

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES.

The hot words and straightforward quarrelling which took place at the miners' gala on July 31st at Blyth Links, were not more than might have been expected from our downright brethren of the north. Some people will be lamenting the appearance of disunion amongst a most important body of workers after a defeat in an ordinary labour struggle. But it is rather a matter of certainty than of hope that there is more at the bottom of it than that. That the indignation of the more thoughtful of the men at the "soft-fighting" of their leaders shows a gathering determination for real union founded on a complete sense of the fact that the interests of all workers are the same, and that workers, organisations cannot stop short at merely fighting a matter of wages in the passing day; but must aim at the one thing worth aiming at, a condition of things in which the workers should control their own affairs, and not as now pay the heavy price of slavery to the employers for managing matters for them.

Mr. Fenwick who (very naturally certainly) seems to have got very angry at the attacks made on him, and who attacked our comrade Mahon in turn, got much mixed up in talking on Socialism. He seemed to feel that a defence of the capitalists as masters was not likely to be well-received by such an audience, so he attempted the defence of capital by enrolling the workers also in the capitalist army on the grounds of their invested savings. This sort of thing catches those who do not understand (as probably Mr. Fenwick himself doesn't) that it is the individualistic capital itself and not the holders of it, that is the enemy we are fighting against. The working classes by the practice of "thrift," which to a man who knows what the life of an honest man, duly contributing his share of labour to the world should be, is horrible even to think of, manage to save a little money, which under the present system they are compelled to "invest," that is, to hand over to be used by the very monopoly which prevents them from managing their own affairs.

The capital earned by the labour of the working-classes will not be taken away from them; on the contrary, it will be resumed by them. Each man will not have a special portion of it to call his own, *i.e.*, to have the power of preventing other people from using it; but each person will have the full share that he needs for developing his powers of producing wealth in concert with his fellows—that is, *he will have as much of the means of production as he can use.* Which means in other words that not only he need no longer have a scanty livelihood won by over-toil, but also that his livelihood *will be no longer precarious.* "Thrift" in the sense in which that much abused word is used, meaning saving, will be transferred from the individual to the community.

In short, instead of the chance which Mr. Fenwick offers to the workers as bait to them to hook themselves on to capitalism—the chance, *viz.*, of becoming owners of a very very small share of the privilege to make people pay for the right of working, Socialism offers to every one of them his full share of all that he needs in order to work like a man and live like a man

There is an interesting article in the current number of the *Contemporary* on the Great Depression in Trade, by Mr. Wells, which is well worth the attention of a Socialist. Beginning by pointing out what a serious blow the opening of the Suez Canal was to the warehousing business of England, he goes on to show the great "displacement" of human labour which has taken place during the last ten or twelve years, owing to the rapid strides towards the perfecting of machinery which has been forced on civilisation by the competition of the world-market. The facts he gives tend to show that the last decade has introduced a new revolution in industry (a new phase in its evolution, to speak more correctly) approaching in importance to that of the introduction of modern machinery itself, the phase of the perfecting of machinery and the acquirement of the knowledge of its full commercial use.

Mr. Wells is a cheerful specimen of the commercial optimist, and does not trouble himself with the consequences of this new phase, except to sing in an undertone, as it were, a quiet hymn on the enormous cheapening of wares that is resulting from it. But a Socialist

¹ "Thrift" means the art of thriving, not the practice of starving yourself into a mummy while you are young to prevent the robber class from sending you to the workhouse-prison when you are old.

will be inclined to ask him, "How long do you think you can prevent those that do work and those that could work if you would allow them, from sharing in these advantages? For if you the monopolist owners of the civilised world are so incapable of organising the labour whose fruits you are so jubilant over, that there are vast numbers of unemployed and starving people in civilised countries, and a far vaster number much below anything approaching to a reasonable standard of well-being, amidst all this so easily created wealth, then the facts condemn you as incapable to carry affairs on much longer, and you and your monopoly are hastening to an end."

One other Socialist deduction from such facts. The pace of the march towards the change in the basis of society is increasing decade by decade; if we are not prepared to deal with the crisis when it comes, we shall make but a sorry job of "the morrow of the revolution." Surely we ought to make no delay in doing our very utmost in getting the workers to see their real position, and as a consequence uniting together in a great and inclusive federation of labour which should form a new society under the old dying one with its parliaments and artificial "laws"—a new society which would form habits of thought and action that would be "laws" indeed without being called so, and which would take the place of the old society of monopoly and usurpation naturally and surely, whether that takes place with or without a dramatically obvious crisis.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

MEN WHO ARE NOT SOCIALISTS.

II.

MR. JOHN HOPE occupied an office next door to the one in which I served my apprenticeship. He was a man of some 45 or 50 years, of a robust and somewhat intellectual appearance; and although, at the time referred to, his business—that of a commission agent—was apparently not of a very lucrative order, yet he was esteemed in the neighbourhood as being a man of some ability.

I observed that he generally invited his customers to a restaurant over the way, and that he invariably issued therefrom engaged in what appeared to be a political or religious discussion, as he seldom liberated his friends' hands with a final hearty wring until he had imparted half an hour's speech to them on the pavement. I learnt that he devoted some attention to spiritualism, and that he was a devout believer in phrenology.

I frequently met him on the stair, and although I was but a lad he always gave me a friendly nod as he passed. This circumstance induced me to form a favourable opinion of Mr. Hope, for I esteemed his taking notice of me as due to his detecting in my youthful physiognomy indications of that early genius which, I was then secretly convinced, I possessed in a marked degree.

