

THE COMMONWEAL

A REVOLUTIONARY JOURNAL OF

Anarchist Communism.

[VOL. 7.—No 274]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1891.

[WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.]

— SPECIAL APPEAL. —

We have recently been engaged in a vigorous propaganda, which, although it has increased the sale of the "Weal," has also been the means of expending a considerable amount of money on leaflets and handbills. At the same time contributions to the Guarantee Fund have fallen off, consequently we have to face a heavy deficit, and unless comrades and friends help us by liberal contributions, the weekly issue of the "Weal" will have to stop with the present number, whereas with timely help we can tide over present difficulties.

CREAGHE'S SPEECH AT THE SHEFFIELD POLICE COURT.

As our readers may be interested in Comrade Creaghe's "trial for libel" at Sheffield, we quote his plucky speech in the police court, which we have taken from the report of the *Sheffield Evening Telegraph and Star* :—

Our Comrade said : I wish to make a statement about the matter, and leave it for you to decide whether you wish to dismiss it here. I think it was absurd that a number of people should have to come together and have to occupy their time and attention on such a trumpety charge as this man Wilson has thought fit to bring against me. However, knowing as I do with what trivialities lawyers and law courts are obliged to occupy themselves, being, as they are supposed to be, engaged in trying to accomplish the impossible, that is to say, to judge other men's conduct and mete out justice—I say supposed to be, for I know that to mete out even-handed justice is not really their intention. But if it were so, it would be a thing quite impossible. Still, many believe such is their object, and from what I have seen, and from what I have heard, the best judges of the matter—the working men—the men sitting in the court would do justice if they could. I have it, I say, from the best judges in the matter, because the men of the working classes form the immense majority of those who come before the courts to have their conduct tried, and this is a significant fact, which might make some people think, and leave them to understand what the real object of so-called justice is. But it is impossible for any man, or any crowd of men, to judge another's conduct. They cannot possibly enter into all the circumstances that surround a man, which have surrounded him from his birth, and which make him so very largely what he is. They cannot even say weeks or months, or even hours, after an affair has occurred, give a right understanding of the birth of any matter surrounded as it is with insurmountable difficulties. They try to lay down hard and fast rules, leaving out all those considerations I have mentioned without which justice could not be done, and which they also find it impossible to judge of, and therefore abandon all attempts to take into consideration. No, the real object of law and authority is to protect private property, and this can be seen in this case, in which I am threatened with the tremendous penalty of two years' imprisonment, not because my accusers have suffered by what I have written, for if a man be pure and unstained as this Wilson says he is nothing that another can say to the contrary would have any other result than bringing out more clearly the truth ; and if he were guilty he would only have to grin and bear it. But I am accused because any accusation of crime is supposed to injure a man's interests, his hope of making money, his property, which in this case consists in his privilege as one of a limited number, allowed to plead in courts and to tax the public in accordance with that privilege. If one law more than another could be considered a rich man's law this would be one. For look at the penalty, and see how closely it is associated with property, and then look at the penalty for personal injury. Compared with it, why, if I had thrashed him for his insults within an inch of his life, I would have been perfectly justified in doing so.

Mr. Fairburn (Wilson's solicitor) : If you could.

Creaghe : Silence, sir. I would not have incurred anything like the same punishment, and yet a personal assault on a man is by all mankind

considered to be the worst offence you can do him. The honourable man may overlook much that may be said or written, but a blow or buffet is in most countries in the world only to be wiped out with blood. But in any case, in any way you look at the matter, what injury has been done to this man. I say nothing whatever ; for I say, without fear of contradiction, that he belongs to a profession, one of the wretched results of private property, whose business is to lie, and cheat, and steal, and through his profession I have attacked him. Look—

Mr. Fairburn : I don't know whether this is revelant with the defence.

The Stipendiary : Let him go on.

