

THE COMMONWEALTH

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE debate on the Crofters was treated as one expects important subjects to be treated in the House, and as a matter of course those who were anxious to keep these poor people from starving because they are not allowed to use their own land, had no chance at all before the advocates of the snob-made solitude called a deer-forest. The utmost that their rulers think they can do for them is to transport them (some time or another) to some place where they do not want to go. It is sickening to read the speeches of these tyrants and prigs, talking (but not understanding) scraps of Malthusianism, when one considers that the poor people are actually at the point of sheer destitution, and that if they were treated with something like reason, there would at least be breathing space for them.

There is a certain pleasure in being able to say to one's enemy, "Well, do you know I quite agree with you there." Mr. Balfour has given us the opportunity for this pleasure, since he has (at last) found out that the Irish agitation is at bottom socialistic; or in other words that its ultimate aim is not a parliament at Dublin more or less after the pattern of the ignominious assembly in London, but the welfare of the Irish people. Strange to say, his discovery leads to no practical consequences, and he remains still opposed to Home Rule.

Indeed he finished his speech in a way that would make even a propagandist Socialist stare with wonder who is accustomed to the humours of the debates which follow his lectures. Not even the man who says, "Mr. Chairman, I have not heard the lecture and do not know what the subject of it is, but I should like to say a few words in opposition"—not even this genius can quite equal Balfour's impudence. "The laws of property are made much more for the advantage of the poor than for the rich." I am glad to say that the Irish members laughed at this joke.

If one believed that Balfour had not had his tongue in his cheek when he said this, one might ask him to alter this a little and say, "the laws of property are made more for the advantage of those who have no property than for those who have it." But as a matter of fact, his phrase is only a measure of bourgeois hypocrisy in this country, which not only knocks a man down and robs him, but is not ashamed to say at the same time, "My friend, it is for your benefit I do this, in order to stimulate your industry."

This is not the only country where the immigration of "foreign paupers" is a difficulty. America has the same trouble, only the "foreigners" there are many of them English. We are to have an article in the forthcoming *Century*, says the *Daily News*, which suggests a passport system for immigrants, so as to prevent the landing at American ports of all criminals, paupers (say Highland crofters), Mormons, Anarchists, and the depraved classes generally.

Good! So much for keeping out those who are *not* there, but how about getting rid of those that *are* there? What's to be done with the "native American" thieves who live on other people's labour? the "native American" criminals who murder their political opponents by the safe process of false witness in a law court? With the "rogue and whore" varnished over with gentleman and lady, of which "native American" society (like our's) is so largely composed? If the Americans set themselves seriously to getting rid of their "depraved classes," 'tis thought that house rent will fall heavily in the "genteel" quarters of New York, and Wall Street will be quiet enough.

Well, well! so it goes on! let us pass our paupers on if our neighbours will but have them; and if they won't— Well, the Romans fell before the barbarians whom they despised, but who were at any rate *without* their society; while our barbarians are *within* ours! Would it not be cheaper and safer (let alone humanity) not to manufacture paupers and criminals, if we find them so hard to deal with when made?

Do people doubt that our destroyers are in the midst of us? I fear they do. It was thought even by "advanced" persons that John Burns was either joking, or speaking with the extravagance natural to a man who had recently suffered from the hideous den when he spoke the other day so heartily, and wisely also, about pulling down

Pentonville. Will people never understand then, not even Home Rulers and extreme Radicals, what our prison system means? Must we Socialists teach them even this? Pentonville must not compete with the slums, or its terror will be gone; and a very little more and it would compete with them. Therefore its diet and discipline must be on such a scale as is a torture to a gentleman like Graham, or even an artisan like Burns. If only Pentonville could be pulled down before revenge overtakes us for this folly and cruelty! W. M.

The defeat at Doncaster is mournfully submitted to by the Home Rulers as a check to their chance of College Green. But there is at least as much danger to them in such Liberal victories as that at Southwark. There is a danger of the Liberals proving too successful. What if they obtain a majority without counting the Irish party? In that case they are just as likely to pass a Coercion Bill as a measure of Home Rule. It would be a repudiation of their election pledges, certainly; but that is one of the inevitable incidents of the septennial system. If the Home Rulers are wise, they will help the Liberals enough to make them dependent on the Irish party. One vote beyond that will make them quite as dangerous to their present allies as the Tories are. G. B. S.

SOCIALISM AND LAW.

ONE of the most curious objections urged by our opponents, and yet one we are constantly having to refute, was that put forward by a speaker at a recent discussion at Clerkenwell—namely, that the establishment of Socialism must tend to the multiplication of laws. I have called the objection curious, but think it more than that, for it shows with tolerable clearness, on the part of those who advance it, first, an utter lack of analytical power of thought in the consideration of present society, and second, what we must judge to be a constitutional incapacity for analogical deduction in gathering therefrom the probable form of a future society founded on a Socialistic basis.

To take first the consideration of present society, this apprehension has, I think, its birth in the minds of many individualists, primarily from the habit of superficially regarding existing laws merely as well-intentioned but essentially empirical human expedients for the welfare of society; expedients which at the same time may be regarded by them as invariably mistaken, fussy and meddlesome, and often pernicious.

It is not difficult to see that such a false and wholly inadequate view of the science of law-making is in reality one result of the failure to recognise the first great fundamental truth, that society as at present constituted, far from being a heterogeneous assemblage of ill-sorted units without guide, aim, or bond, is one clear and distinctive stage in social evolution, having for its basis one all-powerful ruling principle which either creates or moulds all its laws and governs all its institutions—*private property*.

Some time since, in a valuable analysis of criminal law in relation to Socialism, comrade Bax divided, if I remember rightly, the penal code into three great classes intended to deal with (1) offences against property (the largest to a considerable extent); (2) offences against the person (to a great extent actuated by want, or resultant on ill-distributed wealth); (3) sexual offences. Applying the same method of analysis to the civil laws, we shall find that they in like manner can be classed under one of three heads—1st, laws relating to property; 2nd, laws relating to imperial and local government; 3rd, laws relating to individual action and liberty.

The first is of course immeasurably the greatest class, embracing as it does all laws bearing on the relation of landlord to tenant (a class in itself), recovery of debts, inheritance, private "interests," and the thousand and one marvellously ingenious legal contrivances impossible to enumerate. In this class also would have to be included all those modern laws, miscalled Socialistic, but in reality opportune expedients rendered necessary to nullify in some measure the dangerous results of private property.

The second class, a comparatively small one, would be better subdivided by (1) laws relating to central or bureaucratic government, comprising the foreign, home, and other offices and departments, fiscal, army, navy, and other lines of defence, etc.; and (2) those relating to purely local matters—parish and municipal affairs, gas and water supply, public buildings, poor laws, etc. Here it is well to bear in mind that even under the present system the laws comprised in this

second class are capable of very great simplification compatible with their greater efficiency for the purpose for which they were instituted. Indeed it may be taken as sure that under democratic sway, with extended or universal suffrage, a reduction in their number and complexity is inevitable.

The third class is of slight importance. It comprises laws bearing solely on individual liberty and action, and is necessary only under class rule. The extent and nature of these needs but little demonstration. Having a manner of foundation in the Magna Charta, their development, judging from recent events, appears to have been entirely retrogressive.

It will be seen, therefore, that even such a brief analysis or classification as the foregoing brings forward the one prominent fact, stated before, but worthy of repetition for the benefit of those who ignore it, that existing laws are in no sense purposeless or without aim or governing principle, but that they have the one distinct and obvious function of the preservation, maintenance, and consolidation of private property. This is, in point of fact, their *raison d'être*, without which they would cease to exist; while on the other hand as long as private property is allowed to endure they are vitally necessary. Viewed in this light, no single property law can be regarded as unnecessary or useless while as a unit of a concrete whole it in any way contributes to the fulfilment of the law of its being. Also herein, I conceive, lies the weak point in the theory held by so many present day individualist "philosophers," of the beneficial effects likely to result from the gradual abolition of all laws: it is the non-recognition of the fact that this abolition of law can only be effected by and through the consistent abolition of private property.

Before leaving this consideration of present law, I might remark that while all these laws exist which relate to the *disposition* of wealth, with regard to the *production* of wealth there are absolutely none. It is indeed certain that the whole vast human and inanimate machinery for the production of wealth as it exists at present, complete in a degree hitherto inconceivable, has been established and organised (as organised it is) without the aid or seeking of one act of legislation. I repeat, so far laws have been found to be necessary only in the ownership of wealth and never in its production.

To pass on to the other point expressed in the second paragraph, it appears to me that from these data, the very simple and obvious deduction remains, that with the abolition of private property must also occur the abolition of all laws relating to it. These constituting the vast bulk of existing laws, it would also seem clear to a reasonable mind that in a Society based on the abolition of private property, the gross number of laws would consequently be less to this extent.

