

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 4.—No. 144.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1888.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

ONE of the most curious things in that curious jumble, modern journalism, is the way in which the "democratic" dailies treat the rulers of Russia and Germany. If one were to trust the *Pall Mall*, the Czar is the most delightful of human beings, one upon whom all praiseful superlatives must be lavished unceasingly. True, he ill-treats Nihilists, but it is all for their good; if they only behaved a little better, and approached him properly, all would be well. He is always eager to "grant reform," but some wicked folk are for ever in the way, and nothing is done. Meantime robbery, murder, outrage, and injustice go unchecked; every foul thing that human tongue can speak is perpetrated in his name. Yet the "new journalism" can see no blot on the Great White Czar; the blood-gouts that speck his ermine are hidden from the loving eyes of his admirer, whose ears are also deaf to the never-ending wail of his victims.

The *Pall Mall* has done yeoman service in many a good cause; but who can tell how much of its other work has been rendered nugatory by its unweening worship of the ice cold Colossus of the North, whose yoke is the heaviest ever laid on the neck of an oppressed people?

By way of balance, it may be supposed, the *Star* gives adulation to the German Emperor and the "Man of Blood and Iron." In justice it must be said that the adulation is not lavished wholesale; it is applied sparingly; but there it is. Nor can one wonder much at those who refuse to wholly credit a professed red-hot hatred of wrong at home while there is but the suspicion of a wink at wrong abroad. When will even the most advanced "leaders of popular opinion" wake to the fact that the peoples of the world are one proletariat, and that their rulers are one in kind though they differ in degree? Balfour and Warren, Bismarck and Manderöth, Floquet and his prefect, are of the same gang and are all enemies of the whole of the workers; and the sooner our "democratic" opinion-mills learn this the better for them and for their readers.

At the same time, we cannot credit the latest "theory" of the Whitechapel tragedies, though it is broached by one well acquainted with police methods in many lands. He will have that Sir Charles Warren has arranged the whole thing. For, says he, Warren wants more men; this will get them for him. Warren is a stern Biblical Christian, to whom adultery is worthy of death; and so duty chimes with interest. They are worthless lives that have been taken, and much good to "society" may result; and so the end will justify the means. Worse things have been done in Africa in the cause of Christianity and cheap cottons; why not in London for equally worthy ends?

We cannot credit it! More than one atrocity was charged against Warren when he was in Africa "spreading civilisation"; but even if these were brought home to him they would not prove him capable of repeating on white subjects that which he had wrought on black. But if he is not a scoundrel he is at least a fool; replying to the Whitechapel Board of Guardians about the murders, he says: "I have to request and call upon your Board, as popular representatives, to do all in your power to dissuade the unfortunate women about Whitechapel from going into lonely places in the dark with any persons, whether acquaintances or strangers." A Daniel come to judgment! S.

The gentleman who occupies his spare time in mutilating and murdering in the neighbourhood of Whitechapel, has quite unintentionally done Society a service. By his latest masterpieces he has made Sir Charles Warren's position almost untenable, and it will probably not be long before the London Socialists will bid adieu to their best friend.

His loss will leave us inconsolable. Oh, if he could only stay another year, and give us another Trafalgar Square performance! The small Radical remnant who have not yet accepted the Gospel of Revolution at his hands, might then be driven, by dint of hard knocks and furious charges of mounted men, into our ranks; and we might even witness the prompt conversion of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh and G. W. Foote, Esq., to the only religion which any sane person professes.

We might even have seen Charles Bradlaugh demonstrating the beauties of peaceful Radicalism by rolling policemen over like ninepins; while G. W. Foote might be led in triumph like a Roman captive to the nearest police-station, having proved by deeds his title to the noble name he claims.

But alas, it is all over! Warren is bound to go! Not only is he attacked by the ordinary Liberal and Radical press, but even the *Daily Telegraph* attacks him slyly under the pretence of going for Matthews. What a piece of artful humbug this is. There is no one less an admirer of Mr. Matthews than the present writer; but it is not fair to pour upon his devoted head the penalties due to the crimes of other people.

Mr. Matthews is not a personification of earthly wisdom; but if he were it would not be his duty, any more than that of any other citizen, to illumine with its light the dark places beneath the thick skulls of our detective officers. The man who is responsible is the Chief Commissioner of Police, who has also the detective department under his control since he sacked Superintendent Munro. It is he who has thrown everything out of gear by his fierce vanity, his martinetism, and his pig-headed obstinacy. It is he and not Matthews who is the real culprit.

It may be admitted that Matthews is incompetent; but if every Minister is to get the sack who can have that accusation brought against him what remnant of any Government would remain? If Matthews is incompetent, what in the name of the universe is Mr. Smith, Arthur Balfour, or Lord Salisbury? No; this is the real truth of the matter. Last year, after the battle of Trafalgar Square, the *Daily Telegraph* exhausted its whole vocabulary of eloquent admiration in sounding the praises of the mighty conqueror. It would now be too much of a come-down to have to admit that their sometime hero was an utter fraud. So "the largest circulation" agitates for the overthrow of the Home Secretary, hoping, with all the belief of which that Hebraic Christian paper is capable, that Matthews will drag down Warren in his fall. For the *Telegraph* knows full well that if the new Home Secretary is anything but a harmless abject figure-head like Matthews, that he and the imperious Warren are certain sooner or later to fall out, and this can only end in the resignation of the butcher. How admirable are the tactics of commercial journalism! D. N.

The late Rev. Dr. Edwards, who was minister of a United Presbyterian Church in the poorest part of the East-end of Glasgow, according to the Sheriff Court books, has left personal estate to the value of £20,313 14s. 6d. According to the Christian criterion could he have been a "neighbour" to the victims of civilisation with whom his lot was cast? Could he have had compassion on them? I hold that the man who gains a living by preaching Christ's doctrines, and who can die with thousands of pounds unused, must have been getting his money by false pretences.

Christ threatened with final condemnation the uncharitable. To the woman taken in adultery he said, "Go and sin no more," but to the accumulators of wealth "How shall ye escape the damnation of hell?" Pieces of silver—yea, piles of gold—are still secured by thousands of betrayers of Christ, who trade on the ideal embodied in his name. Although they subscribe to his test of judgment, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to them," etc., they can die leaving it undone, notwithstanding the means and opportunities they had to do it. But this game, as with the Established, is almost "u.p." with the U.P. Church.

The Glasgow policemen, instead of carrying their batons in leather sheaths as they have hitherto done, will henceforth keep them in a pocket specially made in their clothes. Every expediency must be given to the smashing of the heads of the people. Formerly, each "moral miracle" had to "pay for his whistle" at the rate of 1s. 3d. each, but a whistle costing 11d. each, of a new pattern, warranted to give a louder "birl," will be supplied to each man by the authorities. Other improvements than these are required to make "the force"

efficient in detecting real criminals. The real criminal does not sing to the "Bobby": "Oh, whistle and I'll come to you, my lad!" And does not "the force" protect the worst criminals?

It was reported on Glasgow Exchange on the 2nd inst., "that the Lanarkshire miners were getting very restive," (How strange!) "and are evidently concerting for the purpose of forcing an advance in wages!" The *Glasgow Herald* remarks that the result of the agitation is looked forward to with some concern by members of the Exchange. Some of these gentry who toil not, but who *do* spin—webs to entrap toilers—contend that the rise in prices so far does not warrant any concession to the men, while others admit that in their case at least a moderate increase is justified. Numerous complaints are made of the difficulty experienced by shippers in obtaining supplies of coal, three or four collieries having to be drawn upon where one sufficed before.

The workers' policy of restriction, by which they have for long suffered semi-starvation, has freed the market from over-supplies, and raised the selling value of their product by over 1s. 6d. per ton. Each man put out, on an average, four tons of coal per day, so that the increased price of the results of a day's labour amounts to over 7s., the whole of which the masters are pocketing, while they refuse a share of 6d. to the men. Yet they are surprised at the men concerting to get 6d. out of the 7s. increase their work produces. I hope the men will yet give the knaves more serious cause for alarm. G. McL.

THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY.

WE are often admonished by the professional politician and by the man of "common sense" of the sacredness of the will of the majority, or as it is sometimes called, the popular will. The expression of this so-called will of the majority in legislation and social and political institutions, is conceived as authoritatively representing the wishes and convictions of the greater number of persons inhabiting the country or the given area; and it is assumed as an axiom by the persons in question that the will of a majority has an inviolable claim to respect. The latter proposition, I submit, can only have a measure of truth in any case; but what I am here concerned to show is that it is not true at all as applied to modern society, and can in fact only be true in the case of a society of equals; further, that even in this case it has one distinct principle of limitation.

What has been hitherto called the will of the people, or the will of the majority as manifested in the modern constitutional state, does not express any act of will at all, but the absence of will. It is not the will but the *apathy* of the majority that is represented. How many of the—not majority, but minority—of persons that vote, *consciously* will a particular line of policy? To show the utter absurdity of the whole thing we have only to remember that in theory the whole common and statute law of England is supposed to be the expression of the public opinion of the people of England. Yet if, as in the case of the Swiss referendum, the people of England were formally polled (even those possessing votes) and the whole issue respecting every law placed before each, how many laws, now undisputed, would not be swept away? It cannot be too emphatically impressed upon the ordinary law-abiding citizen that the greater part of law, as it at present exists, does so by the ignorance of the majority, not by its consent. It is the expression, not of the *suffrage* but of the *sufferance* of the people.

