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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE rich are getting so extremely kind to the poor, that, if they don't take care, they (the rich) will expend all their time in performing these kindnesses, and will have no time left for performing the absolutely necessary duty of finding means of wasting the wealth which they have sweated from the poor; and a pretty mess we shall be in then! For since the "poor" are only employed by the sweating process, and depend for their subsistence on the sweaters, if the sweaters don't sweat we shall be all undone together—unless the workers have come to the conclusion that they will employ themselves for their own benefit.

Here is a queer example of this rash philanthropy, this killing people with kindness. The National Home Reading Circles Union, which resolved the other day "that it was advisable to organise in a large and effective manner a plan by which to direct and encourage home-reading among all classes of the people," etc., etc.

"All classes." Yes, but they mean one class. You bet they won't come to me—I wish they would. At the meeting in question the stream of twaddle flowed on very steadily. Said the Bishop of London: "It would not be difficult to make home-reading a very living thing, though not quite so powerful as the voice of the teacher." "The voice of the teacher," that means the Bishop, I suppose; "the voice of the teacher" is good, very good.

The Venerable Archdeacon Farrar thought, "That it would do much to counteract the flood of wicked, malicious, and frivolous literature with which England was inundated." I say, which of the three are we of the *Commonweal*? Not "frivolous," I think; "wicked and malicious," I fear. O parson, parson, what tall words you use; but taller follow. "They might find in them (books) fruits which are fruits of Nepenthé, and flowers that are flowers of Amaranthe." Yes, only I fear that the cases are not uncommon where beefsteak and porter would be more welcome than Nepenthé and Amaranthe; nay, would enable us to find those "articles" in our books—if we have any.

In short, what the devil is it all about? Are there not books enough written year by year in this country drowned in "culture"? Are they not cheap enough, as cheap as worthless paper and scab labour can make them? What is needed, O benevolent rich gentlemen, to further "home-reading"? I think you know, though you don't choose to confess it. Leisure, freedom from anxiety about livelihood, pleasant roomy clean dwellings, access to pretty places and the rest; in short, reasonable ease of life, and above all unanxious leisure. When people have this they will read such books as they will, such as suit them, and, *pace* Mr. G. Howell, amuse them. Can a man have this when he is a trembling dependent for his livelihood on the caprice of another man, who is himself a slave to a system of cut-throat competition? We all know he cannot.

In short, O benevolent persons and parsons, your kindness to the working-classes will be welcome to them when it is no longer used as an excuse for your continued robbing of them. Is it "malicious," I wonder, to quote Scripture and say, "Let him that stole steal no more." Meantime, it is not a little ridiculous to see the efforts of these worthy folk to wag the dog's tail for him since he declines to wag it himself.

W. M.

Last week the Liverpool landing stage was overcrowded with emigrants going by steamer to America. On seven vessels there went six thousand exiles, including English, Scotch, and Irish, Germans, Italians, Norwegians, Russians, Hungurians, and Polish Jews. A number of English agricultural labourers sailed for South America. The leading Atlantic lines ran extra steamers to meet the enormous traffic. From Southampton a lot of Scotch fishermen have gone to South Africa. A constant stream is flowing to Australia. Every outward-bound steamer carries a load of exiles somewhere—anywhere, if only they get away from their native land.

And all this is not, as in the old days of the Scando-Gothic exodus, an overflow of freemen from sterile lands too small for their teeming myriads. Nor is it, as with the Elizabethan English, the voluntary going out of a strong and poor people, freemen still, if not so free as their forefathers, against a great and unwieldy wealthy nation, that barred their way and at the same time offered a fine field for plunder. These folk have indeed the hunger that drove out their forefathers, but have neither the longing for adventure that led them round the world, nor the strength and freshness that enabled them to destroy and replace the effete systems that confronted them. These are slaves fleeing from the lash to the lash.

They go from lands in which there is plenty of room for them were it not for monopoly and injustice, to lands that meet them with the same injustice and subject them to the same monopoly. They are slaves born and bred; have lived as slaves at "home," and carry with them the will to be slaves wherever they go. Yet with the poison they carry the antidote; among the slaves there go some exiled men, men driven out because of their manhood, even as the slaves are driven out because of their slavehood. And so, while for the Land of Behest they find the Land of Betrayal, with blood and bitterness for milk and honey, and wander in a desert of commercialism that seems to stretch beyond their utmost vision, there are among them the men who will lead them out of it into the land that lays beyond.

Meantime it is not pleasant for Englishmen who reflect upon what their fathers were—pirates and freebooters, it is true, but men at least, and lovers of freedom, though it were only for themselves—and then think that Englishmen are among the most willing slaves and makers of slaves that can be found in all the world. Nor is this only so in far-off lands; there is a proof of it this present week at our very doors. It is proposed to "colonise" with English labourers an Irish estate which has been cleared of its native tenants. The proposal is made, not because the English will be, as their fathers were, strong thieves, able and ready to buy with hard blows what booty they desire, but because they will crouch more tamely and be plundered more patiently than those they replace.

I may be a crude barbarian and the rest of it, but I prefer their fathers. To me there is nothing more terrible in the present system than the loss of manhood it has brought about. The only thing that gives me patience enough even to listen with moderate calmness to the preaching of palliatives is the hope that, perchance, they may in some way give to the working classes a chance to recover somewhat of the fibre and backbone that will be needful ere they can achieve their freedom or live as freemen. That is their only argument, and, needless to say, not a conclusive one.

S.

THE ENGLISH REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, 1815 TO 1817.

SPA-FIELDS RIOTS AND DERBYSHIRE INSURRECTION.

It is a commonplace among many revolutionists to say that the English people have no revolutionary traditions. To some extent this is true, for we are forced to go back to the days of Wat Tyler and Jack Cade, to those of the "Pilgrimage of Grace," or to those of the "Levellers" and "Fifth Monarchy Men," if we want to discover a time of really formidable risings of the dispossessed. But still revolutionary traditions of a kind do exist among the people. Hyde Park railings are still a watchword among Radicals, who are anxious to prove that beneath their placid demeanour there lurks something dangerous; and the great Chartist demonstration on Kennington Common is still a subject for conversation among older men. But these, though revolutionary traditions, are revolutionary in a very mild way, and do not come up in any way to traditions of the great revolutions which have displayed themselves upon the stage of Paris during the past century. Well, but degenerate as we are, and tamely as our people put up with

starvation and undeserved misery—with a quietness which is the wonder of other nations—yet there are passages in our history in which the country seems to have escaped an actual uprising almost by a miracle; and the period I am going to refer to is one of them.

You must transport yourselves back into the dawn of this century, into the good old times of which our grandfathers and grandmothers are so fond of talking. We are in the dawn of the manufacturing era, and it is still possible for the mechanic, after working in a factory during the day, to go back to his cottage in the country to sleep in the evening. Machinery is just coming into general use, and there have been already in 1812 serious riots against the introduction of machinery in the north-country districts; but it is not with deeds of the Luddites that I have to do: that has been already dealt with by another comrade of ours in the pages of the *Commonweal*. London then was not one-third the size it is at present. Chelsea, Marylebone, Somers Town, St. Pancras, Clerkenwell, and Mile-end were countryfied suburbs, surrounded by fields, which a few minutes walk would take you into. The southern side of the Thames was still more rural. There were open fields where now stands the obelisk at St. George's Circus; Greenwich, Walworth, and Camberwell were completely isolated from the town. In Lambeth there were disused windmills, which a few years back had been in active use. London was growing, but growing much more slowly than it is at present; and even down to 1848 there were large open spaces at Kennington and Clerkenwell, which had not yet become the prey of the suburban builder, upon which large meetings could be held. In the country the large manufacturing towns were, like London, not near their present size. There were then no railways, and news took two or three days in coming to London from the more remote parts of the kingdom, and the highwaymen of the penny-dreadful had not long vanished from the country. The great battle of Waterloo was about to be fought and won, and the trade of England, though greatly stimulated by the Continental war which had lasted over twenty years, had sunk into a terrible depression. Closed factories and starving workmen were common, and the distress was increased by heavy taxation, the result of twenty years' fighting to extinguish French freedom. I have the authority of a writer in the *Edinburgh Review* for stating that the furniture of hundreds of decent families was sold by auction in the public streets for arrears of taxation.

