings; can it be expected that their creatures and nominees will speak against them and the system which enables them to live as they do?

BRAZILIAN SLAVES IN REVOLT.—From Rio de Janeiro we hear of a great rising of slaves on the plantations near St. Paulo and conflict with the troops and police. The slaves on two plantations in the municipality struck work, and, seizing all the horses and mules they could find, made off with their wives and children. As they made for the forest, they were joined by all the slaves on the plantations on the way. Fifty well-armed policemen were sent in pursuit, but had to beat a rapid retreat. They returned to Amaro demoralised, and did not interfere with another band of slaves, who marched through the town shouting "Hurrah for freedom! We prefer death to recapture." The planters were in great fear, and the troops were stated to be unwilling to hunt the slaves. Slavery was already on the decrease in the country.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

A TERRIBLE tale comes again from Chicago. Your readers will remember that during the strangulation of her husband, Mrs. Parsons was locked up in Cook County Jail, Chicago, with Mrs. Holmes. But this was not sufficient for the police. No sooner did they have Mrs. Parsons completely in their clutches than they began at once to search her for bombs! Three or four policemen overpowered the poor woman and began undressing her till she was exposed in a nude state to the vulgar eyes of the policemen! Of course they never found a bomb. Directly after release Mrs. Parsons accused the police of this infamy, and was corroborated in her accusation by Mrs. Holmes. The police now admit the searching and disrobing—after first denying everything—but assert that it was done by the prison matron. The police already stand convicted by their half admittance of the accusation, even had Mrs. Holmes not witnessed the affair.

Here is another police outrage, taken from the *Morning Journal*, a paper which constantly denounces in strong terms all Social Democrats and Anarchists:—"Lingg was in the agonies of a death a hundred-fold more painful in a physical sense than strangulation when I stood in the vestibule of the Cook County Jail, and heard the remarks of a cluster of police-officers. 'Damn that coward,' ejaculated one. 'He promised he would die game, and now he cheats us out of the fun to-morrow' (the execution). The assistant of one of the surgeons was hurrying by with some anaesthetics when a police-sergeant caught him by the arm exclaiming: 'Say, fix that up in shape so that he can get the rope to-morrow.' Again, I say the above is taken from a capitalistic paper and not from a labour paper. One paper a few days ago declared that if Socialists and Anarchists did not abstain from spreading their pernicious doctrines they might expect a second St. Bartholomew's night. This is written in the land of freedom, in America! The government of the police by the police is more and more perfecting itself. A movement has been started to induce the legislature to give the police power to arrest any man who utters so-called treasonable and seditious language, to avoid writing until a grand jury has found an indictment against him.

John Most is again on trial. The police and the *World*, a newspaper which is principally responsible for the Chicago tragedy, will not be quiet till he is hung. On the day of the Chicago execution, the men engaged in the *Freiheit* office bounced a reporter of the *World* who came spying round. He resolved to revenge himself. The next day Most spoke in his club. The New York comrades were so depressed and paralysed by the events in Chicago, that the suggestion of a plan of revenge would have fallen very flat indeed. In fact, Most's oration that evening sounded more like a funeral sermon than anything else. He spoke very touchingly of the life and death of our martyrs. Three days later he is arrested, for having incited the people to murder Grinnell, Gary, etc.: not that I should deplore the removal of this infamous gang, but it is cowardly to charge a person with something he never uttered. The low sneak from the *World*, in company with two detectives, had concocted a speech which for absurd nonsense stands unequalled. In fact, if Most had ever given utterance to such hideous idiocy he deserved hanging twice. The three conspirators allege that they attended the meeting and took down Most's speech in shorthand. Most has about fifty witnesses to prove that nobody took any notes, that no reporter was present, and that he never spoke one word about removing Gary and Co. The whole thing is so absurd that even the *New York Herald* is obliged to say to-day:—"This matter of free speech ought to be a very tender point with Americans. We prize it rather highly, and even when somebody shoots off his mouth or puts his foot in it we should be a little slow to interfere." . . . The trial began yesterday; four of the jury are already chosen; the first has no occupation, the second a dealer in liquors, the third a pawnbroker, and the fourth a tobacco manufacturer. The case must be weak indeed if the prosecution is obliged to select so intelligent a jury.