If, then, the contention is to be upheld that a Socialist State would be overburdened with law-making to a degree even as great as at present, it becomes necessary to consider in what direction the increase of laws may be anticipated. Here it must be avowed one's difficulties begin. Perhaps it may be contended, however, as it sometimes is, that stringent laws would be necessary to exact from each his due quantum of daily labour. Indeed, from what I have been able to understand of our opponents' position, this is considered one direction in which laws will be requisite. Under any circumstances the point is worth consideration.

Let me say at once that undoubtedly in the early years of a Socialistic Society, thriftlessness, laziness, and general inertia on the part of a large number of its members would have to be faced, and would constitute a serious hindrance to the contentment and prosperity of Society. The aristocrat and "independent person" on the one hand, and the social parasite on the other, would survive at least for a time as the harmful relics of an ancient order. But here again, to consider the question at all justly, it is necessary to regard (1) the conditions under which laziness and indisposition to honest work exist in the present system, and (2) the conditions which in like manner will obtain in the future.

Every Society contains within itself in unequal strength what may be called the fostering and restraining forces of every known vice or virtue. In existing Society the fostering force of this particular vice is undoubtedly the ability to live in comfort without work. On the other hand, the restraining influence which in relation to every unworthy act is invariably all-potent, to wit, the sense of shame, here has little or no power. With such conditions, then, the rapid growth of all forms of laziness and disinclination for work, and ultimately the production of individuals to all practical purposes incapable of work, is not to be wondered at.

As to the future Society, a community formed on the basis of work from every able member, would necessarily give an absolutely inverse proportional strength to these two forces. The fostering and productive forces would, from the inability of existing without work, be greatly reduced, and the bent of the mind of man in that direction in time removed. While on the other hand, in addition to the work itself being far less laborious and rendered more pleasant in nature, as every worker would receive his equal reward from the common store, laziness or idleness would be regarded by the bulk of the workers much in the light in which theft is regarded now. It may then safely be assumed that the restraining influence of the sense of shame will, in the absence of opposing forces, be all powerful in gradually eliminating this particular vice.

Reasoning from the foregoing I think we may well conclude that laws dealing with the relation of workers to their work will, from these natural causes, be unnecessary. The evil of laziness must die a natural death when placed in inharmonious conditions.

I have dwelt upon the one source from which it might be used that

the gap caused by the lapsing of property laws will be filled. In turning to consider in what other direction we may suppose complex legislation will be found necessary, one is at a loss to fix upon even a single department of social life in which it can be assumed to follow. The forms of social unity which probably offer the nearest resemblance to the labour groups of the future, such as trades' unions in every shape, co-operative societies, etc., are certainly autonomic. As any new laws cannot be seen to be likely to be necessary in the production or distribution of wealth, nor, certainly, in its ultimate ownership, it would be well if those who raise the objection would in future more particularly specify the actual class of laws Socialism will tend to multiply.

To put the matter in a nut-shell, however, the whole science of jurisprudence appears readily intelligible when it is comprehended that many laws are necessary only in government by minority (as at present), but few laws in government by majority (as under Socialism), and none at all when each individual is a law unto himself, or in fact in the Millennium.

CHARLES J. GLADWELL.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

At Trafaiah (Steiermark) comrade Lundenburg has been arrested on a charge of high treason on the denunciation of his own wife!

Some months ago I announced in these notes that "comrade" August Carl Hermann had been arrested at Warnsdorf charged with having distributed prohibited papers and incited our Austrian friends to commit acts of violence. Now the "comrade" in question has proved that he is one of the numerous hirelings of the Berlin and Magdeburg police, and of course has been set free at once.

BELGIUM.

At Liège, Seraing, Angleur and neighbourhood, that is to say among the miners of that district, a lot of German police-spies have been detected, who did exactly the same provocatory business as their colleagues in Switzerland. The only difference is that the Swiss authorities expelled police-councillor Krueger's employés, and that the German rascals worked in Belgium with the avowed assent of the clerical Belgian Government. Belgium becomes more and more a province of Germany.

Comrade Louis Bertrand, editor of *L'Avant-Garde* (the Vanguard) of Brussels, has issued a very ably written, but somewhat too laudatory brochure, entitled *Godin et son Œuvre* (Godin and his work).

HOLLAND.

In the month of December last our Dutch comrades sent to the House of Parliament a petition signed by thousands of workers, asking the M.P.'s of that land to introduce in Holland "a normal working day." Last week these clever gentlemen put the petition aside, *i.e.*, in the wholesale waste paper basket, declaring that they did not understand such "humbug." And that is the use of Parliament.

The workers at Almerloo are always striking, and they intend going on with their struggle as long as they possibly can. The solidarity of the Dutch workers continues to prove admirable; they send to their comrades meat, vegetables, money, in important quantities.

F. Domela Nieuwenhuys is about to publish a new book, entitled 'The Normal Working Day.' It will be an historical as well as an economical study on that question, involving 300 pages.

The 1st of March *Recht voor Allen*, the organ of our Dutch comrades, will appear in gala dress—*i.e.*, printed on fine paper and illustrated by a cartoon representing the Socialist press struggling against capitalist journalism. And all over Holland there will be meetings, amusements, banquets, and so forth, to commemorate the tenth year of the existence of the Socialist organ.

It is not enough that Domela Nieuwenhuys should stand as a candidate at the next elections; now Croll, sub-editor of *Recht voor Allen*, and A. Schrouter are going to contest a district at the Hague and Vander Goes is to be a candidate for parliament at Amsterdam. What a pity these devoted friends of the cause should waste their time in such a way.

FRANCE.

For the last two months the glass-blowers and the glass-engravers of Vierzon (Cher Department) have been on strike, and they have announced their resolution to go on with it to the utmost. They have spent now all their "spare" money, and have sent to all the workers' associations of France a circular letter asking them to stand by their side to help them in their struggle. As perhaps the English glass-blowers may do something for their fellow-workers of Vierzon, as they so willingly did last year for those of Montluçon, we give here the address of the treasurer: Chaput Grand-Rue, 49, Vierzon (Cher), France.

Comrade Cyvoct, who in 1883 was sentenced to death at Lyons for an article he did not write, and whose sentence was changed into one of hard labour for life in New Caledonia, will in all probability be again sentenced to death, and if so, to be certainly executed. He is charged with having insulted a jail-warder, and that is enough in Republican France of to-day to ensure his being guillotined. Gallo, the Anarchist who fired some pistol-shots at the Exchange at Paris, without doing any harm at all, and who also has been in New Caledonia, has already been executed for striking a warder who grossly insulted him. Shame!

Felix Pyat has consented to be the candidate of Revolution for the French Chamber of Deputies at the hands of the Socialists of the Department Bouches-du-Rhône (Marseilles, etc.).

The weavers and winders of Flers (Orme Department), numbering 500, not willing to accept a reduction of their already very low wages, struck a fortnight ago; but the masters, seeing that they were determined, have given way, and the workers have returned to work on the former conditions.

GERMANY.

Hip, hip, hurrah! At Halle six Socialists tried last week for secret conspiracy distributed of 60,000 literature and the rest of it as usual were

one and all dismissed. That sounds very strange indeed, and there must have been some mistake or other. Dismissed! it's a real shame for German Puttkamer-magistrates.

Thring-Mahlow and Naporra, the two detectives denounced in the German Reichstag by comrade Bebel, and who played such a despicable game at the trials of Berlin and Posen, have received at the hands of their master, Minister von Puttkammer, the Cross of Honour which they so richly deserved. If Puttkammer would only give them all a decoration and force them to bear it on their back instead of bearing it on their breast, wouldn't it be a good distinction?

Germany's prosperity is going on all right. From the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1887 no less than 99,712 people have emigrated. Of these 62,036 are Prussians, 13,350 Bavarians, 6,016 of Wurtemberg, 3,871 of Baden, 2,434 Saxonians, 2,334 of Hesse, and the rest of the minor nooks of the blessed Fatherland.

The bookseller Nebel, of Leipzig, who was denounced a short time ago as a secret agent of Bismark and Puttkammer, has hung himself at Rosenthal, near Leipzig. Perhaps he thought it better to do away with all the miseries of this wretched existence than to continue, even for another day, to serve the despicable German Government.

ITALY.

The 10th of March a new paper will be issued at Palermo, entitled *Il Dovere* (Duty). It is to be written under the inspiration of the ideas of Giuseppe Mazzini.

Whereas the Italian Government systematically suppresses all the papers of our friends as soon as they appear, our Parisian colleague *La Révolte* suggests the idea that our Italian comrades might issue a secret paper.

V. D.

"IT MOVES."

THE WELSH LAND, COMMERCIAL, AND LABOUR LEAGUE. *President:* John Parry, Plas, Llanarmon, Mold. *Treasurer:* Thomas, Gee, Denbigh. *Hon. Sec.:* J. Howell Gee, Denbigh. *Financial Sec.:* Gwilym Parry, Chapel Place, Denbigh.

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT LABOUR LEAGUE. *President:* Alfred Harris. *Vice-President:* W. Saunders. *Secretary:* John Gregory, 8 Redcliffe Terrace, Newfoundland Road.