It was not surprising under these circumstances to find that discontent increased, although of course there were not wanting respectable people to place all the responsibility for distress and discontent alike upon the shoulders of very wicked people, who were not known in those days as Socialists, but were commonly called Radicals, and were known in polite society as people of French principles. Most of these Radicals were in truth Jacobins, and regarded the great French Revolutionists of 1793 as the prophets of their creed; but these Radicals, needless to say, were much more advanced than those of the present day. They did not alone believe in the abolition of the House of Lords or the disestablishment of the Church as the goal of their desires; they were Republicans, and demanded manhood suffrage and annual parliaments. Many, too, were followers of Thomas Spence, the English land-nationalist, who desired the restoration of the land to the people not by the single-tax methods of Henry George, but by the people actually taking possession of it, after the manner now recommended by the Communist-Anarchists. Robert Owen, too, had begun to preach his theories of social reconstruction; but as he did not believe in physical force, and as his doctrines had not obtained much hold upon the people, they were not looked upon as very dangerous by the authorities, who only regarded him as an amiable enthusiast, a dreamer of beautiful dreams, which many very lofty people regarded with a certain amount of charitable interest, as they had not become the war-cry of a popular party, and there was therefore no chance of their inconvenient realisation.

While these advanced ideas were seething in the breasts of the people, England was being ruled by men beside whom Balfour and Salisbury are angels of light. The renegade George Canning, the hypocritical Sidmouth, bloody Castlereagh—these were the gentlemen who managed affairs and who were willing to use the iron hand in crushing down the people. It was not enough that trade was bad and thousands were starving: something must be done to increase the rents of the land monopolists, and therefore a measure was passed through parliament to prohibit the importation of foreign corn. But the men of London, who had not lost their manhood in stifling slums, but could still breathe the free air of the country-side, determined that they would not see their wives and children starved for the benefit of these greedy leeches, and some strange sights began to be seen in the streets of the metropolis. On March 6, 1815, a few days after the introduction of the Bill to the House of Commons, the people assembled in the avenues and lobbies of the House, declaiming against the Corn Bill: At one o'clock they are cleared out from the lobbies by constables, and driven into Palace Yard. But the crowd increases, and grows more desperate. Amid the cheering for popular members, the ministers are saluted by howls of rage and cries of "No Corn Bill!" The carriages of unpopular members are stopped, and they are forced to walk through the crowd amid hissing and hooting. The transition from hissing and hooting to blows is easy, and some members who are in favour of starving the people are very roughly handled, among them being the Attorney-General. At this juncture the military are called out, and the crowd are dispersed at the point of sabre and bayonet. But the trouble is not over. The people driven from the House of Commons rally in other parts of the town and the crowd sweeps towards the house of Lord Eldon, the Lord Chancellor, in Bedford Square, then a fashionable neighbourhood, Belgravia being as yet undreamt of. It

is now ten o'clock in the evening as the mob reaches the house. The temper of the crowd is dangerous, for a rope is thrown over a lamp-post in front of the door, on which they announce their intention of hanging his lordship. Some lively proceedings follow; the iron railings in front are torn up and the door is battered down. In pours the crowd, and they begin to smash his lordship's furniture; but his lordship has escaped by the back way. It is possible they might have proceeded to other extremities had not the guards arrived, when the people as usual dispersed.

In the meantime, mobs are gathering in other parts of the town, and a dense crowd attacks the house of Mr. Robinson, the introducer of the Corn Bill. This gentleman fares badly; his house is completely sacked, the occupants making a hasty exit by the back door, while his furniture and pictures are thrown out of window and trampled to pieces by the people outside. The Earl of Pembroke in his carriage, on his return from the House of Lords, encounters another detachment of the mob; the carriage is smashed to pieces, the earl barely escaping with his life. It is pleasing to read in the papers of the time that the Royal Horse Guards and three regiments of foot-guards were under orders during the whole of the day, and that to the latter twenty-four rounds of ball cartridges were served out. It was no doubt a source of great unhappiness to the ministers that the troops were not able to shoot any of the rioters.

On the next day, March 7th, the West-end is in a state of siege, the houses of unpopular members being guarded by troops. Round the House of Commons large crowds assemble, so evidently tumultuous in their disposition, that they are only kept in order by a liberal display of infantry and cavalry. But despite the troops the riots go on, and though the Horse Guards are continually on the move, the rioters elude them by acting in small parties, fifty or a hundred strong, and the wreckage of window-panes is considerable. No sooner is one crowd dispersed than the military are called to curb the operations of another; and though the scene of the riots did not exceed half a mile, the damage is always done in the temporary absence of the military. A most determined attack is made again upon the house of Mr. Robinson, but from the windows there comes a volley of musketry: there are some soldiers inside in ambush, and a man falls shot through the heart. As usual, the victim is a peaceful spectator; there is no clue to his identity found upon him, but he is supposed from his dress to be a naval officer. As night falls over the tumultuous scene, large mobs gather in the city in the neighbourhood of Finsbury Square, and an attack is made on Whitebread's brewery. The Horse Guards are summoned from the West, and in their absence a huge mob gathers in the Dials and pours down St. Martin's Lane to the House of Commons, cursing the Corn Bill and threatening destruction to its supporters. Fortunately for the unpopular members, the House has adjourned, and the people vent their rage upon the building, bombarding it with showers of stones; hardly a pane of glass is left unbroken. The police are helpless, and the Guards are sent for. They come down at full trot, their sabres drawn, from the City and West, and the crowd flee before them into the churchyard of St. Margarets, whence they fling stones and curses at the troops.

The next day the houses of Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Ponsonby are assailed. At Ponsonby's the people are fired upon by the servants, but that does not daunt them, for the iron railings are torn up and the door is battered down, but before they can storm the house the troops arrive, and the people retire before them. London is now full of troops, poured into it from every country district. The House of Commons, the Houses of the ministers and supporters of this iniquitous law, are guarded by strong detachments of infantry, while the streets are patrolled by the cavalry in such strong force that a renewal of the riots is almost impossible. So we find the disturbances conclude on the 9th with the few cases of window-breaking. The loyal inhabitants of the middle class pluck up courage, and in response to an appeal from Lord Sidmouth are sworn in in large numbers as special constables. The Corn Bill passes, and the people are forced to suffer in silence. But these riots were significant of the troubles that were to come.

D. J. NICOLL.

(To be continued.)

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—Census of metropolitan paupers (exclusive of lunatics in asylums and vagrants), taken on the last day of the weeks named hereunder (enumerated inhabitants in 1881, 3,815,000). First week of April, 1889, indoor, 59,201; outdoor, 38,231—total, 97,432; first week of April, 1888, indoor, 59,871; outdoor, 49,264—total, 109,135; first week of April, 1887, indoor, 57,565; outdoor, 42,162—total, 99,727; first week of April, 1886, indoor, 55,790; outdoor, 42,125—total, 97,915 (excluding patients in the fever and small-pox hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylum District; the number of these patients on the last day of the week was returned as 623 in 1889, 1,284 in 1888, 456 in 1887, and 235 in 1886). Vagrants relieved in the metropolis on the last day of the first week of April, 1889: Men, 759; women, 137; children under sixteen, 18—total, 914.

"We are all Socialists now, as Sir William Harcourt said, and the last to join the distinguished band is none other than Mr. Goschen, the Immaculate. Mr. Goschen among the Socialists is indeed a case of Saul among the prophets. But what more Socialistic suggestion could we have than his proposal that all fortunes above £10,000 should pay a special extra duty of 1 per cent. on passing into the hands of the heirs? This 1 per cent. on large fortunes left at death differs in no way in principle from that of a graduated income-tax. Mr. Goschen is one among the many who have greased the slide down which we are plunging into Socialism." So says the *Pall Mall*. It would be easy indeed to find a "more Socialistic suggestion," and it may be doubted whether we are plunging "down" into Socialism, but both proposal and comment may serve as straws to show which way the current sets.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

"Look at the big stores of the city. What do we find? Activity? Not much. Huge stacks of goods are covered. Every warehouse in the city is packed to overflowing, and safety deposit vaults are actually utilised for storing goods, which under ordinary circumstances would be put in common storehouses."

"We are in a disturbed condition of affairs. We are unsettled from cellar to ridge-pole. The clenched hand of poverty is raised against the fist of wealth. Class feeling is generated. Our writers and our orators speak about the labouring class and the wealthy class, and the respectable class and the working class."

"The Garfield ghost still walks the land. Guiteau's curse still floats in the air. Mysteries and secrets are still among the unexplained."