But this is not all. Supposing there were a referendum or poll of all the people of England to-morrow, it would be of little avail on any but the very simplest issue. For so long as there is inequality of education and of natural conditions and the majority are at a disadvantage in respect of these things, they are necessarily incapable of weighing the issue before them. Their very wants are but vaguely present to their minds, and in their judgment as to the means of satisfying them they are at the mercy of every passing wind. But given an equality of education and economic circumstances, there is yet another condition requisite before the opinion of the majority can be accepted as anything like the last resort of wisdom, and therefore as worthy of all acceptance. It is this. Public opinion, the verdict of the majority, even in a society of equals, if it is to have any value, presupposes a high sense of public duty—a standard of morality which exacts that everyone shall take the *requisite interest* in public questions for an independent judgment on them. The man who has not taken the trouble to train himself to think out these things cannot help to form an effective public opinion on any question presenting itself. Given the conditions mentioned, on the other hand, and the judgment of the majority would unquestionably represent the highest collection of wisdom up to date. But until these conditions are fulfilled, the opinion of the majority as such can have no *moral claim* on the allegiance of minorities or of individuals, although it may be *convenient* in many or in most cases to recognise it.

The only public opinion, the only will of the majority, which has any sort of claim on the recognition of the Socialist in the present day, is that of those who have like aspirations with him, who have a definite consciousness of certain aims—in other words, the will of the majority of the European Socialist party. Even the Socialist party, owing to the economic conditions under which its members, with the rest of society, labour, does not fulfil the conditions above stated as necessary for the formation of a public opinion which should command respect. But such as it is, there can be no doubt that it represents the nearest approach to an authoritative tribunal which we can find to-day.

As to those persons who prostrate themselves before this idol, the will of the majority (of present society)—of the mere mechanical majority, or count of heads—and swear they would yield anything to the authoritative utterance of "the people" (in this sense), it would be interesting to know how far in the direction of its logical conclusion they would be prepared to go. There are some among them, we believe, who, while avowedly holding the current theology to be pernicious, yet would nevertheless not oppose its being taught in public schools if the "majority of the nation" were in favour of it. Now it must be admitted that it is exceedingly probable that if the majority of the nation were actively in favour of "religious education" they would get their way. But it is also conceivable that were the majority not very energetic, an energetic minority might carry the day. Yet according to the "majority" *cultus*, it would be wrong to assist in opposing the "will" of the majority. Again, we would like to ask the pious majoritist whether he would complacently see the Holy Inquisition, gladiatorial combats, or bull-fighting established; or on the other hand, witness the abolition of all means of travelling on Sunday, the total prohibition of alcohol and tobacco, the closing of all theatres, and all because an ignorant majority decreed these things? Yet unless a man is prepared to follow a majority (so to say) through a quick-set hedge, the principle of bare majority-worship falls to the ground. Majorities are then tacitly admitted to be nothing *per se*, but only to be respected in so far as their judgments are themselves reasonable, or at least in so far as it is convenient to respect them.

The only conditions which can ensure a judgment on the part of the majority representing the highest practical reason of which human nature is capable up to date, as we have already indicated, are—(1) perfect economic and educational equality; (2) healthy interest in all questions affecting the commonwealth. In a society wherein these conditions were realised, all persons would be competent—some more, some less, of course, but all more or less—and the verdict of the majority ought clearly to be binding on all, so far as active resistance is concerned (and allowance always being made for the right of verbal protest on the part of the minority). There is one exception to this, however—an exception not very likely to occur, I admit, but nevertheless conceivable. It is the principle referred to as limiting the right of all majorities—even though the dissentient minority be only one. I refer to actions which Mill calls self-regarding, or those which in no way directly concern the society or corporate body. Were any majority to enforce a particular line of conduct in such actions, and to forbid another, it is the right and duty of every individual to resist actively such interference. For just as the free motion and development and disintegration of the cellular tissue is essential to the life of the animal body, the cause of death in cases of mineral poisoning being the stoppage of this process, so the healthy freedom of the individual within its own sphere is essential to the true life of the social body—as much so as the subordination of the individual in matters directly affecting society.

Were a majority, therefore, to seek to regulate the details of the private life of individuals in points where it does not directly come in contact with public life, any resistance on the part of individuals would be justified. Those entrusted with the carrying out of the mandates of the majority in such a case should be treated as common enemies, and if necessary destroyed. Even though the private conduct of individuals might have an indirect bearing on the commonweal, this would not justify direct interference; any temporary inconvenience would be better than the infringement of the principle of the inviolability of the individual from coercive restraint within his own sphere. Let us suppose a case. The habit becomes prevalent in a Socialist community of sitting up late at night. This habit renders some of those addicted to it not so capable as they would otherwise be of performing their share in the labour of the community. Now an otherwise sane majority might here easily lose its head and enact a curfew. In this it would be clearly going beyond its function, inasmuch as the habit in question is primarily a private and purely self-regarding matter. Let the majority if so minded exact more stringent standards of discipline and efficiency in work, and enforce obedience to them—such enactments should be binding on all good citizens. But an enactment compelling the citizen to go to bed at a particular time should clearly be resisted at all costs. Of course the probabilities are that a habit which really tended, although indirectly, to be detrimental to the community, would be voluntarily given up in a society where a social morality prevailed.

Again, the fact of an action being distasteful to the majority may be a valid ground for its not being obtruded on public notice, but is no ground for its being forbidden in itself. For instance, a certain order of Parisian palate devours with great gusto a species of large garden snail called *Escargot*. To the present writer, the notion of eating these snails is extremely disgusting. Now supposing an intelligent but unprincipled majority took the same view, as very likely it might, there would likely enough be proposals carried for prohibiting the consumption of these articles of diet—on the ground that it was bestial and degrading. Here, again, would be a case for resistance to the knife. But take the other side to this *escargot* question. The aforesaid molluscs are in Paris hawked about in the early morning in barrows, around the sides of which they crawl, the sight of them tending to produce "nausea and loss of appetite" (to employ the phraseology of the quack medicine advertisement) in those about to take breakfast. Now it is obvious that if this result obtained with the majority, the majority would have a clear right to prohibit the public exposure of these commodities, even if the would-be consumer were thereby *indirectly* debarred from obtaining them.

The same reasoning applies to sexual matters. Society is directly concerned with the (1) production of offspring, (2) with the care that things sexually offensive to the majority shall not be obtruded on public notice, or any obscenity on "young persons." Beyond this all sexual actions (of course excluding criminal violence or fraud) are matters of purely individual concern. When a sexual act from whatever cause is not and cannot be productive of offspring, the feeling of the majority has no *locus standi* in the matter. Not only is it properly outside the sphere of coercion, but it does not concern morality at all. It is a question simply of individual taste. The latter may be good or bad, but this is an aesthetic and not directly a moral or social question.

Once more, the drink question, in so far as the consumer gets what he wants, namely, pure liquor and not adulterated stuff, in a great measure comes under the same category, although not so completely, since the directly injurious effects to society invariably resulting with certain temperaments (irresponsible violence, etc.), from the taking of alcohol, might justify prohibitive treatment as regards those cases. Even this, however, would not justify any general measure of prohibition.

The above, then, is what I have termed the principle of limitation of the coercive rights of all majorities, however enlightened. When they overstep these limits, whether at the bidding of whim or foolish panic or what-not, the minority or the individual has the right and the duty of resisting it, the efficacy of the means to this end being the only test of their justifiability. On the other side of this clear and distinct line, on the contrary, in a free society of equals, free that is, economically as well as politically, the will of the majority must be the ultimate court of appeal, not because it is a theoretically perfect one, but because it is for reasons before given the best available.

The practical question finally presents itself, What is the duty of the convinced Socialist towards the present mechanical majority—say of the English nation—a majority mainly composed of human cabbage stalks, the growth of the suburban villa and the slum respectively? The answer is, Make use of it wherever possible without loss of principle, but where this is not possible disregard it. The Socialist has a distinct aim in view. If he can carry the initial stages towards its realisation by means of the count-of-heads majority, by all means let him do so. If on the other hand he saw the possibility of carrying a salient portion of his programme by trampling on this majority, by all means let him do this also. Such a case, though extremely improbable is just barely possible, as for instance, supposing Social Democracy triumphant in Germany before other western countries were ripe for the change of their own initiative. It might then be a matter of life and death for Socialist Germany to forestall a military and economic isolation in the face of a reactionary European coalition by immediate action, especially against the stronghold of modern commercialism. Should such an invasion of the country take place, it would be the duty of every Socialist to do all in his power to assist the invaders to crush the will of the count-of-heads majority of the people of England, knowing that the real welfare of the latter lay therein, little as they might suspect it. The motto of the Socialist should be the shortest way to the goal, be it through the votes or through the skulls of the majority. As has been often said before, and said with truth, every successful revolution in history has been at least initiated by an energetic minority acting in opposition to, or at least irrespective of, the inert mass constituting the numerical majority in the state. And it is most probable it will be so again. Be this as it may, the preaching of the *cultus* of the majority in the modern State, is an absurdity which can only for a moment go down with the Parliamentary Radical who is wallowing in the superstitions of exploded Whiggery.

E. BELFORT BAX.

Can any honest man feel surprised at learning that "lawlessness" is on the increase in many regions of the country, when the sole aim of the law seems to be to place labour in such absolute subjection as can scarcely be paralleled in Turkey or China?—Paterson *Labour Standard*.

THE "STRAIGHT TIP."—The nail masters of Birmingham have at last become conscience strikers, and are feeling ashamed of the starvation wages they have so long paid their workmen; the result is that the latter are to receive a ten per cent. advance. Want of organisation brought them to their wretched condition, as they have been compelled to submit to be ground down for some years past, until now they can hardly keep body and soul together. There are many railwaymen in a similar position, which is due to the same cause, but if they wait until the railway companies are conscience stricken, or take compassion on them, they will have to wait till the millennium.—*Railway Review*.