My esteem for Mr. Hope was greatly increased by an incident that occurred. One day, coming into the office in which I was employed, to borrow a measuring tape, and my master happening to be out, he asked permission to "read my bumps." My heart fluttered, and I tremulously wondered whether he would pronounce me to be a coming great poet or the future founder of a new school of philosophy—my mind at that time not being quite made up as to which of those high intellectual altitudes my genius was most gifted to ascend; although, having read the life of Shelley, I had a humble confidence that I might achieve equal distinction in either or in both.

After a lengthened topographical survey of my cranium with his fingers, he said: "Well, my laddie, you've rather a strange kind of a head; its not like anybody else's that I've felt before, and I'm somewhat puzzled with it. Some parts are like my son James', and he's a young man of great promise. You're high in the crown—the bump of veneration—a grand sign in young folks; you've a capital crop of hair too, and the outside thatch is often not a bad indication of the folk you'll meet with inside the house." This deliverance pleased me; for although he did not tell me point-blank that I was a prodigy, I set the omission down either to his imperfect skill or his fear of ministering to my youthful vanity.

Some time afterwards, Mr. Hope removed his place of business, and I heard little of him for several years. One day, however, I noticed in the newspapers that he had successfully sued a railway company for some £1,500 as compensation for injuries received in a collision on the company's lines. I subsequently learnt that his injuries had in no

way interfered with his ability (after the suit was settled) to perform his commercial duties. Indeed, the railway collision appeared to be but a rude method which fortune had taken of apprising him of her favour, for soon afterwards he started several sons in business, purchased a villa in a suburban village, and became known as a successful City man.

I renewed my acquaintance with Mr. Hope about the beginning of the present year, a friend introducing me to him in a restaurant. My friend, who knew him well through business intercourse, informed me that he was very popular in the little town where he resided. He was chairman of the local literary society, and a member of the School Board. Mr. Hope, together with two lawyers, a doctor, a butcher, a retired publican, and an M.P. clergyman, had constituted themselves a kind of non-official committee of public safety in the village. Their meetings—at which they sat in judgment upon local scandals, and swayed as with an unseen sceptre the destinies of all local appointments and institutions—were held in a tavern; and when it was found necessary to prolong their deliberations beyond the authorised hours the sergeant of police was invited to form one of quorum, and thus fortified with the visible presence of law and order by their side, they continued their conferences without fear of reproach till an early hour in the morning.

Mr Hope did not recognise me on my being introduced to him, and when my friend informed him that I was a Socialist, he exclaimed, "Ah! I was once a Socialist myself,—but I found Socialism a dream—a mere dream!" "Is he a bit of a poet?" he musingly enquired of my friend. My friend replied that he did not think I was guilty in that respect. (My friend has only a superficial acquaintance with my literary habits; besides, he is rather a dull sort of fellow.) "Not a poet?" Mr. Hope replied. "Hem! Mr. Bradlaugh, you know, has divided Socialists into two classes—poets and fools—and your friend I am sure does not belong to the latter category." Here Mr. Hope laughed cheerily. "Explain," he said, addressing me, "what you mean by Socialism." I did so in a brief way. "It will never do—never, I assure you!" he exclaimed. "You don't understand the world—you don't know human nature as I do." Then he added, "Don't misunderstand me; I am a Socialist myself—a true Socialist. I have every sympathy with your ideal, but I don't believe in equality, I believe in the survival of the fittest. Have you ever read Darwin?" I replied that I had, and that I accepted his theory. "You have not understood him, then. Listen." And here Mr. Hope entered into a lengthy history of his own career. He had been a miner, had turned mechanic, had worked abroad, had managed by native talent and industry to acquire a little fortune, had set up his sons in business, married two of his daughters well. "And now," he demanded, triumphantly, after bringing his career up to date (omitting, however, any reference to the railway accident affair), "what about your equality now? how does your Socialism apply to my case?" I replied that genius and special ability on the one hand, and stupidity and indolence on the other, were the product of conditions anterior to and outside the individual, and that an equality of such conditions, which Socialism would certainly do much to attain, would tend to make men much more equal, physically and mentally, than they now were. "You have mentioned genius," he interrupted, "speak to me about that; what have you to say about some men having genius and others none? I am interested on the point; I have a son— But never mind—go on." I went on, and favoured him with some deep ethnological, physiological, sociological views on the subject (I rather pride myself upon my ability in this respect) while he listened with impatience,—which, I regret to say, even some of my Socialist friends exhibit when I get "under way" on this subject.

Before I had concluded, Mr. Hope, who, with manifest bad taste had been glancing at an evening newspaper, which had just been brought in, rose suddenly from his seat, and bringing his clenched fist down on the table with a bang, exclaimed, "The damned scoundrels!" "Who? what?" my friend and I asked at once. "Who?" he shouted in quite a wonderful passion, "those lazy, drunken, good-for-nothing miners! Why, I gave £5 to their Strike Committee, and it appears, forsooth! they were threatening to loot the villas on the hill in my village last night!—injure their best friends, the people who have maintained them for weeks! Bah! don't talk to me of Socialism, sir! That is Socialism—robbery, outrage, murder! Socialism, ha! ha!" Here Mr. Hope sat down and laughed derisively. I told Mr. Hope that I thought he was too excited to discuss Socialism calmly—a very obvious statement of fact—and I suggested that we might have another round of toddy (*another* is a very serviceable adjective!). "No, sir!" he cried, "I would not take whiskey from you, if you are a Socialist! I would not drink with a Socialist! I am going away!" My friend here interposed. He asked Mr. Hope to remember that everybody was not as able as Mr. Hope to grasp the subtleties of such questions. Men, as Mr. Hope himself had remarked, had different mental capacities: was it any wonder, then, that they came to different conclusions? He was quite sure that if his friend had the advantage of a few further discussions with Mr. Hope he would no doubt modify some of his opinions. The wrath disappeared from Mr. Hope's countenance like mists before a mid-day sun, and he insisted on being allowed to pay for the next round himself. He then told a few funny stories, the telling of which still further improved his humour; and on bidding me good-bye he shook my hand heartily, saying, "After all, I like to meet a young man with strange notions; it shows he has some brains. I had strange notions myself when I was young. Good-bye; I hope I shall meet you again."