Now it might be easily supposed that the foregoing sentences were written by some wild and fiery revolutionist; and yet such supposition would be essentially incorrect. They are not the product of a red-hot Anarchist's brain, but have been printed as editorial notes in the eminently respectable *New York Press*, the organ of trusts, syndicates, etc.—in fact, capitalism *par excellence*. Are we indeed nearing the crisis?

The Arizona Legislature passed some days ago a law which clearly shows the spirit in which capitalists would like to deal with their men. Here is the text of the law:

"Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona:—

"Sec. 1.—If any person or persons shall wilfully and maliciously make any assault upon any railroad train, railroad cars, or railroad locomotive, within this Territory, for the purpose and with the intent to commit murder, robbery, or any other felony upon or against any passenger upon said train or cars, or upon or against any engineer, conductor, fireman, brakeman, or any officer or employé connected with the said locomotive, train, or cars, or upon or against any express messenger or mail agent on said train, or in any of the cars thereof, on conviction thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and shall suffer the punishment of death.

"Sec. 2.—Any and all persons who shall counsel, aid, abet, and assist in the perpetration of any or all of the offences set forth in the preceding section, on conviction thereof shall be deemed to be principals and shall suffer the punishment therein prescribed.

"Sec. 3.—Upon the trial of any and all persons charged with the violation of this Act, it shall not be necessary to prove, nor shall it be deemed material to a conviction, that the defendant or defendants specifically intended to commit the offences, or any of them herein set forth, upon or against any particular person, but it shall be sufficient if it is proven to the satisfaction of the Court and jury trying the cause, as the result of such unlawful assault, some person or persons were killed, robbed, or injured, as the case may be, or that such assault was perpetrated with the design to commit some felony."

Referring to this "humane and pre-eminently American statute," the *New York Herald* suggests the following appropriate suppositions:

"Suppose that the employés of the Southern Pacific Railroad were on strike; suppose that an excitable striker should jump on an engine and commit any other felony upon the person of the man who took his place; that act would be punishable by death. And what is to prevent the railroad companies, which seem to own the Territory, from having laws passed making interferences of any kind by strikers felonious?"

The Eastern Railroad magnates surely will regret that the east has become too effete for such laws to be passed in eastern legislatures. However, these gentry generally know "how to get there all the same."

The State of Maine has got a new tramp law, and a very atrocious piece of legislation it is indeed. Even more atrocious, if such is possible, than the law just described of Arizona. The law came into effect on the first of this month, and the very first case which came under its jurisdiction is a splendid illustration of its inhumanity. The law stipulates that "all who ask for food, lodging, or charity in any form are deemed tramps, and must be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour." This applies whether the poor person asks for private or for public charity. Some days ago, at Lewiston, Me., a man applied at the police station for a night's lodging. He explained that he had been working in the State, but having no money and being without work, he was walking back to his home in Massachusetts. The man, who was proved to be a genuine worker, was at once arrested and sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment with hard labour. Even the newspapers are kicking against this law, and the pity is that it may be abolished: it was too good an illustration of Yankee "humanity and Christianity."

If tramps are treated like this the abominable treatment of prisoners can cause small wonder. During last year about 12,000 men and women were sent to the Deer Island penitentiary, near Boston, to undergo their various "punishments." In the coldest days of the winter, these unfortunates were not provided with more clothes to wear than in the hottest days of the summer. It must be added that the island is situated in a position where climatic changes are quickly felt, and the wind coming over the sea is cutting in the extreme. On the whole, I believe cannibals are standing on a higher human plane than Yankee society is.

Bad news comes from the city of Chicago. Comrades will remember that the Chicago *Arbeiter-Zeitung*, the *Vorbote*, and the *Fackel* used to be under the editorship of Spies, the organs of the International Working-men's Association. Spies' very unfortunate tactics, which he pursued during his incarceration, to quasi-endorse "electioneering propaganda," has in the meantime produced bitter fruits. The papers got, after the 11th of November, 1887, into the hands of a gang who had for nothing in the world so much interest as for money-making. The principles which were believed in by "our five" were openly ridiculed in the columns of their late organs. To the money-grubbing policy on the part of the stockholders of the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* may also be attributed the suspension of the Chicago *Alarm* and the Chicago *Labour Enquirer*. And now it appears that the worst possible act has been added to the previous offences. Naturally, electioneering is at the bottom. Carter Harrison declined the Democratic nomination for mayor, and in his place a local Chicago politician called Cregier was nominated. The "Labour Parties" also put up a ticket for the municipal offices, which displeased the Socialistic Labour Party, and in the last hour this latter party resolved to participate in the coming election independent of any other party by putting up a ticket of their own. The Chicago *Arbeiter-Zeitung* attacked the Socialistic ticket as well as that of the "Labour Parties," and supported Mayor Roche for re-election. Mayor Roche and his party are the men on whose hands the blood of our martyrs has not dried as yet. The ostensible reason the paper gave for its course is, that Roche promised to do all in his power to have our comrades in Joliet released, and that Roche was the man who suspended Bonfield. The real reason, more than probably, is that the managers and the editor—one Jens. L. Christensen—of the paper have accepted boodle from the Republican party. Faugh! The Democratic ticket (Harrison's crew) got elected.

The following telegram is at present making the round of the capitalist press. The telegram speaks for itself:—

"Mine Inspector Blewitt, of the First Anthracite district, comprising the Lackawanna Valley, near Scranton, Pa., has just completed his annual report of deaths and accidents for the past year, and it furnishes an interesting chapter in the cost of coal mining. The companies operating in the district are the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, the Delaware and Hudson, the Pennsylvania Coal Company, the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, William Connell and Co., the Hillside Coal and Iron Company, and several smaller concerns.

"There are employed at this black industry of mining anthracite in the First district 23,481 persons, and these mined nearly 10,000,000 tons that were shipped from Pennsylvania last year. They worked 233 days of the 365, and one person was killed for every 133,539 tons of the output. During the past year 74 persons were killed in the First district at the work of mining, which shows what a perilous avocation is that of the miner, even under the most favourable circumstances. This is an item in the price of coal that is rarely ever taken into account when the coal barons figure out their balance sheets, but it is none the less a grim feature of the great industry at which men are so poorly paid as at present. As most of the men that are killed leave widows and large families the black agony of the anthracite industry can be readily imagined.

"Mine Inspector Blewitt reports that in his district 307,781 kegs of powder were used in the work of mining during the year. As the market price of the powder is only 1 dol. 50 cents., and the companies compel their miners to pay 3 dols. per keg for it, the amount realised by the corporations of this district on powder alone during the year is nearly half a million dollars. The miners are worked up considerably over this powder question, which they are agitating quite vigorously. The companies claim that the price, 3 dols. per keg, was fixed upon during the war, when powder was much dearer than it is now, and that that was to be the basis for the regulation of wages. They hold that to reduce it now would be equal to advancing the pay of the miners, and the iniquity is so ancient that they actually regard it as an outrage that the press should call attention to a wrong that is so firmly fixed by usage.

"The men, on the other hand, deny the right of the companies to charge war prices for powder in these piping times of peace, and they hold that if they cannot sell cheaper they should not prevent their workmen from purchasing their powder where they could buy to the best advantage. As matters now stand the miners seem to have the best of the argument and the companies the best of the situation. Several important meetings will be held throughout the valley to discuss this and other labour questions during the next few days."

Boston, Mass., April 8, 1889.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MAY 4, 1889.