LATE CONVERSIONS.—It is a rather queer feature in our social life, the *Cotton Factory Times* thinks, that when a man becomes a Parliamentary representative he at once begins to find out what good institutions trades unions are. It is somewhat singular that a man may carry on a business for years, and constantly be brought in contact with working men, and yet never find out what good fellows they are until he wants their votes. We are far from saying that the votes of working men have any influence with Mr. Brunner, M.P., the Cheshire salt king, but he has been talking very "fine and large" about them. According to this authority, English working men are the best workers in the world. He (Mr. Brunner) pays half as much again to his workmen as is paid to workmen in the same trade in other European countries, and yet he says his labour costs him less per ton of salt than it does his competitors. This is valuable information, and it was supplemented by a recommendation to workmen to form strong trades unions. We are bound to confess that we rather like this, but we should have liked it still better had Mr. Brunner found it all out before he became a member of Parliament. Very likely, however, he had not time to study out the matter in his younger days, being too busy getting his large business together, but on the principle that "it is better late than never" we can accept this new recruit.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 1888.

14	Sun.	1814. Thomas Davis born. 1817. J. P. Curran died. 1842. T. Cooper tried for treason.
15	Mon.	1326. Walter Stapleton Bishop of Exeter, Lord Treasurer of England, beheaded at the Cross in Cheapside by the London apprentices. 1794. Robert Watt hung for high treason. 1817. Kosciusko died. 1819. Carlile tried for publishing Paine's 'Age of Reason.' 1842. <i>Nation</i> founded by T. Davis, J. B. Dillon, and C. G. Duffy.
16	Tues.	1792. Society of the "Friends of the People" founded at Edinburgh. 1793. Marie Antoinette guillotined.
17	Wed.	1760. St. Simon born. 1803. W. Smith O'Brien born. 1859. John Brown at Harper's Ferry.
18	Thur.	1794. Suppression of the Jacobin Club. 1861. W. Sharman Crawford died. 1881. "No Rent" manifesto issued.
19	Fri.	1887. Fight between police and unemployed in Dover Street, Piccadilly.
20	Sat.	1817. Trial of W. Turner for high treason. 1830. Charles X. lands at Newhaven. 1881. Proclamation of Land League.

John Brown at Harper's Ferry.—This item is much too big for a note, and will be treated in a special article in our next number.—S.

The following note was held over from last week:—

Searching the Ladies' School.—The school, which had been founded by the Duke of Leuchtenberg and was under the patronage of the Czarina, was regarded by the Government as a valuable means of russifying Polish aristocrats, and to that end noble families of both nations were encouraged to send their daughters there. The police, becoming suspicious, searched the school, and arrested the head-mistress and eight of the leading pupils. Many "seditious" documents were found, and it was said to have been for a long time an active and very effective centre of revolutionary propaganda.—S.

HUNGER AND COLD.

SISTERS two, all praise to you, With your faces pinched and blue; To the poor man you've been true From of old: You can speak the keenest word, You are sure of being heard, From the point you've never stirred Hunger and Cold!	Rude comparisons you draw, Words refuse to sate your maw, Your gaunt limbs the cobweb law Cannot hold. You're not clogged with foolish pride, But can seize a right denied, Somehow Truth is on your side, Hunger and Cold!
Let sleek statesmen temporize; Palsied are their shifts and lies When they meet your bloodshot eyes, Grim and bold; Policy you set at naught, In their traps you'll not be caught, You're too honest to be bought, Hunger and Cold!	You respect no hoary wrong More for having triumphed long; Its past victims, haggard throng, From the mould You unbury: swords and spears Weaker are than poor men's tears, Weaker than your silent years, Hunger and Cold!
Bolt and bar the palace door; While the mass of men are poor, Naked truth grows more and more Uncontrolled; You had never yet, I guess, Any praise for bashfulness, You can visit sans Court-dress, Hunger and Cold!	Let them guard both hall and bower Through the window you will glower, Patient till your reckoning hour Shall be tolled. Cheeks are pale but hands are red, Grainless blood may chance be shed, But ye must and will be fed, Hunger and Cold!
While the music fell and rose, And the dance reeled to its close, Where her round of courtly woes Fashion strolled, I beheld with shuddering fear Wolves' eyes through the windows peer; Little dream they you are near, Hunger and Cold!	God has plans man must not spoil, Some were made to starve and toil, Some to share the wine and oil, We are told. Devil's theories are these, Stifling hope and love and peace, Framed your hideous lusts to please, Hunger and Cold!
When the toiler's heart you clutch, Conscience is not valued much, He recks not a bloody smutch On his gold: Everything to you defers, You are potent reasoners, At your whisper Treason stirs, Hunger and Cold!	Scatter ashes on thy head, Tears of burning sorrow shed, Earth! and be by pity led To Love's fold Ere they block the very door With lean corpses of the poor, And will hush for naught but gore, Hunger and Cold!

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL (1844).

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE KAWEAH COLONY.

Dear Sir,—I noticed in one of your numbers of a few weeks back a reference to J. J. Martin for information as to the Kaweah Colony. Having no wish to allow any one to be possibly gulled, and to find things not altogether as they expected, I beg any enquirer to be very careful before he subscribes to the Colony in its present state and under its present usurped management—or comes out here relying upon it to help him any.

I would advise any one seeking information to by all means enquire first of the present secretary, Alf. Cridge, *Weekly Star* Office, San Francisco, or of—Yours truly,

W. J. CUTHBERTSON,
President of Kaweah Colony.

307, Phelan Buildings, San Francisco, California.

The editor wrote that Jay Gould was all worn out and unstrung. The compositor set it up: "Jay Gould is worn out, but yet unhung." The proof reader let it go at that.—*Baltimore Free Press*.



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.

CANOE.—The *Liberator* is not a revolutionary paper. It deals with only one topic, the disestablishment of the Church of England; and never has a word to say of labour matters.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 10.

ENGLAND Church Reformer Christian Socialist Die Autonomie Hertfordshire Express Justice Labour Tribune London—Freie Presse Norwich—Daylight Postal Service Gazette Radical Leader Railway Review Worker's Friend	Jewish Volkszeitung Alarm Workmen's Advocate United Irishman Boston—Woman's Journal Chicago (Ill)—Vorboten Douglasville (Ga.)—Roll Call Detroit—Der Arme Teufel Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West Milwaukee—National Reformer Paterson (N J) Labor Standard	SWITZERLAND Arbeiterstimme ITALY Turin—Nuovo Gazzetta Operaia SPAIN Madrid—El Socialista Cadiz—El Socialismo Barcelona—Tierra y Libertad Seville—La Solidaridad PORTUGAL Lisbon—O Protesto Operario GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune AUSTRIA Brunn—Arbeiterstimme Wien—Gleichheit ROMANIA Jassy—Munitorul SWEDEN Stockholm, Social-Demokraten Malmo—Arbetet WEST INDIES Cuba—El Productor
NEW SOUTH WALES Hamilton—Radical Sydney—Australian Star	FRANCE Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Le Parti Ouvrier (daily) La Revolte Le Coup de Feu Sedan—La Revolution Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen BELGIUM Ghent—Vooruit Liege—L'Avenir	

CHICAGO MARTYRS AND BLOODY SUNDAY.

"Our silence will be more powerful than our speech."

MRS. PARSONS has accepted the invitation of the Commemoration Committee to speak at the various meetings to be held in London and the provinces next November. Arrangements have already been made for meetings to be held on Saturday, November 10, at 8 p.m., at Wornum Hall; at Regent's Park on Sunday, November 11, at 11.30 a.m.; and in the afternoon at Hyde and Victoria Parks at 3 o'clock. Further particulars will be announced next week. Meantime, funds are urgently needed, and should be sent to J. Lane, Treasurer, at the office of the Socialist League, 13, Farringdon Road, E.C. Any information can be had by communicating with Secretary of the Commemoration Committee.

W. B. PARKER, Secretary.

WIMBLEDON AND MERTON NOTES.

SINCE the successful meeting held on the Wimbledon Broadway on behalf of the match-girls, where a truce was proclaimed between the hitherto warring Socialists and Christians, and we both pulled together to help the girls, the branch has been actively at work to permeate the neighbourhood with Socialistic ideas. The temporary alliance with the Christians is a curious fact in connection with our local propaganda; there exists the ruins of a Radical Association, done to death by starved respectability and want of verve. There is also a scattered group of Freethinkers, whose toleration of Socialist opinions does not extend so far as the purchase of a *Commonweal* for perusal; being as our Christian opponents say "without God," they worship instead the triton and minnows of the Secularist party, and we who are fighting against social wrongs do not receive the least assistance from either Radical or Freethinker, and hence the strange spectacle was seen of Revolutionary Socialists and Christians uniting in an attack against monopolist tyranny.

We are blessed here with a "Free" Library, which is largely used as a lounge by the respectable inhabitants of the jerry-built villas in this jerry-built place. Their respectability is of such a nature that it stiffens features and joints, and prevents a natural walk or speech. This respectable clique have expunged *United Ireland*, the *Star*, and the *Commonweal* from the library stands; the reason given for rejecting the *Weal* being in the elegant language of one Norman Bazalgette, that it wanted to "shove up all that was down and bring down all that was up." So we are taking up the suggestion of our Australian comrades, and shall open our club-room as a really "Free Reading Room," and should be glad to receive any help that comrades can give in the direction of gifts of papers, books, etc. In conclusion, we ask the purchasers of this journal in the neighbourhood to give us some help towards our branch and its work. (Pro Committee) F. KIRZ.

A SAFE INVESTMENT.

"THERE is meat on that bone yet," is the way to speak of the recent discovery by a London daily that a safe four per cent. can be made by supplying moral "doss-kens" to the waifs and strays of London. The chief next the *Times* of the reptile press says it is a "certain thing," and a correspondent, delirious with joy, writes to say that even more can be made out of this Christian endeavour to raise our fellow-creatures and bring a percentage out of them at the same time.