Creaghe : Look through all present-day literature ; look over the literature of former, even the most ancient times and you will find that everywhere it has been conceded by everybody, and mentioned as a truism that a lawyer from the nature of his profession was a thief, and that an attorney was more especially so. As Shelley has said, "right or wrong will vindicate for gold." Yes for gold, and if a man has not got gold than give him no justice, or if your client has more gold than his antagonist make every use of your advantage, and cheat him out of his rights if you can by that means. If he is poor take advantage of his poverty ; if he is ignorant take advantage of his ignorance. Cheat him and mislead him all you can, keeping always in view the verdict, not by any means the truth, justice, and right. I ask, can any man be successful in such a profession except one who has the talent, the turn of mind, and the unscrupulous want of feeling for others which will enable him to cheat and lie in order to defraud, that is to say, to rob. My accuser tells the public that he has been very successful in his profession. There has been no wrong, then, done to this man by what was published by me in the *Anarchist*. He is a successful attorney, and as such he must be a good schemer, and a dealer in what I said—"chicane, fraud, and lies," and there is no doubt that the publication of it will be more in his favour than otherwise, for it lets the public know that he is a clever schemer. But, besides this, he has provoked me. He came here in the interest of his client to prosecute a claim against me, and in the most uncalled-for way he attacked me by calling me thief, pest, and nuisance, and said I ought to be expelled from the country, and he did this in open court, knowing that the words would be published in the papers. He did this unprovoked by the magistrates present. He said I was a coward, and that all Anarchists were cowards. But who is the coward, I may ask now, he or I ? He attacks me in my absence, that was cowardly ; he attacks me hoping to shelter himself behind the privileges of his profession as a lawyer. That was the act of a coward ; and then he comes here, still under the shelter as he hopes, of the law, to try and punish me like a big baby running to the shelter of his mamma, and calling for the punishment of the offender, when he himself was the first aggressor. There is something like the squealing of a pig now, I think, Mr. Wilson. Who now is squealing like a pig, eh, Messrs. Dodson and Fogg—I should say Messrs. Wilson and Fairburn ? Anyone who has read Dickens' delightful "Pickwick Papers" will remember those typical attorneys mentioned as Dodson and Fogg, how they worked up evidence in every way to secure a verdict. It is very amusing, I know, to Dodson, and when the indignant honest man retaliates and calls them thieves and scoundrels they take down his words and try to get another chance of robbing him, and one of them begs him to strike him. Oh, he would be only too delighted if I would strike him. This is not a breach of promise case, but anyone who remembers the famous one in Pickwick will have an idea of what the spider's web of the law is in the hands of the Dodsons and Fogs, or I have no hesitation in saying, in those of the Wilsons and Fairburns, and the De Littles and Steels. What torture for honest, simple-minded man to find these spiders weaving around him their web of chicane, and fraud, and lies ; and information here, and order there, and payment here, worried this way, worried that way ; and, oh, the waste of ink and paper, and worst of all, the waste of human energy and human existence in the hurried, useless, degrading business of the law. Oh, your Dodsons and Fogs ; your Wilsons and Fairburns, know little of what kind of fly they get in their net when they chance on an Anarchist. If he has not a

wasp or a bee, he at any rate has a horny black beetle, who laughs at their laws, expecting no such things as justice from law, for we know that the two are quite incompatible. We know that law was not meant to carry out justice, but to perpetuate injustice. We are prepared, then, for their stratagems, their lies, and schemes, and we suffer nothing in the process as others do, who foolishly expect justice, and meet with nothing, but these hateful schemes, these frauds and lies. Sir, this accusation is nothing but a farce, nothing but a piece of malice, trumped up for revenge—the revenge of an ill-tempered man who, failing in a case displays his ill-temper in a disgraceful way in open court—insults and abuses an absent man openly and publicly, as everyone knows, and then, when retaliation naturally follows, in a cowardly, mean, and contemptible manner, strives in a most despicable way to shelter himself behind the law, and from that shelter to strike at his opponent to stab him in the back. I have done.

Creaghe was then committed to the Assizes, bail being allowed.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SOCIETY.