"At the barricades?"

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

INHUMAN ARITHMETIC.

(Concluded from p. 251.)

THE Professors, to avoid long phrases, state it briefly that according to his position, a man has the right to the work, *i. e.*, a right to the £110 a year produced by each one of it may be 10, or 100, or 1,000 of these zeroes. In other words the man of position is a moneyed man with the right to £1,000, £10,000, or £1,000,000 a-year, and he is esteemed accordingly. It is his position which settles the amount of money to which the professors give him the right, so that money is a convenient measure of his position. Our motto is "Money makes the man," that is the men of position; the rest are Average Machines and mere Digestive Bags, not entitled to be called men at all; nor on this system can their women and children claim to be human beings.

This surely cannot be the aim of the toil of the people. Such a result cannot be consciously aimed at. It is a mere mechanical result, most mean and scanty, miserable for all, both rich and poor. It is scanty because the system degrades us to machines, of which one half undoes what the other half puts together. It is miserable for all because men are not machines, though chained to act like machines, and more miserable still because the thing is all out of joint and distorted.

The great fault of our Inhuman Arithmetic is that it thus counts men as parts of machines, and as influencing each other like the wheels of a clock, but not otherwise. It assumes that in everything one and one make two, or that twice one is two, propositions axiomatically true if the elements taken together do not affect each other, but very misleading if applied in other cases. We can scarcely deal with the most elementary kinds of matter without seeing this. Salt, for example, taken in a moderate quantity is an important article of food, but in ten times as much is taken it ceases to be food and becomes a violent poison.

A man at work by himself does a certain amount. If we take two men they will not do twice as much, the amount will depend upon whether they are friendly together, and whether their capacities are properly related. Otherwise, they may do together less than either separately, half their time being wasted in attempts to damage each other, or in using tools unfit for the work. One man or one horse dragging at a waggon may not be able to move it at all. If there are two men or horses, there may be and will be more wasted toil but no more result, unless they pull together. Then, indeed, they may move the waggon and do useful work. One rainy day may do good, while two would make a disastrous flood. The fact is that twice a thing may be infinitely more or infinitely less than a single unit, so far as its effects are concerned. It is so in life universally. In the most important thing of all, more important than food and shelter, the single unit can do nothing, nothing I mean in deriving happiness from his work. It is the fellowship of society, even of two, the working together and in union, which produces infinitely more than mere material wealth, and brings that without which the material results are almost worthless.

Inhuman Arithmetic, however, continues to reckon that the man of position, who gets £1,000 a-year out of the labourer is twice as good as one who only gets £500. It never asks itself the question, Why is he better off? Why is he better off? £1,000 will not buy twice as much happiness for a man as £500. It is true that in our system the ideas are very base, and are mostly limited to the purchase of frippery, and to eating and drinking. But a man with £1,000 cannot eat twice as much as one with £500, and even if he could he would not get twice as much happiness. Nor is he likely to do twice as much good. Quite the contrary, for Inhuman Arithmetic shows his fellow-men to him as mere machines, who are fully satisfied (or ought to be so) with their 6d. a-day. The man, therefore, in the higher position has nothing else to do but to lay field to field, and house to house, and gold to gold. He spends his time in guarding these from trespass; he condemns himself, so to speak, to solitary confinement. Poor wretch; but even he is human, for he thinks to do a good to others when he leaves the rest of his substance to his babes. He does as he is told, and is ignorant of the legends of Midas and Scrooge.

As the rich men count their money and their houses and have no joy in them, so they count the poor zero workers as beings incapable of pleasure, and as mere machines fitted to turn out as much stuff as possible with the least consumption of fuel, and "when past work" to be thrown aside as so many leaky kettles. Machines have no rights, fuel being only supplied to them while actually working for the benefit of the people of position. But these latter are counted according to their money-bags, and are entitled to take a corresponding proportion of the produce. From long continued custom they are held to have acquired rights proportioned to their money-bags, but not involving any duties. Such rights in the orthodox wasters begin with life and continue up to the very day of death. The work of their hands or of their head has nothing to do with it. They do quite as much work as sucklings, or when they are at their last gasp as they do in the day of their full vigour. But they say that by custom they have an everlasting right to the productions of their machines, independently of the kind of exertion or idleness which they may indulge in, equally whether they lie in bed or follow the hounds, or dawdle in one or other of the ordinary aristocratic frivolities.