28	Sun.	1513. 'Prentices' riots in London. 1789. Mutiny of the 'Bounty'. 1789. Rising of Saint Antoine and sacking of Réveillon's paper warehouse. 1820. Fight at Oldham between Radicals and soldiers.
29	Mon.	1763. Wilkes committed to the Tower. 1828. Test Act repealed. 1839. Chartist riot at Llanidloes. 1871. The Freemasons plant their banners on the ramparts of Paris. 1882. Infernal machines "found" in the New York post-office. 1887. Belfast shipbuilders' strike.
30	Tues.	1849. French attack on Rome repelled by Garibaldi. 1871. Communist rising at Lyons. 1872. Genton shot as a Com-munard.
1	Wed.	1820. Hanging of the Cato Street conspirators—Ings, Brunt, Davidson, Tidd, and Thistlewood. 1825. Constitution of New Harmony adopted. 1834. Third series of Wooler's <i>Black Dwarf</i> (8vo, monthly, 3d.) begins. 1861. Anton Petroff, spokesman of the rebel peasants, hanged at Bezdna, Kazan Government, Russia. 1866. Fenian schooner <i>Friend</i> takes and scuttles British schooner <i>Wentworth</i> near East-port, U.S. 1886. First weekly number of <i>Commonweal</i> .
2	Thur.	1792. Ankarström executed for killing Gustavus III. of Sweden. 1818. Karl Marx born. 1842. Monster Chartist petition presented to the House of Commons by T. S. Duncombe. 1878. Great strike of cotton-spinners and riots at Burnley. 1879. Dubrovnik hanged for armed resistance to arrest, St. Petersburg. 1882. Parnell, Dillon, and O'Kelly released from Kilmainham.
3	Fri.	1748. Abbé Sieyès born. 1782. House of Commons expunges resolutions against Wilkes. 1788. All-night session of French Parlement to consider scheme of "Plenary Court." 1791. Revolution in Poland. 1799. Trial of Benjamin Flower, printer of the <i>Cambridge Intelligencer</i> , before the House of Lords for libel and breach of privilege in an article upon the Bishop of Llandaff as an opponent of reform. 1823. First meeting, at Morrison's Hotel, Dublin, of the Hibernian Philanthropic Society, formed in consequence of Robert Owen's lectures. 1845. Tom Hood died—"He sang the Song of the Shirt." 1886. Murder of strikers by police in Chicago.
4	Sat.	1788. Arrest of D'Espréménil and Goelard de Monsabert, and "exile" of Parlement. 1789. Assembling of States-General at Versailles. 1848. Insurrection at Munich. 1886. Hay-market meeting, Chicago.

JOHN BALL.—"Mad," as the landowners called him, it was in the preaching of John Ball that England first listened to a declaration of natural equality and the rights of man. "Good people," cried the preacher, "things will never go well in England so long as goods be not in common, and so long as there be villeins and gentlemen. By what right are they whom we call lords greater folk than we? On what grounds have they deserved it? Why do they hold us in serfage? If we all came of the same father and mother, of Adam and Eve, how can they say or prove that they are better than we, if it be not that they make us gain for them by our toil what they spend in their pride? They are clothed in velvet, and warm in their furs and their ermines, while we are covered with rags. They have wine and spices and fair bread; and we, oatcake and straw, and water to drink. They have leisure and fine houses; we have pain and labour, the rain and the winds in the fields. And yet it is of us and of our toil that these men hold their state." It was the tyranny of property that then as ever roused the defiance of Socialism.—*Green's 'Short History.'*



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

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.
As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.
Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them.
Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.
Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

RECEIVED:—Will be used—John Greenwood; Edward Carpenter. Under consideration—G. S.; J. M. (Manchester); J. B. (Walworth). Unsuitable for various reasons—G. H. B. (Manchester); S. H. C. (Cleckheaton); T. M. (Paddington); R. H. C. (Dulwich).
REPORTS.—Some reports again received too late, and are crowded out.

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Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday April 24.

ENGLAND	MILWAUKEE—National Reformer	SPAIN
Diplomatic Flysheets	Newark—Arbeiter-Zeitung	Madrid—El Socialista
Justice	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	Seville—La Solidaridad
Labour Elector	S. F. Coast Seaman's Journal	Barcelona—El Productor
Labour Tribune	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	PORTUGAL
London—Freie Presse		Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Norwich—Daylight		O Rebelde
Postal Service Gazette	FRANCE	GERMANY
Railway Review	Paris—L'Égalité (daily)	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Social Demokrat	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	AUSTRIA
Worker's Friend	Le Proletariat	Wien—Gleichheit
UNITED STATES	La Revolté	DENMARK
New York—Der Sozialist	La Revue Socialiste	Social-Demokraten
Trübsaker	HOLLAND	Copenhagen—Arbejdere
Volkzeitung	Hague—Recht voor Allen	SWEDEN
Jewish Volkszeitung	BEELGIUM	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
Workmen's Advocate	Ghent—Vooruit	Malmö—Arbetet
Boston—Woman's Journal	ITALY	WEST INDIES
Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	Cuba—El Productor
Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	Ancona—Il Libero Patto	

A TRAMP'S DIARY.

THE following cutting from the *Pall Mall Gazette* of March the 16th, affords a very good instance of how we manufacture criminals under the present system, absolutely compel them to steal by a force more irresistible than the scourge or the sword:—

"In the pocket of a man convicted of larceny in the Tyneside Police-court, a diary has been discovered which contains a minute record of the owner's experiences. After describing how on one night he slept on the sands, and on another contrived to hide and find a night's lodging in a pew in church, the diarist notes day by day his attempts to get casual employment, with varying success, at the docks and elsewhere. On one occasion he appears to have had the good fortune to be engaged by some engineers aboard ship for several days, for which he received 15s. With part of this he purchased a cap, a scarf, and a pair of shoes at a cobbler's. The diarist then continues as follows:

Tuesday, 7 a. m., off to the docks once more; and if I could only get another berth like that, but I don't; spend 10d. for grub, and 9d. for bed.
 Wednesday, same old round, and nothing to do; spend 8d. on tuck, and 9d. for bed.
 Thursday, do., do., etc.; expended 1s. 5d.
 Friday, do., do.; 1s. 5d.
 Saturday, things look blue; 1s.
 Sunday, bed till 12 a. m., got nothing to eat. Bible class at 2.30; church at 6.30; bed at 9.30; beastly hungry; what a lot of money beds cost—my last 9d.—left with a halfpenny.
 Monday, 6 a. m., halfpenny pot of coffee, and off to the docks; I feel famishing; get some ship biscuit on board one of the boats, and that's all for two days; walk about all night.

Tuesday, 8 a. m., chop sticks for a woman until 12, and get 3d. for it—mean old screw—bought some breakfast; no more till 8 p. m.; carry a portmanteau, and get a bob; trust the men; clover that night.

Wednesday, 7 a. m., went to the dock hopeless; to — station, carried two loads, 1s. 6d.; grub 8d.; bed 9d.

Thursday, 6 a. m., up to dock; no work; got a meal on board one of the boats at 9 o'clock; got some biscuits at 3 o'clock; no more grub; no more work; no bed to night; no breakfast in the morning. . . . I'm dreading Sunday.

Friday, 2.30 a. m., crossed in the ferry, and knocked about the quay till seven o'clock; then went into the S. H.—office; then up to — dock; just as bad here, not even a biscuit to be had. I suppose if they knew how bad I wanted it they might give me one, but they don't; think they can't surely know, or they would not refuse me. How shall I get this week-end over? I'll not go to the workhouse, if I starve in the street, and I don't know of a single friend to turn to. I wish to God I was dead, and it was all finished with me. I'm sick of the fight. Honesty, charity, love of fellowmen! Why don't they preach a substantial bodily sermon to poor devils like us; and I suppose I'll have to go and put in another Sunday in church for the sake of a seat, and to get warm. I feel as if I could bite the throat out of some of the fat, greasy, self-satisfied-looking brutes, as they loll in and out of church. Last Sunday, when they went sailing past me, and I thought of all the good things they would have, I hated them, every one. Surely some of them might have seen how hungry I was. I felt faint and sick enough, if I didn't look it. Perhaps I glowered over hard at them when they did look. However, I got over it, and I suppose I'll get over this; doesn't much matter if I don't, nobody seems to care much what I do or where I go. If I only had my life over again from the time father died, how differently I would have done, for only one of my lost chances, my wasted opportunities. But what's the use? I guess I'll have to drive through this and worse before I'm out of the rotten hole.

Let any one in imagination go through the eleven days as this poor fellow describes them; let him see the result of his bit of good fortune growing less and less each day, as he trudges about vainly seeking work, until at length it is all gone and he has to walk the street all night unable to get a bed or a bite of food; let any one imagine the suffering that he must have undergone, weary, hungry, and, worse than all, hopeless! What a wretched dreary world it must have looked to him! What beastly selfish fiends the well-fed people must have seemed as they passed by, leaving him ten times more lonely and wretched for their very presence. Let any one if he can realise the utter dreariness of such a life, the hunger, weariness, and sickening despair, and then let him remember that every day there are thousands and tens of thousands of men going through that misery. At every dock gate in the country you may see them; at almost every ironworks, factory, or anywhere that there seems the faintest chance of getting a bit of work. The other day as I looked out of my office window into the yard of a large ironworks, I saw a man standing; his face attracted my attention, there was such a look of anxiety on it, a nervous impatience to know the result of the interview he hoped to get with the manager of the yard, and withal a look of dread lest it should only be another disappointment. Presently the manager comes along; I watch the man as he steps up to meet him, for a moment a ray of hope beams in his face as with beating heart he begins to stammer out, "Please, sir, could you find me—" "Don't want any one to-day," and the manager is gone. But that man's face! I have more than once wished that would go from my memory! He stood for a moment, and as that ray of hope died from his face there settled on it such a look of utter misery and despair as I hope it may not often fall to my lot to see again.