WE are charged continually with being a party of destruction, and it is needless to deny that the current of our agitation, especially the outdoor propaganda, justifies the assertion. Yet the vital principle of Socialism, the ideal which urges us forward and keeps our faith whole is not negative, but eminently positive and reconstructive. Nor can we afford, even temporarily, to forget the aim we have in view, without weakening our cause and dissipating our hope in the future. While the Revolutionist remains the analyst of Society, resolving it into its elements, the complex into the simpler forms, from which it has grown, he rightly finds his mission, and claims on posterity, not as the critic and destroyer, but as the builder and prophet of a reorganised Society. His ideal is synthetical: the chief means at present analytical. It is certain that whichever theory of the future form of Society he accepts, the Social Revolutionist is prodigiously ahead of the body of the working class in England, and has a giant's task to perform in getting any considerable number to realise and endeavour to accomplish the Social reorganisation. This is a stern fact, and one which we must face, however much it may lay us open to the charge of pessimism, for it is wisest to direct our attention and energies where they are most needed. The results of working class combinations in the past, and of recent conflicts with capitalism in its unceasing warfare with the forces of labour, clearly show that the workers, skilled or unskilled, organised or unorganised, have so far failed to grasp the idea which alone can emancipate labour from the curse of capital. We hear of "Boards of Conciliation," of "amicable adjustments of the interests of employers and employed;" we see the Trade Unions continuing to fritter away their forces on higher rates of wages and reduced hours, and on strikes which, whether they succeed or not, seldom bring material benefit to the worker.

Why this endeavour to reconcile the impossible, to fill a vessel without a bottom, as the gaining of these small boons amount to? The reason is the absence of the Socialist ideal of truly revolutionary and constructive principles in the councils and aspirations of Labour. Could men be so easily satisfied and accept such miserable subterfuges and compromises as we see to-day if they had realised, even dimly, the grand principles which are the embodiment of Socialism? We Anarchists who hold these teachings in the extreme, that is, in their entirety, are compelled to proclaim the futility of methods so weak and cowardly. Our analysis shows that modern Society is resting on opposing interests, that the interests of the working class are necessarily in conflict with those of all the other classes in Society. That any expedient must fail which comes short of annihilating the whole of the interests that to-day contend with the claims of Labour. And until this conclusion is accepted, and made the principle of action in Labour's struggles against the forces of Capital, the gain of the workers will be little and their disappointment great.

The wealth-producers must learn that a society in which every member is of their class, and in fact when there will cease to be class at all, for all shall be alike workers, will thus have destroyed the cause of contention and reduced the multitudinous interests which now struggle to extermination—being well-nigh as numerous as the number of individuals engaged—to one great interest: the welfare of the community in which every one shall realise his own.

This is only possible through the conscious effort of the people organised as producers to supply their own wants in the simplest and most direct way. There need be no pattern form of organisation, no specific plan, but a consciousness of a guiding principle which will urge all to the same end: the social production of wealth to be consumed by the producers according to their requirements.

The labour problem remains unsolved until this is accomplished. But the extremest of Socialists stand alone in urging this truth on the minds of the workers. The recognised leaders of the working class, even where they know the truth, entirely fail to send it home to those whom they set up to lead. Hence we must continue to hold aloft the banner of the future, of a world without classes, free from masters and from slaves.

But while the workers believe in masters, until they know how to abolish them by ceasing to need them, no re-adjustment of their chains can much avail. As we have monarchies, because the people have not yet ceased to believe in their utility, lawyers and prisons, because they still hold to the legal ideas of the past, and don't know how to do without the system, churches and their black-coated pensioners, because

men's minds cannot shake off the notions acquired in childhood and youth when priestcraft and dogmatic religion had it all their own way, so have we masters—the employing class—because the people have not learnt how to do without them, and therefore still need them, and must continue to pay the price they demand, *viz.* the loss of their freedom, and accept the wages of slavery.

It is notorious that the average worker, unhappily not yet a Socialist, no more knows how to live without a master, except by becoming one himself, than to dine without his dinner. He has not conceived how his class might so organise their labour force that a master would be superfluous. When he does the Revolution will be on us. The reorganisation of Society shall have begun.

The great middle-class, the master class to-day, by painful and long continued effort qualified for supremacy, and when superiority to the aristocracy, the master-class of that time was attained, and their power well organised, the bourgeois swallowed up their predecessors with all the appendages of masterdom. And by the superiority of their organisation and clearer conception of their own interests, and how to maintain them, they continue to-day to hold the masses in subjection. How long this state shall last depends entirely on the attitude and action of the workers. Until the proletariat by a conscious effort prepares to submerge the classes above and to organise Society for themselves, that is, in the interest of labour requiring every member of Society to subserve all interests to that of the community, thus eliminating classes and class interests—until the workers do this and do it grandly, nobly, and consciously, Capitalism must survive. To-day Society is the society of the capitalist. The working class exists only as an appendage to the master class, a regrettable but needful evil.