Occasionally (I wonder it is not more often) the poor zeroes resent being treated as machines. The Irish landlords are persons in very high positions, and live on the produce of 10 or 100 or 500 zero workers. These have turned out produce with more or less regularity during five or six hundred years. Just now, however, they are begin-

ning to think like men, and instead of leaving a half or two-thirds or three-quarters of their produce to the people of position, they are looking into the justice of the case. It makes one smile to see the members of other privileged classes running to the rescue of the Irish landlord, and bringing to bear the doctrines of Inhuman Arithmetic. Mr. Giffen, one of the greatest Arithmeticians, points out that his friends have as much right to their rents as ever. This is true. He goes on to argue that they ought to be compensated for the failure in their zero machines to work according to contract: he suggests that the compensation should be 20 times the year's rent. Having got this, they could use another method of managing their machines, called taking 5 per cent. interest, and would receive, with a glow of benevolent satisfaction, as large an annual product as before, to be continued for ever, or at all events as long as usury continues. How ingenious is Giffen, thus with a little shuffling of figures, in the usual Inhuman Arithmetic way, to persuade the very easily persuaded self-interested people that they are at one and the same time keeping all they had before, and also acting with generosity towards their slaves. But if we put on one side this money-juggle, with all its unclean accompaniments and diplomacies, and look for any practical product in the way of justice between man and man, there is just nothing at all.

Justice is not estimated in the processes of Inhuman Arithmetic. All that is ever brought into account there is the interest, the money-bag interest of these all-devouring people of position. No argument can be given why they should have twenty or ten or five years' purchase of their rents, except that this latter kind of usury has been paid to them and their ancestors for a great many years. That may be in form an argument, but it is not reason, and the unhappy workers, not only in Ireland, but all over the world, are beginning to ask for reason and justice. The cry of the privileged, "Give, give," is unjust, and to yield to it is unreason. Even the privileged would see this, if it were not that the unholy jumble of the Law, cursed with the curse of the Roman Empire, has been forced on us in the place of Justice. It is the people of position who have done this, and thus bind both themselves and others to try all things by the measure of Inhuman Arithmetic. At every point the Law deals out compensation, not to men, but to their accidental belongings. The person of position gets much if his money-bags are touched; the poor zeroes get nothing even when the life is all but crushed out of them. One of these works till he can work no longer and is then turned into the gutter. Do the rich consumers who have fed on his work all their lives club together to keep him, even in such poor luxury as he has lived in? Yes, at a cheap rate; they raise him from the gutter into a hospital,—is it a rise? It is all we can expect when men are treated as machines, and we see the evil effect over all parts of society. The rich cease to have any human feeling, and as they stupidly pile up riches they become wasting machines, even in a more real sense than their slaves become working machines. This is inevitable; nothing in the long run can prevent a clique of men from becoming like these among whom they live. The zero machine is poor indeed in all his surroundings: he lives in the midst of filth, and his thoughts have to be turned ever to the question whether he and his wife and children will have enough for their next meal. His toil is unremitting, and he has no time to read. But though all this keeps him down, it is not directly degrading, nor does it stifle kindness, and the natural social impulse to aid his neighbours in their need.

The people of position, on the contrary, by their very conditions, are impelled towards the selfish object of preserving their riches. Their thoughts naturally centre on this, as unremittingly as necessity drives the poor to labour. Selfishness is more degrading than any labour, and thus the rich cannot raise their ideas above frippery and ugly luxury, or sports, sometimes brutal, sometimes silly.

Such are the results of the application to the affairs of life of the Inhuman Arithmetic of Position and Averages, or as it is sometimes called, Political Economy. It would seem, however, that to be political it should not leave out of sight altogether the social instincts of man. This it does when it sets before him competition as the best element in society. Before it can claim to be economy, its processes must be made less wasteful than those of the internecine war of competition. The fact, however, is that it does not really pretend, except as a matter of respectable form, to advance a scheme for the improvement of mankind or for the management of human affairs in a good way, but merely states how men will act if they act under the motive of their basest desires.

The Economy which all should try to establish has for aim "the multiplication of human life at its highest standard"; and to effect this we must first "determine the noblest type of man, and aim simply at maintaining the largest number of persons of that class" (J. Ruskin). But we cannot have this result till we have conquered for ourselves some of the wisdom of which a letter of Carlyle's published a short time since in the newspapers said, "it is evermore the highest of conquests to every son of Adam, nay, in a large sense, the one conquest: and the precept to every one of us is ever,—Above all thy gettings, get understanding. . . . In this pursuit the greatest help is one's own earnest reflections and meditations, and to begin with, a candid, just and sincere mind in oneself." The one difficulty to be surmounted in our progress toward real Political Economy is, then, the getting of understanding, and the greatest help to this is a candid, just and sincere mind. The getting here spoken of, and the candid and just temper of mind suitable thereto, cannot have a greater contrast than the getting of money, and the grovelling inhumanity which is fitted to it.

C. J. FAULKNER.

POST MORTEM.

Made in the image of God,
The author of *Genesis* saith—
Formed by his hands from a clod,
brought into life by his breath:
Yet here is the crown of creation struck
down in the stupor of death.

Lo, thus are all secrets revealed—
In Love, and in Death, its eclipse:
The motionless form unconcealed
Is akin to the lover who strips
For the blissful embrace of the body and
the passionate pressure of lips.

Naked here lying at length,
Two corpses—a man and a boy;
One seeming shorn of his strength
By a world that is strong to destroy,
The other with infantile limbs that can
hardly have tasted of joy.

What little their lives were worth
The world has cruelly wrecked;
Here Pity in vain stepped forth
And the doom has taken effect.
Who cares for their bodies, unclaimed,
unknown?—they will do to dis-
sect.

Brain, be thou steady and still,
Heart, be thou hard as a stone;
Grasp in the vice of the will
The sickness and sorrow unknown;
Forget that the blood in those veins is
the same that is bursting thine
own.

The surgeon draws with his knife
A long line carefully planned
In the late habitation of life,
And deep in it plunges his hand;
Then calmly explains the disease that
the students may understand.