We have received within a few hours of each other manifestoes put forth by the above-named Societies, which afford gratifying evidence of the enormous growth of public spirit now taking place on all sides. The Welsh Land, Commercial, and Labour League is the outcome of the Anti-Tithe Agitation. The old League having been very successful during its year of existence in obtaining large abatements in the tithes, has determined at the commencement of its second year to change its name and extend the area of its operations. Its programme, in addition to the Tithe Question, is the Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Church of England and Wales, Reform of the Laws relating to Land, Building Leases, Royalties on Coal and other minerals, the Game and Fishery Laws, etc., and the Payment of Members of Parliament out of the public exchequer. "It is not intended to restrict the League in the future to the reforms above mentioned. Other questions may be proposed for consideration at the annual meetings." The constitution and rules are thoroughly democratic. One of the latter pledges the members to be faithful to one another, and to prevent land-grabbing. The minimum annual subscription for artisans, agricultural, and other labourers is only sixpence.

The Bristol and District Labour League is distinctly Socialistic in its aims. To quote the words of its excellent manifesto, it "affords every working-man an opportunity to help himself, his children, his fellows, his country, and the world. No man's poverty need exclude him. The League is worked on entirely voluntary principles." The League has at present four branches in connection with the central body, and gives a good record of work done. The following extract shows the spirit which animates the League, and will doubtless receive the hearty approval of the readers of the *Commonweal*:-

"Among the particular lessons which the League enforces is that for working-men to accept the social or political patronage of the upper and middle classes is the greatest degradation that can be submitted to, and is nothing less than a venal prostitution of their liberties. For them to willingly receive the so-called charitable alms and doles from these classes is equivalent to selling their birth-right for a mess of pottage. It further teaches and shows that the so-called laws of political economy, which result in the poverty of the poorest man setting the rate of wages for his class—laws which condemn by far the largest portion of the civilised human race to eternal slavery, that the few may be kept in ease, luxury, elegance, pre-eminence, arrogance, and pride, are fallacious, unjust, and monstrous laws. That any laws which do not result in a moral and material recognition of the dignity of labour and the nobleness of the labourer, and at the same time, the degradation of the idler and lout, are based upon altogether false principles, and therefore, truly considered, are not laws at all.

"The League interferes with no man's creed. It seeks the injury of no one, but the good of all. It excludes no honest working-man, but is purely and simply an effort, by Fraternity of interest, to extend to each and all such Equality of opportunity in life as shall secure to them that absolute unshackled Liberty which belongs to them of right, by which alone the vast capacities of humanity may be opened up and developed to their fullest measure, and life, instead of being the burden it is to millions at present, shall in the near future become truly worth living to all worth living it." T. B.

The Duke of Brummagem—we mean Manchester—is honouring the colonies with another visit. He is cordially welcomed by the same politicians who pretend to be in accord with the workers in their objections to the presence of the Chinese. And yet men of his class are more dangerous and do more harm to the workers than all the Chinese that ever left China. The Duke is not here to purchase Australian slaves, but to purchase that which will enable him to make slaves of hundreds of thousands of Australian workers. He will secure to himself, his heirs, executors, and assigns for ever the sole right of using certain portions of the Australian colonies, which will entitle them—as they blindly believe—to draw annually without working, an ever-increasing portion of the wealth produced by the labour of our children and our children's children for ever and ever. Don't he wish they may get it? We are afraid that game is rapidly being played out, and will not last much longer.—*Our Commonwealth.*

FOR FELLOWSHIP.

You may sneer, if you will, at our numbers;
The pathway of progress is steep;
And the slave yet in apathy slumbers,
Though he tosses and moans in his sleep.

Yet we march, and our footstep is steady,
Our gaze is unflinching, and why?
For we live in the future already,
We live in the ages gone by,

We are one with the saints and the sages,
Who told long ago what a birth
Should be born of the womb of the ages
For the joy of the meek upon earth.

We are one with the world of to-morrow,
We are one with our children unborn,
Who shall hear in amaze of the sorrow
Of our famished ones, faint and forlorn.

We spurn your impossible heaven;
The only salvation we crave,
The one we *will* have, must be given
Not that side, but this, of the grave.

They have touched us, those hopes that are hollow,
We have felt it, the faith that is vain,
But the faith we have hope in and follow
Is that Justice shall conquer and reign.

Laws baffle, we heed them no longer;
Force threatens, our will is unawed;
Force is much, yet is liberty stronger,
And fellowship wiser than fraud.

Come help then, for though you assail us,
Things move, and the end is not far;
The forces of heaven do not fail us,
"Our waggon is hitched to a star."

Every moment makes clearer the manner
To build our idea sublime;
Come follow the Socialist banner,
Come fight for the Spirit of Time.

C. W. BECKETT.

A LETTER FROM JAPAN.

SOME little time ago, a note was published in the *Commonweal* from our comrade Burton, formerly of the Hammersmith Branch. The following remarks by him on the social condition of Japan, in a letter to comrade Bolas, will doubtless prove interesting to our readers:

"The newspapers were particularly welcome, as, besides the *Pall Mall Gazette*, no paper of at all a Socialistic tendency reaches here. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, I am glad to see, becomes more and more decidedly Socialistic. I imagine that it will be the leading Socialist organ before long. It is very encouraging too, to see a paper such as *Reynolds* taking so clear a Socialistic stand. It is a paper that must have immense influence. The opposition of *Punch* too, which is now, in spite of its pretended Liberalism, more essentially a class paper than any other that I know of, is, on the whole, a matter of congratulation. One can never be certain that a good cause is going to succeed till the *Times* and *Punch* consider it worth their while to stupidly abuse it and thereby help it on.

"I still have much interest in studying the economic condition of this country, or rather in attempting to study it, for it is very difficult to investigate. The great problem here will be, I believe before very long, whether the country can be Socialised without first passing through a system of which competitive production is the chief element. I have some doubts about it. There can be no doubt that, evil as the competitive system now is, it has brought great qualities to the people. The Government here, although I imagine they would repudiate the name with horror, are more Socialistic than any other Government that I know of. They keep all the great educational concerns under their direct control, using them for the people; they do the same with almost all the affairs that form great monopolies at home, and even control to a very great extent the production of the articles which form the staple trade of the country, endeavouring in all these things to turn matters rather for the benefit of the many than of the few. The making of anything that we would call a fortune at home is practically impossible here, and even the highest Government officials get what we would consider exceedingly low pay; about what a Government clerk gets at home. Above all, the Japanese see that if they make the country a happy hunting-ground for the British merchant, the British merchant will rapidly make a fortune at the expense of the Japanese; so there are such restrictions put on the precious British merchant—who considers himself to be the centre of all things without whom the world would cease to go round—that he is not able to make a fortune here at all. This makes the British merchant very mad, and he writes home that the country is a miserable one, whose people have no knowledge of trade, and he hints that people who have not such knowledge and do not use it to enrich him are going to be damned very quickly. The British merchant is about the most despicable skunk knocking around."

The true test of civilisation is, not the census, nor the size of cities, nor the crops—no, but the kind of man the country turns out.—*Emerson*



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.

A. H.—Of course the Calendar cannot be made wholly exhaustive all at once. We shall be much helped by anyone who fills up for us any omission in the list of events. The Cato Street affair will be treated in an article as fully as time and space will allow.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday February 29.

ENGLAND	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volsblatt	SWITZERLAND
Bristol—Maggie	San Francisco (Cal) The People	Geneva—Bulletin Continental
Die Autonomie	Coast Seamen's Journal	SPAIN
Jus	Freethought	El Productor
Justice	FRANCE	Madrid—El Socialista
Leaflet Newspaper	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	PORTUGAL
London—Freie Presse	La Revolte	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Labour Tribune	HOLLAND	GERMANY
Norwich—Daylight	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Railway Review	BELGIUM	AUSTRIA
Worker's Friend	Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil	Vienna—Gleichheit
UNITED STATES	Ghent—Vooruit	HUNGARY
New York—Fruheit	Antwerp—De Werker	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Truthseeker	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde	DENMARK
Volkszeitung	Liege—L'Avenir	Social-Demokraten
Boston—Woman's Journal	ITALY	NORWAY
Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	Kristiania—Social-Democraten
Fort Worth (Tex)—South West	Rome—L'Emancipazione	
	Marsala—La Nuova Eta	

A TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

THE struggle for the elementary right of freedom of speech, of which the events of Bloody Sunday formed such a dramatic episode, is taking a new development. The police onslaught of November 13th, and the subsequent reactionary tyranny of the Government, came as a surprise on the genuine Radicals who took part in the proceedings of that disastrous and shameful day: and it can hardly be doubted that the orthodox Liberals were also surprised at it; but their surprise took the form of striking them dumb as well as deedless. Comment has been made in these columns on the dastardliness of their behaviour, which, all things considered, was not astonishing, as well as on its stupidity, which really was almost astonishing. For here had the Tories put a weapon in their hands of a like nature to that which they were using so eagerly in Ireland, and yet they let it tumble to the ground and lie there; thus practically admitting their real alliance with the very men they are formally contending with in the Parliamentary game. So much for Mr. Gladstone's British following, and grievous as it is to say it, his Irish allies behaved no better. Here one has some right to be surprised: how could it be that they did not see the force of the argument ready to their mouths, "You Englishmen, you Londoners, have coerced and gagged Ireland, with the result that you are coerced and gagged; join you with us, as we will with you, to get rid of coercion and gagging altogether, or else you will suffer along with us"?