Every effort of the workers should therefore be directed not to maintain existing conditions, but to separate and annihilate them. Society must be reconstructed by the workers, and on a basis of labour. To belong to an organisation of labour, not the defensive unions of the present, but a combination of labour units in one way or other, needed by the community to supply some want or function, will be the only test of citizenship and constitute the claim to share from the common stock. The middle class naturally are unable to conceive of any form of Society but their own, and scorn to accept the idea of the workers reorganising production and exchange on a basis of equality. From them, owing to their prejudices and surroundings we can hope for nothing, they are bound up in the present and look to the past. But the toilers must look to the future, they have their innings to take, and are bound to win when they enter the game.

We may learn from the past and work in the present, but we must place our ideas and our hope in the time to come.

How the reconstruction is to be accomplished, and what means the working classes will adopt in order to transform Society, I am not sufficiently prophetic to declare. Whether the people will wait on Government to initiate the struggle and transformation, or endeavour to utilise existing associations, or place their reliance on new forms of organisation sprung up to meet the occasion, is a problem which the student of social progress may hold a very decided opinion about, but cannot in strict truth be dogmatic upon its final solution.

Of this we are certain, that the coming change must bring in the epoch of Labour and equality of condition. Let the people realise this truth and prepare to enter the new conditions which await them, and if the Society of organised labour, the communities of equality and freedom are to accomplish the destiny which our social ideal marks out, the task must begin at once.

The workers are responsible for the future, and must boldly march forward to the work of building up the re-organised communities for which the approaching revolution itself, the death knell of the bourgeois commercial epoch of social evolution, will only clear the way.

This, then, is the message I bring to-day. It is not the injustice and tyranny of Governments, nor the power and greed of capital, which keep the workers in servitude and poverty, but the torpidity, the want of courage, the absence of solidarity amongst the people. They are not true friends who flatter, and above all things the duty of an Anarchist is to utter what is true, however undesirable it may be. Now the absence of a guiding principle of a clear and definite aim, and of a faith in their future triumph and destiny, these are what prevent the speedy realisation of Socialism, or of Anarchy, if you will. Is there a doubt about this? See the sections into which the workers are still divided, the want of any avowed and real labour party outside the ranks of the Socialist propaganda. Witness the time-serving and opportunism of all the working class leaders, the continuous whining to the middle class parliament for a slight easing of their burdens.

I am far from despairing; these things must be told. The workers need an ideal and aim, having the history of the past as a base, and the future as a guiding star, with all the knowledge and research which the age can furnish, and a consciousness of their own power and their place in the coming epoch of Social Freedom.

Rouse ye then, workers, shake off the fetters of distrust and selfishness which bind you. Listen to the voices crying in the wilderness, the preachers who give you an aim and an ideal, the Socialists and Anarchists of to-day, but of to-morrow the teachers and prophets of an era and a change accomplished. Until the principles we advocate become the programme of the organised people, though our name may be refuted and our party still appear small and impotent, there can be no new epoch initiated, no reconstruction possible. To preach this gospel is our duty, from which we shall not shrink till the Revolution has given us some more congenial occupation.

WM. BAILIE.

NOTES.

THE No Rent Meeting in Victoria Park passed off most successfully. A large audience composed of slum-dwellers, aristocrats of Labour, and even the small middle class of the East End listened with great attention to our comrades Cantwell, Nicoll, Mowbray, Turner, and Power (S.D.F.), as they explained the reasons for a No Rent Campaign. We had been warned that we might expect interruption and opposition; there had even been rumours of gangs of roughs organised by house-farmers to break up the meeting. But they did not put in an appearance, and the friendly interest and marked enthusiasm for the No Rent Campaign rendered it probable that they would have received a very warm reception if they had appeared. As for interruption and opposition, there was none, the people being evidently convinced that the landlord was even a greater enemy of mankind than the capitalist, and that his prompt extermination was a great social necessity. One of the principal attractions beside the two big red flags, was a black flag bearing this inscription,—“Why should we starve to feed idle landlords? Down with them!” and on the other side “No Rent.” When the meeting was over, several working people, even of the better off class, came to our comrades and expressed their hearty sympathy with the movement, in some cases supplying facts relative to landlord tyranny and robbery. Perhaps the best proof of public sympathy was the collection, which amounted to 10s. 8d.; this is a wonderful sum for Victoria Park, especially as a large number of the audience were very poor people.