We Socialists are sometimes accused of looking only on the evil side of life, and disregarding all the good that lies about us. Well, there may be much good in the world, many good people in all classes, and many happy ones, but while it is even possible for such misery as I have described to be the lot of tens of thousands of our fellow countrymen, I cannot see how any person with the least feeling and imagination can enjoy the good as it should be enjoyed; and when such misery is not only possible but is made inevitable by our present system of industry, surely there can be happiness for no one with any sympathy for their fellow men till the system is entirely swept away and something more human put in its place.

Brotherhood, too, we are told, is not to be brought about by a change in conditions, an equalisation of wealth, but only by a change in the heart of the individual. Perhaps if some who think thus should read this tramp's thoughts as he sat in church and watched his well-fed "brethren" filing past, they may be constrained to admit at least that such conditions are hardly conducive to true brotherly feeling, and that some very considerable modification in these conditions might make such feeling very much more possible than at present.

But what is this at the end? "Lost chances," "wasted opportunities." "Ah!" says our friend triumphantly, "you see it was his own fault, not Society's at all!" And as he speaks I seem to remember hearing something about "raising up them that are fallen," "bearing one another's burdens," "breaking bruised reeds," and it seems to me that the religion which our friend so ardently supports used to teach something rather different. But of course I must be mistaken, for evidently now if a man has missed a chance, or a few chances may be, of getting himself on in the world, he has committed the "unpardonable sin" for which no punishment can be too severe, and if when he tries to earn honestly his daily bread Society denies him the chance and leaves him to starve, it is enough to point to one or two such lost opportunities for "getting on." There is an end to any sympathy there might have been; "serve him right" is the verdict, and the self-constituted judge in declaring it, animadverts on the splendid system which thus so surely punishes all those who commit the unpardonable sin of not getting on.

RAYMOND UNWIN.

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other?
 —George Eliot.

HYMN FOR A BIRTHDAY.

WEEP, mother! that thy child is born—
To stunted youth, to manhood worn
In thankless service, to a home
Of snaky woes, a poor-house tomb.
Weep, Mother England!—Every morn
Thou hast a thousand born!

Weep, Mother!—With thy children's bread
The Hounds of Wealth are over-fed;
Toil is harvesting despair;
Lone and loveless sittest thou where
Famine smiles:—Lo! every morn
Thy thousand victims born!

Factor's child! who teacheth thee?
Factor's mistress—Misery.
Teacheth what? How sweetly fair
Is the spring-time of Despair;
How Christ loved ye.—Every morn
Redeem the thousand born.

Youth! what lovest thou? Thy blood
Crawleth still within its mud.
Lovest thou yon squalid thing?
Wherefore are ye marrying?
Is't not enough, that every morn
A thousand slaves are born?

Moan! moan! thou pallid Sepulchre—
Brooding o'er thy nurslings dear:
Queen and Mother! greyly bowed
O'er thy hopes' grave—and the shroud
That doth lap thee:—Every morn
The tenfold hecatomb is born.

The very worm o' the grave can feel;
And the snake-like wound the heel
Of the Oppressor: though men be
Worms, the corse is Tyranny.
Hope, mighty Mother!—Every morn
A thousand men are born!

SPARTACUS (W. J. Linton) in *Chartist Circular*.

A STUDY OF SOCIAL EVOLUTION.

OUR comrade Peter Kropotkin will give a series of lectures at the Kensington Town Hall on the following Tuesdays:—May 28th, June 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and July 2nd, at 5 p.m. Admission by ticket, for the course of six, 21s., 10s. 6d., and 5s.; for single lectures, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. The following is a syllabus of the lectures:—

I.—*The Problems of our Century.*—The intellectual movement of our century—Economic, political, and moral problems raised—No satisfactory answer found—Dualism in morality—Want of inspiration in philosophy, literature, and art which results from it—Issues searched for—Socialism and its aspirations.

II.—*The origins of our present economical and political organisation.*—The primitive Saxon, Celtic, and Slavonian communities—The Communes of the mediæval times—Their interior organisation—Their federations—Monuments left—Internal causes of decay.

III.—*The origins of our present economical and political organisation (continued).*—The growth of modern States—Europe threatened by invasions—The absorption of the Communes by the State—The centralised State—The Colonies and the growth of Industry—Its economical consequences—The growth of representative Government.

IV.—*Philosophical Systems and popular movements aiming at the reconstruction of Society.*—The popular ideal as it appears in the mediæval times—Internal struggles within the Communes—The risings of the peasants—The religious and economical movements of the Reformation—The Anabaptists—The philosophical and economical aspects of the Revolution in England.

V.—*Philosophical Systems and popular movements aiming at the reconstruction of Society (continued).*—The philosophical systems of the eighteenth century—The risings of the people and the French Revolution—The Communists of the nineteenth century—The national workshops of 1848 and the impossibility of organising labour by means of a Government—Birth of modern Socialism.

VI.—*Modern Socialism.*—Its various schools—Collectivism—Anarchy: its system of philosophy—Freedom of the individual and his need of association as the basis of future progress—Moralising influence of Socialism—Dualism in morality cast away—A glimpse into the future—Economic production, Science, and Art in a free Communist Society.

Tickets may be obtained from the Secretary of the League at office of this paper.

The laws govern the poor, and the rich govern the laws.—*Goldsmith.*

Alas! cried Muhammad al Emin, royalty hath neither kindred nor bowels of compassion.

Verily, the Prophet (Mahomet) said, "One dirhem of usury which a man eats, knowing it to be so, is more grievous than thirty-six fornications; and whoever has been so nourished is worthy of hell-fire."

If you allow your people to be badly taught, their morals to be corrupted from childhood, and then when they are men punish them for the very crimes to which they have been trained in childhood—what is this but to make thieves and then to punish them?—*More's 'Utopia.'*

The rich are for ever striving to bear away something further from the daily wages of the poor by private fraud and even by public law, so that the wrong already existing (for it is a wrong that those from whom the State derives most benefit should receive least reward) is made yet greater by means of the law of the State.—*More's 'Utopia.'*

The rich devise every means by which they may in the first place secure to themselves what they have amassed by wrong, and then take to their own use and profit, at the lowest possible price, the work and labour of the poor. And as soon as the rich decide on adopting these devices in the name of the public, then they become law.—*More's 'Utopia.'*

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

GERMANY.

In a former issue of this paper we announced that one hundred Socialists were about to be tried for secret conspiracy, and kindred damnable crimes, at Barmen-Elberfeld. Now we hear that twenty-eight more "criminals" have been added to the list, and some fifty witnesses too. Nearly every street in Barmen-Elberfeld is represented by one "conspirator," or at least by one or two witnesses. The immediate neighbourhood of the town has a respectable contingent of "plotters"; then come Solingen and Lennep-Mettmann, which are fairly represented. Düsseldorf, Aix-la-Chapelle and Cöln hold up their old reputation of "revolutionary nests"; Cassel has not been forgotten, and Franfort-on-the-Main has "defiers of the law" by the score. The Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt has not been spared, nor has the Grand Duchy of Baden, Karlsruhe having given to the forthcoming trial several of its best Socialists. Munich and Nürnberg will represent Bavaria, through comrades Viereck and Grillenberger. Saxony, a centre of Socialist ideas, will of course have a strong deputation of "the most wicked criminals." Königsberg, Iserlahm, Lüdenschied, Hagen, Bochum, and several other towns, are also doomed. The indictment, a terrible piece of magisterial literature, has tales to tell about Vienna, Paris, and London, the most abominable places in Europe. When this trial is over, Germany will be safe for ever and Socialism will exist no more. "Heil dir, ó Germania!"

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Last Thursday died at Pressburg a former adherent of Kossuth, in the person of Bishop Hyacinth Ronay, whose career, in spite of his clerical robes, was a very remarkable one among Hungarians of the period. As a young man, he joined the Hungarian revolutionary movement, and acted as commissioner of Revolutionary Government. On being driven into exile, he lived in London from 1849 till 1866, when the amnesty enabled him to return to his native country. He was at once elected member of the Hungarian Parliament, and on Count Andrassy's recommendation, was accepted by the Empress of Austria as her teacher in Hungarian. Bishop Ronay was afterwards approved by the Emperor as teacher of Hungarian history both to the Crown Prince (who since . . .) and to Princess Valérie. It was to Bishop Ronay that General Latour conveyed the Emperor's wishes, in the following words: "Give your lessons to the Crown Prince according to your own convictions. We want the truth, even the revolutionary truth!"