And moreover, in joining heartily in our protest they would have been even formally pushing their own cause; the meeting on Bloody Sunday was called to protest against the wrong done to an Irishman and Ireland, and every man in the bludgeoned processions was an enthusiastic Home Ruler. Yet no one spoke or stirred, except, to be fair, Mr. Bradlaugh, mindful of his old struggles in the Square. It was left for the Socialists only, helped in the press by the professed democratic and workman's paper, *Reynolds*, and the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which for the time at least became almost a Socialist journal.

Nevertheless, so flagrant was the case, so open was the intention to thrust forward the merest absolutism, so disgracefully unfair was the conduct of the courts that tried the "rioters," and so savagely vin-

dictive the sentences passed on them, that the conspiracy of silence has failed at least as far as London is concerned; and the Southwark election, which otherwise would have been a matter of little importance, showed, as is admitted on all sides, that the London workmen understand the subject of Trafalgar Square much better than their so-called "leaders."

This fact has at last penetrated the numskulls of the orthodox Liberals, and it said that the wily old politician who "leads" them is going to contribute his "old stager" wisdom to the debate on Trafalgar Square, which is (perhaps) to come off on Thursday: nay, that the very dissentient Liberals themselves have taken the alarm, and are meditating a little dishing of the Gladstonians.

Meantime, the meeting of Monday 20th, which was called to welcome Burns and Graham, became under these circumstances a demonstration of a triple alliance for freedom of speech between the Irish, the Radicals, and the Socialists. We are bound to hope that this alliance will give back Trafalgar Square to the people, and put the whole matter of open-air meeting on a better footing than it is at present; but it will only do so if the rank and file of the Irish and Radicals are determined to make a genuine alliance with their Socialist brethren, whatever the leaders may do: it is their business if they are in earnest in upholding freedom of speech throughout the country to look to it that the Liberals do not use it merely as a good electioneering cry for London, to be cast aside on the first opportunity. At the meeting of the 20th the Radical part of their audience were loud in their boast that they could win the right of free speech from the reactionists by the ballot box. So be it! They are certainly not prepared to win it by physical force or the threat of it; though for my part I must think that rather their shame than their glory; and also that it is impolitic to cry out to such an enemy as they are facing (if they are in earnest) "Do what you will with us, if we cannot out-vote you, you are safe." However, let that pass; they are *not* prepared to carry the matter by force, and they think they can by voting. Well, then, at least let them vote hard and not soft; let them exact a pledge from every candidate to support the freedom of speech in Trafalgar Square and open spaces generally, and refuse to vote for anyone who will not give this pledge unreservedly, whether he calls himself Liberal, Radical, or Home Ruler. If they do less than this they may be sure of one thing, that the attitude of the Liberals when they come into power will be pretty much that of the Tories; and they will find after all that they will be driven to use force if they really want to speak out their grievances in public. For after all, it will one day be just as inconvenient to the Liberals as to the Tories that the people should claim what they want by means of public meetings, and whatever opinions the majority in the House of Commons may profess, the Executive will always do its best to silence the people, unless it is repeating parrot-fashion the words put into its mouth by its masters.

As to whether the mass of the Radicals are prepared to assert themselves, and will pluck up heart of grace to beard their leaders, from all that is past one cannot help being very doubtful about that. If they are not, they are exciting themselves very unnecessarily about getting rid of the Tories, who will in that case answer all their purposes quite as well. They may make use of the Liberal party to carry on democracy to the point when it must melt into Socialism; if they do not, they will be made use of to get a party into office, which, as far as any practical purpose is concerned, is composed of leaders who will not lead, and of followers who have got nothing to follow.

W. M.

ANOTHER GREAT RAILWAY STRIKE IN AMERICA.—The engine-drivers and firemen have struck along the entire Quincy system, comprising 6,000 miles of railroad in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, both the freight and passenger traffic being paralysed.

SOCIALISM IN LONDON.—The Socialists seem to be making headway in the local Parliaments. There has been a Socialist Ministry at Charing Cross, and now the Battersea Parliament has followed suit, and is led by a Socialist Ministry. We notice that at Battersea, as at Charing Cross, the first measure to be brought forward is one for the enlargement of the municipal and parliamentary franchise, and prominent among the projects of legislation is "a Bill to increase and amend the powers of local authorities." It looks as though at Battersea, as at Charing Cross, the "Socialists of the municipality" were in the ascendant.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE TITHE RIOTS AT LLANGWM.—Eight men, including the Rev. Edward Roberts, Wesleyan minister, were indicted at Ruthin assizes on Tuesday that "they, with other evil-disposed persons to the number of three hundred, did riotously assemble armed with sticks, and further did wound George Thorpe and others." They were escorted from Llangwm by an enthusiastic crowd. Twenty-seven men were originally committed for trial, but the Attorney-General entered a *nolle prosequi* against nineteen of them. Mr. McIntyre, Q.C., opened the case for the Crown, and described in detail the riots; but subsequently the defendants were liberated on their recognizances in £20 each to appear, if necessary, on March 28.

THE YELLOW INTERNATIONAL.

THERE is in every country of the civilised world a band of fiends, who are the very worst enemies of the people. The only principle in their lives—the be-all and end-all of their existence—is to heap up money. To heap up money! In order to do this effectually, they set aside all the laws of religion and morality without the slightest remorse. When it suits them, they will rudely brush away all ideas of nationality and fatherland. Or if more convenient to themselves, they bolster up with all their greedy pride the empty sentiment of Jingoism.

They are the arbiters of the universe. They spread rumours of wars and disturbances; they make war and they make "peace" that is worse than war. They can cause a country to be overwhelmed by calamity, or they may allow it to remain in prosperity. They hold in their hands all the produce of the world, and consequently are the absolute masters of the people everywhere, whom they regard merely as so many instruments for their purposes.

They are internationalists in the fullest sense of the word. As such, they know neither creed, politics, or nationality, except when it will further their wishes. The control of the means of communication being in their hands, enables them to direct both the home and foreign politics of every country.

These men are the financiers—the Goschens, the Jay Goulds, the Rothschilds, the Erlanders, the Schneiders, etc. To these men and their kind is to be attributed the greater part of the sorrows and misery of human life. There is not a family in the land but knows some reason to curse these cruel murderers.

But for them there would have been no need for the peoples of France and Germany to grapple blindly with each other as they did in 1870. But for them, there would have been no need for England to send her soldiers and sailors to lay waste the country of Egypt and to outrage its inhabitants. But for them, the Englishmen, the Irishmen, the Scotchmen, and the Welshmen who have fallen in iniquitous wars like these—causing desolation in the homes of thousands—might have been still alive, enjoying life and contributing to the well-being of the community.

When the people are awake to these facts, it is to be hoped that no quarter will be shown to these heartless and shameless bloodsuckers.

In *Le Socialiste* of Jan. 28, 1888, our comrade Paul Lafargue, in an article on "La Banque de France," shows in a very striking manner the way in which the financiers—the Yellow International, as they are well called—rob the people and impose heavy burdens upon them. In 1868 France was enjoying peace and prosperity. The Bank of France distributed that year a dividend of 90 francs per 1000 franc share. In 1871 France was vanquished and laid waste; the bank gave its shareholders a dividend of 270 francs per 1000 franc share. In 1872, a dividend of 320 francs. In 1873, a dividend of 360 francs. In five years the dividends had increased four fold.

In October 1869 the market price of a 1000 franc share of the Bank of France was 2725 francs; in 1873 it was 4515 francs.

It will be seen by these figures that a war is much more profitable to the financiers than a period of peace. But it will also be seen, by examining the following figures, that defeat and disaster are ever so much more profitable than victory to these robbers of the working classes.

In 1854 France went to the Crimean War, which proved long and troublesome. The dividend of the Bank of France was 194 francs per share. In 1859 France went to war with Italy. The struggle was a short one and the French were victorious. The dividends of the bank were 115 francs per share. But in 1870-71, when France was beaten by Germany, when its fields were wasted, its cities bombarded, its armies destroyed; when Paris was soiled by the Prussian troops encamped within its walls, Metz delivered up to the enemy, fire and sword carried in all directions; when France was betrayed by Napoleon the Little, condemned to give up two fair provinces, and to pay an indemnity of five milliards,—then was the joy of the shareholders of the Bank of France at its full. The dividends were as follows: In 1871, 270 francs per share; in 1872, 320 francs; in 1873, 360 francs. There had not been such a devilish festival since 1815, when Napoleon the Unambitious was overthrown.

