

REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA

THE COMMONWEAL

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[WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.]

A MEETING will be held at the West India Dock Gates on Sunday, September 6th, to call on all workers to no longer starve in order to keep landlords in idle luxury, to Pay No Rent, and to help themselves to the wealth they have hitherto allowed the capitalists to rob them of.

FAMINE AND REVOLUTION.

We are filled with terror and alarm! What is the world coming to? Why, here is that staid and respectable paper, the *Daily Chronicle*, the organ of Conservative Social Democracy, among the prophets of the coming Revolution. When we opened this excellent paper on the morning of Friday, August 21st, we could scarcely believe our eyes. But let us give some quotations to convince those of our readers who do not read the *Daily Chronicle*, that we are not jesting, but speaking the simple truth. Says the *Chronicle* :—

"While the Russian governing classes have been *en fete* at Cronstadt the direst calamity has come on the Russian people. De Salvandy said to the Duke of Orleans in 1830, at the brilliant fete given by the King of Naples. "Ah! Monseigneur, it is truly a Neapolitan fete; we are dancing on a volcano." The festivities of the Court and bureaucracy at St. Petersburg were as ghastly as though they had been conducted on a thin and fragile crust of lava. Those who acted as masters of the ceremonies must at the moment of their most gleeful mirth have heard the cries of their fellow creatures dying of famine not far off ringing in their ears. For there is no denying the fact any longer. A famine of medieval horror has come to the empire of the Czar. The imperial ukase forbidding the export of rye is sufficient to demonstrate the condition of the Russian people. As Dryden has it—

Famine hath a sharp and meagre face;
Tis death in an undress of skin and bone,
Where age and youth their landmark ta'en away,
Look all one common sorrow.

It is a face which few Governments can look on and live. It has been in all ages and times in such a country as Russia the precursor of revolution. But will stopping the export of rye stave off revolution? If that is done, as we are told it is, because the crop is bad, we should like to get an answer to the question asked by thoughtful Russians: How long will it be possible to permit wheat to be exported after rye is retained? Russian wheat will have to be held back to feed those who have no rye bread to eat. Here another complication rises. German labour also lives on bread made of rye, which it gets from Russia. If that supply is stopped, what is the German labourer, who gets ninety per cent. of his rye from Russia, to live on? Wheat bread, say some; which reminds one of the witty French Duchess who, on hearing that the common people were eating grass, because they could get no bread, said, 'What silly people to starve when there is so much bread which they can buy in the form of buns in the confectioners' shops!' Our telegrams show that a financial crisis is threatening Germany. It will threaten other countries too which have had their spring wheat crop destroyed by the early frosts. Now a panic is settling on Russia, and we believe it will intensify the dire period of popular distress on which we are entering, and accelerate the development of the cycle of bad trade into which we are drifting."

But this is not all; the *Daily Chronicle* then gives a terrible picture of the extent of the famine in Russia. The crops in twenty-six of Russian-European provinces have been totally destroyed. In six others half the crop has gone. In thirteen others there will only be a yield fit to feed the boilers of the soil. And the alarming thing about the famine is, that the Russian peasants have nothing to fall back upon. Between taxes and bribes they have to pay between forty-five per cent. of their earnings to the Government and their tax collectors. Therefore the peasants are living on the diet of the French peasants in the terrible months just before the revolution—"Grass boiled in water."

The situation is indeed frightful when the peasants are living on

"boiled grass," and can see their cattle dying by thousands of starvation, and strange to say, the *Daily Chronicle* agrees with the most advanced revolutionists as to what is likely to happen. For it points out that the famine has been caused because of the poverty of the peasants who "had no cattle to manure their exhausted fields." The rich landlords however, have had plenteous crops, and it will "need no exceptional sagacity to infer what will happen when the same contrast strikes the peasantry maddened by the pangs of hunger, when they view the bursting barns of their rich landlords."