How much a No Rent Campaign is needed may be judged by the following letter:—

“Living in the neighbourhood of the Burdett Road, E., I have lost two children in seven days, a girl six and a-half years old, and the other, a boy three months. Now I have a girl four and a-half years and a boy two and a-half years old, who have been laid up eight months, and the younger boy is now taken with the same complaint, through the bad smells of the W.C., no water being laid on, and the defective drains, which caused fever and brought on blood poisoning. I have spoken to the landlord of the house about the same, but he has done nothing, as I was only a tenant renting three rooms. Having lost two of my children I wish the public to know how a working man is neglected. I have paid no rent for five weeks and still refuse to pay any.
C. R.”

And yet the murder of little children is quite common through the horrible insanitary conditions which prevail in slum dwellings. According to Dr. Drysdale, among the well-to-do classes only eight children in a hundred die in the first year of life, while as many as thirty per cent. succumb among the children of the poor in some districts of our large cities; that is, for every rich man's child that dies, nearly four children perish among the poor, and we may be certain that at least two are murdered by the rack-rented, fever-breeding dens in which their parents are forced to live. Is it not time, at least, that the people ceased paying the assassins who own these dens one third of their income for poisoning their children? We sympathise deeply with our friend in the loss he has undergone. It is terrible indeed to lose his little ones by the cruel barbarity of these monsters. He has done quite right to bravely refuse to pay rent, let him persist in his refusal. Would that every workman whose children have been murdered by the inhuman avarice and greed of the slum-owner, would follow his example. These monsters would get very little rent from their “property.”

A practical suggestion; as the County Council has been so kind to the owners of these pestilence-breeding dens in the Boundary Street Area, as to give them “twenty-four years purchase of the rateable value,” we recommend that people who have lost their health, or their nearest and dearest relatives, or their children through diseases contracted by living in that slum, should present their claim for “compensation” to that august body, and that it be paid out of the money awarded to the landlords. Now here would be a chance for the County Council to show its love of the people.

We have heard that these so-called Model Dwellings Companies are quite as bad as the rack-renters of the slums, both for their high rents and also for their cruelty to their tenants. Foremost on the roll of infamy is the “Imperial Industrial Dwelling Company,” offices, 54, Finsbury Circus. Any workman who takes rooms from these people, if he happens to fall ill, and has to go to the hospital, may feel certain that his wife and children will be in a fortnight's time promptly turned into the street. All these rack-renters are wonderfully courageous when women and children are concerned, the number of widows and orphans evicted in a single year is astonishing. Where there is a man of athletic build on the premises, who knows how to use the kitchen poker, the brokers will fight shy. When will workmen in models and slums protect women and children from these legal outrages, by throwing these scoundrels downstairs or breaking their heads with the poker?

To encourage these acts of resistance to legal outrage, we have started a No Rent League, and we invite subscriptions for the purpose of keeping the wives and families of men who are sent to jail for assaulting bailiffs and policemen, who are engaged in legal robbery and eviction. The League also will give advice and assistance to all workmen threatened by these extortioners; it will help in saving their

furniture from the brokers, and as soon as the people are ready will join with them in a general No Rent revolt against the landlords of London. All information can be obtained and subscriptions should be sent to Secretary, 273, Hackney Road, N.E. Facts as to landlord tyranny and robbery should be sent to the Editor of the *Weal*. The Anti-Broker Brigade has scored already. Comrade Mowbray did not pay rent for seven weeks to his landlord. The landlord put the brokers in, but took them out again on a “Creaghe” agreement being signed by Mowbray, whereupon the Anti-Broker Brigade swooped down upon the house and carried off all his furniture. That landlord's name was Bacon, by this time he has been done “brown.” It is a case of “out of the frying pan into the fire” with that Bacon.

Last week in speaking of the No Rent Campaign, we referred to the mutinous condition of the army, and that statement was confirmed by the news that the Coldstreams had mutined. The military authorities have tried to hush up the matter, but even they have been obliged to admit that there was a revolt of the men, although in the accounts they have given to the press they have endeavoured to make it as trifling as possible. But we have reason to believe that the revolt was quite as serious as represented in *Truth*.