So strange a phenomenon still
Seems Death, that I watch with sur-
prise
For the dead man handled so ill
To turn in his torment and rise
With scorn on those motionless lips and
wrath in those lustreless eyes.

Do I deem that he should not have died?
Nay, I doubt not that death is a boon;
And life may not ever abide
In the splendour of morning and noon;
But here was a life without sunshine,
and the darkness has fallen too
soon.

Doctor, what do you expect?
Do you call that a man lying there?
A man walks free and erect,
With a countenance open and fair.
Your knife is at fault—there is tissue
and blood—but the spirit is—
where?

'Tis the mission of Science to heal,
And to slay is the mission of war—
The commonest cant; yet I feel
That Science is bloodier far:—
So calm in pursuit of its object of seeing
all things as they are.

Full many a soldier who stood
Half dead with abhorrence and fright
Has looked on the shedding of blood
Till he suffered no pain at the sight,
And at length with a bloodthirsty mad-
ness has plunged in the thick of
the fight.

But the raw scientific recruits
And dexterous doctors derive
Much wisdom from innocent brutes
Stretched out and unable to strive,
That are tortured and flayed and out
open and poisoned and roasted
alive.

This butchery benefits us?
I will die in a gutter instead!
Is humanity happier thus?
For the ocean of blood that is shed?
And still you demand living victims,
and scratch at the bones of the
dead.

When myriads daily endure
An existence with pestilence rife
That nothing but Nature can cure,
And you mock them with poison and
knife,—
This is but a science of death—I will
teach you a science of life.

To live is to labour and rest,
To swim and to ride and to run,
To delight whom delighteth us best,
To rejoice in the wind and the sun,
To learn all the lessons of Nature that
body and soul may be one.

There are forests and uplands of grass,
Sweet orchards and valleys of wheat,
Still pools, and swift rivers that pass
The unruly green billows to meet,
Where the days and the nights and the
varying seasons are wholesome
and sweet.

And sometimes in Nature I scan
A shadow of longing and pain,
As if she were waiting for man
And feared that she waited in vain;
As a bride well adorned for her hus-
band who knoweth not yet he is
slain.

And what is it holds them apart?
Make answer, thou hideous foe
That drainest the blood from the heart
Of the people of earth lying low,
Thou vampire of Civilisation, thou
worker of ruin and woe.

But at thee in the pride of thy strength
Shall a fearless defiance be hurled
From the people made ready at length
With the banner of Freedom un-
furled,
And the wrath of a just retribution
shall smite and destroy thee, O
World.

And sages, when thou art destroyed,
Shall scan thee, but they shall be
few;
For the people of earth, overjoyed
At the vision of ages come true,
Shall forget all the shame of the old
in the fulness of life in the new.

REGINALD A. BECKETT.

DUBLIN PAWNBROKERS.—Nearly all the pawnbrokers of Dublin, acting in conjunction with the police, have decided to curtail the long hours during which the pawn offices are open for taking in pledges. Hitherto these pawn offices have been kept open on Sunday mornings until two or three o'clock, doing no doubt a brisk, but at the same time a wretched class of business. In fact the hours tended to public demoralisation and the new regulation will be hailed with satisfaction.

"The *Labour Tribune* is very wroth with the miners of Scotland for saying anything against the labour party now in Parliament. I daresay this fact will not affect the Scotch miners very seriously, since the fickleness of that journal on labour questions has prevented it from ever gaining any real hold on the miners here. Its whole *raison d'être* seems to be to bepraise the labour members, and denounce employers and Tories. A little hearty denunciation is all very well in its way. So too is praise when deserved, but indiscriminate praise is as bad as undeserved denunciation. Mr. Bradlaugh, for example, is continually being lauded to the skies, just because he happens to be Mr. Bradlaugh. By their fruits ye shall know them, is a very good rule of judgment, and Mr. Bradlaugh's recent conduct in connection with the Truck Bill is worthy of the Toryism of fifty years ago."—*Cummock News*. Well said! The features here complained of have been too prominent to escape notice, and we thoroughly endorse the writer's comment, particularly the latter portion of it. We should indeed think poorly of the Scottish miners if they were altogether satisfied with the so-called labour party now in Parliament, or with the *Labour Tribune* as their advocate. The labour party of the near future, we may hope, will be much more sturdy, and less "respectable" than our present meek and mild members; and the *Labour Tribune* will have to improve considerably, and not bury its head so much to the obvious tendencies of the times, if it is to continue to hold any position among the labour press.



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

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JONASSON.—Regret we cannot use it.
 E. TRESDALE, Hull, asks for name of any book containing pretty complete resumé or analysis of Factory Acts.
 E. R., Stratford, J. M.C., Glasgow, and others.—The George M'Glynn movement is of course of great value but is not all-sufficing. Nothing further than this has been said.
 "A SUNDERLAND LABOURER" writes urging the need for earnest study on the part of the workers generally.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 10.

ENGLAND		HOLLAND	
Justice	New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts
Jus	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	ITALY	
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung	San Francisco (Cal) The People	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Labour Tribune	St Louis (Mo.)—Altruist	SPAIN	
Christian Socialist	Die Parole	El Productor	Cadiz—El Socialismo
INDIA		AUSTRIA	
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Arbeiterstimme	ROUMANIA
UNITED STATES		Jasey—Lupta	DENMARK
New York—Der Sozialist	Le Revolte	Social-Demokraten	SWEDEN
Truthseeker	Guise—Le Devoir	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten	
Leader	Lille—Le Travailleur		
John Swinton's Paper	BELGIUM		
Boston—Woman's Journal	Liege—L'Avant		
Chicago (Ill.)—Labor Enquirer	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde		
Vorbote	Ghent—Vooruit		
Hammonton (NJ) Credit Foncier	SWITZERLAND		
	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat		

LOG-ROLLING.