Already in the Southern and Eastern provinces, the peasants have begun to attack and pillage granaries, and there can be no doubt that this movement will spread. The nearly bankrupt Russian Government is in despair about its taxes, and its taxgatherers are invading villages, and are extorting taxes from the starving peasants with the lash. But in some districts even this method has failed, for the people have nothing.

With a bankrupt Government and a peasantry driven mad by hunger surely revolution is not far off. "The Russian peasantry form the keystone of the arch of Russian society. They are the chief consumers, employers and paymasters of all who live in Russia by trade, work, or luxury; with their ruin comes general ruin." True, and general ruin spells revolution.

Why are the people starving in thousands in Russia, in a country which, as Elisée Reclus says, if properly cultivated could feed a population of 500,000,000? Let us find an answer in the *Daily Chronicle*. Because :—

"The country is simply being exploited for the small class who hang round the Court and the Army, and the result is that every three years, while the Russian noble can squander his millions at Monte Carlo, the peasant's family, whose blood he sucks, have to live on a daily ration of "grass porridge," a compound made by boiling up two pounds of grass, a little salt, and a handful of flour in a pail of water!"

But if the despotism of the Czar is blown into fragments, do you think that the flames of revolution can be confined to Russia. No! not likely. The German peasant we hear is starving because the export of rye is prohibited by Russia; a financial crisis threatens Berlin. The *Weekly Dispatch* says that German capitalists have £400,000,000 locked up in Russia in one way or another. Won't there be some crashes in Germany when the explosion comes. And with general starvation and national bankruptcy it will need all the soothing eloquence of Messrs. Bebel, Liebknecht, and Co., to keep the Germans quiet. Already people are dropping down dead with hunger in the streets of Berlin, and the summer is not yet over; what will it be when the winter comes? Will not the revolutionary tempest sweep through Germany also, and through Europe too, till all the people rise in their thousands and break their chains.

The situation is admirably summed-up by the *Weekly Dispatch* :— "Bad trade, general bankruptcy, bad wages, and famine—these are what the gay and merry-making classes will have to come back to when their autumn holidays are over." And what do these things mean with the working class? discontent rising to boiling point in every European country! What will it mean when Russia and Germany, those giant despotisms that have crushed all previous revolutions, from the French Revolution of 1792, to the Paris Commune of 1871, are themselves hurled into ruin by the forces they once despised. It means a revolution throughout Europe, such as the world has never seen since the fall of the old Roman Empire. It means to Anarchists that the time for talking about theories has passed, we must act; in years that are coming we must fill the hearts of the people with the spirit of revolt by our words and deeds, till all shams and tyrannies are swept away, and the fair earth and all its wealth is the common property of all.

A LECTURE will be given by P. Kropotkin on Monday, August 31st, at the Athenæum Hall, 73, Tottenham Court Road, for the benefit of the International School, subject: "Brain Work and Manual Work." Doors open at 8.30, commence at 9. Tickets at 6d. 1s. and 2s. may be obtained at office of this paper.

REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA.

(Continued from page 97.)