The retiring modesty of the leader-writer (possibly the same who vilifies the unemployed) did not permit him to exhaust his theme, and "even more" can be made from the venture than he presumed.

Enchanting prospect! to save society and pocket four per cent. safe, and "even more"; to surround your scheme with a halo of sanctified purpose, like the nimbus around the head of the dead Christ; to invoke his name as sanction to your plan; to hide your prospectus under a mass of phrases about the moral and physical degradation of the mass and your own self-sacrificing determination to uproot and alleviate it, and withal secure your four per cent., and even more!

It seems a far cry from Whitechapel to Peru, but a Spanish society has been formed to discover any chance loot that Pizarro's cut-throats may have left untouched when they invaded illfated Peru. Like their English congeners, the Spanish adventurers think there's "meat on that bone yet." The slums of London and all our cities and towns are the result of landlordism and capitalism. The method of life adopted by Annie Chapman and her fellow-victims is the alternative one to slow murder for sweaters' pay. Had they died slowly, starved or worked to death, the journals now so moved over the manner of their ending would have barely noticed the inquests, if any were held; they would certainly not have displaced their Court News to make room for an obituary. But there is an opening for profit made *literally* with the murderer's knife; and the gutters of London and its terrible human wreckage shall be made to yield four per cent. and "even more"!

With singular inconsistency, the journal which is booming the new enterprise calls loudly for the detection and punishment of the criminal. How ungrateful to denounce the direct cause of making four per cent.! Such ingratitude is only equalled by the parson when denouncing the Devil and all his works; for no Devil, assuredly no parson and no salary. To speak well of the bridge that carries one over is evidently not the motto of the Fleet Street Judas.

These wretched capitalistic sheets are produced themselves under conditions which slowly murders the operatives. They are filled with accounts of military operations wherein hundreds bite the dust in order to increase the profits of the capitalists.

The perpetrator of the recent crimes will, if caught, suffer in person for his crimes (if not *very* rich). An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, say the law and the press. When shall the doctrine of retribution be carried out on those who at home exploit and rob their fellows, making the awful lives of Annie Chapman and her associates the only life possible to thousands, and abroad use up our sons and brothers in atrocious exploits beside which the Whitechapel tragedies pale in comparison? As a foul and dank hole will engender noisome creatures, so will the horrible surroundings of the poor breed monsters, and their victims of the Annie Chapman type. That the human virtues flourish at all under such conditions shows the capacity of our race to withstand corrupting influences.

The murderer may be in this case a homicidal maniac, but we have uprising in our midst gangs of unfortunates, begotten of vile surroundings, who stop at no outrage or crime. The wretched sisterhood of the pavement are their first victims, and next belated wayfarers. In the first case their guilt is shared by the police, who in every locality partake of the wages of prostitutes and join with the roughs and bullies in blackmailing them. These "guardians of the peace" are to be, some long day ahead, the detectors of the Whitechapel murderer.

Meanwhile, as easiest to their hand, they attack half-starved men and lads, and steal a few bits of red cloth when borne aloft in the processions of the unemployed. The bourgeoisie is shrieking aloud for its dear police, sorely tried public servants as they termed them when bludgeoning the unemployed. Who knows which way the knife may be turned next? The four per cent. sympathy they now display for the victims is the same kind of motor which moves them to look after the sanitary conditions of back streets when an epidemic is threatened: they might catch it themselves. The police are suited to the work they have to do—viz., to drive discontent under the surface and break their fellow countrymen's heads, if poor—and no murderer need fear arrest at their hands. These bulky chawbacons, like the evicting R.I.C., are the laughing-stock of the light-fingered fraternity. The contumely heaped upon our comrades of the Berner Street Club by their silly quest of a miscreant already far away from the scene of his crime is as nothing to the outrages committed by these chartered ruffians in uniform at the International Club a few years back. We Socialists, with the memory and actual experience of that scene of pillage and brutality enacted by the police and of the farcical travesty of justice which followed upon process against them in the courts, can well read with amusement articles calling upon the police for protection from depredators. False swearers, blackmailers, committers of outrage and assault upon their fellow men—these are the agents of "justice" in a system of society which is based upon legalised violence and robbery: they are to bring to judgment those who commit *un-legalised* depredation and murder.

F. KIRZ.

What is pauper labour? Labour that must beg for employment whether in this country or any other.—*Twentieth Century*.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

THE refusal of the authorities to allow comrade Oscar Falleur to land was a little too stiff. American workmen have not yet reached such a state of depravity as to swallow with good grace such hot pepper. So on September 21, James Quinn, Master Workman of District 49 Knights of Labour, sent a telegram to the Secretary of the Treasury, saying that Oscar Falleur was prohibited from landing under the pretext that he is a convict whereas he is only a political offender. He added that if the department ordered Falleur to be sent back it will be the first time that a political offender was ever debarred from entering this country. Later in the afternoon, Acting-Secretary Thompson wired the collector of customs at New York to detain Falleur until he has had an opportunity to prove his allegation that he is a political offender and not a convict. Falleur, in consequence, did not sail in the "Aurania." Ex-Civil Justice Gedney, who has been retained to look after Falleur's case, says: "The law especially specifies that the detention of a convict shall continue until the sailing of the vessel upon which he arrived," and as Falleur did not return in the "Aurania" he cannot now lawfully be returned on any other steamer.

At the last meeting of the Central Labour Union in New York on the 23rd of September, the following resolution was passed:—

"Whereas, a Belgian refugee named Oscar Falleur, President of the Belgian Glasworkers' Union, is being prevented by the authorities of Castle Garden from landing and making this country his permanent home, and whereas this action is the result of a contemptible conspiracy of the Consul representing the American Republic in Belgium with the ruling class of that country against a man whose only crime was that he was a devoted friend of labour and a labouring man himself, the President of the Glasworkers' Union, and a member of the order of the Knights of Labour, who has suffered imprisonment for participating in a strike, and whereas the extradition of Mr. Falleur would be contrary to the traditions of this and every other civilised country, be it Resolved, That the Central Labour Union solemnly protests against this proposed outrage upon our brother Falleur, and we demand that all proceedings interfering with his landing be dropped, so as to prevent the disgrace attempted to be cast on this Republic, which has always recognised the principle of free asylum for refugees from oppression and tyranny."

A copy of this resolution will be sent to the Secretary of the Treasury.

In all probability there will be a renewal of the engineers' strike on the Burlington Railroad system. There surely will be if certain proposed measures looking toward a reduction and re-organisation of the present force of "scabs" are carried into effect. It has been understood that a new schedule has been prepared, to take effect on October 1st. It is generally supposed that a reduction of the engineer force is one feature, and the substitution of firemen for the engineers laid off. The "scabs" are much excited, and declare they will not stand the reduction. The old Brotherhood men are flocking back, and openly say they will pave the road back inside of a month.

Judge White, in Pittsburgh, has laid down the law that an employer always has the right to discharge an employé with or without cause. We knew that long ago.

In the *New York Herald* appeared an advertisement for an assistant book-keeper, to which there came 374 answers. If you want a job—don't come to America!

At the last meeting of the Chicago Trade and Labour Assembly an effort was defeated to pledge that organisation to the Union Labour Party, the almost unanimous feeling being against using the Assembly to endorse any political party.

More than forty of the law-'n'-order lambs who attempted on the 4th of May, 1886, to break up at the Haymarket in Chicago a peaceable meeting, have since been discharged from the force for various crimes, as vagrancy, drunkenness, etc.

In spite of exceedingly bitter experiences made in previous years, the Socialist Labour Party (Social Democrats) have resolved at their meeting last Sunday to go again into politics, and to put up a ticket all to their own cheek. State and municipal tickets will be put into the field. A committee was appointed to arrange for a Convention, at which the nominations will be made, the date of which has not yet been decided upon. The decision was carried by an almost unanimous vote; the party this year will not attach itself to any other party. It must be understood that the Socialist Labour Party is principally composed of German speaking citizens of the United States, and consequently naturally can exercise but very little influence on the American public. The selling out of George, McGlynn, and others, seems not to be sufficient for these people—they want more!

Henry George is at present making stump speeches for the Democrats at 500 dols. a night, and McGlynn, in conjunction with the wire-pullers of the United Labour Party, is drawing boodle from the Republicans. Such are the results of a Parliamentary agitation. Thank you!

A report from Chicago says that Bodendieck was released on the 21st of September. He states that during the whole time of his incarceration—12 days—he was kept a close prisoner in a dark underground cell at the central station, and was unable to communicate with any one. Every means known to the "Sweat-box" high priests was resorted to, to wring from him a "confession," but Bodendieck having nothing to tell remained firm. On releasing him Bonfield told him that no charge was entered against him, and he was not even brought before a justice; he was simply deprived of his liberty at the whim and caprice of our Chicago Vidocq-Bonfield. The latter cautioned him to leave the country, as he was liable to arrest in every city and town in the United States. The whole story of Bodendieck's conspiracy to destroy property was made up to furnish the newspapers with a sensation, and to add glory to Bonfield's record, but principally to prejudice public opinion against the Bohemian Anarchists, whose trial was to take place the Monday following his arrest.

Bodendieck has been known to me as one of the best workers in Chicago—a man never tired to work for the good of the cause. He has done immense service in spreading revolutionary literature, and he is a man not easy to be "sized up" or bullied into cowardly submission by a Bonfield, a vulgar and coarse brute of the lower prize-ring type.