The deliberations of both branches of the South Carolina Legislature are conducted with all the tomfoolery of the British Houses of Parliament. The two presiding officers are attired in gaudy and costly gowns of the finest blue and royal purple silk velvet. The clerks wear long flowing gowns of plain black silk, while the sergeant-at-arms open and close the daily sessions with the ancient mace and the sword of State—relics of colonial days. In the House of Representatives a member when in his own seat may wear his hat during the entire Session, as in the English House of Commons. The most important measures to be considered at present are propositions to punish organised interference with labour and wages (Anti-Knights of Labour Bill), and to pension disabled ex-confederate soldiers.

LABOUR MOVEMENTS.

The Miners' Federation and National District Assembly Knights of Labour have united forces. The 250,000 miners will present a united front in all action they may take hereafter.

At the Convention of the United Labour Party of Wisconsin, a resolution condemning the execution of our Chicago comrades as a curtailment of the constitutional rights of mere social reformers, was almost unanimously tabled.

The Knights of Labour have ordered a vigorous boycott of the Lehigh Coal and Railway Companies and other operators, with the object of aiding the striking miners in the Lehigh region.

At a meeting of the Point Arbitration Board of National Federation of Miners and Mine Operators, on November 14th, it was decided to pay 5 cents. (2½d.) per ton for mining. The advance is to date from Nov. 1st, 1887, and continue to May 1st, 1888.

Negro miners at Pocahontas, Va., refused to allow the Hungarian miners there to work. About 110 Hungarians have joined the strikers in consequence. The negro miners number about 600.

A Knight of Labour co-operative store at Paterson has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. after an existence of three months.

Reports are circulating to the effect that the surface railroad workmen and employes of Brooklyn will demand a ten-hour instead of a twelve-hour day after January 1st. Last January the men agreed to work for one year without making any new demands.

The Journal of United Labour recently advised working-men who receive requests from statisticians for information relative to their employment, compensation, living expenses, and other points, to give the information freely.

Reports of an additional strike in the Louisiana sugar-field come this week. The labourers on eight plantations near Shriever, La., quit work on Tuesday, owing to a refusal to grant increased pay.

LIST OF STRIKES FOR NOVEMBER 1 TO 18.

Number of strikers, November 1 to 11	10,602
Pittsburg, Pa.—Nut and bolt works' hands, against shorter hours and reduced wages, November 16	175
Shriever, La.—Sugar hands on eight plantations, for higher wages, November 16	—
Scottdale, Pa.—Coke hands, against employment of non-union hands, November 14	350
Brooklyn, N.K.—Wood-bundlers, for increase in wages, November 14	50
Indianapolis, Ind.—Dining-room waiters, for discharge of head-waiter, November 13	—
Reading, Pa.—Foundry hands, against discharge of one man who violated a factory rule, November 15	—
New York city.—Lock-out fixture makers, for stopping work on election day, November 10	—
New York city.—Builders, against using boycotted material	—
New York city.—Painters, for increase of wages	—
Bridgeport, Conn.—Corset-stitchers, against reduction, November 15	75
New York city.—Glass bevellers, for advance, November 16	75
Cincinnati, Ohio.—Street-car hands, refusal of company to discharge superintendent, November 17	600
Cincinnati, Ohio.—Stage carpenters, against alleged overwork	3
Waverly, Ohio.—Coopers, against reduction of wages	—
Total known from November 1 to 18	11,930
New York, November 23rd, 1887.	HENRY F. CHARLES.

The real war in Europe, of which the fighting in Paris was the inauguration, is between the capitalists and the workmen, such as these have made him. They have kept him poor, ignorant, and sinful, that they might, without his knowledge, gather for themselves the produce of his toil. At last a dim insight into the fact of this dawn on him, and such as they have made him he meets them, and will meet.—*J. Ruskin, 'Fors Clavigera.'*

Freemen, indeed! You are slaves, not to masters of any strength and honour, but to the idlest talkers at that floral end of Westminster Bridge. Nay, to countless meaner masters than they. For, though indeed, as early as the year 1102, it was decreed in a council at St. Peter's, Westminster, "that no man for the future should presume to carry on the wicked trade of selling men in the markets, like brute beasts, which hitherto has been the common custom of England," the no less wicked trade of *underselling* men in markets has lasted to this day, producing conditions of slavery differing from the ancient ones only in being *starved* instead of well-fed, and besides this a state of slavery unheard of among the nations till now, has arisen with us. In all former slaveries, Egyptian, Algerine, Saxon, and American, the slaves complaint has been of compulsory work. But the modern Politico-economic slave is a new and far more injured species, condemned to compulsory *illness*, for fear he should spoil other peoples' trade.—*J. Ruskin, 'Fors Clavigera.'*