But the people took no notice of the royal proclamation; pamphlets continued to appear daily, and the best of them perhaps, was "Tom Tell Truth, a Free Discourse on the Manners of the Time." A short account of the contents of this pamphlet may interest the reader as a sample of many others. After informing the King that his ministers had not the courage to inform him of "the fearful discontents of the time," and that not only was it the predominant humour "to be talking of the wars of Christenden and the honour of the country," but that the people "spare not your Majesty's sacred person," this pamphlet then proceeds to inform the King in very plain language concerning what his subjects said of him. He might if he pleased call himself Defender of the Faith; but it was the faith of the Papists, and not the true faith that was defended. It told him that for one health drunk to the "King" among the people, a dozen were drained to the health of his son-in-law, the Elector of Palatine, and all England wished him success in his war with the Austrian Emperor. The pamphlet also accuses James, who was very hard up, of selling State secrets for gold to the Spanish Ambassador. All the interests of the nation were forgotten; thousands of starving Englishmen "able and proper fellows, were lying languishing ready to rebel for want of employment," and with discontent at home, and dishonour abroad, the King was wasting his time in hideous vices. Here is a terrible indictment of His Majesty. "For let a Protestant King, I mean one that rules over a people of that profession, be never so wicked in his person, nor so enormous in his government; let him stamp vice by his own example, and make it current by being his; let him remove the ancient boundworks of sovereignty, and make every day new yokes and new scourges for his poor people; let him take rewards and punishments out of the hands of justice, and so distribute them without regard to right or wrong, as may make his followers doubt whether there be a heaven or a hell, which desirable point of unbelief is a great help and preparation to our preferment; in short, so let him excel in mischief, ruin, and oppression, as Nero, compared with him, may be held to be a very father of the people. When he hath done all that can be imagined to procure hate and contempt, he shall not for all that have any occasion to fear, but may boldly go in and out to his sports, without a public guard or a privy coat, and, though every day of his reign may bring some new prodigy to grieve all that are honest, and astonish all that are wise, yet he shall not need to take the less drink when he goes to bed, or the more thought when he riseth. He may solace himself as securely in his bed-chamber, as the Grand Signor in his Seraglio, have lords spiritual for his mates, lords temporal for his eunuchs, and whom he will for his *incubus*. There he may kiss his minions without shame, and make his grooms his companions without danger; who, because they are acquainted with his secret sins, assume to themselves, as much power and respect as Catholic princes used to give their confessors. A pack of ravenous curs that think all other subjects, beasts; and only made for them to prey upon."

This refers to Somerset's threats to the King when under sentence of death, and also the greed of Somerset and Buckingham for money, estates, and monopolies. In explanation of the other charge, it may be mentioned, that Osborne, a courtier of the time, notes in his memoirs, "that the love the King showed to Somerset and Buckingham was amorously conveyed, as if he thought them ladies, which both of them endeavoured to resemble in the effeminacy of their dress, and their wanton looks and gestures." No one can wonder that this pamphlet, which was eagerly read first in manuscript, and then printed secretly, struck a heavy blow at the throne.

But not only the King and his favourites, but his ministers and all oppressors of the people were not spared in the epigrams and pamphlets. Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, the ancestor of the present Earl, distinguished himself as a plunderer of the poor. One of his most unpopular acts was the enclosure of Hatfield Wood, which had hitherto been common land, and was thus stolen from the people. The following popular epitaph on him when dead shows the people's appreciation of his virtues:—

"Here lyes thrown for the worms to eat,
Little bossive Robin that was so great;
Not Robin Good fellow, nor Robin Hood,
But Robin the encloser of Hatfield Wood.
Who seemed as sent from ugly fate,
To spoyle the poor and rob the State.
Owning a mind of dismal ends,
As trappes for foes and tricks for friends;
But now in Hatfield lies the fox
Who stank while he lived, and died of the ——."

We are rather inclined to think those are right who say, that that boasted middle class institution "freedom of the press" has destroyed all the liberty of a revolutionary writer. No one would attack with this brutal frankness—political opponents or enemies of the people now-a-days. But although all printed pamphlets and verses required to be licensed by authority, yet they could be published without, and were no one knew where they came from, and the authors or printers were rarely caught. If the pamphlet was too "libellious" or revolutionary to be printed in London, there were presses in Holland which would print anything, and the pamphlets could afterwards be easily smuggled over and distributed among the people. Sometimes pamphlets, and in many cases, verses and songs, were merely written out and

handed about from hand to hand, copies of course being taken by those who liked them. It may be after all doubted whether there was not more real "freedom of the press and of opinion" under a despotism tempered by epigrams, than under the law 'n' order of the middle classes.