OUR outspoken kinsmen in America have invented an expressive phrase to characterise the trade of politics. Neighbours in the uncivilised west help each other to roll the logs of which their houses are to be built. So the civilised Political Tradesmen say to each other, "Help me to roll my coercion log for the repair of Castle Rackrent; I'll lend a hand in bringing chicory-logs when you are building a Coffee Palace." Neither side is troubled by the character of this kind of mutual payment for services rendered. For as De Foe says, when speaking "of telling unavoidable trading lies," "there is some difference between an honest man and an honest tradesman," and "there are some latitudes, like poetical licences in other cases, which a Tradesman is and must be allowed, and which by the custom and usage of trade he may give himself a liberty in, which cannot be allowed in other cases to any man, no, nor to the Tradesman himself out of his business; I say, he may take some liberties, but within bounds; and whatever some pretenders to strict living may say, yet that Tradesman shall pass with me for a very honest man, notwithstanding the liberty which he gives himself of this kind, if he does not take those liberties in an exorbitant manner."

The Political Tradesman takes liberties, but within Parliamentary bounds, such liberties as, let us hope, he would not attempt to take "out of his business." So long as the log which he may roll for a friend is not exorbitantly dirty, that Tradesman shall pass for a very honest man in the bosom of his family or at church. There is a letter about TEMPERANCE AND POLITICS, dated July 12, from a Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., who is both Teetotaler and Unionist, and a star distinguishable from the general Milky Whey of Parliamentary Nonentities. His letter puts neatly, or at least in a short space, the log-rolling idea or rather mixture of notions. Says Mr. Russell, "It is none of our business if they choose to import politics into a non-political movement," but it is not clear which of the two, Teetotalism and Unionism, should not be mixed with the other, as being one or both or neither political or non-political. When this honest Political Tradesman, as he says, "resigned his membership of the United Kingdom Alliance," apparently he thought that he could resign too his beliefs on the subject of temperance. "Too many who call themselves honest tradesman, and would take it very ill to have any one tax their integrity" (De Foe), yet seem to slip these beliefs on and off without much mental exertion. The distilling of spirits is spoken of in awful terms from temperance platforms, and the whole system of alcoholic drinks is denounced as the cause of untold misery in this world and in the next.

But when the Political Tradesman has ceased to deal in those denunciatory wares, he takes quite easily to the drink business. As Mr. T. W. Russell, the quondam member of the United Kingdom Alliance, quite naively puts it, "he does not ask whether the candidate he supports is a distiller." I suppose such men do not think, when they roll on the barrel filled as they say with untold misery, whether this is an exorbitant price to pay for getting rolled forward their own particular log. C. J. F.

THE LOCK-OUT OF THE SCOTCH SHALE-MINERS.

ON August 3rd I paid a visit to the shale-miners locked-out at Broxburn, and a short account of their condition and struggle will be useful to our comrades generally, and in particular to our miner comrades.

When the lock-out began, about 2200 men were thrown idle. The places affected were Burntisland, Broxburn, Linlithgow, Niddry, Newliston, Pumpherston, and Philipstoun. Since then the Pumpherston men—300—have gone in at half the reduction, by consent of the Miners' Association. In the other places the lock-out still goes on, and at present there is little prospect of its ending. The men work nine hours per day, and get from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per ton—which means that they can earn from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per day. At one time in some places the price was as high as 7s. 6d. per ton. Although the price per ton is as high now as it has been for some years, the amount earned is always getting less. This is because the pits get more and more difficult to work as the seams are followed further down. The men live in the employers' houses and are charged higher rents than other houses in the town. A "double" house, two small rooms, costs 2s. 6d. per week and 3d. for water-rates, and is often inhabited by a family, a lodger, or even two families. A "single" house, one room, costs 1s. 9d. per week, and is sometimes inhabited by as many as six and seven people in some exceptional cases by as many as twelve or thirteen. The rent is kept out of the men's wages, so that no arrears are allowed to gather. While in this condition the masters demand that the men should all submit to a reduction of one-sixth, and abandon their policy of restricting their output. It was, however, openly stated by several managers that the chief aim of the masters is to break up the miners' newly formed union. The men stuck to their restrictive policy and refused to work more than four days per week. The masters then locked them out and are waiting till the men are starved into submission. Here is a statement of second last pay received before the lock-out:

GROSS WAGE PER DAY.		DEDUCTIONS PER DAY.	
1 ton 19 cwt., at 2s. ...	£0 3 11	Gunpowder ...	£0 0 4
		Pick-sharpening ...	0 0 0½
		Wear and tear of tools ...	0 0 1
		Oil and cotton ...	0 0 2
		Doctor and school fees ...	0 0 0½
		Check-weighman ...	0 0 0½
		Coal ...	0 0 2½
		Rent and water-rates ...	0 0 5
		Total deductions per day	£0 1 4½
		Nett wage ...	0 2 6½
	£0 3 11		£0 3 11

This 3s. 11d. is an exceedingly good wage, the average being not more than 3s. 6d. If the reduction of one-sixth be enforced, the men will have a gross wage of 2s. 11d. or a real wage of 1s. 6½d. per day on which to provide food and clothing and luxuries for themselves, wives and families. Five days work a-week is the average, giving a nett wage of 7s. 8½d. With this must not be reckoned the loss of time by holidays, sickness, and moving from one working to another, amounting to from two to three months per year. This gives an idea of the condition of the wage-slaves of the mines in Scotland; and be it remembered that the shale-workers have harder work, and are generally supposed to be better off, than the Scotch coal-miners.