SWITZERLAND.

The official enquiry about the manufacture of bombs at Zürich has come to an end. Thirteen students, of Russian and Polish nationality, have been arrested. Four or five of these are likely to be set at liberty, because they have not been convicted of having actually taken any part in the "perpetration of that horrible crime." The others will be expelled from "free Helvetia." Much ado about nothing!

The Federal Council of the Swiss Republic has addressed to all the industrial States of Europe an invitation to send delegates to a conference which will be held at Berne during the month of September next, with a view of bringing about an international convention on the question of work in the factories. The following items are to be discussed: 1. Prohibition of Sunday work; 2. Fixing of minimum age for children's admission in factories; 3. Fixing of minimum of labour hours for young workers; 4. Prohibiting the employment of non-adult workers and women in unhealthy or dangerous factories; 5. Restriction of night work for non-adult workers and women; 6. Ways and means to ensure the execution of the resolutions come to.

SWEDEN.

Sweden is making headway in Socialism with very considerable success. Our friends there have four important papers, Socialist circles and groups, revolutionary trades' unions in all towns of some importance, in all industrial centres. Even among the peasantry Socialist ideas are spreading rapidly, much more so than in any other European country at the present time. The government begins to fear the growing movement; hence in Sweden, like elsewhere, they become maddened and institute prosecutions by the score.

Our friends, however, do not seem to be much frightened by the action of the authorities, and they have convened in Stockholm a Congress of all their Swedish supporters from far and near, which has been held from the 19th to the 22nd of the present month. More than sixty Socialist organisations were represented at the Congress, which has been a very important one. Next week we hope to be in a position to give some details about the proceedings.

V. D.

THE PARNELL MOVEMENT.¹

WHATEVER differing opinions may be held of Mr. O'Connor's personal merits, or of the policy he pursues and pleads for, there can be but one opinion of his book upon the recent history of Ireland. Even the *Times* has to admit that he "writes with extraordinary force, animation, and eloquence. He writes as an impassioned advocate, no doubt, but he is too good an advocate to write with gratuitous or conscious unfairness. . . We have read nothing on that important subject more lucid, more dramatic, or more fascinating." That is exceedingly high praise, but it is difficult to say that it is not justified by the facts. In those parts of the book where it comes into comparison with the work of John Mitchell or Gavan Duffy, there is no doubt that it suffers by the contrast, but the application of such a test would be distinctly unfair and misleading. It is not Mr. O'Connor's fault that his pages tell much more than he means, and that the facts he marshals with such care and skill lead on to much further conclusions than he would be willing to admit. He has done his part of the work well, and it is to be hoped that the public will do theirs by reading every line of it, not resting content with his deductions, though accepting them for the most part as far as they go, but forming their own, and if these be not near akin to those of Socialists it will not be for lack of a vivid exposition of the grotesque horrors wrought by monopoly either of land or capital.

S.

The taking of interest has seventy parts of guilt, the least of which is as if a man commit incest.—*Mahomet.*

¹ "The Parnell Movement." By T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P. Commission edition. Fisher Unwin, 1s.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

Platelayers on the Caledonian Railway get 17s. a week where a few years ago they got 21s.

Two Somerset miners who were working together at one of the pits for 60 hours each, received 14s. each at the end of it. Another got about 1s. 10½d. a day on an average, and such cases or worse are said not to be uncommon.

BELFAST PAINTERS' STRIKE.—About sixty painters have struck on the Queen's Island Shipbuilding Works, Belfast. These men, during the recent disputes, received an increase of 1s. per week, with an intimation of a further increase. Not getting this, they have gone out.

MINERS' WAGES.—At a numerously attended meeting of colliery proprietors, held at Manchester, to consider the application of the miners for an increase of wages, it was unanimously resolved to refuse an advance, on the ground that it was not warranted by the state of trade.

NORTH WALES COLLIERS.—All the miners employed at Gatewen Colliery, Wrexham, numbering about 500, on Thursday 18th, sent in a demand for an advance of 10 per cent. This step is certain to be followed by all the North Wales colliers very shortly, and will cause considerable agitation.

SMALL-CHAIN TRADE.—The notice given to the employers by the operatives in the South Staffordshire small-chain trade expired on Saturday. The masters have conceded no advance, and the operatives have decided to cease work until all the employers consent to pay the 4s. list issued in January 1887. About 2,000 men are concerned.

WROUGHT NAIL TRADE.—The fourteen days' notice for an advance in the wrought nail trade expired on Saturday, but in order to avert a strike the Executive Committee have decided to allow the notice to terminate a fortnight after the 20th inst. In the meantime deputations will wait upon the employers and urge them to concede the advance.

BANBRIDGE SPINNERS' STRIKE.—The machine boys and girls in the employment of Hayes and Co., Seapatrik, Banbridge, Ireland, thread-spinners, have struck for an advance of 3d. a-day. For some time past disaffection prevailed owing to the neighbouring mills at Belfast and Gilford advancing wages. There is no likelihood of a settlement unless an increase is agreed to. About 200 employees are out, and are determined to remain idle unless an increase is granted.

GAS-RIVET AND STUD AND PEG MAKERS.—The gas-rivet makers in Old Hill and Hales Owen districts have declined to strike for the list prices, and the operatives' efforts to improve their position have failed to a certain extent. In the course of a few weeks an effort will be made to obtain the full list. The majority of the employers have intimated their willingness to concede the 4s. list should trade continue to improve. A deputation of stud and peg makers have waited upon the employers, and the whole of the latter, it is stated, have agreed to pay the list price of 1887, with the exception of one, and it is expected that he will be forced to give the price.

NORTH OF ENGLAND IRON TRADE.—Last week at a meeting held at Darlington, the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration resolved on the adoption of a sliding scale on the basis of 2s. (two shillings) above shillings for pounds, short weight. That such scale shall come into force on the 1st day of July, 1889, and continue until the last Saturday in July, 1891. The changes under the scale shall take place every two months, and the variations will be the same as under previous sliding-scales. The following were said to have been the various alterations made in wages since 1875 to the present time. This showed that there was paid for thirty-seven months, 6s. 9d.; twenty-eight and half months, 7s.; two-and-half months, 7s. 3d.; twenty months, 7s. 6d.; nine months, 7s. 9d.; six months, 8s.; one-and-half months, 8s. 6d.; two months, 8s. 9d.; forty-eight and-half months, 8s. 3d.; making an average for 155 months of 7s. 6 2/3d.

AGITATION IN THE SALT TRADE.—The Chester correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* states: "The newly-formed trades' unions among the saltworkers have decided to affiliate themselves into one society, having its headquarters at Winsford, Cheshire. For some years a Saltmakers' Society has been in existence in Cheshire, but it has rather been a relief society than a trades organisation. Now that the affiliation has been completed, on the advice of Mr. Broadhurst, M.P., the society constitutes 1,200 men at Winsford, 600 at Northwich, and 200 at Droitwich. Much enthusiasm prevails at Winsford among the men, who are daily joining the society. Captain Turner, who represents Winsford in the Cheshire County Council, has been enrolled a member, and has promised to do whatever he can for the men. Dr. O'Kell, Winsford, has joined, and the secretary's books contain the names of many Winsford tradesmen, who express themselves determined to see fair play between the men and the great organisation which employs them. The Salt Union has taken over 4,000 men from the old works. A great many changes, introduced with a view to more economical working, have given great anxiety to the men. At the Jubilee Works, as already announced, the workmen have gone out on strike. The dispute has assumed a very threatening aspect all round. Indeed, great tact will have to be exercised to avert a general strike."

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.—The recently issued report of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners is decidedly interesting, and well shows what the work is that a "well-managed" trades union does and is capable of doing. The society has over 25,000 members, and the net income for the past year was £76,468 14s. 5½d., an increase of £8,649 2s. 9½d. on the previous year, and after meeting all demands the year closes with a cash balance of £37,896 1s. 11d., which added to the building and other property of the society, brings up the total worth of the society to £44,235 19s. 7d., or £1 15s. 3¼d. per member. To show what has been done by means of this income here are a few items. In the maintenance of unemployed members £30,105 12s. 7½d. has been spent. For sick benefit £16,895 has been spent, and £4,519 3s. 6d. for superannuation; £1,600 14s. for tool benefit, that is to say, for replacing lost, stolen, or destroyed tools; £1,150 for accident benefit; £3,211 18s. for funeral benefit; and £206 3s. 5½d. in paying the railway fares of workmen taking work at a distance from their own homes. One or two trade disputes have had to be fought, but the sum expended upon them was a comparative trifle, which almost escapes notice among the big figures just quoted. Nothing more is needed than a careful glance through this report to show how true our contention is as to the ordinary trade unions, that they are simply the medium through which their members pay their own poor-rates after having paid their employers. Not a solitary item shows an effort to propagate their principles or support a labour paper. Ye fools and blind!