Trade Unions: Their origin and objects, influence and efficacy, by Wm. Trant, M.A., with an appendix showing the history and aim of the American Federation of Labour, followed by a brief sketch of the growth, benefits, and achievements of the national and international trades unions of America, is the rather ambitious title of a pamphlet published by the American Federation of Labour, containing on forty-seven pages closely printed a good deal of interesting matter. The five opening chapters of this pamphlet are condensed from the prize essay on Trade Unions written by Wm. Trant, who secured for it the £50 prize offered a few years ago by the Trades Union Congress of Great Britain. Trant deals principally with English unions, and it might be worth while for a member of the League to look up Mr.

Trant's eminently shoddy and extremely silly production and review it. To show you the quality of his essay, I will just quote the concluding passage:

"Jack is as good as his master, and the men know that if employers would only acknowledge this—if they would only meet their workmen as men on an equal footing with themselves, and discuss the wages system with them, as the late Mr. Brassey, Mr. E. Akroyd, Mr. W. E. Forster and others were in the habit of doing—then strikes would be impossible. Trades unionism has a great future before it. Its ultimate result cannot be otherwise than to convince both employer and employed that they are the truest friends each of the other, for each derives his revenue from the other."

Enough. The two appendices written and compiled by P. B. McGuire, secretary of the Federation, are the most instructive and interesting. Here the story is told in cold type—unconsciously of course by McGuire—of the modern Sisyphus, the trades unions on their present basis. How many times have the trade unions been broken up because of incapacity to fight capitalism effectually on their present basis, and yet always having learned nothing and forgotten nothing, they re-formed themselves exactly on the same basis. Here are a few extracts:—

"Early in the year 1866 the trade assemblies in New York City and Baltimore issued a call for a national labour congress, and in accordance with that appeal one hundred delegates, representing sixty open and secret labour organisations of all kinds, and covering an area of territory extending from Portland, Mo., to San Francisco, Cal., met in Baltimore, Md., on August 20. At this meeting the National Labour Union was formed. From 1867-1872 a yearly congress was called to perfect the organisation. In 1872 it was decided by the union to go into politics, and David Davis of Illinois was chosen as candidate for president. . . . This drifting into political action provoked so much dissension that one local organisation after another withdrew its support, and interest was lost in the central body. . . . In the next year, 1873, the great panic swept upon the country and demolished the trades unions. . . . The distress of the winter of 1873-4, and inability of organised labour to stem the reductions of wages that were taking place in every branch of industry, induced a number of leading trades unionists to call another "Industrial Congress" with the intention of forming a federation of the trades and labour unions of the entire country. . . . New organisations were formed, but they did not last more than a year each. . . . A call was published for a convention to be held in Pittsburgh in November 1881, and this gathering proved to be successful. . . . A permanent organisation was effected styling itself "The Federation of Organised Trades and Labour Unions of the United States and Canada." . . . At the second convention of this organisation in November 1882 a manifesto was issued. . . . Conventions were held every year. . . . At the convention held October 7, 1884, in Chicago, steps were taken for a universal agitation in behalf of the eight hour system, and the 1st of May, 1886, was fixed upon as the date for the general inauguration of the plan. . . . At the convention held in Columbus, Ohio, in December 1886 the old Federation of Trades and Labour Unions was dissolved and the American Federation of Labour created. . . . Twenty-five national organisations were blended in it, with an aggregate membership of 316,469 working men. . . . The American Federation of Labour is numerically the strongest labour organisation, possessing to-day an aggregate membership of 618,000."

I may add that in the lock-out and strike of the brewers it has been clearly proved that the Federation has no power, in spite of its numerical strength.

Newark, N.J., September 25, 1888.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

"Mamma," said Albert, "do you believe in the faith cure?" "Yes, dear," said mamma, "and I practice it, too." "Mamma," continued the boy, feeling his damp hair uneasily, "if a boy goes a-swimming and then lies about it, can you cure him of lying by faith?" "No, dear," said mamma sweetly, "that vice is cured by laying on of hands." And in ten minutes thereafter Albert was the best-cured boy on all Long Island.—*Truthseeker*.

A New S. A. S. S.—A new strike against sneaking snobbishness was instituted at Mr. Carnegie's lecture in the St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow. The snobbishness which has hitherto been practised at such large meetings, when the national anthem is played by the organist, was dispensed with. When the city organist played "God save the Queen," the audience neither stood on their feet nor took off their hats; but at the close some of them gave a bad, bold, braid, well-defined hiss! That is a straw on the stream of tendency which shows the direction and force of the current.—G. McL.

IMMIGRATION AND THE KNIGHTS OF LABOUR.—Is it true, Mr. Knight of Labour, that the globe is the symbol of your organization, the people of all countries your brothers, the barriers of bigotry and race broken down? If it is true, what right have you to try to keep for yourself this star-spangled country? What right have you to say, "I am here first. I have got my seat at the table. Let the less fortunate go and eat grass?" Restrict immigration if you want to. Self preservation is the first law of nature, and if you really think you are going to starve if your cousin from Ireland, or Germany, or Italy comes here, why slam the door in his face, but don't be a hypocrite about it and pretend to believe in the "solidarity of the labour of the world."—*Boston Labor Leader*.

WAGES FOR WATCHING THE QUEEN!—The elaborate arrangements made for the protection of Her Majesty when travelling by rail are pretty well known to most people, but it is reserved for a limited circle to know at what cost it is done. The impression, of course, is that the special precautions taken involve the companies in heavy expenditure, but if they were all obtained at as cheap a rate as is the guarding of the railway bridges, level crossings, etc., the expenditure would certainly not be much felt. According to a Great Western correspondent, platelayers required for the latter duties were, on the occasion of the last journey of Her Majesty northwards, paid at the rate of 2½d. per hour, in the Bilston (W.M.) district, for their services—services which, it should be noted, were rendered during the night after their usual day's work was over. Twopence farthing per hour for guarding the life of the Sovereign is certainly not calculated to make the men concerned very loyal subjects.—*Railway Review*.

RAILWAYMEN'S CONGRESS.—The annual congress of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants was opened in the Assembly Rooms, Public Hall, Lime Street, Preston, on Tuesday, 2nd, and continued throughout the week. The subjects for discussion were: Accidents to Railway Servants, the Employers' Liability Bill, the Railway Regulation Bill, the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, especially as regards the clause giving the Board of Trade power "to order railway companies to furnish such statistics as it may require," the inspection of railways, and the desirability of extending the principle "of appointing practical men as inspectors of railways, as has been done in the case of factories, workshops, and mines," returns of over-work on railways, the Engineman's Certificate Bill, the Coroners' Courts, and the right of the relatives of deceased workmen or their representatives to take part in inquiries as to the cause of death or otherwise, continuous brakes, the eight hours' question, and the question of the amalgamation of the English and Scotch societies.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

WAGES ADVANCED.—Denny Bros., shipbuilders, Dumbarton, gave notice of an advance of 5 per cent. on all time-worker's wages in the yard to date from September 30th.

STRIKE SETTLED.—The Aberdeen ironmoulders have agreed to accept the offer of the masters of an increase of one farthing per hour on present wages. The men asked an advance of 1d. per hour.

At the Westminster County Court on the 2nd inst., a doctor admitted that the competition in his line was so great that "some of the medical men attended patients for 2½d. per week." The "intellectual proletariat" grows apace!

STIRLINGSHIRE MINERS.—At usual monthly delegate meeting, on 4th inst., it was unanimously decided to recommend miners throughout the county to renew demand for an increase, and to fall in with policy resolved upon at Manchester Conference.

STRIKE OF BOILERMAKERS AT KIRKALDY.—No definite agreement has been come to yet, but the masters will, in the meantime, take on a few of the men at the increased wage. May that not be a scheme to disorganise and defeat the men? The men, like the coal-masters in Lanarkshire, should be united and wait until the rise is general.

DERBYSHIRE MINERS' WAGES.—A conference of delegates, representing 16,000 underground workers in Derbyshire mining districts, met at Chesterfield on Saturday 6th, and decided finally to carry out the resolutions of Manchester Conference, and give fourteen days' notice, demanding 10 per cent. advance, notices to terminate in week ending 27th inst.

DUNDEE MOULDERS' WAGES.—As already announced, the foundry owners in Dundee resolved to grant the moulders in their employment an increase of 1s. per week in their wages. The men, who asked for an advance of 2s., were dissatisfied with the increase made, and as the result of a meeting with employers on Saturday 6th the latter agreed to the full increase.

THE SCOTCH STEEL TRADE.—The steel and malleable iron trades in the West of Scotland are active, and likely to be so for a long while. Orders continue to be placed for shipbuilding material in quantity, and buyers readily give increased prices asked. The men who make the steel get a poor share of the increased prices, but they get all the increased labour.

ADVANCE IN THE WROUGHT NAIL TRADE.—The whole of the employers in the wrought nail trade in the Staffordshire and Worcestershire districts have delivered iron to their workpeople at an advance of 10 per cent. There are about 15,000 operatives employed in the trade, amongst whom the decision of the employers to increase the wages has caused general satisfaction.

WEST CALDER SHALE MINERS.—As settled on Friday, the men were again idle on Saturday 6th, and a deputation waited on the manager in the morning. No definite arrangement was come to, and at a meeting held afterwards it was resolved to work till Wednesday 10th, and if no settlement regarding "crows" was come to, that the men lift their graith and remain out until an arrangement is made.

END OF FORTH BRIDGE STRIKE.—A meeting in connection with the strike was held on Saturday night, when it was agreed that work be resumed on Monday 8th. The contractors agreed to grant the demand for time and half after eight o'clock. One or two of those on strike will not be taken on again, and we think that the conduct of the others in agreeing to this victimising calls for some explanation. What have they to say?