It will be as well to say here where the fruits of these men's labour goes to, not by way of making a charge or raising animosity against any particular person or body, but just to show the bare facts of the case. Lord Cardross draws the royalties for the Broxburn district. The rate of royalty is 1s. per ton, or in other words this useless lord gets half as much for doing nothing as the miners gets for producing the shale. In fairly good times the total royalties paid to Lord Cardross amounts to £300 per week. The Broxburn Oil Company has been formed about eight or nine years. In the first six months that work began they paid at the rate of nine per cent.; from then till last year the dividend was 25 per cent., and last year it was 15 per cent. The total profits for the year 1885-6 was £89,000, and of this £49,000 was paid in dividends.

The men have now formed a union, and are standing nobly together for their interests. The bitter feeling between Irish Catholics and Orangemen, national rivalries and all sorts of national feeling and prejudices, are being swamped to promote harmony and unity in the labour movement. The condition of the men is so low, and the force of their employers so formidable on every hand, that this recognition of the solidarity of labour is being thrust upon them by sheer pressure of circumstances. The meetings held by the Scottish Section of the Socialist League in the district have been thoroughly successful, and a large adherence of new members is certain as soon as the strike is over. Every help is being given to the men by the Scotch Socialists, and their case will soon be brought prominently before the public by means of a mass meeting.

So far, my experience amongst the Scotch miners confirms the impressions made by the north of England and midland miners—that these men will be the advanced guard of the Socialist labour movement. J. L. MAHON.

Mr. Fenwick's very "mixed" reception by the Northumberland miners was just what might have been expected. The English democracy are getting tired of half-hearted men and half-hearted measures. They want men in the House of Commons who will fight the classes, whether Tory or Liberal, and who will not be put off with smooth promises and deceitful phrases. It is nearly time that the working-class constituencies took this matter in hand. They have tolerated too much; they have been patient too long. Nothing will be obtained by anybody from any English government unless you make yourself unpleasant, and a man who is not prepared to do this has no business in the House of Commons.—Reynolds.

A LETTER FROM AMERICA.

Perhaps no country in the world affords such opportunities for social experiments, for the quick and rapid development of new ideas and for putting into practice mentally well-matured schemes as the United States of America.

For the last fifty years the bourgeois people in Europe closely watched with immense admiration and intense satisfaction the marvellous growth of a State constituted on the principles advocated and expounded by their most renowned and able philosophers. Towns sprang up where but a short time previous the buffaloes were calmly grazing or the Red Indian was carrying on the life of a savage. Stimulated by fabulous land-grants, endless railroads were built and before long the locomotive whistled along the whole continent. Industry, trade and commerce leaped onward with gigantic steps and the wealth of the nation increased a hundredfold.

"The social problem solved," cried the politician, the journalist, and all the other hired slaves of the capitalist classes throughout Europe. "Emigrate, emigrate, emigrate," became the watchword wherever the social class-antagonism produced bubbles. "Go to the land of the free, the rich and independent" and you will be happy. Many a wretched fool believed and many a fool suffered bitterly, and even now immigration in the States increases yearly. These tales of wealth, of luxury, of independence, blinded for some time the well-wishers to humanity, till at last a more correct version has become known to the people of Europe.

They have learned that pauperism, crime, and trampism are well represented in the States and that within a very short period the Government at Washington would be confronted by the same problem as all other nations based on possession of property in severalty. However, little as yet was known of so-called labour troubles. Marvellous as the development of capitalistic industry may have been to the respectable citizens of England, still more marvellous must have appeared to the English toilers the Minerva-like birth of a well-shaped, strong and healthy labour movement in the States.

Up to 1879 such a thing as a labour-organisation of any importance was a myth in the eyes of an American captain of industry. But alas! how things have changed since then. To-day the exploiting class has to meet face to face a foe more than worthy to be called a foe. Not one but a hundred organisations, labour combinations, groups, etc., hold the field, and wherever labour and capital openly clash it is not always for the immediate benefit of capital. The labour-forces as arranged to-day may perhaps—nay, unquestionably do—give good reasons to a Socialist, especially a Socialist belonging to an advanced school, for a grumble, but it is to be remembered that not even God Almighty could create the world in less than six days. If all labour-movements were in such healthy, strong, enduring and energetic condition as the movement over here the look-out for a speedy hand-to-hand battle with capital might be more cheery.

Some timid people, on the other hand, complain about the effect of that Chicago bomb. It is to be admitted that the affair created in the minds of a good many workers a prejudice against Socialism; but ever since that, Socialism has been talked about, studied, analysed, and argued over nearly everywhere and anywhere. The prejudice will duly vanish, the interest in Socialism as the only remedy will remain and increase.