RICH AND POOR IN '69.

Condensed from the *British and Foreign Evangelical Review* for July 1869: Article III—"The Late Commercial Crisis," by J. K. M.

DIRGES, with more of execration for their misdeeds than commiseration for their fate, have been howled over the fallen, while no end of peans are being sung in honour of those who have survived the general disaster, and that are thriving on other people's ruin, as if it were all owing to their wisdom and discretion, or as if they alone knew how "to make the best of both worlds." For ourselves, we have not aptitude for reviling misfortune or worshipping success. Our main, if not our only object, however, is to see how far the times, or the spirit of the age, as it is called, has been responsible for those usages and excesses from which we are suffering, and to suggest changes that must shortly come to pass, if the prosperity and happiness of the masses are consulted. And certainly, if anything should give weight to what we say, it is the vantage-ground from which we speak, with so many instances fresh in our minds, of honest industry coming to grief, of men who were held in high estimation being openly branded as traitors, of honest men losing all confidence in themselves, as well as in each other, and men actually coveting each other's downfall to keep themselves in countenance, as well as glad of any pretext for saddling their neighbour with a portion of their losses. Such, in brief, is a true picture of our late experience. It has been said, that while faith is the condition of spiritual health and prosperity, the contrary holds true in worldly matters. If we were all solitary units, self derived, self sufficing, and having within ourselves all the means of happiness, it might indeed have a show of wisdom; but we are differently constituted, owing our very existence to each other, and so dependent on each other for succour and happiness, that he commits an act of bankruptcy, in the worst sense of the word, who says "Am I my brother's keeper?" It is not well that man be alone, neither is it that he should be so far above his fellows as to be either difficult of access or unapproachable. We have made gods of some men, and less than men of others, of which our late experience has been only the nemesis. There is no better way of judging of the moral state of a people than by comparing the character of those now rolling in wealth with that of those moderately well-to-do or reduced to poverty. Tried by this test, no country ever had greater reason to be ashamed. We never had richer men amongst us, or a greater number, and our rich men never had a worse character, so greedy, grasping, and cold-hearted, unscrupulous up to the full measure of their impunity—or that tampered more with the letter of the law, trusting to the ingenuity of lawyers, or a long purse, to bring them through, and availing themselves of every resource in the way of social intimidation and coercion. Speaking of our modern plutocracy as a class, they are base, bloody, brutal—bearing on their shoulders heavier load of guilt than those who have been convicted of crime. If a city arab steal a pocket-handkerchief, he is seized and carried off to the Mansion House, and in ten minutes may be ordered to Bridewell, while the plaintiff in lavender gloves, possibly one of the class referred to, is complimented by the sitting alderman on having abated a nuisance, and he goes home to his dinner, glorifying himself on having taught one ugly urchin at least a moral lesson. But how stands the case with this poor boy? He was brought into this world without his consent; he probably never saw his father, and it had been better he had never known his mother. Yet here he is with an existence thrust upon him, at war with society from the hour of his birth, shunted out of sight for taking the only means before him of keeping body and soul together; and yet the arab may be the better man of the two. Where little is given, little should be expected; and the city arab is not unworthy of regard if he is guilty of no crime but such as is instigated by the cravings of hunger. Instead of resorting to clumsy and dangerous methods of possessing himself of other people's property, the brigand at heart can attain his ends in a more legal and gentlemanly fashion. Instead of being sometimes dragged before a magistrate, he may even himself aspire to a seat on the bench. Fraudulent bankrupts, pawnbrokers, sweaters, and all the brigands who have succeeded in acquiring other people's property and in evading the law, can easily, in the present society, cover up their tracks, as the Yankees say, and secure admission in society by buying an estate in the country, presenting a memorial window or altar-piece to the parish church, and buying a living for their son. Then there is no saying what the latter, whose position is based on the robbery of the poor, may become. Having the full odour of sanctity as well as gentility, he makes a hit in marriage, believes in apostolical succession, becomes a Ritualist of the first water, and to crown all, finds out he is the promising scion of an old family, that came over with William the Conqueror. But without further illustrations of the way in which millionaires are manufactured, we have said enough to show that money-making is easy enough, if a man will but devote himself, soul and body, to so unworthy an end; and the danger we are in, notwithstanding household suffrage, is that of being overborne by a low-minded, heartless plutocracy. While others can scarcely get the slightest recognition for whatever merits they possess, the man with the long purse is assumed to be everything he can or ought to be. There is scarcely a virtue of which he may not be wanting, or a vice he may not indulge in with the most perfect toleration. It were a miracle if he scrupled to work on men's fears, whenever it answers his purpose. If he wishes a seat in Parliament, he is inundated with requisitions and smothered with votes of confidence; and, getting in on his own terms, he does as he likes in the House. Yet, it may be, he has not an atom of dignity in his person or bearing, and that he is as little able to talk sense, sentiment, or grammar as he is endowed with principle, patriotism, or taste. His only object in going to the House is to improve his social position, get a baronetcy, be made "right honourable," or obtain a peerage; and to get any or all of these he will be as unscrupulous as he is either in the working of his capital or in the means he takes to increase it. How foolish it is to expect that such men can or will do anything for the benefit of the nation.

G. McL.

The future will place civilised societies in an inexorable dilemma: justice or death.—*Charles Letourneau.*

Be indifferent alike to pleasure and to pain; care only to do work, honest, successful work (no futilities), in this hurly-burly world.—*Thomas Carlyle.*

LABOUR EMANCIPATION LEAGUE—Sunday afternoon Outings.—The first of the series will take place on Sunday May 5th, to the Merton Socialist Club, and will consist of the members and friends of the Bethnal Green Branch of the S.D.F. and the L.E.L. (Hoxton). A demonstration will be held on Mitcham Fair Green at 7 p.m. Brakes will start from the L.E.L., 1 Hoxton Square, Hoxton, N., at 2 p.m. Tickets 1s. 3d. each, may be had of the members of the above organisations. Tickets must be paid for by Saturday 4th. H. A. Barker, Excur. Sec.

BOLDLY BREAK THE CHAIN.

Tune: "Who deeply drinks of wine."

WORKERS all, of every land,
Knit in one heroic band,
Lo, the hour is nigh at hand
To boldly break the chain.

Lift your noble battle-call,
ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL,
Cry, till quakes the prison wall,
Then boldly break the chain.

Workers all, of every land, etc.

Pope and Parliament and Czar,
Strive in vain your path to bar;
Brotherhood is stronger far,
And boldly breaks the chain.

Workers all, of every land, etc.

Crowns of glory for the brave,
Manhood for the meanest slave!
On, 'tis ours a world to save,
Who boldly break the chain.

Workers all, of every land, etc.

C. W. BECKETT.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

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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.

London Members' Meeting.—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, May 6, 1889, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock sharp.

Notice.—All letters on League business, except those intended for Editors of *Commonweal*, to be addressed to me. No other person is authorised to sign any official communication. FRANK KITZ, Secretary.

REPORTS.

LONDON OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.—*Regent's Park*—Nicoll, Parker, and Samuels spoke. Protest meetings against police brutality were held at Mile End Waste, Hyde Park, Victoria Park, and Clerkenwell Green on Sunday last. *Mile End Waste*—Brookes, Turner, Springfield (S.D.F.), Mrs. Lahr, Leggett, Hicks, and Phillips (Berner Street Club) spoke; 4s. 4d. collected. *Hyde Park*—Cantwell, Parker, Brookes, McCormick, Tochatti, Nicoll, Mainwaring, and Furlong (S.D.F.) spoke; a few of our songs were sung, and 5s. 0½d. collected. *Clerkenwell Green*—Parker, Nicoll, Somerville (F.R.C.), Murphy (I.N.L.), and Brookes spoke; 4s. 2½d. collected. At all these meetings the following resolution was put and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting, while expressing its deepest sympathy with our comrades of the Berner Street Educational Club who have been maltreated and victimised by the police, at the same time condemn the brutal and dastardly conduct of the force on this occasion, and also the law's delay in the hearing of the case, which has been the cause of depriving—at least for a time—some of our prosecuted and persecuted comrades of the means of earning their living."

