FOR GOING TO THE ROOT.

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December 8, 1923.

WEEKLY.

What Are You Working For?

society for which I am working." The views which we who are Communists hold in common of the future of human society and the path to travel now must already be well known to you from the publications of the Communist International. "The State and Revolution" seems to me to set out quite clearly the path through dictatorship to Socialism and so to complete Communism, and I do not feel the need at present to try and add anything on this point. The kind of things that I think we in this country ought to be trying to think about are much more immediate and urgent, viz., how to unite the workers now, how to arouse a living agitation, etc.

T. C. PALME DUTT.

TO SOME OF THE WOMEN CANDIDATES.

A poem by Charlotte Perkins Stetson, entitled "We As Women," may fitly be recommended to some of the women Parliamentary candidates. An even more pointed poem would certainly fit their case. The first yerses run:

There's a cry in the air about us-We hear it before—behind— Of the way in which "We, as Women," Are going to lift mankind!

With our white frocks starched and ruffled, And our soft hair brushed and curled, Hats ofi! For "We, as Women," Are coming to help the world!

PRISON WALLS.

(Written in Portsmouth Prison, New Hampshire.)

Prison-walls have never left me They are with me still; Night and day they are around me, Even against my will.

Illness, poverty and pain, Stab me like a knife; Only death can take away, The prison-walls of life! -Edward James Irvine.

THE JESTER.

(By Jean qui Rit.) O, Laugh with me, laugh loud: I saw a white-faced crowd; A body lying still. A woman's head was bowed; She said her son had vowed To live, or else to kill.

O, laugh with me, laugh long: A life is worth a song And laughter good for men. They knew-that pale-faced throng-The killing had been wrong; But he was hungry—then.

O, laugh with me, laugh yet: Thin features, damp with sweat And pointed—like an elf; Eyes staring, grimly set, A look-perhaps regret . . . The fool had killed himself. . . .

The New Capitalism

I have no peculiar views "on the sort of THE NEW INDUSTRIAL ERA, by Sir Charles W. Macara. Sherratt and Hughes.

> This book is propaganda for a control of the cotton industry, which might be a pattern for the control of all large industry.

Its author advocates:

(1) The fixing of prices at each stage of production;

(2) Sectionalising of the industries so that firms are grouped as specialising in given branches of the industry;

(3) Regulation of production to meet demand and prevent accumulation of unnecessary stocks;

(4) A levy on machinery that is working, to compensate owners and operatives of machinery that is not working;

(5) Drawing up of contracts by Control Board to prevent defaulting and loss, abolition of long credit.

(6) Gathering of statistics by Control Board.

(7) Provision of reserves of raw material in case of shortage.

(8) Development of sources of raw cotton, especially imperial sources.

tatives of employers and of trade unions.

(10) Decisions of Control Board to be enforced by withdrawal of labour from firms which fail to come into line and eventually by legal enactment and fines.

(11) Government financial assistance through the medium of the banks when required by the cotton capitalists Thus:

". . . the Government should back the Bank of England. . . . The Bank of England should in turn back the joint-stock banks. The joint-stock banks, knowing the special requirements and difficulties of their customers, should then grant facilities for carrying on business until the situation has been relieved and stability recovered."

The Wastefulness of Capitalism.

The wastefulness of Capitalism, the gambling with raw materials, the ruinous competition in which manufactures are sold below cost price are urged in support of this scheme to palliate, primarily for the employers, the evils of the system.

The operatives are brought into the Control Board, Sir Charles Macara says, because their help is necessary to enforce its decisions. He looks to the Trade Union leaders to assist in the scheme. He quotes, with appreciation, Mr. W. Gee, President of the Textile Factory Workers' Association, who said that a joint scheme embracing representatives of employers and operatives, would do more to stabilise industrial enterprises than anything else, and adds:

"Mr. J. R. Clynes, the well-known and highly respected Labour leader, made a statement recently with which I entirely agree. He said that the workers could not hope in their life-time to see capital supplanted by collectivism as some people contended. What he hoped to see was capital diluted with as much humanism as possible."

Sir Charles Macara comments: "This kind of dilution is long overdue. Let us see to it that our house is in order, so that we may be able to show that our prosperity as employers depends upon the prosperity and happiness of the workers, and then we shall have made a big advance in the direction we all so eagerly desire."

Sir Charles Macara voices there the wish of innumerable people who cannot yet bring themselves to the point of accepting a complete change of system. Let us keep our private property and our private business, they say; but let us keep it without risk; let us keep it without having to admit to ourselves that our prosperity is built on the privations of others.

Capitalism with its Claws Cut.

Capitalism with its claws cut, Capitalism controlled: that is the object at which all the bourgeois politicians are aiming. They try to achieve it by one expedient and another, only to fail inevitably. Mr. Palme Dutt, the editor of the "Workers' Weekly" and of the "Labour Monthly," dismisses as of minor importance our question: "What sort of Society are you working for?" Yet this is the primary question. State controlled Capitalism will not meet the case: it will not emancipate the workers; it will not abolish classes, and bring plenty and freedom for all.

In spite of his denunciation of Bolshevism, the (9) Control Board to consist of representa- ideas of Sir Charles Macara are not far removed from those which are uppermost in the Government of Soviet Russia to-day, where State controlled Capitalism is now advocated as a desirable objective.

Sir Charles Macara, as a practical man, who has been concerned in the actual organisation of production, sees, however, the inefficiency of a centralised bureaucracy of professional politicians. He desires State control, but he would limit the control of the State to enforcing the decisions made by those who are concerned in the industry. As a shrewd business man he does not desire politicians in Westminster and officials sent down by them to be interfering with the business of the cotton mills; nor does he desire the industry to be saddled with the cost of maintaining an expensive outside bureaucracy.

At the same time, though he offers half the representation on the Control Board, he is hardheaded enough to see that the interest of the capitalist employer will be best safeguarded by placing on the Control Board not representatives of the workers themselves, but of Trade Union officials. He makes it plain that Shop Stewards and Workshop Councils are anathema to him.

The Menace of State Controlled Capitalism.

The evils of Capitalism are daily growing more flagrantly apparent. A steadily enlarging circle of people who are being injured by them are seeking another system. Communism presents the only real solution, and the most serious menace to its progress is the fallacious promise of a State controlled Capitalism, offering to retain Capitalism whilst robbing it of its ills.

The I.L.P. and the Communist Party (Third International), have fallen victims to this mirage, together with a host of bourgeois reformists, of which Sir Charles Macara is one.