To such an extent was this propaganda of pamphlets, epigrams, and pasquinades carried on, that Sir Walter Scott, a diligent student of the time, in his novel, "The Fortunes of Nigel," represents King James with the pockets of "his great trunk breeches" stuffed full of satirical libels upon himself and his rule, and his Majesty pathetically laments that the dragon's teeth are sown, and prays "Heaven" that they will not bear their armed harvest in the days of his son.

But perhaps the popular fury rose highest against the Duke of Buckingham, one of the favourites of that king, whom on the death of James I. rose to be the trusted minister of his son Charles I.; every unpopular act of the new monarch was attributed to him. Buckingham's arrogance, greed, and debaucheries were the theme alike of the pamphlets and songs, wherein he was accused of removing his enemies by poison, and corrupting by love charms of his celebrated conjurer, Dr. Lambe, a man of infamous character, the chastest women in England. Every unpopular act of the administration was put down to the accursed favourite, and it was perhaps, as much with the idea of diminishing his unpopularity, as of punishing the slights inflicted upon him by Louis of France, and his powerful minister, Richelieu, that Buckingham headed an expedition to relieve the French Protestants of Rochelle, who were besieged by the French army. But the expedition was a disastrous failure through Buckingham's incapacity, and with his army reduced to a third of its number, he returned to England, and was received with a howl of execration.

The Duke was assailed with greater fury than ever in ballad, satire, and pamphlet. He was accused not only of want of capacity, but of treachery and cowardice. His return was hailed by songs like these:—

London, prepare thy faggots
Against the Duke's return,
And see thou hast them ready,
Lay'd for the Duke to burn,
For he deserves it all—
All that thou can'st lay on;
I think his greatest enemies
Will swear it every one.

Here are some verses from another song,—

Then let us sing all of the noble Duke's praise:

Come love me as I lay.

And pray for the length of his life and his days—

The clean contrary way.

O the clean contrary way.

And when that death shall close his eyes:

Come love me as I lay.

God take him up into his skies—

The clean contrary way.

The irony of these verses is obvious to all. Some of these songs are so "free" in language, that an attempt to reproduce what the Puritans sang against the Duke of Buckingham and his relatives, would probably arouse the wrath of their Vigilance Society descendants, the Mac Dougalls, the Charringtons, and the Verneys.

But the popular fury was most of all excited against Dr. Lambe, the Duke's conjurer, supposed to be a wizard, but really the pimp and pander to his master's vices. This man was set upon in the streets by a furious mob, and despite police protection was literally beaten to death by stones, sticks, and pieces of board.

These menacing placards appeared upon the walls, one of which ran as follows:—

Who rules the Kingdom?

The King!

Who rules the King?

The Duke!

Who rules the Duke?

The Devil!!!

Another declared: "Let the Duke look to it; for they intend to use him worse than they did the Doctor, and if things be not shortly reformed for us, we will work reformation for ourselves."

The following doggerel rhyme passed from mouth to mouth:—

Let Charles and George do what they can

The Duke shall die like Dr. Lambe.

This propaganda affected even the army, which was preparing to proceed a second time to the relief of Rochelle under the Duke's command, for the soldiers broke into open mutiny, disgusted with their commander, and clamouring for their arrears of pay. No wonder the King and his courtiers looked grave when these seditious and menacing placards were laid upon the council table; no wonder Buckingham felt that his end was near. Excited by placards, songs, and pamphlets, and firmly convinced that Buckingham was a monster beneath whose tyranny the nation groaned, a man of indomitable courage determined to carry out the sentence which the whole nation had pronounced upon the favourite, and while Buckingham was at Portsmouth preparing to set forth upon his expedition, he was struck dead by a knife in the daring hand of John Felton. So great was the national joy at the execution of Buckingham, that the journey of Felton to London was a triumphant procession, the people hailing him as a hero. "God bless thee, little David," cried an old woman at Kingston, and at the Tower gates he was

received by a dense throng, with cries of "The Lord comfort thee; the Lord be merciful unto thee."