As in France, so in England. A like story could be told of our so-called National Bank. That soul of honour, the pure-minded and patriotic Goschen, has proved himself quite eminent by feathering his nest in the same manner. Being a politician, he uses his power to provoke a rebellion in Egypt, to banish and murder its leaders, to bombard Alexandria, to extort enormous taxes from the peasantry, and—worse than all—to make the English people do all this horrible work. This is the same Goschen who is our present Chancellor of the Exchequer—the man, linked with Balfour and Salisbury, who is engaged in trying to coerce the Irish nation, by batoning, shooting, imprisoning, evicting, and deliberately murdering its people.

There is a moral side to this question, and it behoves all religious folk, all intelligent and honest Christians, and all single-minded Free-thinkers, to consider it from this point of view. A careful enquiry and an impartial judgment would condemn the rottenness of society, which allows such revolting crimes to be done, without fear of punishment, by its principal men.

The working classes have to remember many important facts in these days, but let them ever remember that among their worst enemies are the financiers.

W. CHAS. WADE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUSHING "COMMONWEAL"

For some weeks past a vigorous effort has been made to extend the circulation of this journal, and the result has been to get it into quarters of the metropolis where it had hitherto not been seen. A deal of indifference and actual hostility, amounting to boycotting, has to be met with from the small newsagents who have been solicited to sell the paper. Being glutted with the ephemeral publications that are thrust upon them, they are against accepting an addition which promises more trouble and little or no profit. Others positively refuse to help the circulation from hostility to the doctrines of Socialism. Where this intolerance is most objectionable is on the part of newsagents who obtain it upon order for customers who deal with them for other articles, and yet positively refuse to show a bill or take copies upon sale or return. One remarked to me the other day, "Although I have both *Justice* and *Commonweal* for customers that lay out money for other things, yet I wouldn't have it seen in my place, and I would like to see the whole lot of you put down." "This is like a clothier wanting to sell clothes all of one fit," I made answer, and shows that Ireland might receive a lesson in boycotting from here. To meet this boycott I suggest to the editors to publish a list of where and where not to get the *Commonweal*, the latter list to include the names of shopkeepers who act as I describe. Our comrades may then transfer their custom to friendlier hands. Readers and sympathisers may supplement the efforts that are being made to widen the circulation by sending in the names and addresses of shopkeepers in their neighbourhood who would take the paper, and above all display a poster. Friends in the distant suburbs might supply a board to shops where they deal, and see that it is not covered over with other bills. Further help can be given where, as in the case of even democratic Battersea the newsagents with few exceptions refuse the paper, a member supplies a circle of readers himself.

F. KIRZ.

NEW VERSION OF "THE FINE OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN."

SIR,—The following lines appeared in the *Examiner*, Saturday, August 27, 1841, p. 500, and appear so exactly suited to the state of things to-day that you may perhaps feel disposed to find room for an example of Charles Dickens in a character that many readers of his novels have never considered—i.e., a writer of political squibs:

I'll sing you a new ballad, and I'll warrant it first rate,
Of the days of that old gentleman who had that old estate;
When they spent the public money at a bountiful old rate,
On every mistress, pimp, and scamp, at every noble gate,—
In the fine old English Tory times;
Soon may they come again!

The good old laws were garnished well with gibbets, whips, and chains,
With fine old English penalties, and fine old English pains;
With rebel heads and seas of blood once hot in rebel veins,—
For all these things were requisite to guard the rich old gains
Of the fine old English Tory times;
Soon may they come again!

This brave old cove, like Argus, had a hundred watchful eyes,
And every English peasant had his good old English spies,
To tempt his starving discontent with fine old English lies,
Then call the good old yeomanry to stop his peevish cries,—
In the fine old English Tory times;
Soon may they come again!

The good old times for cutting throats that cried out in their need,
The good old times for hunting men who held their father's creed,
The good old times when William Pitt, as all good men agreed,
Came down direct from Paradise, at more than railroad speed,—
Oh, the fine old English Tory times,
When will they come again?

In those rare days the press was seldom known to snarl or bark,
But sweetly sang of men in power like any tuneful lark;
Grave judges, too, to all their evil deeds were in the dark;
And not a man in twenty score knew how to make his mark.
Oh, the fine old English Tory times,
Soon may they come again!

Those were the days for taxes, and for war's infernal din;
For scarcity of bread that fine old dowagers might win;
For shutting men of letters up, through iron bars to grin,
Because they didn't think the Prince was altogether thin.
In the fine old English Tory times,
Soon may they come again!

(This is most certainly written for the benefit of all Irish editors and contributors, many of whom have been looking from the wrong side of the iron bars. All true poets are prophets, we have heard; and thinking of Tullamore, we can believe the statement.)

But Tolerance, though slow in flight, is strong-winged in the main;
That night must come on these fine days, in course of time was plain;
The pure old spirit struggled, but its struggles were in vain,
A nation's grip was on it, and it died in choking pain.
With the fine old English Tory days,
All of the olden time!

The bright old day now dawns again; the cry runs through the land,
In England there shall be—dear bread! in Ireland—sword and brand!
And poverty and ignorance shall swell the rich and grand;
So, rally round the rulers with the gentle iron hand,
Of the fine old English Tory days,
Hail to the coming time!

This last verse so accurately expresses the state of affairs to-day, when we have a gang of monopolists who are hoping for "only a small duty, you know, on food"; when we have another gang, booted and spurred ready for civil war in Ireland, and a brutal police autocracy, backed up by grave judges, too, in London.

THOMAS SHORE, jun.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

Three thousand men and boys struck work last week at Usworth Felling, Wardley, and Springwell Collieries, in Durham.

The miners strike in Clackmannan county against the proposed 10 per cent reduction of wages has now collapsed.

The workmen in the Tyneside engineering trade have been conceded an advance of 2s. weekly all round.

The Edinburgh joiners have accepted the employers' offer to pay 7d. per hour, commencing on 3rd March. The settlement has caused much satisfaction among the men.

STEAM-ENGINE BUILDERS.—The annual Report says large numbers of men are off work, and the arrears due by them are heavy. The average arrears are over 5s. 4d. per member—the arrears being least at Oldham and Brighton, and heaviest in the West Manchester district.

NUT AND BOLT MAKERS.—In accordance with a decision arrived at at a public meeting of nut and bolt makers at Darlston on Thursday night, notice was given to the employers on Saturday for the return of 5 per cent. taken off the recognised list of prices in 1885.

At a meeting of miners held at Irvine last Thursday a resolution was carried that eleven days per fortnight be worked by miners in the district till they find it convenient to fall in with the resolution of the National Federation of five days per week.

The majority of the girls employed in the hemming department of Messrs. Torrance & Co., Calton, Glasgow, who struck work last week in consequence of a notice of reduction in their wages, have resumed work at the masters' terms.

FIFE MINERS.—DUNFERMLINE (Monday).—To-day upwards of 2,000 of the Fife miners on "holiday" are locked out, and the coal-masters do not meet to consider the situation until Thursday. Many of the idle men had not one penny to draw at the pay-office on Saturday, and a good many families are reported destitute.

SCOTTISH BAKERS' CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW.—At the conference held in the Albion Halls last week, it was unanimously agreed to form an organisation to be called "The Operative Bakers of Scotland's National Federal Union." The union is to be divided into branches, with Aberdeen as the first seat of the central board.

WEAVERS' STRIKE.—The strike at the Newchurch Manufacturing Company's Victoria Works, Cloughfold, still continues. Over a fortnight ago the weavers, who numbered 368, ceased to work because the company had declined to give an advance of 5 per cent. to make up for the loss the weavers allege they sustain in consequence of the bad quality of the material they had to weave.

NORWICH SHOE TRADE.—A strike affecting 120 of the rivetters in the employ of Messrs. Haldenstein and Sons began on Saturday. The prices paid by the firm on certain kinds of work are said to be under the standard, and the men have other grievances. A meeting of the employés was held on Tuesday, and the secretary of the union is making preparations for a lengthy resistance. From reports I have received, the firm does not bear a very good name in the city.

IRON TRADE WAGES.—An important mass meeting of ironworkers representing South Staffordshire was held on Saturday at Wolverhampton, at which it was resolved to instruct the operatives members of the Iron Trade Arbitration Wages Board to give notice for an advance in wages corresponding to the advance that has occurred in iron prices. It is expected that the operatives' representatives will give notice for a 5 or 10 per cent. advance. Loud complaints were made that wages are still regulated by the selling price of bars instead of sheets. The bar trade, it was urged, is fast becoming obsolete, and the sheet trade is taking its place. It was resolved that a change in the direction indicated should also be demanded from the Board. These resolutions affect many of the other ironworking districts besides Staffordshire.