The ideas expounded by Sir Charles Macara are widely current amongst the industrial capitalists of Germany; indeed they are largely German in origin and have been more widely applied there than anywhere else. The German Trade Union official has fallen readily into line with such schemes. On the basis of them Karl Legien, one of the most prominent officials of the German Trade Union movement, said to

Herr Hugo Stinnes, the great industrial mag-

"It is a pity that we did not get to know each other years ago; in that case many things in the Labour movement and in industry might have turned out differently."

been in favour of large profits; but whilst he time prices, when short time meant serious hardwould fix prices at each stage he would not ship in the workers' houses. The Trade Union prevent exceptional profits being made by spe- leaders also made common cause with the emcial opportunity or enterprise. His main object ployers in regard to the Safeguarding of Inin fixing prices is to maintain a steady sale and dustries Act, the Dyes Act, and the Sudan grants thereby prevent periods of bad trade. Exen for Empire cotton. were his proposal to fix profits, which it is not, The Cotton Control Board, which was set the thrifty capitalist could still increase his for- up as a patriotic undertaking to do the best tune by increasing the turnover on which profit for all concerned during the war, is much is to be made. The worker, who sells his labour, lauded by Sir Charles Macara; but he adand who is promised good prospects of steady mits that it allowed "such excessive margins beemployment and compensation when out of tween the price of the raw material and that he cannot increase much because the personal talists had an opportunity to make a harvest, output of the worker can only vary within a and no thought of patriotism prevented them limited compass.

Sir Charles Macara is, of course, a well-known every opportunity. figure in the cotton industry. He has been the President of the Master Cotton Spinners' Association and of the International Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Federation. He is now President of a master cotton spinners' Provisional Emergency Committee.

There is little doubt that schemes such as he advocates will come into operation in all the great industries in the early future. Already a levy of 6d. upon every bale of cotton to pay for the development of cotton growing within the Empire is enforced by legal enactment. Already at least as much of the scheme as satisfies Sir Charles Macara that the question is settled, has been introduced into the bleaching and finishing sections of the cotton industry; yet there is no news of the millenium having arrived for the workers. In the linen bleaching industry of Scotland and Northern Ireland Sir Charles Macara also announces that his ideas were put into practice some years ago and that fines of £2,000 were in some cases imposed upon reluctant employers.

The Exploited Planter.

That Sir Charles Macara and his Emergency Committee are working mainly for the capiment of industry is also clearly though inadvertently brought out.

dicapped by capitalist vested interests. The mining the profits. wool, flax and silk interests secured a law making it punishable by a fine of £5 for a woman to wear a cotton dress and making it a penal Macara and his Provisional Emergency Comoffence to bury a dead body in anything but a mittee are working. woollen shroud. In 1736 the wearing of cotton was permitted if the warp were of linen

To-day the planter gets 6d. per lb. for his cotton, yet English spinners paid is. 7d. per lb. for middling American this year. Twopence per lb. should pay all expenses of freightage, and commissions; 11d. is made by the middlemen gamblers who never handle the cotton.

When war broke out the price of America? raw cotton was 71d. per lb. There was that year a record crop and prices fell to Ad. per lb. The planters lost so seriously through this fall that a much smaller acreage was planted for next crop. Thus, in spite of the great reduction in nsumption caused by the war, a shortage was rested. This was artificially increased by the The Employers' View on Wages. cotton gamblers and the price rose to 45d. per lb., and at a low computation added one thousand million sterling to the price of the world's frankly on wage increases. Those that were cotton crop. Under Capitalism nature's bounty given during the war should have been given, produces ruin for the grower: a ridiculous he says, as bonuses, to come off as the cost of

state of affairs! The confidence which Sir Charles Macara places in help the employer may expect from the Trade should be given, when convenient to the em-Union leaders is founded upon experience. He ployer, in the shape of shares in the employer's points out that two Trade Union leaders served business, the Trade Union leaders, not the actual on the war-time Cotton Control Board, which employees, heing given the votes for such shares. allowed, he admits, of excessive selling prices. This is indeed the new Capitalism, which is as

British employers to make excessive profits; then joined with the employers in an organised short-time movement to defeat the Sully group which was endeavouring to corner cotton, the working hours being reduced from 551 to 40 per week, and the operatives receiving two-thirds of their usual Sir Charles Macara says that he has never wage throughout the year. This during war-

doing it: whilst the Control Board gave them THE CHANGING ORDER. By Oscar Lovell

Cut-Threat Competition.

Since the war, however, there has been difficulty in selling cotton and owners have :

"Gone on month after month under-selling making tremendous losses and dissipating the capital of their mills all over the world. . . . There has been a terrible amount of money thrown away in slaughtering stocks and taking orders at pence per pound under production costs. . . .

"Naturally foreign buyers, who are relied on to purchase four-fifths of the British pro- THE ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR. By Achille plus, which they knew would sooner or later 5s. 6d. fall into their hands, and by so doing have practically made the prices of this slaughtered ECONOMIC DETERMINISM; or, The Econoexport goods spun or manufactured from Parce. 53.61. American cotton.

The losses are said to have been from 11d.

to 6d. per lb. of yarn sold. Whilst this has been the state of affair; amongst manufacturers using American cotton, the market for the finer Egyptian cotton goods talists and the precarious position in which the has remained prosperous. Firms which usually cotton capitalists are now placed is explained spin American cotton have, however, begun turnwith great frankness. The fact that Capitalism ing to Egyptian, which means that in a short always exploits and often hinders the develop- time the whole market will be reduced to the same level. The home market has also been more prosperous than the export; but compe-At the inception of the industry it was han- tition for home orders is also seriously under-

> It is to save the capitalists from this result of each other's competition that Sir Charles

Evading the Taxes.

Light is thrown on the re-capitalisation of cotton mills which went on like a fever during the cotton boom at the end of the war. The cause of it was puzzling to the uninitiated at the time. Why were old-established prosperous concerns applying for new share capital? Surely ESSAYS ON THE MATERIALISTIC CONCEPthe dividends must fall if the shares on which dividend had to be paid were doubled and trebled. To the initiated the matter was simple: If the amount of capital were increased it would show a smaller proft: therefore there would be less to pay to the tax collector. So patriotic Capitalism evades its share of the burden of

Sir Charles Macara expresses his views very

Moreover he prefers that increases of wages being charged. These "Labour men" allowed far as the poles apart from Communism.

OUR BOOKSHOP.

THE ANCIENT LOWLY: A History of the Ancient Working People from the Earliest Knewn Period to the Adoption of Christianity by Constantine. By C. Osborne Ward. Two vols., 12s. 6d. each.

ANCIENT SOCIETY; or, Researches in the Lines of Human Progress; from Savagery through Barbarism to Civilisation. By Lewis H. Morgan. 7s. 6d.

THE ART OF LECTURING. By Arthur M. Lewis. A condensed-manual of practical information for those who wish to fit themon economics and social science. 3s,

work, is to look forward to a stable wage which of the manufactured article." The cotton capi- CAPITAL TO-DAY. By Herman Cahn. A study of recent economic development. 8s. 6d.

> Triggs, Ph.D. A study of Democracy, of the rising tide of revolution, and of the ways in which the future self-rule of the working class will react upon literature and art, upon philosophy and religion, upon work and play.

each other in the yarn and cloth markets, THE DEPORTATIONS DELIRIUM OF 1920: A Personal Narrative of an Historic Official Experience. By Louis F. Post, Assistant Secretary of Labour of the United States from 1913 to 1921. This book deals with the notorious deportations at the time of the socalled "Palmer Red Raids." 6s, 6d,

duction, have . . . lain in wait for the sur- Loria, translated by John Leslie Garner,

stock into the ruling market prices for all mic Interpretation of History. By Lida

THE EIGHTEENTH BRUMAIRE OF LOUIS BONAPARTE. By Karl Marx. A history of France showing the economic forces behind the warring factions, starting with the triumph of the financial capitalists over the fendal lords in 1830, explaining the subsequent victory of the bourgeosie over the financial capitalists in 1848, and showing in detail the events leading up to 1851 when Louis Bonaparte became emperor. 3s.