While the man who had executed the Duke was received with a roar of popular applause, Buckingham had to be smuggled into his grave at the dead of the night, both sides of the road on which the funeral train proceeded was guarded by soldiers who had to beat their drums loudly to drown the hooting and curses of the multitude.

To show how the hatred of the people pursued Buckingham even in his grave, we quote the following epitaph very popular at the time:—

Fortune's darling, King's content,
Vexation of Parliament.
The flatterer's deity of state,
Advancer of each money mate.
The devil's factor for the purse,
The papists' hope, the commons' curse.
The sayer's cross, the soldier's grief,
Commissions blank, and England's thief.
The coward at the Isle of Ree,
The bane of noble chivalree.
The night work of a painted dame,
Confederate with Dr. Lamb.
All this lies underneath this stone,
And yet, alas! there lies but one.

Felton was executed upon a gibbet at Portsmouth, where his body was left to hang in chains. But it did not hang there long, for in the dead of night, it was borne away by unknown hands from the place of punishment. Now, you would think, that all these signs of revolutionary activity, not to mention the death of Buckingham, would have made the King and the Court consider and pause before they goaded the people into revolt. But warnings were useless, and although alarmed for a time by the death of his favourite, the King granted some reforms, yet under the influence of new ministers, Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, the old despotism was revived, Charles dismissed his Parliaments, endeavoured to levy illegal taxes like Ship Money, which efforts when frustrated by the courageous refusal of a single county gentleman, named Hampden, to pay, while Laud by his petty persecution of the Puritans increased the popular discontent, which vented itself in pamphlets attacking the King and bishops without mercy; as usual, repression was tried as an infallible remedy for the growing discontent. Several of the most daring writers, such as Prynne, Burton, and Bastwick were dragged up before the despotic Star Chamber, and they were ordered to stand in the pillory and to have their ears cut off, but the road to the scaffold was strewn with flowers, and even from the pillory they made speeches to a cheering crowd. Despite these severe punishments, and a fresh Star Chamber decree, which declared that a man who ventured to print a book without a license, "was to be set in the pillory and whipped," the unlicensed printing went on, the pamphlets grew more numerous, seditious and daring, and even the decree of the Star Chamber condemning Prynne and the other writers was nailed to a board; its corners were cut as the ears of the writers had been, while a broad ink mark was drawn round Laud's name, and underneath an inscription declared that "The man that puts the saints of God in a pillory of wood, stands here in a pillory of ink." Even from their prison in the Gate House at Westminster, the writers contrived to issue still more daring pamphlets against Laud and the bishops. John Lilburne, afterwards celebrated as the leader of the Levellers, was introduced while a young man in 1637, to Bastwick and Prynne, in prison, and volunteered to go to Holland to get their pamphlets printed. Returning with a cargo of these productions, he was very active in distributing them, till arrested by the order of the Star Chamber. Dragged before this arbitrary court he was ordered to be whipped from the Fleet Prison to the Old Palace Yard, Westminster, and afterwards to be pillored and imprisoned. He bore this cruel punishment with the most indomitable courage, during the whole time of his punishment uttering bold speeches against the Government, and distributing seditious pamphlets in showers from the pillory among the people, and when the Star Chamber in despair of silencing him by any other means ordered him to be gagged, he showed his indignation by stamping with his feet.

(To be continued.)

WHAT'S TO BE DONE ?

We have now in most towns got to that stage of Socialist evolution in which to put at least part of our creeds into force. In Sheffield a vigorous No Rent campaign is being carried on; and in the same town speakers are boldly telling huge crowds to refuse rent, and to learn the noble art of self defence, that is, the use of bombs. Deed does more than talk. The crowd will more likely listen to those who say they don't pay rent than to those that say they don't believe in rent. We had good evidence of this in Sheffield, when an Anarchist asked a Social Democrat if he believed in rent, the D. said no. When he asked whether he paid it the D. said yes. The funniest thing was that a few minutes after another D. said they would pay rent to the state. All this gave the crowd immense amusement. Propaganda by deed is the propaganda to-day. Most people have heard of Anarchism, but believe it impossible, or that we preach it for amusement or pay.