EDINBURGH BAKERS.—Last Thursday a largely attended meeting of the Edinburgh bakers was held in the Trades Hall, Mr. Henry presiding. The following resolutions were submitted and carried by acclamation: (1) "That we, the operative bakers of Edinburgh, being convinced that the present degraded and unsatisfactory condition of the trade arises mostly from the want of union among ourselves, resolve to sink all minor differences and unite together to make every lawful endeavour to improve our position by shortening the hours of labour, and thus advancing our physical and social wellbeing"; and (2) "That we are of opinion that the best means by which we can hope to attain our object is by becoming members of and giving our united and persevering adherence to the Edinburgh branch of the Bakers of Scotland Federal Union."

THE LOCKMAKERS' STRIKE AT WILLENHALL.—A public meeting of lock-makers was held on Thursday evening at the Town Hall, Willenhall, for the purpose of considering the strike of the workmen employed at Messrs. Payton and Co.'s lock works, Walsall Street, Willenhall; Mr. W. H. Tildesley presiding over a good attendance. The chairman said he entirely sympathised with the lockmakers in their endeavours to obtain a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. The men had been really very unfairly dealt with, and the support that they had received augured well for the successful issue of the struggle. He gave his support to the men because he was a Christian, and believed in the principle, "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you," and also as a citizen, knowing that such low wages as these men had been receiving would mean ruin not only to themselves but to the whole town. He hoped the strike would be brought to a successful issue. Mr. William Vaughan (Messrs. Wm. Vaughan and Sons, lock manufacturers) moved, "That this meeting of the inhabitants of Willenhall strongly condemn the action of Messrs. Payton and Co. in their unfair competition with other employers in the district, and pledge themselves to use their utmost endeavours to assist the men to obtain a fair settlement of this dispute." He was pleased to see that their subscriptions were increasing, and he hoped they would still continue to do so. He would do his best amongst his friends and workmen to gain help for them. If the men could only hold out for a few weeks victory must be theirs, for their employers must either shut up or give them wages they could live on. Resolution was seconded, supported, and carried unanimously.

CLOSING UP THE RANKS.—The necessity of federation is being recognised

generally throughout the country. Last week the Welsh miners, and the Scotch miners declared in favour of it; now it is announced that the Edinburgh bakers have resolved to join the Bakers' Federal Union of Scotland.

SEARCHING FOR WORK.—At the Warrington Borough Police Court, Wm. Woods, who said he had been a soldier nineteen years, was charged with begging. He admitted it, but said he had had nothing to eat for eleven hours, and had walked fifty-three miles from Bradford in search of work on the Ship Canal. The magistrate discharged him with a caution.

THE LATE BOLTON STRIKE.—The Bolton Ratepayers' Association, through their solicitor Mr. Grundy, have obtained counsel's opinion on the legality of the charges, amounting to nearly £10,000, for county constabulary owing to the late strike riots. Mr. Crump, Q.C., states that the expenses should not be borne by the borough, and it is expected that the Association will take the matter to the Queen's Bench.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONGRESS.—The preliminary notice has been issued for this important meeting, which will take place next November. Great precautions have been taken to keep out all those who are not connected with "bona fide" trades unions. The refusal to acknowledge the solidarity of labour is openly and plainly shown by the ring of wire-pullers who manipulate the English Trades' Union Congress.

LIBEL.—Mr. Pickard, M.P., has been mulcted in £500 damages for stating that Mr. Pepper, the owner of the Monk Bretton colliery, had caused misery to many families by discharging men who wanted to avail themselves of the new Act and have the mines inspected on their behalf. The defendant also said that the Monk Bretton mines were full of gas, and had been condemned over and over again by the Government inspectors. The money will be raised by public subscription. A Bill has been introduced into the Commons to amend the law of libel, not, however, before it was wanted.

"Disputes with our servants are very distasteful to the directors." So said Mr. Thompson, the chairman of the Midland Railway Company. The public, however, will find nothing in the past history of the Midland directors to lead them to accept Mr. Thompson's statement, for, as a matter of fact, that company has had more disputes of a serious character with its workmen than any other company in the kingdom, and does little or nothing to avoid them.—*Railway Review.*

A correspondent in a contemporary says that, "after carefully dissecting the returns to the Board of Trade of all the existing collecting companies from their formation to the close of 1885, extending over about fifty years, I found (1) that not more than 5 out of every 100 members of Friendly Societies appear to have received anything whatever in return for their premiums, and that there is no apparent probability of this proportion being increased; and (2) that of the premiums so paid, no less than 55 per cent., on an average, with all the interest received in addition, had been absorbed by the companies in expenses. At present about 9,278,500 persons, averaging 20 years of age, appear to be paying to them about 2d. each, or 10d. per family per week, in the hope of securing to their representatives at their death on an average a little under £16 each."

THE EIGHT HOURS' QUESTION.—Much against the will of the clique who work the Trades' Union Congress, a resolution was last year passed that a vote be taken on the eight hour labour question. The Parliamentary Committee issued a circular, and to elucidate the object of that vote kindly undertook to explain what it meant. In the circular men are told that in order to put both sides before the voters, it must be pointed out that "in case of an eight hours law being obtained, all overtime would of necessity cease; that in case of being in favour of asking Government for such a law it must not be forgotten that capital, which is much more powerful and better organised than labour, will have the same right to ask for the regulation by Parliament of the conditions under which you labour; and would you be willing to make the necessary sacrifice in your total week's wages which such an alteration might involve?" Such an extraordinary way of putting the principle before the voters seems unprecedented. How would the nine hour day agitation have fared had the matter been placed in the same light before the men at that time? The voting of the London Society of Compositors took place on Monday. A number of men employed in the printing trade thus protested in a letter to the Executive: "The introductory matter in the ballot paper is of such a nature, and the questions so confusing, that we find it impossible to vote upon the matter. We are, therefore, unable to express an opinion on the Eight Hours' Question, and feel that many of our brother members are in the same difficulty."

In England those that have no work are busily engaged in freezing, starving, and suffering miserably; those that have it rush about after John L. Sullivan; the wealthy men, and those aiming at wealth, are prosecuting their business called Parliament. A few brave men struggle for the rights of the poor and a few for religious liberty.—*N. Y. Truthseeker.*

SOCIALISM AND TRADES UNIONISM are not at all antagonistic. Trades Unionism wants an infusion of the thorough-going spirit of Socialism. Socialism would be all the more useful for an infusion of the practical clear-headedness of Trades Unionism. Trades Unionism is fighting the present day battle of labour for bread. Socialism points the way to a future for the labourer, in which his struggle with his fellow-man will cease, and labourers will be associated on democratic principles for their mutual benefit.—*Miner.*

CIGAR-MAKERS IN MONTREAL AND NEW YORK.—Reports from both the foregoing cities reveal a sad state of slavery amongst the cigar-makers, and of heartless rapacity on the part of the wretches who prey upon their labour. In Montreal, before the Royal Labour Commission, which began its sittings on the 6th of February, witnesses have given evidence that the average wages of cigar-makers only amounted to 4dols. a week, and that the employés were taxed for gas whether they worked or not. Apprentices received 1 dol. per week the first year, 2dols. the second, and 3dols. the third, but these sums were often greatly reduced by fines. An instance was given of an apprentice after working 57 hours, owing his employer 15 cents. The apprentices were often cruelly treated. In New York, where a strike has been going on for some time, the firm of Jacoby and Bookman are ejecting their unfortunate employés from the tenement houses belonging to one of the partners of the firm. "Several of the tenants," says the report, "are young girls, thinly clad, and with faces lined with care. They looked hungry and despondent." Their case impressed the judge as so sad that he strained a point to give them a few days extra time in which to vacate their rooms, as requested by the counsel for the Cigar-makers' Union.

T. BINNING.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 10, 1888.

4	Sun.	1877. George Odger died. 1880. Karl Sladkowsky died.
5	Mon.	1873. Plimsoll's Bill introduced. 1882. Edwin James died.
6	Tues.	1848. Riots in Trafalgar Square, West End, and Provinces. 1881. Formation of Land Nationalisation Society.
7	Wed.	1879. Female Suffrage rejected in Parliament.
8	Thur.	1831. Riots to Prevent Shipment of Corn.
9	Fri.	1762. William Cobbett born.
10	Sat.	1872. Mazzini died at Pisa.