THE END OF THE WORLD. By Dr. M. Wilhelm Meyer. Tells us of the dramas of sun, world and moon disasters in the heavens, how worlds explode, collide and are destroyed, what causes earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains. We learn that all planets grow cold or are destroyed, sometimes after living tens of millions of centuries, and Dr. Meyer assures us that our own earth is in the bloom of youth, likely to continue to exist for unknown ages, while our moon is now in its decrepit old age. Illustrated. 3s.

TION OF HISTORY. By Antonio Labriola. Translated by Charles H. Kerr. 5s. 6d.

ETHICS AND THE MATERIALISTIC CONCEP-TION OF HISTORY. By Karl Kautsky. Shows the origin of moral and ethical ideas; how they have changed to fit the needs of the changing ruling classes, and how the capitalist class keeps the workers in poverty and toil by imposing moral ideas on them that benefit the capitalists. 3s.

THE EVOLUTION OF BANKKING. By Robert II. Howe. 3s.

THE EVOLUTION OF MAN. By Wilhelm Boelsche. One of the best and simplest explanations of the evolution theory ever written. It contains many proofs of evolution discovered since Darwin wrote. Illustrated with pictures showing the different forms of life through which man evolved. 3s.

THE EVOLUTION OF PROPERTY. By Paul Lafargue. Capitalist economists try to prove that capital-the form of property existing at present, is older than man. They say it must be eternal. Lafargue shows us how property actually arose and how its forms have constantly changed, from communism, to feudalism, to capitalism, and how its inevitable tendency is toward international Communism.

EVOLUTION, SOCIAL AND ORGANIC. By The so-called "superior staff" of hotels and theories of social evolution have gradually won visitors' valets, etc. their way to the front, even among the theor- This class of staff walks about the hotel or Another bedroom I remember was next to

This book is a criticism of a forgotten philo- higher class persons than the common herd. sopher, but it has a great and permanent value, The proprietors encourage this attitude of the rather than theology. 3s.

and proves that plants possess a high degree of consciousness, and even the germs of mind.

Lord Grey's War Guilt

The League of Nations Union carries on an active press campaign. Some of its press communications are sent from its office, others ostensibly emanate from private sources. Here is one of the latter epistles:

14. Campdene Hill Gardens, W.8,

Sir, With curious perversity certain sections the Press persist in putting an interpretation on Lord Grey's speech at Bath which contradicts his Lordship's very words. Your correspondent actually quotes his statement that he hopes never to see this country involved in war and declares in the face of it that he has "announced the new war slogan." By the constitution of the League, with its principle of open diplomacy, a League war could not be started without the nations knowing exactly what they were fighting for. Also, the only occasion on which such a war could break out would be if a Member of the League broke its obligation to to keep the peace.

The record of Lord Grey's efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement before the Great War broke out makes your comment on his diplomatic career singularly inappropriate. - Yours, etc.

Editor, "Workers' Dreadnought," 153, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

A study of British diplomacy during Sir Edward (now Lord) Grey's term of office will reveal, we believe, to any unprejudiced person, that our comment was fully justified.

A CHRISTMAS SALE, CONCERT and RE-UNION will be held in aid of the "Dreadnought" Fund before Christmas. Contributions towards the Sale will be gratefully received and should be sent to 152, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

Review of the Struggles of the Catering Trade Employees

By W. McCARTNEY (Late Vice-President, United Catering Trade

VII.—THE "SUPERIOR STAFF" AND "LIVING IN."

Arthur M. Lewis. Traces the growth of the restaurants consists of managers, manageresses,

restaurant with a "superior" air, attempting to the coal cellar in the basement under the paveimitate the so-called upper classes. They rarely ment in the West End. Beautiful! FEUERBACH: THE ROOTS OF THE SOCIAL- miss an opportunity to impress upon the waiters, Another aspect of the living-in system is to IST PHILOSOPHY. By Frederick Engels. kitchen workers and housemaids that they are

since the dualistic theories of Feuerbach are "superior" class by allowing them to work from time to time revived by those who would shorter hours and giving them longer holidays, make Socialism a Religion of Humanity. En- better pay and food. Their meals are of the gels shows here the importance of explaining best, and are taken either in the stewards' room, history and current events in terms of science with a waiter or waitress attending, or in the awakening the members of the upper staff have thing from four to eight shillings per week. GERMS OF MIND IN PLANTS. By R. H. when unemployed! They visit the agent, and It is all work, work, work, sleep, then work France. The author shows us the dramatic ex- are fleeced by him; they line up and take their again, when one sleeps in. They have got you perience of plants; how they feed the insects turn in the agent's waiting-room with the com- there and they mean to get all they can out honey to reward them for carrying the fruc- mon herd. They register at the Labour Ex- of you. tifying pollen; how they know the law of change and sign for the unemployment dole, One goes straight from this grand bed to gravity; how they bait and trap their prey. for they, too, are wage slaves. In spite of all work, then when they have done with you, bed Still more, Mr. France shows us how the sense their mimicry, their aping of the well-to-do, again; then up in the morning and more work, organs communicate news to the whole plant, they find that the difference between them and till perhaps 9, 10, 11 or 12 o'clock at nightthose to whom they scarcely deigned to speak is then more bed till about 7 a.m. All this for small indeed. Slowly and surely they are rea- a few shillings a week and a bit of staff 1004, lising that they ARE WAGE-SLAVES like ALL with a staff bed thrown in. workers, and subject to the same economic conproprietors use them for their own profit, and are looking out all the while for cheaper and more competent slaves to provide them with

THE "LIVING IN" SYSTEM.

This is one of the greatest evils in the cater-

If the kitchen is in the basement, the bedrooms of the staff are generally right at the top of the building in small attics, with low ceilings, and hardly any windows. The meanest of beds, and not too many bed-clothes, and, as a rule, no fire in winter. The workers pile their own coats on the bed to get warmth. In summer, the heat of the sun on the roof of the the reply. attic is great, and one is kept awake half the night by bugs and fleas.

If the kitchen is at the top the staff bedrooms are generally in the basement, where rats and mice abound.

I have seen eight beds in one room with a rat trap under each bed. All the clothing had to be locked away each

night, to prevent it being gnawed by rats or A butler who wrote a book on his experiences

as a butler said:

with his cartridges. "I said, 'In my bedroom, sir.' there, it's too cold for them in there." It was NOT too cold for the butler to sleep in.

"He said, 'Dear, dear; take them out of

I once was given what they called a bed-room; theory: of evolution from the early Greek the superintendents, head porters, book-keepers, it was really a bed (very small) placed on a landhilosophers down to Darwin, Haeckel and head hall porters, reception and other clerks, ing at the top of a disused staircase, with a Spencer, and also shows how the working-class head linen maids, liveried carriage attendants, door at the bottom, which one could never even

make profits even larger at the expense of the health of human beings.