But refusing rent is not Anarchy in itself. Police courts are, however, good places to give a speech in. And refusing rent is a good way to a police court. And a bum-bailiff's broken head is a good illustra-

tion to the people as to the best way to defend their homes. Another way to draw attention to Anarchy is helping yourself in the shops, and talking a good deal about it to the hawk to whose tender mercies your friends the police leave you. Beaks don't know what hunger is, and a good Anarchist speech, and a couple of comrades shouting "hawk hear" in the court, soon makes a hawk remember it's time for dinner.

Let Anarchists back up in a practical way all the revolutionary activity of poachers and burglars. Let us glut the police courts, libel courts, and assize courts, by making the supply of cases more than the demand.

But there are other forms of revolutionary action in which we might indulge. We know fear will be caused among the classes by the first few petards, but the people must see what we are driving at. So let us help one another as much as possible; have no rich and poor comrades. Moreover let us be sociable, by enjoying ourselves in our clubs at night, letting in outsiders of either sex free, to sing, dance, and talk with us. Let us try and give up squabbling among ourselves, over small matters, as many do. And, lastly, let us commence the solution of the sex question. I won't call it woman question, as it is equally important to either sex. Already thousands believe in the freedom of sexual relations but do not carry out their ideas. This delicate question is one to be solved by degrees. Let some brave men and women set themselves to solve it by living openly together in our midst, without any legal tie. It is true they may be martyred by some, but by us they will be looked upon as heroes and heroines. Let us have more of deed and less of talk.

CYRIL BELL.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

DURING the month of July, 1,670 workers without shelter or food, came to ask for lodgings in the municipal dormitories in Paris, in the Rue des Sentiers, where they spent together many nights under the protection of the free Republic. These people got accustomed not to pay any rent, and without thinking of it the Government were backing up a No Rent Campaign.

Comrade Brunel, of Vinne, has passed away; at the funeral comrade Oréolin made a speech at the grave, standing by a red flag amid hundreds of proletarians. Four hundred comrades have been sent to gaol these last three years. The bourgeois have murdered them in Paris, killed girls and children in Fourmies, and threatened to shoot in many places. The *Egalité* will be prosecuted by the Railway companies for exciting to murder and pillage. We hear that Fourmies is again in a state of revolt, one regiment of Chasseurs from Lille is on the spot. Let us hope that the dead will be on the other side this time.

SPAIN.

Another comrade has passed away in Sevilla. Juan Carrero has given his life for humanity. He fought in the vanguard of the Anarchist ranks and spent a great deal of time in Spanish prisons; this killed him. May the memory of this humble Anarchist inspire us with fresh desire for the grand day when we shall avenge those pioneers who suffered so much for the cause we have at heart.

Two more large Anarchist Conferences took place at Valencia and Jativa. Half the audiences were females; this is a good sign and promises well.

SWITZERLAND.

A new Anarchist paper is published in Geneva, *Pensiero e Dinamita*. We salute this new organ written in the Italian language. Hyndman must be shocked at seeing those mad Anarchists perverting all the workers, and also that we have more newspapers at our command than there are leaders in the Social Democratic party!

It is reported from Lucerne that the Russian refugees in Switzerland have just issued a pamphlet setting forth the reasons why the Russian Social Democrats have not sent delegates to the Congress at Brussels. They state that until the working men of Russia are organised, and the country is covered with a network of Socialist societies and trade unions, they could have no *raison d'être* at such an assembly. Hitherto their aims have been retarded by the terrible tyranny under which the working men of Russia are suffering—a tyranny that unites the worst features of Western absolutism with all the horrors of an Oriental despotism. With the construction of railways, however, and the opening up of Asia, Russia is becoming more and more a commercial and industrial State, whilst the workers are joining the ranks of Socialism.