George Odger.—George Odger was born at Rowbro', a small village between Plymouth and Tavistock, Devon. His father a miner, George was put to the shoemaking at an early age, not much of education falling to his share; by self-culture, however, he became fitted to fill in his native country a public position as an advanced politician, public reader, and reciter. He settled in London, after travelling about for some time to perfect himself in the various branches of his trade, and joined the Cordwainer's Society. In 1859, he took a prominent part in the delegate meetings during the great lock-out in the building trade. When machinery began to be largely introduced into his trade it met with much opposition from the general body of workers, and Odger worked hard to influence his fellows in favour of machinery, and in the same direction, strongly condemned Broadhead and his colleagues for the rattening and outrages in the cutlery trades. About 1863, he was appointed secretary of the London Trades' Council—at the extravagant salary of 2s. 6d. per week—and visited many towns in that capacity, doing more good work than has been done by some of the same body since, although rewarded by presents of game and cups of tea at Sandringham. In 1868, he stood candidate for Parliament for Chelsea, but was shamefully sacrificed on the "don't split the party" altar; 1869 he was again a sacrifice to "the party" at Stafford; in 1870 he contested Southwark and polled 4,382 votes, the Tory, Col. Beresford, polling 4,686, the election being lost to him by Sir S. Waterlow, who retired, never having a real chance, at the eleventh hour, taking 2,966 votes, a very small proportion of which would have given Odger the position which he had honestly earned. He proffered to contest Bristol the following month, but the preliminary ballot was against him once more, and when he next stood for Southwark in 1874 he had lost ground, polling 3,496. In the course of the negotiations attending the above contests, several attempts were made to bribe and buy him, large sums of money being placed at his command; but George Odger was not to be bought. That he was far-seeing and fitted for the position he aspired to, his conduct during the American war as compared with Earl Russell's ideas at the time is only one proof out of many. He suffered a long and cruel illness from rheumatism, which touched the heart, which disease was further complicated by dropsy and diabetes, and died, brave to the last, at 2 a.m., Sunday, March 4, 1877, aged 63. He was buried at Brompton Cemetery on the 10th, receiving the honour of one of the largest public funerals seen in London for many years; Profs. Fawcett, M.P., and Beesley; Messrs. Dilke, Burt, J. Cowen, Macdonald, M.P.'s, Dr. Bridges, F. Harrison, G. J. Helyoake, and Rev. G. M. Murphy attending on foot; Sir J. Bennett, Mundella, M.P., and Miss Helen Taylor in carriages. Fawcett and Beesley, after the burial service was concluded, addressed the crowd around the grave, Professor Beesley exciting some comment in the press by beginning his speech with the word "citizens."—T. S.

Land Nationalisation Society.—This society, under the presidency of Prof. A. R. Wallace, was formed for a very good purpose, that a nation shall own its own. Being founded, however, on an economical basis similar to that of the youthful claimant to the noted Jarndyce estates, described by Dickens in 'Bleak House,' it will probably have an effect on the evils of landlordism somewhere about the time that pigs begin to fly. "In order that the State may become possessed of this portion (quit-rent) of the value of all landed property in the kingdom, it must compensate existing landowners and their expectant heirs."—Wallace's 'Land Nationalisation,' 1882, p. 197. The economic parallel of this is the spending of your last shilling to buy a purse.—T. S.

Riots.—The French Revolution stirred up the people of England a good deal, and a few feeble attempts were made here and there to follow the good example. Monday, March 6, there was to have been a demonstration in Trafalgar Square against the Income-tax, convened by a Mr. Charles Cochrane. Act 57, G. III., c. 19, prohibits, during the Session of Parliament, any open-air meeting to petition the Legislature for any measure affecting Church or State, at any place within a mile of Westminster Hall, except the parish of St. Paul's Covent Garden. Warned of this by the police, Mr. Cochrane withdrew, and issued notices to stop the meeting, but this only served to exasperate the assembled audience. After a little sky-larking, during which some unpopular people made acquaintance with the fountains, some Chartist speakers came forward and held a very successful and orderly meeting (composed, according to the papers of next day, of "artisans and labourers out of work, idle spectators, and thieves"). But although this meeting had nothing to do with that proposed, and was therefore perfectly legal, the police attacked the people with their staves and a fight ensued. The wooden railings that then surrounded the pillar were torn up and used as weapons, and after a brief but fierce fight law-'n'-order had to run for it and take refuge in Scotland Yard. After awhile large reinforcements were got together, and after a severe struggle the Square was stormed and cleared; whereupon the crowd marched round the West End, keeping up a running fight with the police, and smashing lamps and windows until midnight. Loud shouts of "Vive la Republique!" were raised from time to time. For several days the fighting was renewed, but lack of organisation rendered the "mob" comparatively helpless. At Glasgow, the disturbances were much more formidable. On Tuesday, March 7, a large crowd assembled on the Green, and proceeded to arm themselves from the gunsmith's shops with guns, pistols, swords, etc., after which they marched about the town, satisfying their hunger from the provision shops. Police and special constables were put to flight, and the military had to be called out. After sharp fighting and some loss of life on both sides, the "mob" was "checked" and "peace" restored, and about 100 prisoners taken. Large reinforcements of the military were brought into the town, over 10,000 special constables sworn in, and with some trouble quiet was maintained on the following days. At Edinbro', Newcastle, and many other places the same kind of rising took place. As no real organisation or training had been looked after, the energy and effort that, well-directed, might have made a revolution, dissipated itself in futile street-fighting, and only served to warn the governing classes so that they were ready for the events of the next few months.—S.

Joseph Mazzini.—On March 10, 1872, Joseph Mazzini, Italian patriot, died at Pisa. He was associated with the most advanced revolutionary party in Italy, and suffered, in common with them, great hardships in prison and exile. Mazzini was born in Genoa in 1805; he was reared in Republican faith, and thoroughly imbued with the principle of Equality. At the age of 22, he joined the Carbonari, a secret society; sent by this society to plant the order in Tuscany, he was entrapped and imprisoned. During this confinement he conceived the idea of founding "Young Italy," a society devoted to the cause of Republicanism and

earnest in their work, was quickly destined to meet the fate of all those who denounced the system of organised oppression. Many of its members were executed, others banished or imprisoned. Although Mazzini with others was condemned to death, yet he lived to see royal dynasties swallowed up in the tomb of popular fury, the Austrian Empire all but destroyed, kings and queens sent to die in exile, the Pope flying in disguise, and the banner of Republicanism floating over the Vatican. When again all this reversed, the armies of law and order over-running Europe, Mazzini never lost heart; he was found an exile in Switzerland carrying on the work he had done. A weak Swiss Government pressed by France expelled him, together with a band of loving exiles, banished for ever from the Swiss Republic. His next move was in the direction of this country, reaching London about the beginning of the year 1837, where he dragged through a life of deepest poverty. Even here, in our country of "freedom and liberty," he was subject to petty annoyances from the government of the day, although amongst the English people he found many co-workers and friends. When in 1848 the Italian people made great efforts to throw off the yoke of rival princes, and Italy was torn asunder at this time by contending parties, Mazzini hastened to his native land, taking a most active part in a great revolt, which achieved the Declaration of the Republic of Rome in 1849. In the meantime the Pope fled from the city. It is to be deplored that this Republic, one of the most glorious and noblest Republics that ever existed, elected by universal suffrage, should have been destroyed by a sister Republic, France. A short-lived Government, of some four or five months, was overthrown upon the invasion of Rome by the French troops. The "Vicar of Christ" returned, reinstated by brute force and violence of foreign arms. After this crushing blow to the hopes of liberty and government by the people, Mazzini left his country, compelled to make a sharp exit, and again steered for London. Living there for a short time he went to Switzerland, from whence he was once more expelled, spending the remainder of a broken and shattered life at Pisa. A recent biographer of Mazzini says: "Mazzini's lofty idealism, his religious spirit, and his constant insistence on duty rather than on rights, frequently brought him into antagonism with many of the revolutionists of Europe. . . . His attitude towards our current Socialism would probably be somewhat different, for that is historical, and is connected with those democratic forms which he thought essential."—F. C. P.

THE BRISTOL UNEMPLOYED.

The Report of the Committee of the Bristol Unemployed has been sent to us, and we regret that space will not allow of its being reprinted entire in these columns. The committee say:

"To us, it is surprising to have found that a movement of this kind, which one would have thought in a so-called Christian country would evoke general sympathy, has, except in a very few instances, some of them to be presently mentioned, met with the most strenuous, unjust, unfair, and even calumnious opposition. There has been a manifest effort to discredit the cause from the beginning. It is no figure of speech to say that the prominent men in the movement have from the first been marked out, and one after the other unmercifully attacked—a manoeuvre, we venture to say, more military in its method than human and honourable in practice against men on whom it would not have been exercised if it had not been mainly assumed that they were poor and defenceless."

As it is well to know who are our friends, we may here give the exceptions referred to. They are the Revs. T. W. Harvey, E. A. Fuller, U. R. Thomas, J. R. Graham, and G. E. Ford; Messrs. R. G. Tovey, and F. G. Barnett, and the Socialist Union. The *Evening News* and the *Bristol Observer* are also credited with "some generous and kind articles."