It costs practically nothing to provide these so-called staff bedrooms, but they are counted in the wages of the employee thus: "Board, food, everything found; ten shillings per week."

That may be for a porter, a chamber-maid, dining-room among the customers. What an etc. They pay for their miserable bedroom any-

to be back in their bedrooms at the time specified by the boss.

Generally no gas is allowed in staff bearcoms, but candles only, and they have to be out at the time ordered.

Perhaps the employee leaves his work at 9 p.m.; lights have to be out at 10 p.m., so he has one long splendid hour in which to enjoy

Generally the staff, especially the male staff, is not allowed to use the bath-room; So they have to go to the local baths.

I remember a servant, on being engaged, asked her mistress: "Where is the bath-room?" "The public baths are a little way up the road," was

Before I close this week's article I want to make an appeal. Will readers employed in the catering trade tell their friends and work-mates that somebody is attempting to do something on their behalf, but cannot do it without the support of the catering workers.

1.-Get your friends and fellow-workers to buy the "Workers' Dreadnought."

What can you do?

2.-Write to 152, Fleet Street, and get ALL the complete series of articles on the catering My employer asked me what I had done trade. (Back numbers always in stock.)

3.—If you think your conditions of work are hard, write to me at 152, Fleet Street.

Spice

Germain Bertain is to be tried for the murder of Plateau, the leader of the Camelots du Roi, on December 18th.

* * * *

The manager of "L'Humanité," French Third International paper, is being prosecuted for asking French and German soldiers to fraternise.

Young Philippe Daudet became an Anarchist and shot himself because he was ashamed to be the son of a Royalist.

* * * *

IMPORTANT!

We urgently suggest that comrades should endeavour to secure new subscribers to the "Workers' Dreadnought" and that they should collect at meetings and from their friends whatever is possible. However small the sum you can collect, it will be welcomed. Send it in stamps or postal orders. The "Dreadnought" is not self-supporting: the editing and managing is unpaid.

WANTED, a copy of "Theatre Craft" (No. 3).

Warkers' Dreadnought Founded 1914. Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

All Matter for Publication- To THE EDITOR. Business Communications — To THE MANAGER. WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT,

152, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4. Post free. SUBSCRIPTIONS. Three months (13 weeks) 18. 71/2d. Six months (26 weeks) 3s. 3d.

One year (52 weeks) 6s. 6d. Subscriptions can start from any week.

Vol. X. No. 38. Saturday, December 8th, 1923 not render it less, but more so.

Our View.

MacLean 44 years of age, for he had been the reforms it advocates will prove sterile. age one swiftly. Again one thinks, as one re- help to bring them. calls him: What a fighter! "Wild man" some called him in Scotland. Never daunted, he would not trim his words to escape imprisonment,, even though an army of detectives were around him. He expected persecution: he met it without flinching. Never apologising, never Indian explaining away his words; always ready to Elections repeat them with emphasis.

movement in Glasgow. When we saw him a month ago he was holding great meetings and seemed stronger and more confident than ever. Yet he lived the bare lonely life of an ascetic. Parted from his wife and children, by the financial difficulties which followed his dismissal from his school post, on account of his political activities, he lived quite alone, doing his own cooking and housework; a greater hardship this, for the strenuous agitator who is speaking continuously in all weathers,, than the inexperienced can realise. He was talking enthusiastically of the nourishing properties of pease brose, which in English is plain pease flour His tones bespoke his cheerful frugality, which was only too near to want.

that ugly thing, forcible feeding, have under- try are the Labour Party and the Independent mined what must have been originally a very Labour Party. strong constitution.

early enthusiasm, John MacLean was appointed vinces except those named the Social Democrats its representative in Britain: he was the only refused all contact with the Communists. The man known in Russia who, from that distance, situation in this respect was in fact much as it could be counted on as absolutely certain to is here—the Labour Party and I.L.P. rejecting stand with the revolution. That was a big the unity proposals of the C.P.G.B. thing to say. The appointment as Bolshevik In Saxony and Thuringia the Communists were Consul was made in name only. John MacLean admitted to seats in the Social Democratic Coanever had any real contact with the Soviet lition Government; but the unity was of the Government.

SITALY IS THE FIRST of the Powers to give a de jure recognition of Soviet Russia. This recognition by the first Fascist Gov-Mussolini ernment marks the fact that Russia and Sovit is no longer a country of revolution and that the Soviet Government has retired from participation in the World Revolution. These facts have been obvious for a considerable time.

we write. The issues of the election leave us declaring an immediate general strike. In Berlin Admission Free.

programmes which, if applied to of Action.

much as they are. We desire a drastic and entire change: we to declare the general strike, the Third Interare not working for tinkering repairs to the old system. We have no time to spend converting people to piecemeal reforms.

Liberals and Tories will follow almost an identical policy if returned, in spite of their election protestations. The general concensus of capitalist opinion will sweep them along with it in home and foreign affairs: the great factors of bad trade, the fight for markets, the rivalry with France and America will wipe out all minor differences. Vested interests, which are the real rulers of the nation, will force the capi- reproached by the Hamburg section. talist parties to do their will.

very pliant in the hands of vested interests. communication from the Third International

The only hope of change is from the pressure leading to action of the people outside Parlia-

The only way in which the return of a Labour HE WAS A FIGHTER: that is the first Government could alter the situation would be thought that comes to mind as one hears of by revealing to those who have built their hopes John MacLean's death. One is sur- on it for half a generation that the Labour prised to learn that he was only Government will make no great change, and that

long in the forefront of the strug- Persevere, comrades; the way is hard, so gle, his hair was white and his rugged face hard as at times to seem impossible; but somedeeply lined. He seemed a much older man; thing will come of it in the end. Even in our but hardships, especially hardships in childhood, time we shall yet see great changes. Let us

THE INDIAN NON-CO-OPERATORS, or rather the section of them which decided to take part in the elections for the British Legis'ative Assembly, have scored remarkable successes. The British Government, has, however, the power to refuse to accept the decisions of the He had gathered round him latterly a big Assembly and to reverse them, as it did in the case of the salt tax recently. The capitalist press here is already indicating that the nonco-operators will be prevented from reaping any benefit by their electoral successes.

Third International in Germany

The Third International has tried out in Gerporridge, when last we saw him, declaring that many the policy it recommends for this country pease brose" was one of his daily meals. —namely a united front of all anti-capitalist elements. The Moscowists endeavoured to secure unity with the Social Democrats of both His imprisonments, his hunger strikes, and Right and Left, whose equivalent in this coun-

This unity was not achieved except in Saxony When the Russian Revolution was in its first and Thuringia: nationally and in all other pro-

> weakest order. No sooner did the bourgeois Central Government take action against the Communists than the Social Democrats, both Right and Left, cheerfully severed connection with them. The Communists call the action of the Social Democrats treason. As a matter of fact the brief unity was merely a political convenience on both sides and was severed without regret by the side which found it inconvenient.