The men having thought they had “too much German Emperor” in the shape of parades, drills, and guards of honour, some refused to turn out to drill on Monday, July 13th. Ten men were picked out and put under arrest, whereupon ninety barricaded themselves in a room, and the sergeant-major who put his head through a broken panel in the door had a bench thrown at him. It was only by ordering the release of the ten imprisoned men that the officers could persuade the men back to their “duty.” No wonder that the organ of the capitalist classes, the *Times*, says that this rebellious army is a “danger.” Yes, it is a “danger,” a very great danger to the capitalist classes. Hardly the kind of force to be sent to evict rebellious slummers, or to shoot down revolted strikers. It is more likely to shoot the capitalists and landlords I should say. The people need not fear the army in a No Rent Campaign or General Strike. It is the masters who have reason to feel alarmed, and they will have more reason before long.
N.

AN OBJECTION TO SOCIALISM.

It is amusing to observe how, amongst even the most oppressed and poverty-stricken toilers, there are to be found some who will gravely question whether, after all, Socialism would really benefit them—whether its adoption would not exact too much from them in the way of supporting idlers who would not work, and helping to maintain those who were not as strong, diligent, and thrifty as themselves! I have not infrequently, at the conclusion of a meeting, been asked by fifteen-shilling-a-week labourers, whether we Socialists actually proposed that they, if they were diligent and skilful, would get no more for their work than their neighbours who might not be able, or might not be willing, to do half as much work as themselves! Poor idiots! They did not appear to have the least notion that they were meanwhile assisting to maintain just about as many loafers and incompetent and thriftless folk as the strength of their bodies and the weakness of their minds would possibly endure. That in fact not only is a portion of the wealth which they produce appropriated for the benefit of others, but the portion appropriated is the largest portion, and those for whose maintenance it goes, are not only their own despised weak, stupid, or indolent fellow-workers, but the strong, and crafty, and rich exploiters, who insult and oppress in return for their stupid generosity. They have thus to maintain two classes of dependants—the idle and incapable rich, and the idle and incapable poor. And yet with this double burden upon their toil, these poor slaves shy at the notion of Socialism, under which there would be no room for idle people of any sort, and what with better health, proper education, and pleasant conditions of work, the incapables would be few indeed.

There is in truth exemplified in the industrial system of to-day, all the supposed inconveniences of Communism magnified a hundred-fold. There is more of the dividing, confiscation, and levelling up and down, which some apprehend Socialism would specially introduce, than would if properly distributed, inaugurate a dozen Socialisms in our midst.

I suppose the logic of this matter will get knocked into the workers somehow, at no distant date, if not into their heads by argument, at least into their stomachs by starvation. The latter process may safely be entrusted to the capitalists and landlords, while we must, as vigorously and good-humourously as we can, keep pegging away at the former. Of one thing we may at least be sure, that if our method does not cure them of their folly, the other method will certainly kill them of it.
BRUCE GLASIER.

THE PROPAGANDA.

MANCHESTER.—Although we have not wasted much time on reports we have not been idle during the summer months. Every Sunday while the weather has permitted, meetings have been held at Phillip's Park Gates, Stevenson Square, and the New Cross, and large and sympathetic audiences have drunk in the fiery onslaughts on existing society, and the bright ideals of liberty and equality which comrades Stockton, Barton, and Ballie have put before them. The New Cross has always been the stronghold of Teetotalism, and our first meetings were scenes of wild disorder, fomented by the excited advocates of Temperance (it is strange and touching to witness

the intense sympathy of the habitual drunkard and loafer with blue ribbon principles); but Socialism stood its ground, and now the greater portion of their former audience find it more interesting and instructive to listen to the discussion of their wrongs and the remedy for them, than to the recital of the virtues of cold water and penny savings banks. Indoor meetings and discussions of the Fabian Society and various Church organisations have also been taken advantage of to propagate the principles of Anarchist Communism, and we have always provoked discussion and excited interest, which cannot fail to have good results. The drawbacks to our work have chiefly been a want of out-door speakers, especially since the departure of Comrade Baillie. An attempt was made to remedy this by getting outside speakers, but of three advertised speakers not one turned up. But in spite of drawbacks and obstructions we are working hard to sow the good seed by the propagation of true principles, and our efforts will surely bear fruit in helping on the Emancipation of Labour and the Liberty of Man.