The pamphlet goes on to say that a great social revolution is now being evolved, and that when the working men of Russia are properly organised, there will appear for the first time in history a force strong enough to overthrow Tzarism, the present form of government, and capable of raising the country to a position which will enable her to take her place amongst the civilised Powers of the world. As Social Democrats they are not opposed to terrorism, so long as it is directed against Russian despotism as a system and not against particular persons. The Russian proletariat is no novice in revolutionary movements. A group of working men originated the idea of blowing up the Imperial Palace in 1880, and it was carried out by a woman. In spite of the efforts of the Russian secret police, revolutionary societies are to-day more numerous and stronger than ever. When the time for holding another Congress comes round they will be organised and send delegates.

Vera Zassoulich is said to have attended the Congress as a visitor. Madame Tatiana Chrouschoff, niece and heiress of General Seliverstoff, has offered a reward of 8,000 roubles for the arrest of Padlewski.

DENMARK.

On the 19th inst. a host of Russian detectives arrived in the capital in order to make provision for the safety of the Tzar during his stay here.

GERMANY.

As a proof of the rise of food prices, the *Berliner Tageblatt* (Daily Paper), which is not particularly noted for its sympathy with the poor, states that a pound of rye meal which hitherto cost only nine pfennigs, now costs over nineteen pfennigs.

The new German Labour Law has just been issued by the Foreign Office. Special provision is made therein for minors, who "shall be subject in all things to their parents and guardians. Everybody shall attend divine service,

and no work shall prevent attendance at catechism and confirmation instruction, or at confession and Holy Communion services."

Two hundred German paupers have arrived in Berlin from the United States, the "authorities" in that country having refused to permit them to land.

The traffic in girls is once more in full swing in the band of the Holy Coat. Recent inquiries have revealed the fact that the majority of the inmates of a hundred and twenty nine fashionable establishments for "gentlemen" in Buenos Ayres, consisted of girls imported from Germany by the well-known International Agency for procuring employment for women. The Orient, however, is the best market for human flesh.

About a fortnight ago placards were affixed in the Government rail factories in Harburg, summoning the workers employed therein to retire from the Social Democratic Club before the 13th inst., under pain of being dismissed. Referring to the Imperial decree of February 5th, it is maintained that the Emperor himself undertook to promote the welfare of the workers.

By command of the "authorities" of Troppau, the Burgomaster of Bielitz closed the club of the workers in the textile manufacture of that city, and appropriated at the same time the funds of the Club, on account of the part which the members have taken in the May demonstrations.

For distributing Paul Lafargue's pamphlet "Religion and Capitalism," Wilhelm Ullenaub, of Bielefeld, is now under accusation of having diffused blasphemous doctrines offensive to the Christian religion and its institutions. As your readers are aware, Lafargue is now confined in prison for a year for having espoused the cause of the victims of Fourmies.

Alvis Kuth, of Gilsenkirchen, Editor of the *Bergarbeiter Zeitung* (Miner's Gazette) against whom four accusations were brought for having transgressed the press law, was arrested on the 18th inst. as the authorities were much afraid he might escape the penalty awaiting him.

The sub-editor of the *Volkswacht* (People's Guard), Erich Wendlandt, of Breslau, appealed against the sentence passed upon him. When about to leave the Court on the 8th inst., he was brought before the examining judge to give an account of the authorship of an article entitled "Apprentice Training," which appeared in No. 139 of that paper, and put under arrest, as further proceedings are to be instituted against him. His protest against his commitment was of no avail.

A few days ago, the barracks of the 39th Fusileer Regiment in Düsseldorf, were searched for Socialist prints.

On the 11th inst. the police displayed much activity at the offices of the *Thüringer Tribune*, in Erfurt; they could not get, however, the manuscript they wanted. In the same town, comrade Schulze entered his term of imprisonment of six months on the 17th inst.

The *Munich Post* of the 12th inst. was confiscated on account of a novel published therein.