When the bourgeois Central Government sent troops to disarm the proletarian battalions, to suspend the State Parliament and arrest the Communists, the leaders of the Left Social Democrats, at a conference in Chemnitz (at which Communists and Social Democrats joined), suc-THE RESULT of the election is unknown as ceeded in preventing the passage of a resolution

cold. The Labour, Liberal and the leaders of the Left Social Democrats suc-Tory Parties have all put forward ceeded in preventing the formation of a Council

the last comma, would leave things On the refusal of the Social Democrats to resist the reaction in any way, and in particular national Communists decided that they were not strong enough to act alone. Nothing therefore was done.

In Hamburg a conflict had broken out, and the Communists were resisting the police, the army and the navy. The central organisation of the Third International in Germany decided that it could not help because, it said, it was not strong enough to win without Social Democratic help. For this decision the central was bitterly

On November 10th, "L'Humanité," organ of The Labour Party has already shown itself the Third International in France, published a The responsibilities of Government office would Executive in Germany declaring the forthcoming policy for Germany. This included:

> (1) Negotiations with the Social Democrats and Trade Unions for a common struggle for bread, against the Bavarian reaction, and for the general strike.

(2) Taking part in spontaneous and partial struggles of the masses.

(3) Gaining the support of the small bour-

The Party slogans to be as follows:

(1) Payment of wages in dollars. (2) Confiscation of stocks of great merchants and agrarians and distribution by the co-operatives and small shop-keepers.

(3) Defence of the eight hours day. (4) Distribution of bread and food to strikers, children and the aged.

(5) Re-opening of factories that have been closed under factory Council management financed by State. United struggle against the Bavarian reaction, withdrawal of the Reichswehr troops from Saxony, raising of the state of siege.

(6) Confiscation of the fortunes of middlemen who sabotage production.

(7) Imprisonment and judgment by popular tribunal of Stinnes and other great capi-

(6) Suppression of the great coalition Government. Formation of a Government of workers and peasants.

tics that had gone before.

Yet two days previously "L'Humanité" had published a statement from the Third International Executive in Germany, made to a Party Conference, which included these words:

"The conclusions to draw from the situation are first of all: that after the latest criminal treason of the Social Democratic leaders, both Left and Right, it is necessary to break definitely with them and to follow the tactic of a single party from below and on the basis of the workshops."

The policy entailed in the above statemen old policy of dependence on the Social Democrats and the confused reformism in propaganda are still maintained.

THE GERMINAL CIRCLE. THIRD MEETING. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19th,

7—11 p.m. Ashburton Restaurant, 28, Red Lion Square,

READINGS of their WORKS by various

Music. Refreshments.

Silver Collection.

One of the New Voters

it is still appropriate.)

Roger, the reaper, had slept all night in the cow-house, lying on the raised platform of narrow planks put up for cleanliness when the cattle were there. He had set the wooden window wide open and left the door ajar when he came stumbling in overnight, long after the late swallows d settled in their nests on the beams, and the bats had wearied of moth catching. One of the swallows twittered a little, as much as to say to his mate, "My love, it is only a reaper, we need not be afraid," and all was silence and darkness. Roger did not so much as take off his boots, but Jung himself on the boards crash, curled himself p hedgehog fashion with some old sacks, and immediately began to breathe heavily. He had no difficulty in sleeping, first because his muscles had been tried to the utmost, and next because his skin was full to the brim, not of jolly "good course could only be traced by the upper branches ale and old," but of the very smallest and poor- of the elms. Under this cloud the wheat-fields est of wish-washy beer. In his own words, it were blotted out; there seemed neither corn "blowed him up till he very nigh bust." Now nor grass, work for man nor food for animal; the great authorities on dyspepsia, so eagerly studied by the wealthy folk whose stomachs are deranged, tell us that a very little flatulence will make the heart beat irregularly and cause the most distressing symptoms. Roger had swallowed at least a gation of a liquid chemically designed, one might say, on purpose to utterly upset the internal economy. Harvest beer is sun, a morn that you know is full of life and probably the vilest drink in the world. The men say it is made by pouring muddy water into trodden the land. Only the sun is there, rolling All this was but a repetition of the futile tac- empty casks returned sour from use, and then on his endless way. makes and spoils beer. It is beer rotting and his eyes had never been opened. decomposing in the stomach. Violent diarrhoea The reaper had risen early to his labour, but as if he had drunk the very shadow of green

Written by Richard Jefferies after the extension could not swallow, his tongue was so dry and of the Parliamentary franchise of 1885, large; he sat up, swore, and again lay down. The rats in the sties had already discovered that a man slept in the cow-house, a place they rarely visited, as there was nothing there to eat; how If any one were to get up about half-past five they found it out no one knows. They are on an August morning and look out of an east- clever creatures, the despised rats. They came ern window in the country, he would see the across in the night and looked under his bed, distant trees almost hidden by a white mist. The supposing that he might have eaten his breadops of the larger groups of elms would appear and-cheese for supper there, and that fragments ove it, and by these the line of the hedge- might have dropped between the boards. There rows could be traced. Tier after tier they were none. They mounted the boards and sniffed stretch along, rising by degrees on a gentle slope, round him; they would have stolen the food the space being filled with haze. Whether there from his very pocket if it had been there. Nor were cornfields or meadows under this white could they find a bundle in a handkerchief, which loud he could not tell-a cloud that might have they would have gnawed through speedily. Not come down from the sky, leaving it a clear a scrap of food was there to be smelt at, so they azure. This morning haze means intense heat left him. Roger had indeed gone supperless, as in the day. It is hot already, very hot, for the usual; his supper he had swilled and not eaten. sun is shining with all its strength, and if you His own fault; he should have exercised self-conwish the house to be cool it is time to set the trol. Well, I don't know; let us consider further before we judge.

In houses the difficulty often is to get the servants up in the morning; one cannot wake, and the rest sleep too sound-much the same thing; yet they have clocks and alarums. The reapers are never behind. Roger got off his planks. shook himself, went outside the shed, and tightened his shoe-laces in the bright light. His rough hair he just pushed back from his forehead, and that was his toilet. His dry throat sent him to the pump, but he did not, swallow much of the water-he washed his mouth out, and that was enough; and so without breakfast he went to his work. Looking down from the stile on the high ground there seemed to be a white cloud resting on the valley, through which the tops of the high trees penetrated the hedgerows beneath were concealed, and their there could be nothing doing there surely. the stillness of the August morning, without song of bird, the sun, shining brilliantly high above the mist, seemed to be the only living thing, to possess the whole and reign above absolute peace. It is a curious sight to see the ear'y harve t morn-a'l hushed un ler t'ie burning meaning, yet quiet as if man's foot had never