A. B.

LEICESTER.—On May 31st last, George Cores gave us three earnest addresses, and on the next day, he and Clara Warner spoke at Ansty. We managed with local speakers till the 28th, when Baillie of Manchester was among us, an energetic and convincing speaker, evidently a close student of social problems. On July 5th, the police interfered with comrade Warner for bringing out the dray on which we speak. A few days after he received warning not to repeat the "offence" of obstruction but took no notice. On July 12th, Gorrie brought out the dray; interference again, but Gorrie refused to give his name and address, or to assist Law 'n' Order in any way. John Bingham with us on that date, and gave the police a bad quarter of an hour. Ridicule and impassioned exposure of police tactics to delight of audience. On July 19th, dray procured from new quarters, owing to intimidation of police; vigorous denunciation of them by Barclay, Taylor, and others; police present, but do not interfere. Trade Unionists came up uninvited, and back us up in right of public meeting; good impression produced. Opposition in shape of wanton interruption, hustled out of meeting by audience. Salvationists also spoke in defence of free speech; and on the whole, sympathetically. Discussion and press notices in plenty; steady sale of literature.

T. B.

PRACTICAL POLITICS.

A POLITICAL programme? Pray what is its use?
Leave political problems to stew in their juice.
The workers, whatever be their country or clime,
Have what's more to the purpose to do with their time.

They can spend their scant leisure in worthier work
Than in wrangling with Russ or unspeakable Turk.
Let them look to their homes; they have autocrats here
Whose running accounts are in heavy arrears.

A political cry? 'Tis a little too flat;
We've a trick worth a jolly round dozen of that.
Opportunists may strive the great issues to shunt,
But the Socialist question shall forge to the front.

Too long have exploiters and slave-drivers ruled,
Too long have the workers been robbed and befooled;
They have sworn a great oath, and they'll stick to their guns,
Not to hand their own slavery on to their sons.

Then rally your ranks at the Socialist call;
Let us settle the question for once and for all:
In the cause of the weak trodden down by the strong
Let us each do our utmost to right the world's wrong.

For the day's drawing near when the right shall be known,
And the toilers shall triumph and come by their own.
Then arise, for the times are grown ripe for the birth,
And snap the strong chain that still cripples our earth. J. J.

THE CONFERENCE.

The following is the Agenda to be used at the Conference on Sunday, August 2nd, at the *Commonweal* Club.

- 1.—Reports of the various Groups and Societies.
- 2.—The Anarchist press.
- 3.—The best methods of propaganda in town or country.
- 4.—Propaganda in the Army.
- 5.—The No Rent Campaign.
- 6.—The General Strike.
- 7.—Expropriation.

Other suggestions from comrades are invited.

Readers of the *Commonweal* in the United States can obtain it weekly from Comrade Metzkw, P.O.B. 29, Mount Oliver, Alleghany County, Pa.

Army Propaganda Fund. Collection in Hyde Park, 14s. 2d. "Citizen," 4s.

WANTED 100 to 1000 comrades to join and strengthen the Anti-Broker Brigade. For particulars apply to W. G. C., office of this paper.

A SEVERE WINTER is inevitable, therefore advertiser is making preparations accordingly. Anyone wishing to join him in forming a Help-Yourself Brigade should apply to T. P., office of this paper.

NOTICES.

LONDON.