HAMMERSMITH.—Good meeting at Latimer Road on Sunday morning; speakers were Lynes, sen., Maughan, A. J. Smith, and Tochatti; 29 *Commonweal* sold. Owing to the noise of the trams and omnibuses passing along in front of our meeting at Kensal Green, the audience was not so good as we had expected; speakers were Dean, Crouch, and Lyne, jun.; 15 *Commonweal* sold. At Weltje Road 7 p.m., a fair meeting; speakers were Maughan, Crouch, Spry, and Saint; 8 *Commonweal* sold. At Kelmscott House, H. H. Spaulding lectured on "The Commune of London."

MITCHAM.—A large meeting held on the Fair Green. Our opponent of Sunday week opposed on the same grounds as before, but with much more courtesy, leaving out the word quackery, etc., with which he interlarded his previous discourses, and acknowledging the existence of the evils we attack; 2s. 8½d. collected for local propaganda. In the evening at our meeting-room, a friend continued the reading from last Sunday of the speeches of the Chicago Anarchists. Several new members made, and good sale of *Commonweal*.—K. F.

ABERDEEN.—At indoor meeting on 15th, a paper by John Robertson on "Culture and Reaction," was read and discussed. At Castle Street on Saturday night, a large and sympathetic crowd was addressed by Duncan and Leatham.

EDINBURGH.—On 21st, comrade Power of London addressed two open-air meetings, getting 12 men to join at the Leith one. In the Moulders' Hall he graphically described East London life and made a stirring appeal to join the movement.

MANCHESTER.—We held two meetings on Sunday. In Stevenson Square, Ritson, Marshall, and Baillie spoke to attentive audience. At our new station, Chester Road, at 7.30, we began with fair audience; same speakers, no opposition. On Sunday May 5th there will be no meetings here, as the Branch will take part in great annual Socialist Demonstration at Blackstone Edge, near Rochdale.

NORWICH.—On Saturday Mowbray arrived from London, and spent enjoyable evening amongst old comrades. Sunday morning, good meeting in the Market Place; Darley and Mowbray spoke. In afternoon, large and attentive crowd assembled to welcome our comrade back; chair taken by Darley, who opened meeting, followed by Mowbray, who gave a "Straight Talk to Working Men." In evening, Poynts addressed good meeting in open-air, which adjourned to Gordon Hall, where Mowbray lectured upon "Socialism not akin to Radicalism"; chair occupied by Adams. Mowbray dealt with the fallacy of supporting Radical programmes, and pointed out the only means of gaining freedom for the workers—by Socialism. Discussion opened by Cooper, who favoured "constitutional means," such as eight-hour movement, etc.; he was followed by the chairman, Darley, Poynts, and Hardy, who supported the lecturer; Mowbray concluded by an able reply. Sale of *Commonweal* and *Freedom*, 6s. 5d.; collected for propaganda, £1 2s. Monday afternoon, successful meeting in Market Place, notwithstanding a counter demonstration by Salvation Army; Darley, Mowbray, and Poynts spoke upon the action of the police towards our comrades at the Berner Street Club; 3s. was collected towards the defence fund.

DUBLIN.—At the Progressist Club, 87 Marlboro Street, Saturday April 20th, A. Shields lectured on "How to Abolish Human Slavery." There was a good attendance, discussion being very lively—King, Coulon, Frizelle, Flunkett, and others doing good work.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. (¼-minute from Farringdon Station, 1 minute from Holborn Viaduct). Committee meeting every Sunday at 7.30.

East London.—97 Boston Street, Hackney Road.

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Committee meetings on Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock sharp. All members are earnestly requested to attend.

Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday April 28, at 8 p.m., A Lecture. Thursday May 2, at 7.30, Choir practice. Friday 3, at 8 p.m., French Class; at 9 sharp, Weekly Business Meeting; after business, a discussion.

Mitcham.—3 Clare Villas, Merton Road. Meets every Sunday, at 11 a.m. **North London.**—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Rd. Meets every Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.—Branch meetings at International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road. J. Turner, organising secretary. On Wednesday May 1, D. Nicoll will lecture—subject, "Law and Order."

PROVINCES.

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

Dublin.—Dublin Socialist Club, 16 Dawson Street.

Glasgow.—84 John Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Discussion Class on Thursday evenings at 8. French Class meets on Mondays at 8 p.m. Members wishing to join in our Saturday afternoon propaganda excursions are requested to assemble in Rooms on Saturdays at 4.30.

Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Road and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m.

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

Norwich.—Sunday, at 8, lecture in the Gordon Hall. Monday, at 8.30, lecture by Mr. Roberts—subject, "Phrenology"; proceeds on behalf of Branch funds; all seats free, collection at door. Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting. Wednesday, at 8.30, Discussion Class. Thursday and Friday, Hall open from 8 p.m. Saturday, 8 until 10.30, Co-operative Clothing Assoc.

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

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

Yarmouth.—"Three Fishes" Coffee Tavern, North Howard Street. Business meeting every Tuesday evening. The *Commonweal* can be purchased of Mr. Hous, newsagent, George Street.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SATURDAY 27.

8 Mile-end Waste Davis, Brooks, Mrs. Schack

SUNDAY 28.

11 Latimer Road Station Maughan, Dean, and Crouch

11.30 Bethnal Green—Gibraltar Walk Mrs. Schack and Hicks

11.30 "Canterbury Arms"—Kilburn Road Charles, Mainwaring, Hicks

11.30 Hammersmith—St. Ann's Road The Branch

11.30 Kensal Green Lyne senr., Lyne junr., and Davis

11.30 Mitcham Fair Green Turner

11.30 Regent's Park Parker and Nicoll

11.30 Walham Green, opposite Station The Branch

11.30 Leman Street, Shadwell Davis, Turner, and Mowbray

3.30 Hyde Park Darwood, Jeffries, and Parker

3.30 Victoria Park Davis, Mrs. Schack, and Mowbray

7 Clerkenwell Green Brookes, Kitz, Parker, and Nicoll

7 Weltje Road, Ravenscourt Park The Branch

7.30 Broad Street, Soho Mrs. Lahr

7.30 Mitcham Fair Green Turner

TUESDAY 30.

8 Fulham—back of Walham Green Church The Branch.

THURSDAY 2.

8 Ossulton Street Mrs. Lahr and Nicoll

FRIDAY 3.

8 Philpot Street, Commercial Road St. George's Branch

8.15 Hoxton Church Mrs. Lahr

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, 7.30 p.m.

Glasgow.—Sunday: Glasgow Green at 2 p.m.; St. George's Cross at 7 p.m.; Paisley Road at 5.30.

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

Manchester.—Outdoor meetings every Sunday. Stevenson Square at 3 p.m.; Viaduct, Chester Road, at 7.30.

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

Yarmouth.—Priory Plain, at 3 every Sunday.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

Aberdeen.—Organiser, J. Leatham, 7 Jamaica Street. Branch meets in Odd-fellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8. **Jarnoustie** (Forfarshire)—Meets every Wednesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. Samuel Wilson, Secretary.

Dundee.—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.

Edinburgh.—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8.

Galashiels.—J. Walker, 184 Glendinning Terrace, Secretary. **Gallatoun and Dysart** (Fife)—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn Street, Secretary.

Kilmarnock.—Branch meets on every alternate Tuesday. H. M'Gill, 22 Gilmour Street, Secretary. **West Calder.**—Robert Lindsay, West Calder, Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

Sydney.—533 George Street. Lectures and debates every Sunday evening. W. H. McNamara, Secretary.

Melbourne.—"Golden Fleece" Hotel, Russell Street. Lectures and debates every Sunday evening. J. A. Andrews, 18 Ophir Street, Richmond, Secy.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—The Committee will meet at 28 Gray's Inn Road (Holborn) on Saturday April 27, at 7.30, to receive subscriptions, etc.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH.—A Public Meeting will be held at Camden Hall, King Street, Camden Town, on Tuesday 30th inst. Speakers—Kitz, Mowbray, Turner, and others. The meeting will be interspersed with Socialist songs.

ELEUSIS CLUB, 180 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.—Sunday April 28, at 8 p.m., Mr. Sidney Webb (Fabian), "The New Departure of the Liberal Party. Social Reforms."

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