brushing them round and round inside with a Roger's head was bound with brass, but had his head and back the fiery sun poured down besom. This liquid leaves a stickiness on the it not been he would not have observed anything the ceaseless and increasing heat of the August tongue and a harsh feeling at the back of the in the aspect of the earth. Had a brazen band day. His face grew red, his neck black; the mouth which soon turns to thirst, so that having been drawn firmly round his forehead it could drought of the dry ground rose up and entered once drunk a pint the drinker must go on drink- not have felt more stupefied. His eyes blinked his mouth and nostrils, a warm air seemed to ing. The peculiar dryness caused by this beer is in the sunlight; every now and then he stopped rise from the earth and fill his chest. His not like any other throat drought-worse than to save himself from staggering; he was not in a body ached from the ferment of the vile beer, dust, or heat, or thirst from work; there is no condition to think. It would have mattered not his back ached with stooping, his forehead was satisfying it. With it there go down the germs at all if his head had been clear; earth, sky, bound tight with a brazen band. They brought of fermentation, a sour, yeasty, and, as it were, and sun were nothing to him; he knew the foot-some beer at last; it was like the spring in secondary fermentation; not that kind which is path, and saw that the day would be fine and the desert to him. The vicious liquor—"a hair necessary to make beer, but the kind that un- hot, and that was sufficient for him, because of the dog that bit him "-sank down his throat,

often follows, and then the exhaustion thus the birds had preceded him hours. Before the boughs. Good ale would have seemed nauseous for the Third International; but the Executive caused induces the men to drink more in order sun was up the swallows had left their beams to him at that moment, his taste and stomach statement issued two days later shows that the to regain the strength necessary to do their in the cow-shed and twittered out into the air. destroyed by so many gallons of this. He was work. The great heat of the sun and the heat The rooks and wood-pigeons and doves had gone "pulled together," and worked easier; the slow of hard labour, the strain and perspiration, to the corn, the blackbird to the stream, the hours went on, and it was luncheon. He could of course try the body and weaken the digestion. finch to the hedgerow, the bees to the heath on have borrowed more food, but he was content To distend the stomach with half a gallon of this the hill, the humble-bees to the clover in the instead with a screw of tobacco for his pipe liquor, expressly compounded to ferment, is plain. Butterfles rose from the flowers by the and his allowance of beer. about the most murderous thing a man could do footpath, and fluttered before him to and fro They sat in the corner of the field. There -murderous because it exposes him to the risk and round and back again to the place whence were no trees for shade; they had been cut down of sunstroke. So vile a drink there is not else- they had been driven. Gold-finches tasting the as injurious to corn, but there were a few maple where in the world; arrack, and potato-spirit, first thistledown rose from the corner where bushes and thin ash sprays, which seemed better and all the other killing extracts of the distiller the thistles grew thickly. A hundred sparrows than the open. The bushes cast no shade at all, are not equal to it. Upon this abominable mess came rushing up into the hedge, suddenly filling the sun being so nearly overhead, but they the golden harvest of English fields is gathered the boughs with brown fruit; they chirped and formed a kind of enclosure, an open-air home, quarrelled in their talk, and rushed away again for men seldom sit down if they can help it Roger breathed heavily in his sleep in the back to the corn as he stepped nearer. The on the bare and level plain; they go to the cow-house, because the vile stuff he had taken boughs were stripped of their winged brown bushes, to the corner, or even to some hollow. puffed him up and obstructed nature. The berries as quickly as they had grown. Starlings It is not really any advantage; it is habit; or tongue in his open mouth became parched and ran before the cows feeding in the aftermath, shall we not rather say that it is nature? Brought cracked, swollen and dry; he slept indeed, but so close to their mouths as to seem in danger back as it were in the open field to the primitive he did not rest; he groaned heavily at times of being licked up by their broad tongues. All conditions of life, they resumed the same inand rolled aside. Once he awoke choking—he creatures, from the tiniest insect upward, were stincts that controlled man in the ages past,

in reality busy under that curtain of white-heat haze. It looked so still, so quiet, from afar; entering it and passing among the fields, all that lived was found busy at its long day's work. Roger did not interest himself in these things, in the wasps that left the gate as he approached-they were making papier-maché from the wood of the top bar-in the bright poppies brushing against his drab unpolished boots, in the hue of the wheat or the white convolvulus; they were nothing to him.

Why should they be? His life was work without skill or thought, the work of the horse, of the crane that lifts stones and timber. His food was rough, his drink rougher, his lodgings dry planks. His books were-none; his picturegallery a coloured print at the alehouse—a dog, dead, by a barrel, "Trust is dead; Bad Pay killed him." Of thought he thought nothing; of hope his idea was a shilling a week more wages; of any future for himself of comfort such as even a good cottage can give-of any future whatever-he had no more conception than the horse in the shafts of the wagon. A human animal simply in all this, yet if you reckoned upon him as simply an animal—as has been done these centuries-you would now be mistaken. But why should he note the colour of the butterfly, the bright light of the sun, the hue of the wheat? This loveliness gave him no cheese for breakfast; of beauty in itself, for itself, he had no idea. How should he? To many of us the harvest—the summer—is a time of joy in light and colour; to him it was a time for adding yet another crust of hardness to

the thick skin of his hands, Though the haze looked like a mist it was perfectly dry; the wheat was as dry as noon; not a speck of dew, and the pimpernels wide open for a burning day. The reaping-machine began to rattle as he came up, and work was ready for him. At breakfast-time his fellows lent him a quarter of a loaf, some young onions, and a drink from their tea. He ate little; and the tea slipped from his hot tongue like water from the bars of a grate; his tongue was like the heated iron the housemaid tries before using it on the linen. As the reapingmachine went about the gradually decreasing square of corn, narrowing it by a broad band each time, the wheat fell flat on the short stubble. Roger stooped, and, gathering sufficient together, took a few straws, knotted them to another handful as you might tie two pieces of string, and twisted the band round the sheaf. He worked stooping to gather the wheat, bending to tie it in sheaves; stooping, bending-stooping, bending,-and so across the field. Upon grateful and refreshing to his disordered palate

Ancient man sought the shelter of trees and banks, of caves and hollows, and so the labourers under somewhat the same conditions came to the corner where the bushes grew. There they left their coats and slung up their luncheon-bundles to the branches; there the children played and took charge of the infants; there the women had their hearth and hung their kettle over a fire of sticks.

> (To be continued.) FROM OUR BOOKSHOP.

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SOIREE & DANCE

In aid of the "Workers' Friend" Saturday December 8th 1923. Good Band in Attendance DANCING 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The Fool Next Door

By S. N. GHOSE.

He was my next-door neighbour, but I do been a dangerous affair so near people's homes. not know as yet who first gave him the name Fool." He was an old man-his hair was all factories much later; somehow or other the grey, but he walked with his head very erect. _did not like the factory where the Fool worked; Our lane was a blind alley-behind one of they made a lot of fuss. those big hotels. Every evening heaps of paper bags, opened tin-cans and empty provision-baskets were shovelled off on our side. The children and the mongrel dogs of the neighbourhood would rummage among these; the "Fool" used to be there as well. He did not as a rule ventilation,, how everything would be all right keep the cardboard boxes for himself; out of these he made crude toys for his young friends.

the big hotel was first built.

layer's boy; we had heard him say how one day and of "Polution of potable water." Though the this bricklayer slipped from the scaffolding and workers did not understand much of the profell on the pavement below—that was a terrible fessor's speech, the directors of the factory might sight. All that remained of the man had been have done, for shortly after that they received scattered about-mixed up with the brick-dust, a notice from the City Corporation; and they the mortar, the pebbles and the mud.