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

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

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Mitcham, Walsall to July 31. Bloomsbury, Leicester, Hammersmith, Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Hull, Mile End, Wednesbury, to September 30. Clerkenwell, Oxford, to October 31.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Weekly Subscriptions—K. F. (2 weeks), 2s. C. J. F. (2 weeks), 4s. Oxford Branch (2 weeks), 4s. W. B., 6d.

Strike Committee.—Collected in Regent's Park, 4s. 3d.—J. LANE.

Fund for the Provision of the Wives and Families of the Martyred Anarchists.

T. T., C. T., and H. T. (Oxford), 6s. 6d.—H. HALLIDAY SPARLING, Treasurer.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday, December 1, W. Morris lectured at the Athenaeum Hall, Tottenham Court Road, on "The Coming Society." Fair audience and good discussion. On Sunday morning, December 4, meeting was considered an open one, platform and members of the branch not turning up till late.—D.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Nov. 30th, H. H. Sparling lectured on "Podsnappery." Good discussion. Sunday evening, members and friends held "social." Turner addressed large meeting at Clerkenwell Green. *Commonweal* sold out.—B.

FULHAM.—Excellent meeting addressed by C. Smith, Mrs. Taylor, and Besley. Fair sale of *Commonweal*. In the evening we had a meeting in Dawes Road, and considering it is a new station, it was well attended. C. Smith, Tochatti, Groser, and Mahony spoke.—S. B. G.

HAMMERSMITH.—Usual meeting Sunday morning at Starch Green, Broadway, speakers were Mahony, Tochatti, and Tarleton. 16 *Commonweal* sold. All comrades turn up next Sunday. In the evening, G. Bernard Shaw lectured in hall.

NORTH LONDON.—A very good meeting at Regent's Park, Sunday morning, was addressed by Cantwell and Graham, who made an appeal on behalf of some strikers at Messrs. Hardings, for whom 4s. 6½d. was collected; Mrs. Schack and Mainwaring followed, and 4s. 4½d. was collected for propaganda.—T. C.

LEEDS.—Sunday morning, Maguire, Paylor, and Sollitt addressed meeting at Vicar's Croft. In evening, Bland, of Bradford, spoke on "The National Debt."

NORWICH.—Good meeting held in Market Place, addressed by Mowbray, who also lectured in the Gordon Hall at 8 p.m. to a crowded audience, subject "Wage Labour and Capital." Good collections at both meetings. A discussion class is held every Thursday night in our hall at 8 p.m.; comrade Parker read a very good paper last week on "Socialism and the Unemployed." A very lively discussion followed. A free concert is given every Monday night. Our orchestra, which is under the leadership of Mr. A. Rumbsey, late R.H.A. band, is progressing very well, and will soon be a very useful addition to our means of propaganda.—C. W. M.

WALSALL.—On Wednesday evening last, P. Kropotkin lectured for Walsall Literary Institute on "The Moral Effects of Prisons on Prisoners." Large attendance and lecture well received. Thursday morning, Kropotkin spoke at our meeting-room to members of the branch, giving a most interesting address on the "Socialist Movement in America, and on the Continent and England." At Monday weekly meeting, H. Sanders spoke on "The Principles of Socialism." Saturday large meeting held on the bridge, and a good impression made.—D.

WEDNESBURY.—Donald addressed the usual meeting in the Market place, but was rather interrupted. This would be obviated if the branch members were to attend regular and remove disturbers. Donald addresses a large meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday on "Fair Trade."

BIRMINGHAM.—We continue to hold the usual meetings. Tarn addressed some people at West Bromwich and Swan village, and Donald in Birmingham.