MIDLAND IRON AND STEEL WAGES BOARD.—The arbitrator awards that puddlers' wages shall continue at 6s. 9d. per ton until the 20th inst., and from and after that date puddlers' wages shall be 7s. 3d. per ton. The wages of mill and forge men shall be regulated by the same rate and in the same manner as heretofore. That the above award shall be subject to one month's notice, to be given at the end of any week by either side of the board.

CLOSE OF THE EBBW VALE STRIKE.—The colliers' strike concluded on the 3rd inst. Mr. Abraham, M.P., and two delegates from the Miners' Federation, waited upon the employers' representatives, and after discussion an understanding was arrived at. The dispute was referred to the arbitration of Mr. Abraham, representing the men, and Mr. Edward Jones, for the employers, their decision to be final. The men have resumed work.

PUDDLER'S WAGES.—At the meeting of the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board it was shown that, taking the fortnight, the utmost that could be earned by a puddler was 24s. 9d. a week—23s. was nearer the mark. At some places the men were allowed to make 27 cwt. per turn, earning for the ten turns £4 7s. 3d. Out of that each had to pay £1 18s. 6d. for his underhand in addition to lighting and fettling, leaving him £2 7s. 9d. for ten turns.

NORTH WALES MINERS.—The men at most North Wales collieries have resolved on a 10 per cent. advance. So far as can be ascertained, the only collieries where the men have not yet given in adhesion to this demand are Von Ffrwd and Brymbo Companies' blast-pits. Notices for advance will be served on managers on 13th inst., and expire on 27th. A Welsh paper is responsible for the statement that, should the men at the collieries named above refuse to co-operate with the general body, serious disturbances are likely to ensue.

GLASGOW QUAY LABOURERS.—A large meeting of mineral quay labourers was held at Glasgow on the 3rd inst. A statement was laid before the meeting as to their application for power to act as stevedores, which had been before the Licensing Committee of the Clyde Trust on the 2nd inst., by whom it had been postponed. An opinion was strongly expressed by those present that the delay was an injustice to the men. It was pointed out that the labourers had not struck work, but that they were locked out by the stevedores.

FIFE COLLIERS.—The monthly meeting of the Fife and Clackmannan Miner's Association, was held at Dunfermline on September 30th. The Board instructed Mr. Weir to attend on the Home Secretary with a deputation from all trades regarding the Employers' Liability Bill when Parliament meets. Mr. Weir is always pretty successful in securing numerous tips at the expense of the miners, which result in very little benefit to them. The Board also decided not to ask for an advance in wages just now. The Fife district of miners is the greatest enemy the Scotch colliers have to contend with at present, and it would be amusing and instructive to all interested in the labour struggle to watch closely the advice and movements of the secretary; how they affect Mr. Weir and the miners respectively.

THE STRIKE AT FEATHERSTONE—AN OFFER REFUSED.—A deputation of the miners on strike at the Featherstone Haigh Moor Pit waited upon the managers on Thursday 4th, to try to settle the dispute. The owners offered the men slightly better terms than those contained in the new scale of prices which they endeavoured to enforce. But on consideration at a subsequent miners' meeting, it was resolved not to accept the new terms, as they were a reduction on the old rate of wages. The strikers are being well supported by their comrades elsewhere.

MIDLAND MINERS.—A conference of masters and men from the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire districts was held in Birmingham on 4th. The notice by the men for an advance was considered, and it was suggested that the notice should not take effect until 27th inst., when the notice of the Manchester Conference will come into operation. It was decided to form a wages board, and the following regulations for the future were agreed to: (1) The board to consist of an equal number of masters and men; (2) the minimum shall be 3s. 4d. per day for thick coal, and thin coal wages in proportion; (3) when the average selling price of all coals and slack advances or falls 2d. per ton, thick coal men's wages shall be affected 1d. per day, and thin coal men in proportion; (4) the average selling-price at the colliery to be twelve firms equally chosen by masters and men; (5) that all perquisites to miners be continued as heretofore; (6) that it exist six months certain, and subject to three months' notice.

COOPERATIVE GERMAN BOTTLE-BLOWERS AT GLASGOW.—Some German bottle-blowers lately employed at Portobello have started bottle-making in Glasgow on co-operative lines, and have already received large orders from exporters; there is every prospect of the enterprise proving most successful. As the bottle-blowers are nearly if not all Socialists, we especially wish them success, and trust that their undertaking will set an example to other classes of workers in this country. A mean and, let us hope, illegal attempt has been made by their late employer to delay and if possible mar the undertaking at the outset by refusing to pay their last fortnight's wages. On the final Saturday it appears the metal would not work properly, owing to some colouring ingredients which their employer had put in the furnace. After several unsuccessful attempts to use the metal, the men refused to work more; and on the plea that their refusal caused him loss, the employer has kept back their entire fortnight's pay. A test case against the employer has been raised in the Edinburgh Sheriff Court. We will inform our readers of the result.

YORKSHIRE COAL TRADE.—During last week a large number of meetings held, at the whole of which in both South and West Yorkshire the men decided for an advance of 10 per cent. One of the largest and most important conferences hitherto held of the Yorkshire trade, on Thursday, 4th, adopted same resolution, and recommended giving notice to terminate at end of month. Delegates representing 40,000 men were present. A ballot showed that 90 per cent. of the men were in favour of striking if advance was refused. The miners' agents are advised that other districts are acting in a similar way, so that by the end of October it is anticipated that 170,000 miners will bring out their tools unless the advance is given. The South Yorkshire Coalowners are very stubborn. They have not only declined to meet the men's representatives, but they are preventing the men holding "pit-gate" meetings on the colliery premises. Mr. Pickard, M.P., speaking at a miners' meeting at Sheffield on Friday 5th, said, with reference to Lord Houghton's suggestion that the claim for an advance should be referred to arbitration, that the time for arbitration was past. Owners had had a fair opportunity to make the men an offer, but they had declined to do so, and they must take the responsibility. The condition of trade justified the advance, and the men would get it by force if in no other way.

LEEDS WEAVERS' STRIKE.—Tuesday, 25th, the firm met the employés delegates, who asked for an advance upon the new list of 1d. per "string" on work at 66, 72, and 76 "picks" per minute, and upwards, according to the different sorts of looms. After debate, they accepted one-third of a penny per "string" on all above 86 "picks." In other words, the new list meant an average reduction of about 3s. per week; and the amount yielded by the firm will give back about 6d., and in some cases 1s. Fines are to be stopped and workers dismissed for bad work; a plan which they unanimously prefer, as they have sometimes been fined for faults of the loom. No weaver will be "sacked" for having taken part in the strike. On the other hand, it is rumoured that the obnoxious manager is to leave. The terms are not good for the women; but they have gained something of value by the strike, apart from the small advance. They have learned the need of organization, and they have learned that the organized men of their own district are their sure friends in time of need. The Leeds Trades' Council and the Women's Trade Union Provident League are helping the girls to form a union, which will probably be a branch of the West Riding Power Loom Weavers' Association. Miss Clementina Black, Industrial Hall, Clark's Buildings, Bloomsbury, W.C., will gladly receive subscriptions or other help.

SCOTCH COAL TRADE.—Household coal was advanced 1s. per ton on Oct. 2nd in the Glasgow market. A good trade was done in Glasgow last week on the increased prices. The increased rate, so far, has been readily enough conceded by the merchants, who, on their part, have advanced the prices accordingly. Nothing has been conceded to the men who produce the coal. Messrs. Dunlop and Co. told their men they were members of the Lanarkshire Coalminers Union, and consequently could not give the 10 per cent. asked for until a general advance had been conceded, which would not be in any case until November 1st, when they expect another rise in price of coal, owing to expiry of notices at English collieries. A miners' meeting held at Motherwell on the 2nd inst. resolved: "That the miners of Lanarkshire take off the present day half a ton, and boys to get only what they are fit for according to their age." It was further agreed to continue the Saturday holiday. The report submitted by the delegates, who waited on the masters showed that the masters refused the advance, notwithstanding that they were getting 1s. more per ton for coal. It was reported on the Glasgow Exchange: "As a rule, stocks at present, with the exception of those at the East of Scotland collieries, are low, and therefore any stoppage in the output would be serious"—to the thieves who pocket something for nothing! If the colliers of England and Scotland would unite in a body, the "iron ring" which binds them to perpetual unrequited toil could easily be broken; but will they?

CONDITION OF THE LOCK FILERS.—The "Special Commissioner" of the *Labour Tribune* says: "A gun lock, as everyone knows, is a very delicate and important piece of work. It requires to be finished with the utmost nicety and care, and therefore calls for the exercise of very considerable skill. I was amazed, therefore, to find that the gun-lock filers were so miserably paid. It is necessary for my purpose that I should avoid tech-

nicalities as much as possible, and therefore, without attempting to describe a store lock, it must suffice to say that this particular lock is taken as the standard—that is to say, the price paid for work done on a store lock is the standard price, and the price for work done on all other kinds of locks is fixed accordingly. The present price paid for filing and fitting a store lock is 5d. It has been down as low as 3½d. It used to be 7d., and in times now long gone by it was 1s. and 1s. 1d. It appears that four can be done in a day, and twenty-four is counted a good week's work. That means, of course, that the weeks wages amount to 10s. But the Darlston gun-lock filer has to pay out of his 10s. as much as 2s.—or an average of 1d. per lock—for shop-rent, pins, firing, oil, tools, and light. So that his net wages are about 8s. per week when he does a full week's work. And out of this, again, he has to pay house-rent, which ranges from 2s. 6d. to 4s. a week. The miracle to me is how these people manage to live at all. The steel rebounding lock is a superior piece of work, but the amount which can be earned in one week, even upon these, is fearfully small. This lock is used for sporting breech-loaders. The separate parts of the lock, six in number, are supplied to the lock filer. They are made of hard steel. Every part has to be most carefully filed to a particular gauge, and as many as thirteen holes of different sizes have to be drilled. The work upon the spring of the lock is most delicate. A very superior workman working at these locks can earn, in a full week, as much as 15s.; but from this there are reductions similar to those already mentioned in the former case. I was told, on good authority, that the best workman in Darlston, engaged on the very best work in connection with the gun-lock trade, could not earn more than £1 per week. But, bad as all this is, the condition of things is aggravated by the circumstance that it is exceedingly rare for any man to do a full week's work. It seems to be characteristic of these small shop industries that the men do not work with any regularity. They do the work as it comes in, but, unfortunately, it does not always "come in," and I gathered that a man who got five days' steady work in a week counted himself fortunate."