We did not mind listening to the stories of Just before the change, the tragic incident the Fool nor did the children-but, then, their happened to the "Fool." mothers did, and most probably it was they who It was on a Saturday afternoon. All three had given the poor man the name "Fool."

I do not think that he always told unhappy I am not quite sure if that is why the stories, for I myself have heard him tell a lot foreman had given them extra hours. Few of fairy stories as well: how God had crowned people like extra hours on a Saturday, and, a little boy because he would not hurt the birds, I can swear, not even a strike-breaker-if it said to them, "Brothers! We must help one how in the Kingdom of Parijata the old and is the day of his marriage... But every- another." the young were always happy and there were body is not a foreman, and these three were

As a rule he finished up each of his stories. There were huge tanks of acids. I don't

It was several months since I had Their day's work was nearly done; the eldest been there that I came to know the tragedy of son was moving over his plank-it was ever so the life of the "Fool."

of the chemical industry at Calcutta. The com- fore the closing time the distillation of the pany directors never bother to put in the im- acids used to be stopped so that the workers proved tanks or heaters, and in those days they in their department might know and become cared still less. All that they did was to buy extra careful—the sound of the hooter is generthe rejected second-hand things from Germany ally so unnerving. I have heard of heaps of acor America. No doubt they got them cheap; cidents happening just at closing time. but when the yield was not large, they pub- It was past six; still the signal of closing lished in the papers how the Hindu workers are did not come off. The eldest son was as usual lazy and why "twelve hours a day" is not so on his narrow tottering plank leaning over and

however, in spite of the Hindu workers' lazi- den shrill sound he tottered, lost his balance ness and inefficiency, remained uniformly large. and fell headlong into that gurgling tank of What they wanted-and even now every one of corrosive acid. then want-is: Produce more, or for less, so . His brother was near him; he rushed to drag that we will get richer, and all the world would him up, but the plank was too narrow-one

and that opened my eyes. A French worker, the acid as well. even if he is paid a hundred times more, will A sharp yell of pain one agonising ery of never work under the same conditions as we two human beings in deadly torture went up. do; he simply will not take such risks. Of It was piercing enough, but very short; every course, I don't work in the chemical factories one of them had heard it; it was just for a now-but then, the "Fool" did, and that is few seconds, and after that there was silence! how the calamity came to him. When the foreman and others came to exam-

had brought up; their mother had died when tuft of hair, not a piece of bone or a bit of

He had his two sons-all used to work in floating. . . .

The "Home Rule" party people began their

Every evening some of their speakers would come up and tell the workers how dangerous it was to be sweated in a factory owned by the foreigners, how it was not hygienic to work long hours in the factory where there is no pro succeed in getting much, but what he got he if they get "Home Rule," how the workers would give to the youngsters. He did, however, themselves ought to protest against the "foreign exploitation," and a lot of other things as well

One day an elderly man with big horn-rimmed All the children liked him; they called him spectacles came up there. He was a professor 'Grandpa'; he was always very friendly with of chemistry; maybe that is why he spoke for them; he would sometimes tell them the stories hours that evening. They could not make any of the time when he was young-how the election thing out of his speech; he was woose than the tric tram-cars were a very new innovation, how Home Rule people. He wanted Freedom, and then they said he talked on "Carbonisation." When he was about eight he was a brick- "Suffocating a petition," the mother Ganges, had to shift further up.

of them—the old man and his two sons—were The old man often had trouble with them; working extra hours; they had to, though the they complained about his telling creepy stories eldest son was going to be married that very

no great and no small. . . . "nobodies"-just "unskilled hands."

with some moral maxim, which he would make remember their telling me what acids they all the young listeners repeat in chorus. I were. The two sons had to watch the tanks know a few of them-such as "My little bro- fill up to a mark and then turn on some taps; thers! For the sake of God we must love one there were always suffociting fumes over there, another," or "My little angels! Do not laugh and the two boys had often been almost halfat the weak-God does not like that! and choked. The manager was a very clever onethere were some more like these. he saved money on the condensers.

narrow-very carefully; he had to be always They say that it happened in the early days very careful. Generally some fifteen minutes be-

watching the seething mass of acid, when all The dividends in the chemical industries have of a sudden the hooter went off. At that sud-

become happy." could hardly keep his balance upon it, and be-I was in France in 1917 in the Labour Corps, fore anything could be done he himself was in

They say he had two sons, whom he himself ine the tank they found nothing not even a they were very young. The old man had no flesh. . . . There was just a tankful of acid other relation in this world. and some burning smell, and bits of sock

the same chemical factory. That was somewhere The analyst gave the report. He told them in Howrah, over the other side of the Ganges. that in that tank of acid he had found "extra. It has now been removed further up the river. amounts of phosphorus, and lime (and I think I have sometimes passed it by in the steamersy some such strange things) in such proportions and everyone can see it is a nuisance enough as to indicate the presence of two persons disover there now, and in those days it must have solved in it." That was all . . . the end of the

had not heard their cry of pain-he had never make the darkness visible. n the extra hours. They said that a minute the shaft : trace of gold had also been found, and this the analyst could not account for, but this was from the gilded wedding ring which the elder

A week later they called the "Fool" in at the directors' meeting, where they offered him some compensation money, and they reminded him that he ought to consider himself lucky in coming across such a large sum.

"Fool" for the accident; one said that it gave the practical utility of his nightly study. a weapon in the hands of the "swines and the swadeshi-gangs"; another wondered if it might might not be the work of the anarchists: the old man might have been bribed by them and the sons had jumped in the acid deliberately. The president of the board of directors said that he did not believe in the nonsense of the workers getting married early; infant marriage, according to him, was the cause of the inefficiency of the Hindus.

-he had not cried-he simply said he did not it was unwieldy and little used. he was discharged then and there.

The "Fool" came out as he was emptyhanded—the poorest of the poor.

Outside the factory gate he fell down on he gravel and there he wept for hours. When neighbours came to take him back home, they found he had become insanc. . . . He only

Lessons for Young Proletarians

GEORGE STEPHENSON.—IV.

on the miners.

superintended the working of inclined planes a larger number of persons. roof, attempting to secure better ventilation to in contact with it and extinguish it.

for the miners of those days pursued their work ting the air to its exterior part." revolved against a flint, was also tried. It struck ments. Wood turned the stop-cocks of the gaso-

the misfortune to lose children in that terrible One day in 1814 news came to the surface way : probably that is why he gave his report that the deepest main of the colliery was on fire. mechanically with no word of sympathy, no ad- Stephenson at once had himself lowered into the advice for future precaution, not a sentence pit and cried to the workers assembled about

Are there six men among you with the courage to follow me? If so, come and we will put the fire out."

The volunteers were ready. Brick, mortar and tools being to hand, as in every mine, and in a short time a wall was built, which by excluding the almospheric air from the point of danger, afterwards a third, embodying still further imput out the fire and stopped further damage to the mine. By such acts of heroism were fortunes Every one of the directors was angry at the built for others. Stephenson was demonstrating

"Can nothing be done to prevent such aw- the "Newcastle Arms." The lamp was tested in ful occurances?" exclaimed Kit Heppel, who had helped Stephenson to cut off the fire at Killingworth. Stephenson said he thought so. read his paper to the Royal Society: his theories 'Then," answered Heppel, "the sooner you be- were more correct, but Stephenson had been gin the better; for the price of coal-mining now before him in finding out how to make a safety is pitmen's lives."