STAFFORD.—Comrade Pengell arranged a meeting at the Stafford Liberal Club, which was addressed by Donald on Tuesday. There was a very good attendance of club members, who were very interested in the address, and invited the lecturer to visit Stafford again to further explain Socialism to them.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS.—Last Thursday week, the first of a series of meetings of the unemployed of Sheffield and outlying districts was held at the Commonwealth Cafe. Out of over 200 present only eight were in employment. A deputation waited upon the mayor next morning, who promised to confer with the Corporation; he could hold out no hope of employment, but they had a right to the workhouse. A mass meeting at West Bar at 12 o'clock on Monday, sent another deputation with no better result, the mayor again advising workhouse relief. A second mass meeting on Wednesday, which was so large that they had to adjourn to Paradise Square, sent more delegates, who after waiting some considerable time, were allowed to see some members of the Corporation, and were informed then that they would make their decision known to them on Friday at 3 o'clock. On Friday they were told there was no work for them nor money to pay for work. The Friday evening meeting at the Cafe was very crowded, hundreds could not get in. A resolution was carried "that mass meetings be held in different parts of the town, and that the men out of employment come with their names and addresses and trade written on a slip of paper." Several meetings have been arranged for.—M. DUBLIN.—At the Saturday Club, Dec. 3rd, Mr. J. Hutchinson lectured to a large audience on "Co-operation," advocating the establishment of co-operative societies on the Rochdale system. The Socialist view of the question was ably supported by Coulon, O'German, and Fitzpatrick, who were well received.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

EDINBURGH.—During the last ten days, Mahon has been lecturing amongst the miners of the West of Scotland on behalf of the Glasgow Branch of the Socialist League, and organising the free speech demonstration. A full report will be given next week.

Notice to Branches of the S.L.L.

Branches desiring literature apply to D. K. MacKenzie, librarian, 137 Pleasance, Edinburgh.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. Thursday December 8, at 8.30, Spencer Howell, "Educate, Agitate, Organise." Dec. 15. Walker will lecture on "The Unemployed."
Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday December 11, at 8.30, H. A. Barker, "The Condition of the Working Classes." Wednesday 14th, 8.30, a lecture.
Fulham.—Committee meets Wednesday evenings, 8 o'clock, at 4 Werley Avenue, Dawes Rd., Fulham.
Hackney.—28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.
Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday December 11, at 8 p.m. Edward Carpenter, "Peasant Life in Italy."
Hoxton (L.E.L.).—C. J. Young, 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road, Secretary. Concert and Draw on January 14. Tickets now ready.
Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11.
Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business Meeting every Thursday at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after Business Meeting.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—James Leatham, secy., 15 St. Nicholas Street.
Arbroath (Scot. Sect.).—High Street Hall. Meeting Friday evenings. W. Smith, 12 Maule St., secy.
Birmingham.—Meetings at Summer Row Coffee House every Saturday evening at 8.
Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.
Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Secretary *pro tem.*, D. M'Dougal, East Path.
Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sect.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., secy.
Dublin.—Saturday Club, Central Hall, 12 Westminster Street, every Saturday at 8 p.m. Free debates on Social and Political subjects. All friends invited.
Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Political Economy class, 2 p.m. Lecture at 6.30.
Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. "Das Kapital" class every Thursday at 7.30. Members requested to pay weekly subscriptions on that night. Sunday evening lectures, Trades Hall, High Street, 6.30. Free Tron Hall, Chambers St., Mondays, 8.
Galashiels (Scot. Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., secy.

Gallatoun and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Propaganda Committee, Mondays at 8. Shorthand Class, Tuesdays at 8. Music Class, Tuesdays at 9. Discussion Class, Thursdays at 8 (on Dec. 15 Wm. Mulvenny, "Socialism Realised"). Dec. 11, at 2 o'clock, in Rooms, Special Meeting of all members, to consider very important business. At 7 p.m., in Hall, 8 Watson Street, Arch. M'Laren on "Compensation." Sunday 13, H. H. Champion in Grand Hall, Waterloo Rooms, at 7 p.m.—subject, "What Socialists Want." Admission 3d., 6d., and 1s.

Hamilton.—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Thursday, 7.30.
Leeds.—17 Chesham St., Sweet St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Sunday Dec. 11, at 7.30, T. Braithwaite on "Socialism and Co-operation."
Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.
Lochgelly (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (*pro tem.*), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.

Norwich.—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures Sundays at 8.
Nottingham.—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.

Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m.
Walsall.—Temperance Hall. Meets every Monday.
West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 11.