AMERICA.—September 25.

The delegates of the labour organisations to the convention at Troy, N.Y., passed a resolution for striking out of the conspiracy laws the passage making intimidation a crime, and resolved to endorse only such candidates for political offices who pledge themselves to support this resolution.

There were 178 business failures reported during the last week, against 145, 156, and 148 in the corresponding weeks of 1887, 1886, 1885.

A general strike of New York City furniture workers is talked of in case the employers attempt to enforce the ten-hour rule and to institute "free" shops against union shops.

The western window-glass manufacturers have decided to resume work generally on October 1, instead of October 8 as originally intended. The resumption will give work to about 6,000 men.

A Brooklyn framers' union has compelled an employer to furnish 800 dol. bonds for the prompt payment of union wages to his men.

Fall River weavers will ask for an advance of 1 per cent. on print cloths and 5 per cent. on all other cotton cloth manufactured by them.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in convention at Atlanta this week formally approved of federation with the brakemen, switchmen, and firemen. It is also stated that the Knights of Labour will amalgamate with these orders.

LIST OF SEPTEMBER STRIKES.

Previously reported	3,154
Scottdale, Pa.—Coke-workers, for advance, Sept. 3; failed Sept. 11	—
Stewart, Pa.—Coke-workers, for advance, Sept. 1; failed Sept. 8	—
Moyer, Pa.—Coke-workers, for advance, Sept. 3; compromised Sept. 11	—
Tacoma, W. T.—Carpenters, for nine-hour day, Sept. 10	250
St. Louis, Mo.—Telegraph-messengers, for unionism, Sept. 10	—
Falls City, Neb.—Lock-out of cigar-makers, unionism, Sept. 6; succeeded Sept. 8	—
Ashland, Wis.—Switchmen, for advance, Sept. 17	—
Fall River, Mass.—Cotton-spinners, against using bad stock, Sept. 18	30
New York City—Newspaper porters, for payment of wages due, Sept. 17; compromised same day	—
Marlborough, Mass.—Shoelastors, against employment of one man, Sept. 17; compromised same day	—
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Labourers, for payment of over-due wages, Sept. 19	60
Philadelphia, Pa.—Cigar-makers, unionism, Sept. 19	140
Brooklyn, N. Y.—Carpenters, in bakery, against non-union men, Sept. 19	—
New York City—Building hands, for over-due wages, Sept. 19; succeeded same day	10
Total number of strikers known to September 19	3,644
	H. F. C.

Mr. Shepard, of the pious *Mail and Express*, in a speech before the Chautauqua Assembly, said: "To attempt to abolish poverty is an attempt to discredit our Lord Jesus Christ's declaration and prophecy, 'The poor ye have with you always,' and either one of these attempts is as sensible, and not more so, as to attempt to abolish appetite." The *World* on this remarks: "Mr. Shepard is a son-in-law of the late Wm. H. Vanderbilt. His poverty was miraculously abolished several years ago in the face of Christ's declaration and prophecy, and it is but natural that he should regard the effort of his fellow-beings to benefit themselves as more or less sacrilegious."—*Truth-seeker*.

PATRIOTIC FUSTIAN.—An American who was recently in England was interviewed on his return by a reporter for *Boots and Shoes*, and is reported to have said as to the relative condition of English and American workmen:—

"There is a great gulf between the two. The average English workman earns £1 a week, and probably spends it all. The American labourer earns 48s. or £3 a week, and perhaps spends it all. Both may expend all they receive, with this difference: the American buys luxuries that his English cousin never dreams of. Workmen in England are contented with their lot because they don't know any better. Provisions and other necessities of life are cheaper there than here, because every one is content with a smaller profit, and also for the reason that there are fewer middlemen there than here."

Whereupon the *Shoe and Leather Record* is most patriotically angry, and says:—

"This is the kind of fustian that is written for the purpose of bolstering Protection in America, where 'the pauper labour of Europe' is a phrase which has become enshrined as a truth too holy to be called in question."

What we should like to know is, which has riled the *Record*—the truth told about the English workers—or the lie that Americans are much better off?

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

ITALY.

VARESE.—The women spinners employed at Masnago near here, together with a few workers in both towns, held a meeting the other day to draft a demand to the director of the spinning-factory and to the Municipality to settle between the masters and workers the question of the length of the working day. Although the meeting was private, the carabinieri penetrated into the place where it was held and arrested one of the men. The women resisted the police and followed them to the police-barracks with loud protests. Their disturbance had the desired effect, as the man was set at liberty. The women then declared themselves on strike, demanding a reduction of the working day to eleven hours and a daily pay of 2 l. 10 c. (1s. 8½d.), without counting food and lodging.

BOLOGNA.—The Annual Congress of the Italian Labour Party took place here on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of last month, during which time the usual questions were discussed, with no particularly noteworthy departure. In the discussion of the "Programme of Communal Administration" which the central committee had been charged to draw up by last year's conference at Pavia, there was a distinct gathering into two parties—those who favoured taking part in political agitation and communal administration, and those who feared the influence of any such participation in public life. After a lively discussion between the champions of both sides, the programme was accepted, leaving the methods of carrying it out to the discretion and needs of the moment in the various branches and districts. A representative was elected to attend the coming International Conference of Trades Unions in London; and apropos of this I feel bound to point out, what is perhaps obvious to most of our readers, that the Italian labour party almost exactly parallels our trades unions in sentiment and scope at present, and that while recognising the absolute necessity of some form of union among the Italian workers, it is to be hoped that once arrived at that point of organisation, they will not remain stationary like the trades unions and like them represent a merely commercial organisation of equal importance, according to the point of view of the Socialist economist, to the employers and capitalists as to the employed and wage-workers.

At one sitting of the Bologna conference proceedings began at 7 a.m., after an over-night sitting terminating at 1 a.m. Such alertness and enthusiasm forms a very excellent example to us English keepers of "Social-Democratic time," as it is bitterly called, the two first words being here none too complimentary in their qualification!

THE BUILDING CRISIS IN ROME.—A public meeting was called for the 30th September in the Piazza Dante to discuss the present position of the workers in the building trade. The preparations for the German Emperor's visit to Rome will occupy only a few weeks and then the condition of the workers will be as before, a parlous one. The building crisis affects, of course, not only the masons themselves, but the many other trades dependent thereon—decorators, carpenters, painters, etc.—who are all drawn into the vortex.

PUBLIC MEETING IN ROME.—Talking of this public meeting, the *Messaggero* says with a burst of enthusiasm, "The Government has permitted that this meeting should take place. . . . It is the first time in Italy that a meeting has been allowed in a public square, and such a concession is greatly to the honour and credit of Crispi's upright and loyal policy. We hope that the workers will show themselves worthy of the concession," etc., etc.

AN ENGLISH INNOVATION.—The *Messaggero* is not so well up in current popular affairs in England as so distinguished an organ might be, as the writer goes on to complain gently of Crispi's "innovation *à l'Anglaise*," saying that if it succeed not, the responsibility will be on the heads of those who convened the meeting, and it will be an experiment never to be repeated. This touching tribute to the "right of free speech" in England is now, unfortunately, a little out of date—say, by a year or two. M. M.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

The Offices of the Socialist League will be open for the sale of *Commonweal* and all other Socialist publications from 8.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday. The Secretary will be in attendance from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

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.

A meeting of the metropolitan speakers of the League will be held at 13, Farringdon Road, on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 8 o'clock, when it is hoped all the speakers will be present.

London Members' Meeting.—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, Nov. 5, 1888, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock sharp.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

M. P. H., 2s. 6d.

REPORTS.

LONDON (OPEN-AIR).—*Leman Street*.—Turner and Hicks spoke here Sunday morning. Several new members made. *Hyde Park*.—Large meeting on Sunday afternoon; 4s. 7d. collected. John Williams (S.D.F.), Springfield, Nicoll, and Parker spoke. A procession was formed and marched to Broad Street, Soho, being well taken care of by horse and foot police. Usual singing took place. *Broad Street, Soho*.—A great meeting here on Sunday evening, addressed by Nicoll, Springfield, and Parker. *Clerkenwell Green*.—Big meeting on Green Sunday night; Parker, A. Burrows and Fearson (S.D.F.), and McCormick spoke, and revolutionary songs were sung.

FULHAM.—Sunday morning, Tarleton spoke to fair audience. In evening, Bullock, Davis, Samuels, and Groser spoke outside rooms. G. B. Shaw afterwards lectured inside to good audience on "Anarchy and the Way Out." Several questions and good discussion.—S. B. G.

WHITECHAPEL AND ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—The first meeting of this branch was held at Berner Street Club last Friday evening. The branch starts with forty members.—P.

ABERDEEN.—Open-air work much interfered with by stormy weather. Meeting Monday last at Correction Wynd, a station from which Mahon was driven on the night of his arrest. Choir made capital appearance and gathered a crowd, which, in spite of the biting wind, listened attentively to what Leatham said. Fair sale of *Weal*. At indoor meeting same evening, Leatham lectured on "Work v. Waste." Discussion carried on by Barron, Aiken, Semple, and Duncan. Social gathering being arranged to celebrate our anniversary.—J. L.