The mayor and his capitalist friends seem from the first to have tried by every means to discredit the committee, as also Mr. Councillor Tovey, who "his worship" objected to because "his opinions were too pronounced." The mayor's "specific for solving the great unemployed question is, we understand, that men and women must 'work longer hours for less pay.'" The Report then refers to the efforts made to pry into the personal character of the committee; and while not objecting to this, which it did not oppose but rather facilitated, suggests "whether it would not be well for the working class to form a court of enquiry into the personal and commercial character of some of our public men." One can scarcely wonder at the bitterness of the concluding words:

"The end of all of it is there is still greater distress now than before. Our efforts appear to have been thrown away, except for a sum of money subscribed sufficient perhaps to provide, if properly distributed, a small loaf each to the very large number of men, women, and children in a semi-starving condition. For a very large number it is, let the mayor, *Mercury*, *Mirror*, and mayor's myrmidons mince and mock as they may, and take joy in such sickly pastime. Granting it is a small number, as they say, how much easier is the task of saving them, and how much greater the blame and the shame that they remain un-succoured. But we will not say our efforts are altogether useless. The one main thing it has taught us is that there is no mistake in the idea that the case of unemployed men and women is well-nigh hopeless, and that an attempt to bring their condition before the public in an orderly and peaceful manner is fruitful in nothing scarcely but misrepresentation, calumny, jeers, and gibes of the well-to-do who live upon the produce of other people's labour, and are calmly content to laugh at their brothers and sisters and little children starving and dying, provided they do it not too noisily."

T. B.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

Annual Conference.

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Socialist League will be held at 13 Farrington Road, on Whitsunday, May 20. The attention of Branches is particularly referred to (1) Rule V. on the subject of the annual conference, pp. 3 and 4 of Constitution and Rules; and (2) that all branches wishing to be represented at the Conference must pay their subscription up to the 31st March by May 1st.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.—1887: Hastings, Nottingham, Palsall—None. Bradford, Croydon, Glasgow, Hackney, Ipswich, Leeds, Marylebone, Merton, North London, Norwich—to end of March. Edinburg—to end of May. Mitcham—to end of July. Walsall—to end of August. Hull—to end of September. Bloomsbury, Waltham Green, Wednesbury—to end of October. Leicester—to end of November. Clerkenwell, Hammersmith, Hoxton, Mile-end, Oxford—to end of December.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—On Monday next, March 5th, the usual monthly meeting of London Members will take place at 9 o'clock. Members of Council are requested to attend early, and business will commence at 7.45.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Weekly Subscriptions.—C. J. F., 2s. 6d. K. F., 1s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d Oxford Branch, 2s. W. B., 6d.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday evening, W. B. Parker opened debate in absence of J. Lane, who was unwell.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Feb. 22, J. Wood (S.D.F.) lectured on "Technical Education." On Sunday, Feb. 26, Capt. Pfoundes on "The United States of Greater Britain." Brisk discussions. Important business meeting next Sunday at 7 p.m.—B.

FULHAM.—Sunday morning meeting addressed by Turner and Morris. Fair sale of *Commonweal*. In evening a meeting was held as usual outside our rooms. Parker (of Norwich), Knowles, Groser, and Sparling spoke, and the choir sung. Afterwards a fair audience in the rooms; Sparling lectured on "The Blind Samson," Parker in the chair.—S. B. G.

MITCHAM.—On Sunday, Turner lectured on "Co-operation." Landlord of club in chair. Meeting of lecturers stands over till next week.—W. G. E.

BRADFORD.—Jowett lectured at Exchange, City Road, on "Democracy and the Political Outlook" on 26th inst. Bland lectured on previous Saturday on "Criticisms on the Toybee Institute Lectures." Good discussions both times.

GLASGOW.—On Thursday night, comrade Miller, of Kansas City, U.S., gave an account of the Socialist movement in that country. On Saturday, the members present in the rooms formed themselves into a committee to make arrangements for the celebration of the "Commune of Paris," by having a social meeting and concert on the 17th of March. On Sunday, Adams lectured to the Joseph Biggar branch of the I.N.L. on "Political Panaceas" A good discussion followed. At 5 o'clock, when the sleet and rain had cleared off, Glasier held a good meeting in Infirmary Square.—S. D.

LEEDS.—Since last report we have left the rooms in Chesham Street, and at present occupy a room in Lady Lane. During past month our numbers have doubled, and we are looking for larger premises. On Sunday, Feb. 11, Maguire lectured at Shipley on "Private Rights and Public Wrongs." Last Sunday night, Paylor spoke at the Hunslet Liberal Club on "Radicalism and Socialism."

NORWICH.—Sunday last, Mowbray spoke in Market Place; good crowd assembled, though weather was very bad. In evening, in Gordon Hall, Mowbray lectured on the "Anti-Statist Manifesto" in unavoidable absence of Houghton; Morley in chair. We are making arrangements for celebrating the Commune on the 19th of March; we hope to have a London speaker to take part.—S.

WALSALL.—On Monday, Feb. 20th, Butler (of Sedgely) lectured on "The Highlands of Scotland, the Evicted Crofters and Evicting Landlords." Sunday evening we held a tea meeting, Sanders presided. Addresses were given by Donald and Tarn (Birmingham). Recitations, songs, readings, etc., by Weaver, Deakin, and others. Meeting most successful of the kind we have held.—J. T. D.

EDINBURGH.—On 19th, a portion of Kirkup's "Inquiry" read and discussed. On 26th, Smith criticised the objections to Socialism in Donisthorpe's "Labour Capitalisation."

DUBLIN.—At Working-men's Club, Wellington Quay, Feb. 24, C. H. Oldham lectured on "The Position of the artisan class in Irish politics." He showed the relative proportions of the commercial, agricultural, and artisan classes in the United Kingdom, and that only by solidarity could the workers benefit themselves. An interesting discussion followed, in which J. Simons (Trades' Council), W. Anderson, G. Coffey, B. L., and others took part. At Saturday Club on 27th, M. Kavanagh lectured on "Sunday Closing of Public Houses," advocating it as a means towards improving the condition of the workers. Fitzpatrick and others took the opposite view, looking upon the scheme as a tyrannical interference with the liberty of the individual.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Acton.—17 High Street, Acton, W. (adjoining Purnell's Dining Rooms). Sunday March 4, at 8 p.m., J. Turner, "The Control of Capital."

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road. Thursday March 1, Social Evening for members and friends. Thursday Mar. 8, Business meeting (members of the Concert Committee specially requested to attend).

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday March 4, at 8.30, Free Concert by Wm. Blundell and Friends. Wednesday Mar. 7, at 8.30, H. H. Sparling, "The Cato Street Conspiracy." Sun. 11. Mr. Touzeau Parris. Wed. 14. Thomas Shore, jun. (L.R.L.). Sun. 18. Commune Celebration—social evening, with short addresses, songs, etc.

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday at 8.

Hackney.—26 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.

Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday March 4, at 8 p.m., Percival Chubb (Fabian Society), "The Ethical Aspect of Socialism."

Hoxton (L.E.L.).—C. J. Young, 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road, Secretary. Members please take up their membership cards for 1888.

Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday

evenings from 7.30 till 11. W. E. Eden, 12 Palmerston Road, Wimbledon, Secretary.

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).—Sunday night meetings in Baker Street Hall, at 6. Secretary, J. Leatham, 15 St. Nicholas Street.

Birmingham.—Meetings at Summer Row Coffee House every Saturday evening at 8.

Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8. On Sunday, Maguire (of Leeds) will lecture.

Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Wednesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. H. M'Cluskey, Millar Street, Secy.

Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sec.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec

Dublin.—Saturday Club, Central Lecture Hall, 12 Westmorland Street.

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. Every Thursday at 8, class for study of Marx's "Capital." At Trades Hall, High Street, Sunday March 4, W. Davidson, "Wealth."

Galashiels (Scot. Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.

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. Discussion Class meets every Thursday evening at 8 p.m.—object, the cultivation of extemporaneous speaking.

Leeds.—Lady Lane. Open every evening. Business meeting Fridays at 8. Address all communications to T. Paylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.

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. Monday at 8, an Entertainment will be held. Tuesday at 8.30, Business meeting. Wednesday at 7.45, Band practice and Minstrel rehearsal. Thursday at 8, Discussion class (Gronlund) Friday and Saturday, Club premises open from 8 till 10.30. Lecture on Sunday at 8. Sunday next Paris Commune Committee meet at 4 in Gordon Hall.

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.—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.

West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 4.

10.30...Acton—the Steyne	Acton Branch
11.15...Starch Green	Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Acton Green	The Branch
11.30...Garrett—"Plough Inn"	The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Ch, Pitfield St. ...	Pope & Mrs. Schack
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road	Kitz
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green	Wardle
11.30...Regent's Park	Nicoll & Allman
11.30...St. Pancras Arches	Bloomsbury Branch
11.30...Walham Green	Fulham Branch
3 ...Hyde Park	Parker
7 ...Acton—Priory	Acton Branch

PROVINCES.

Leeds.—Sunday; Jack Lane End, Meadow Road, at 10.30 a.m. In Prince's Field, at 3 p.m.

Norwich.—Market Place, at 3 every Sunday.

LONDON PATRIOTIC CLUB, Clerkenwell Green.—Next Sunday morning, March 4, at 11.30, W. B. Parker will lecture on "Radicalism and Socialism." Discussion invited.

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

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday March 4, at 3.30 p.m.

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