- 11 ...Starch GreenSmith, Tarleton, Mahoney
- 11 ...Walham Green.....Graham Wallas & Tochat
- 11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Parker
- 11.30...Hackney—Salmon and Ball ...Samuels & Cores
- 11.30...Merton—Haydons RoadNicoll
- 11.30...Mitham Fair GreenThe Branch
- 11.30...Regent's ParkDavis
- 11.30...St. Pancras Arches...Bartlett, Howell, Wardle
- 3 ...Hyde ParkBrookes
- 7 ...Stamford HillGraham
- 7 ...Clerkenwell GreenJ. Allman

Wednesday.

- 8 ...Broadway, London FieldsThe Branch

Thursday.

- 58 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Cooper

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—St. George's Cross: Sunday, 12 o'clock.
Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, 11 a.m.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

DECEMBER.

H. H. CHAMPION will address a series of meetings on Socialism as follows:—

Kirkcaldy—Saturday 10, Corn Exchange Hall, 7 p.m.
Dundee—Saturday 11, Buchan's Hall, Barrack Street, at 3 and 6.30 p.m.

Edinburgh—Monday 12, Free Tron Hall, Chambers Street, at 8 p.m.

Aberdeen—Tuesday 13, Northern Hall, George Street, at 8 p.m.

Carnoustie—Wednesday 14, Panmure Works Hall, at 8 p.m.

Arbroath—Thursday 15, New Public Hall, at 8 p.m.
Dunfermline—Friday 16, St. Margaret's Hall, 8 p.m.

Kilmarnock—Saturday 17, The Art Gallery, London Road.

Glasgow—Sunday 18, Waterloo Grand Hall, Wellington Street, at 7 p.m.

Admission 3d., 6d., and 1s.

North of England Socialist Federation.

BRANCHES AND SECRETARIES.

Annisford.—F. Rivett, Dudley Colliery.
Backworth.—W. Maddison, C. Pit.

Consett.—J. Walton, Medonsby Road.
Blyth.—Martin Mack, 4 Back Marlow Street.

South Shields.—F. Dick, 139 Marsden Street, West.
North Shields.—J. T. Harrison, 24 Queen Street.

East Holywell.—J. M'Lean, Top Row, Bates's Cottages
West Holywell.—F. M'Carroll, West Holywell.

Seaton Delaval.—W. Day, Seaton Delaval.
Seghill.—Wm. Whalley, New Square.

M. Mack, Gen. Sec., 4 Back Marlow Street, Blyth.

THE LAND QUESTION AND THE UNEMPLOYED.—Mr. Michael Davitt will preside at a Mass Meeting to be held under the auspices of the English Land Restoration League and the local Radical and Irish National Clubs on Saturday December 10, at Millpond Bridge, Rotherhithe, 6.30 p.m.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS, Commonwealth Cafe, Scotland Street, Sheffield.—Discussions or Lectures every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Free.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.—Yarmouth—Thursday, on the Quay, at 7.30. **Carrow**—Friday, at 1.30. **Norwich**—St. George's Plain, Saturday, at 1.15; Haymarket, Saturday, at 8; Market Place, Sunday at 11 and 8. Ber Street Fountain, Sunday at 3.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday December 11, at 4 o'clock.

Children's Party.

BOXING-DAY, DECEMBER 26.

The Committee arranging the **Annual Children's Party**—Mrs. Lane, Lena Wardle, Mrs. Grove, May Morris, and Joseph Lane—will be glad to receive donations of presents, money, etc.

The Children's Party will be followed by an Entertainment entitled

THE LAMP: An Extravaganza,

By H. A. BARKER; Scenery, Appointments, etc., by C. BARKER.

Free to Members and Friends.

THE TABLES TURNED.

ENGAGEMENTS.

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 CLEVELAND HALL.
 January HAMMERSMITH BRANCH S.L.
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Applications for engagements to be made to the Manager, H. A. Barker.

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(THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH IN ENGLAND)

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Birmingham: J. Sketchley, 8 Arthur Place Parade.

SOCIALIST LEAGUE LITERATURE.

Chants for Socialists. By William Morris. 1d

Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades' Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Binning (London Society of Compositors). 1d.

Socialism on its Defence. A REPLY TO PROFESSOR FLINT. 1d.

The Rights of Labour according to John Ruskin. By Thomas Barclay. 1d

The Tables Turned; or, Nupkins Awakened. A Socialist Interlude. By William Morris. In Wrapper 4d.

The Manifesto of the Socialist League. Annotated by E. Belfort Bax and William Morris. An exposition of the principles on which the League is founded. 1d.

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