The Editor of the *Flensburger Avis* (Intelligence), J. Janessen, has to undergo a sentence of fifteen months imprisonment for an alleged offence against the Prince Regent of Brunswick, and a schoolmaster named Wulf Steffen, of Høger. For an offence against the Sovereign, the Court of Hamburg condemned the working man Beeck to nine months, and for the same crime, the joiner, Karl Ohm, of Berlin, was condemned on the 18th inst. to nine months, and to fourteen days for an offence against officialdom.

The shoemaker, Gottfried Lauer, died in Schönau, near Halle, on the 10th inst. at the age of 68 years. In 1849, Lauer was condemned to death for having taken part in the revolutionary movement in Baden. He however, succeeded in escaping to America. On his return to Germany, he espoused the cause of the proletariat, with which he always kept troth.

ITALY.

The Anarchist propaganda is doing wonders in Florence, thanks to our comrades there, and thanks too to the capitalists of that town who keep the workers on the verge of starvation. Various groups have determined to open up correspondence with all the Anarchist bodies in existence.

In Bologna, five soldiers have been sent to hard labour for propaganda in their own regiment.

The Prefect of the Trieste police is reported to have been killed by the Irrendiats.

THE BRUSSELS CONGRESS.

If the revolutionary powers of Europe were represented in the miserable gang of reactionary political swindlers who met at Brussels last week, and who have separated after passing a series of Parliamentary resolutions, amid the applause of the capitalist press, the "workers of the world" might well be pitied. A "revolutionary Congress," which began by expelling Anarchists, and ended by giving a series of elaborating instructions for compiling "Blue Books!!" is not a body from which you could expect much revolutionary daring in the crisis that is now impending.

In regard to the expulsion of our comrades on the pretext that they did not represent Trade Unions, it is worth noting that the German Social Democrats were very angry in 1888, with the Shiptonite Trade Unionists, because they excluded "Social Democrats" who did not represent Trade Unions, from their Congress in London. Now they have become so friendly with the Shiptonites, they have imitated them by borrowing their tactics. What kind of freedom can Anarchists expect in a "State" ruled by these gentlemen. Or how much "freedom of speech" will there be for any one who dares to contest the proceedings of the official gang.

We have no intention of going at length through the proceedings of this Congress, the task is too depressing, for dullness it licks capitalist Parliaments hollow. The only animation in the proceedings being imparted by the speech of a Spanish Anarchist, who told the leaders of Social Democracy, that while the Anarchists in Spain had not feared to face persecution, imprisonment, and death for their ideas, the Social Democrats had been mainly occupied in getting into Parliament. We agree with our Anarchist friend, for it is true not only in Spain, but everywhere, and say more even, that Parliament is about the only place the Social Democrats are fit for.

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 Autonomie.—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.—Socialist Society, 149, Manor Place, S.E. All communications should be addressed to F. A. Fox, Secretary.

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.

Leytonstone.—Anarchist-Communist Group meets at 1, West Street, Harrow Green, every Sunday at 7.30.

Manchester.—International Club, 25, Bury New Road, Strangeways. Open every evening. Weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 8.

Newcastle.—Anarchist-Communist Group. Open-air meetings every Sunday morning on the Quay. Discussion every Monday at 8.30 p.m. in Lockhart's Cocoa Rooms, Bigg Market.

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, at 65, Pitt Street.

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 8 p.m.

Liverpool.—Landing Stage, Sundays at 11.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Manchester.—Sunday: Philips Park Gates, at 11.30; Stevenson Square, at 3.

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.

Comrades and friends in Sheffield willing to support the Sheffield Anarchist School, please communicate to Cyril Bell, at 47, West Bar Green. Adults and children of either sex admitted. Fees voluntary.

A GRAND CONCERT will be given on Saturday, September 12th, at 273, Hackney Rd., for the benefit of the *Commonweal*, admission by Programme, 6d., to be obtained of all Anarchist Groups and Clubs.

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 ANARCHIST 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*.

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