Commonweal Club.—273, Hackney Road, N.E. Lectures every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Admission free. Membership: 1s. entrance fee, and 6d. per month subscription.
Club Autonomic.—6, Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Young Anarchists meet every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.
International Club.—40, Berner Street, Commercial Road, E. Discussion Class every Tuesday evening at 8.30.
South London.—Comrades willing to help in forming a South London Group of the Socialist League should communicate with G. Atterbury, Clayton House Manor Place, Walworth Road, S.E.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Revolutionary Socialist Federation. Meetings are held in Oddfellows Small Hall, Crooked Lane, on Tuesday evenings at 8.
Dundee.—Anarchist-Communist Group. For information apply to Wm. Reekie, 15 Ann Street.
Edinburgh.—Scottish Socialist Federation. Club Rooms, 333 High Street, Edinburgh. J. Pearson, Secretary.
Glasgow.—The Socialist League meets every alternate Friday at 20 Adelphi Street, S.S. Lectures and Discussions.
Hull.—Club Liberty, 1 Beets Court, Blanket Row.
Leeds.—Socialist League Club, 1 Clarendon Buildings and Front Row, Victoria Road. Open every evening. Business meeting Fridays at 8.—International Educational Club, near St. James's Hall, York Street. Open every evening. Lectures every Saturday at 4. All kinds of Socialist literature for sale at both clubs.
Leicester.—Room No. 7, Co-operative Hall, High Street. Members meet on Friday at 8 p.m. Lecture in the Spiritualist Hall, Silver Street, every Sunday at 6.30.
Manchester.—Socialist League Club, 60 Grosvenor Street, All Saints. Open every evening. Weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 8.
Nottingham.—Socialist Club, Woodland Place, Upper Parliament Street. Club contribution, 1d. per week; Dancing every Wednesday, 8 till 10.30—fee 3d.
Norwich.—Members' meeting held every Tuesday at 8.30.
Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. First Friday in every month, at 8.30 p.m.
Sheffield.—Socialist Club, 47 Westbar Green. French Class, Tuesday at 8.30. Discussion Class, Wednesday at 8.30.
Walsall.—Socialist Club, 18 Goodall Street, Walsall. Meetings every night.
Yarmouth.—Socialist League Club, 56 Row, Market Place. Open every evening. Business Meeting, Tuesday at 8. Singing Practice, Wednesday at 8.30. Discussion Class, Thursday at 8.30. Elocution Class, Friday at 8.30.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

London.—Sunday: Regent's Park and Hackney Triangle at 11.30; Hyde Park and Victoria Park at 3.30. Saturday: Hyde Park at 7.30.
Aberdeen.—Sunday: Castle Street, at 6.45 p.m.
Edinburgh.—Sunday: Leith Links at 2; Meadows at 6.
Glasgow.—Sunday: Paisley Road Toll and St. George's Cross at 5 p.m.
Leeds.—Sunday: Market Gates, Kirkgate, at 11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Leicester.—Sunday: Russell Square, at 10.45 a.m., Market Place at 6.15, and Humberstone Gate at 5 p.m.
Liverpool.—Landing Stage, Sundays at 11.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Manchester.—Saturday: Middleton market ground, at 7 p.m. Sunday: Philips Park Gates, at 11; Stevenson Square, at 3. Monday: Market Street, Blackley, at 8.
Nottingham.—Sunday: Sneinton Market, at 11 a.m.; Great Market, at 7 p.m.
Norwich.—Saturday: Haymarket, at 8. Sunday: Market Place at 11, 3, and 7.30.
Sheffield.—Sunday: Monolith, Fargate, at 11.30; West Bar, at 11.30; Newhall Road, Attercliffe, at 11.30; Grimsthorpe, at 11.30; Rotherham, at 3; Woodhouse, at 3; West Bar, at 8; Attercliffe Road, at 8.
Yarmouth.—Sunday: Priory Plain, at 11; Fish Wharf, at 3; Hall Quay, at 7.

A CONFERENCE of Anarchist-Communists will be held at the Hall of the London Socialist League, on Sunday, August 2nd, to consider the best methods of revolutionary action. Provincial comrades are specially invited.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Notice to Members. The Half-yearly General Meeting will be held on the premises of the Store, 7, Lambs Conduit Street, W.C., on Thursday, August 6th, at 8 p.m., when Walter Crane will occupy the chair. Important business.

Wm. S. Killick, Secretary.

MONOPOLY: or, How Labour is Robbed. By William Morris. 10th Thousand, Price One Penny.

USEFUL WORK v. USELESS TOIL. By William Morris. Price One Penny. To be obtained of all Anarchist Groups.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST SCHOOL, 19, Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square, W. Conducted by Louise Michel and A. Coulon. Free Education in English, French, and German. Any friend taking an interest in the School can now obtain a portrait group of teachers and scholars on application to A. Coulon, Secretary, at above address.

TO LET, for Trade Union Meetings, Lectures, &c., three nights a week, the Large Hall of the London Socialist League, 273, Hackney Road. For particulars apply to the Secretary.

Remittances to the Secretary should be sent in postal orders or halfpenny stamps.

Comrades and Sympathisers can each do something to help the Cause, and those unable to help otherwise can subscribe to our Fund for the propagation of Anarchist Communism in the Army and Navy. Subscriptions addressed to the Secretary will be duly acknowledged in the *Commonweal*.

Printed in the London Socialist League Printery, and published in the name and on behalf of the London Socialist League, by C. W. MOWERAY, at 273, Hackney Road, London, N.E.