In 1813, Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, had con- one eventually produced by Davy. trived a lighting apparatus to which air was given through water by means of bellows. This strated the properties of his lamp before the The "Fool" heard all this; he did not weep lamp went out of itself in inflammable gas, but Newcastle Philosophical and Literary Society.

want any money, but he wanted to know what A committee of rich men and experts inter- brought to Newcastle and the miners said: "Why, they were going to do to prevent future acci- ested in mining was formed to investigate the it is the same as Stephenson's." Davy's lamp dents. Everyone was struck dumb at this; they cause of explosion and to devise means to pre- was not, however, the same as Stephenson's, for called him an insolent dog, and in ingrate; and vent them. That committee invited the famous Stephenson's was a better lamp. Under cir-Sir Humphrey Davy to investigate the subject, cumstances in which the wire gauze of the and having visited the collieries in August he Davy lamp became red hot, the "Geordie," as read a paper to the Royal Society on fire-damp Stephenson's lamp was called, was extinguished. and methods of lighting mines to prevent ex- This was proved by experiment and by actual plosions on November 9th, 1815.

Sir Humphrey Davy, had already practically The hewers had "Geordie" lamps, the hurriers solved the problem of the Safety-Lamp. For had Davy lamps. The Geordies went out, the years he had been making experiments both at Davies were filled with fire and became red home and in the place of danger: the mine. hot, and several men had their hands burnt. Sometimes he would be seen holding a lighted Had a strong current of air been blowing an candle to the fi sure from which gas was issuing explosion would have taken place. Neither and the other man would get quickly out of lamp was absolutely safe. Experiments at Barnsthe way. His theory was that if he could con- ley gas works in 1867 showed that the Davy struct a lamp with a chimney so arranged as to lamp exploded the gas in six seconds, with a create a strong current, the burnt air would shield outside in nine seconds; the Belgian lamp ascend with such velocity as to prevent the in- in ten seconds, the Mozard in ten seconds, the Mine explosions were frequent in George Ste- flammable gas descending towards the flame and small Clanny in seven seconds, the large in ten phenson's day and several serious ones occurred at becoming ignited. The lamp was to have a seconds, the Stephenson in 75 seconds. Un-West Moor whilst he was employed there. tuble at the bottom to admit the atmospheric air doubtedly the Stephenson was the best.

men were killed by such an accident. Stephenson . Having got his friend Nicholas Wood, the head . Stephenson, was acclaimed as the inventor of was near the pit mouth at the time. He had in viewer, to make the drawing to his instructions, the safety-lamp, and he was presented with a fact just lowered one of the men. When the ex- Stephenson had the lamp made in Newcastle. public reward of £2,000, organised by the coal plosion took place stones, rubbish and trusses When the lamp was made Stephenson went one owners. Stephenson's friends pressed his claim of hay were thrown up from the mine and, as night with Wood, and another man, Moodie, to to recognition and £100 was voted to him out he said, "went up into the air like balloons." try it in the mine. At a place where the ex- of the same fund. Stephenson and his friends He believed that the trusses of hay which had plosive gas was issuing from the roof a deal were not satisfied, and an agitation developed been lowered during the day had in some mea- boarding was erected to keep the gas from es- to recognise him as the inventor of the safetysure injured the ventilation of the mine." He caping and thus make an unnusually dangerous lamp. Another public subscription was organwas already studying the question of ventilation atmosphere. Stephenson then fetched his lighted ised, from which Stephenson received £1,000 and the properties of gases. lamp and advanced to try it at the point of dan- and a silver tankard, whilst the colliers of the Explosions continued for several days and ger. Wood and Moodie hung back. Stephen- neighbourhood gave him a silver watch. all the ditches of the neighbourhood were stopped son went on alone. He held out his lamp in to get enough water to put out the fire in the current of the explosive gas. The flame at mine. The colliery owners lost £20,000. A huge first increased, then flickered and went out. sum in those days and doubtless recovered by There was no explosion. The experiment was reforcing increased privations and longer toil up- peated several times, Wood and Moodie both

When Stephenson became engine-wright at Stephenson introduced some improvements to Killingworth Colliery, where the workingst cov- mke his lamp burn better. Then a fortnight ered nearly 160 miles underground, he personally later submitted the lamp to another trial before

along which the coal was sent to the surface. As Then Stephenson thought of another important far as his position gave him power he tried improvement. When burning inflammable gas many measures to minimise the danger of ex- the lamp was apt to go out if not held very plosion from carburetted hydrogen gas, which steadily. The azotic gas which lodged round was constantly flowing from the fissures in the exterior of the flame was liable to come

prevent the gas collecting and having the more "It occurred to me," he said, "that if I put dangerous places built up. more tubes in I should discharge the poisonous Danger could be minimised but not prevented, matter that hung round the flame by admit-

in the darkness with the aid of ordinary lamps. Stephenson contrived an apparatus for testand candles, the flame of which might cause an ing the explosive properties of the gas and the explosion by igniting the gas at any time. The velocity of the current required to permit the phosphorescence of decayed fish skins was tried explosion to pass through tubes of different for lighting, but this, though safe, was ineffi- diameters. Stephenson's son Robert and his cient. A steel mill, the notched wheel of which friend Wood were his assistants in these experi-

life history of two human lives. The analyst a succession of sparks which scarcely sufficed to meter and the water as Stephenson directed. Once when Stephenson called for more water Wood turned the tap the wrong way. The result was an explosion in which all the implements were destroyed, which, as Stephenson afterwards said, "at the time we were not very well able to replace."

By filing off the barrels of several small keys and holding them together perpendicularly over a strong flame, Stephenson learnt that the flame did not pass them. This knowledge he used to improve his safety lamp, introducing the air into the bottom of it by three small tubes. Stephenson then had a second lamp made, and provements. On November 20th he arranged for the making of his third lamp with a Newcastle plumber, and Stephenson drew a sketch of the lamp in pencil on half a sheet of foolscap in the Killingworth pits on November 30th, 1815.

On November 9th Sir Humphrey Davy had lamp. Stephenson's lamp was better than the

On December 5th, 1815, Stephenson, demon-

Shortly after Sir Humphrey Davy's lamp was working. In the Oaks Colliery Pit, Barnsley, Stephenson, knowing nothing of Dr. Clanny or in 1857, a sudden outburst of gas took place.

Soon after he was appointed brakesman ten and feed the combustion of the lamp. Nevertheless Sir Humphrey Davy, not George

(To be continued.)

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The more enlightened will vote with a heavy heart because their Labour candidate, in most cases,, has nothing to say about a change of system: his election address is a jumble of catch cries :-

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"Ex-Servicemen Treated as Paupers."

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The election address is padded with talk of taxing the rich instead of the poor.

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The most enlightened workers know that the election is merely a passing phase in the decay of an ancient system. They are looking for the rise of the workshop soviets. They are watching and working for that.

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