EDINBURGH.—No open-air meetings last two Sundays, owing to inclement weather. Arranging for hall for winter lectures. Next Thursday evening begin study of one Proudhon's works.

GLASGOW.—Business meeting on Sunday, at 2.30. At 5, Joe and Tim Burgoyne addressed usual meeting at Paisley Road Toll. At 6, Glasier and Anderson held meeting on Green; afterwards in rooms. Seven of our German comrades, who, with others, are about to start a Co-operative Bottle Works in Glasgow, joined the League. One of our German friends sang the German "Marseillaise" and the "Proletariat."

NORWICH.—St. Catherine's Plain and Yarmouth meetings not held, owing to weather. Sunday afternoon, good meeting in Market Place, addressed by Cores; audience adjourned to Gordon Hall, where Cores resumed his address. W. Moore and Mowbray also spoke. In evening, short meeting in Market Place, addressed by Poynts. At Gordon Hall good meeting held; one of the audience took the chair. Proceedings opened with "March of the Workers." Mowbray gave an address; Cores also spoke; meeting closed with "No Master." Fair sale of 'Weal.

EAST-END PROPAGANDA.—A crowded audience assembled to hear a discussion on "Our Winter Propaganda." Davis, Leach, McCormack, West, Parker, and others took a part. Practical suggestions made will be found useful in the coming winter. It is intended to hold meetings on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings in district. Comrades who intend to assist are requested to turn up at the Club, 40, Berner Street, at 8 o'clock on any of these evenings, where we assemble previous to going out to meetings. 5s. was collected for the strike fund.

SOUTH HACKNEY RADICAL CLUB.—Parker lectured here on Sunday morning to an appreciative audience on "Why the Social Revolution is Inevitable."

LECTURE DIARY. LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—This Branch will shortly be actively working. Socialists resident in this locality should send their names in at once to 13, Farringdon Road.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday, October 14, at 8.30. Open Discussion on "Are Fallatives Reactionary?"

Fulham.—Our rooms, 8 Effie Road, Walham Green, will in future be opened on Thursday evenings at 7 o'clock to all persons interested in social matters.

Hackney.—Secretary, E. Levevre, 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.

Hammersmith.—Kelmecott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Oct. 14, at 8 p.m.

Hoxton.—Persons wishing to join this branch are requested to communicate with H. D. Morgan, 22, Nicholas Street Hoxton.

London Fields.—All communications, etc., to Mrs. G. G. Schack, 26 Cawley Road, South Hackney.

Merton.—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singlegate. Lecture on Sunday evenings at 8.30.

Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Members and friends of this Branch will meet on Saturday Oct. 13, at 8.30 p.m., to consider the best means of forming a Socialist Club in district.

North London.—Secretary, Nelly Parker. Business meetings held on Friday evenings at 6 Windmill St., Tottenham Court Road, after open-air meeting at Ossulton Street.

Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.—Meeting of Members on Friday October 12, at 8 p.m., in Berner Street Club.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—Douglas M'Intyre, Sec., 17 Queen Street. Branch meets in Oddfellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8.

Bradford.—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivegate. Meets Tuesdays at 8.

Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. Samuel Wilson, Secy.

Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.

Edinburgh (Scottish Land and Labour League).—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Galashiels (Scot Sect).—J. Walker, 184 Glendinning Terrace, 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.—34 John Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Weekly meeting of members on Thursday evenings at 8. French Class meets every Sunday at 11. Important business meeting on Sunday at 1.30.

Kilmarnock.—Secretary, H. M'Gill, 22 Gilmour St.

Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Rd. and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m. communications to T. Paylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.

Leicester.—Hosiery Union Offices, 11a Millstone Lane. Fridays at 8 p.m.

Norwich.—Sunday, Gordon Hall at 8.15. Monday, at 8, meeting in Gordon Hall. Tuesday, at 8.30. Members' Meeting. Wednesday, at 8, Educational Class—subject, "Moral Basis of Socialism." Thursday, at 8, Meeting in Gordon Hall. Saturday, 8 until 10.30. Co-operative Clothing Association.

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.

All persons who sympathise with the views of the Socialist League are earnestly invited to communicate with the above addresses, and if possible help us in preparing for the birth of a true society, based on equality, brotherhood, and freedom for all.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SUNDAY 14.

11.30...Latimer Road Station...Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green...The Branch
11.30...Regent's Park...Nicoll & Davis
11.30...Walham Green, opp. Station...The Branch
11.30...Weltje Rd., Ravencourt Pk...Hammersmith
3.30...Hyde Park...Morris
6.30...Weltje Road, opposite Ravenscourt Park
...Hammersmith Branch
7.30...Broad Street, Soho...Cantwell
7.30...Clerkenwell Green...Blundell
7.30...Mitcham Fair Green...The Branch

Monday.

8...Wimbledon Broadway...The Branch

Tuesday.

8.30...Fulham—back of Walham Green Ch...Branch

Friday.

7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street...Nicoll

EAST END.

SUNDAY 14.

Mile-end Waste...11...Whitechapel Bb.
Leman Street, Shadwell...11...Mrs. Schack.
Victoria Park...3.15...Schack, M'nwaring
London Fields...8...M'nwaring, Schack

TUESDAY.

Mile-end Waste...8.30...Whitechapel Bb.

WEDNESDAY.

Broadway, London Fields...8.30...Mainwaring.

FRIDAY.

Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Whitechapel Bb.

SATURDAY.

Mile-end Waste...6...Whitechapel Bb.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7 p.m.

Glasgow.—Sunday: Jail's Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock.

Ipswich.—

Sproughton, Wednesday evening.

Westerfield, Thursday evening.

Needham Market, Sunday morning and evening.

Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.

Leicester.—Sunday: Russel Square, at 11 a.m.

Norwich.—Sunday: Market Place, at 3 and 7.30.

North Walsham, Sunday.

Yarmouth, Sunday at 3.

St Catherine's Plain, Friday at 8.15 p.m.

HAMMERSMITH RADICAL CLUB, Grove Hoase, Broadway.—Mr. R. P. Cottam (U.C.), "The County Council and Local Taxation." Sunday Oct. 14, 8 p.m.

STREETRAM LIBERAL CLUB, Broadway, Streetham.—Mr. F. Verinder (E.L.R.L.), "The Land Question for Townsfolk." Tuesday Oct. 16, 8 p.m.

GREENWICH REFORM CLUB, 10 Nelson Street, Greenwich.—Rev. S. D. Headlam (G.S.M.), "Christian Socialism." Thursday Oct. 18.

FREEDOM DISCUSSION GROUP.—At Farringdon Hall, 13 Farringdon Road, on Friday October 12th, a Free Discussion will be opened by Dr. Merlino, on "The Organisation of Labour," at 8.30 prompt.

THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—The Committee will meet at the Labour Union Printery, 158 Pentonville Road, N., on Saturday October 13, at 8 p.m. Subscriptions received and members enrolled at 9 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEN'S EDUCATIONAL CLUB, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road.—Grand Concert and Ball, Sunday next, October 14, at 8 p.m. (sharp). Proceeds will be devoted to Chicago Commemoration Fund. A first-class company will be present. Admission 3d. This is the first of a series of four concerts to be given by the East-end Propaganda Committee.

FABIAN SOCIETY.—The Fabian Society is giving a course of lectures on "Socialism: its Basis and Prospects." The first part of the course is devoted to "The Basis of Socialism." Of this, two have already been given—Sept. 21, (1) "The Historical Aspect," Sidney Webb; Oct. 5, (2) "The Economic Aspect," G. Bernard Shaw. Those that are to follow are: Oct. 19, (3) "The Moral Aspect," Sydney Olivier; Nov. 2, (4) "The Industrial Aspect," William Clarke. The second part of the course will deal with "The Organisation of Society": Nov. 16, (1) "Property under Socialism," Graham Wallas; Dec. 7, (2) "Industry under Socialism," Annie Besant; Dec. 21, (3) "The Outlook," Hubert Bland.—The meetings will be held at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's Square, S.W. The chair will be taken by the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, B.A., at 8 p.m. precisely. Tickets for the course may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Sydney Olivier, 159 Port-down Rd. W.

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AN APPEAL

TO FRIENDS AND THOSE INTERESTED.

The importance of the work I am undertaking will be readily appreciated by all who love justice and humanity. Future generations will prize every detail in the history of these fast-moving events. The movement towards a higher civilisation needs a correct presentation of facts; and the veil of prejudice, which an unrelenting ruling class has woven about the events of the past two years, must be torn aside before it shades into tradition. Much of the matter presented is of the deepest interest, and can be obtained from no other source.

In order to bring out this work as it should be done, heavy expenses will be entailed, and it is unnecessary to mention that my means are limited. I, therefore, ask all who feel interested in seeing this work carried out, to send in subscriptions, or parts of subscriptions, or contributions from the financially able and willing. It is impossible at this date to give the exact size and price of the book, but subscribers may be sure that besides getting the full worth of their money in interesting information and good reading, they will be aiding a good cause, and assisting in the support of two children made orphans by the State. I have chosen this work rather than to take up any of the ordinary occupations open to women, because I believe I can best finish the labour my beloved husband laid down, and at the same time care for the innocent children he left helpless.

The price of the book will probably be about 1 dol. 50 c. Parties sending in clubs of five or over will obtain wholesale rates. It will be out at the latest by December 1, 1888, if friends will contribute promptly. Without your generous aid it may be impossible for me to accomplish this great task I have undertaken.

With fraternal greetings, yours,

MRS. A. R. PARSONS.

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THE AUSTRALIAN RADICAL Advocate of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity New Lambton Road, Hamilton, Australia.

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