The all-absorbing topic at present is the excommunication of the Rev. Dr. E. M'Glynn. Edward M'Glynn became conspicuous during the Hewitt-George campaign for his stout advocacy of the principle of land nationalisation in spite of all threats. The Roman Catholic Church organisation of course could not afford to appear to side with the rag tag and bobtail against the property owners and promptly instructed its New York chief, Archbishop Corrigan, to suspend from his pulpit the rebellious chief. M'Glynn, however, refused to retract one single word of any of his utterances, and continued to advocate the doctrines of his so-called twin-brother Henry George. Most of his parishioners took the part of their late sky-pilot and Rome did not desire to lose at once so many sheep. Rome played as usual the waiting game; the rebel was told to come to Rome, to explain, perhaps to convert the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda. M'Glynn knew better. He comprehends the inner working of that sinister organisation; he was well aware he could go, but whether he would ever return—well that's another point. He refused to go and persisted in his refusal. Another month or two of waiting on the part of Rome. M'Glynn did not move. Then he was told to present himself at the Vatican within forty days, that is before the beginning of July, under penalty of excommunication. M'Glynn not only did not go, but in an interview with a newspaper reporter called the Pope, Propaganda, and the Cardinals some pretty names and gave the people some valuable information about the construction and principles of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. The Pope, of course, could no longer hesitate without appearing ridiculous in the eyes of the Faithful; the cable carried the necessary instructions to his obedient servant Archbishop Corrigan, which were promptly acted upon. The excommunication was pronounced and Edward M'Glynn is to-day a religious outcast. This is in short a history of the M'Glynn affair.

M'Glynn is, like Henry George, to all intents and purposes, an upholder and defender of individual private property. It is needless to go here into the details of Georgism as 'Progress and Poverty' is well known to every reader of the *Commonweal*. M'Glynn is, without doubt, honest, a man of burning eloquence and passionately devoted to every cause he believes to be just. He is sometimes compared to Martin Luther; but this comparison is highly absurd. Luther was only, and never pretended to be anything else but, a reformer of religious dogmas. M'Glynn, on the contrary, declares he is and will remain to death a Catholic, and only desires to bring about social reforms. A comparison with Jesus Christ would be more to the point.

I have dwelt so long on the M'Glynn business because I know it to be of immense importance. It is well known that revolutions never go backward, and in this theory is involved the opinion that whatever does not go forward to the logical end goes backward. Therefore any political party that does not tend in the direction of the development of a revolutionary programme, that hesitates under the inspiration of a conservative spirit, is more or less reactionary in its tendencies. The coming revolution in its economical aspect logically interpreted, aims at the destruction of individual private property in ALL the means of production. The abolition of landownership simply would consequently be a reactionary step. I do not believe George-M'Glynn will be powerful enough to achieve a lasting success; however, the real revolutionists will have a hard fight.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

New York, July 23.

A people can never rise from low estate as long as they are engrossed in the painful struggle for daily bread.—*Winwood Reade*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO SOCIALIST CYCLISTS AND OTHERS.

Your correspondent *Azgayee* has started a very useful propagand for Socialist cyclists, that is, to deliver tracts and leaflets on their tours. As a walker I thought of doing something in this sort of work myself.

In the *St. James's Gazette* for June 6 the editor was kind enough to print some very good and useful Socialistic literature in an article entitled "Some East-end Readings." One was "The Thirteen Articles of Faith," written in the style of some Hebrew prayer, and circulated amongst the Jews of the East-end. I have shortened this somewhat and made it into ten paragraphs, and if you, sir, would print this in leaflet form, I should be happy to take 2000 of them for distribution during my coming holidays and Sunday walks.

D.

[Below are the Articles of Faith, which will be reprinted in large type as a leaflet, as suggested by our correspondent :

I. All able-bodied adults who derive wealth from the labour of others, they themselves not working, are plunderers.

II. Poverty will never cease until all able-bodied adults be compelled to work according to their strength, and receive of their labour according to their needs.

III. The working-classes will remain slaves, as they are now, so long as one individual is suffered to rule over others, and a few are allowed to make laws for the many.

IV. War, and all its consequences, will exist, and thousands will be slaughtered upon the battle-field, so long as "force" prevails and one country can derive temporary financial advantage from the ruin of another.

V. Women will be the slaves and playthings of men so long as they are dependent upon them and do not enjoy the fruits of their own labour.

VI. Labour which supplies all the needs of man, will be despised in the eyes of all, so long as the working-classes toil to fill the pockets of those who sit still and idle.

VII. Murderers, thieves, prostitutes, and all kinds of criminals, will not cease so long as poverty remains to give birth to them.

VIII. Things will get to such a pass that men will figuratively devour each other alive, unless a new light soon dawn upon humanity, and working men rise as one to throw off the yoke of capital, and put on terms of equality those who now oppress them.

IX. The moral and intellectual faculties of mankind can achieve all, the time for reflection has come, action must soon follow, after that men will live as a band of brothers, and all civilised nations form one united family.

X. It is those who are now despised and robbed, the workers and consequently the wealth-producing class, who will have to decide how long the present state of things shall last.

"LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE"

Mr. Barker says wages have risen 25 per cent., rents 150 per cent. Why? Well, I don't know the average per head of the population for England or Ireland, but I would very much like to know, and also for the large cities and towns; but the average for Glasgow is over £6 per head—probably near £7, as a considerable portion of the population sleep on stairs and in parks, not to mention the thousands, if not tens of thousands, who sleep in model and other foul lodgings. What is the cause of the Scotch being highest rented and taxed, and Glasgow the worst housed? The cause is, the land laws of Scotland afford a better security for invested capital than those of England. If you wish to spot exactly where the shoe pinches, you have got to compare the powers possessed by the landlords of the three kingdoms under the laws of hypothec and distraint respectively, and you will get at the root of the matter. One indication of the difference in the value of these is this: in England any tenant can borrow on a bill of sale over his furniture. It is not so in Scotland. The Scotchman's household gods are "his landlord's hypothec," and for financial purposes count as the landlord's; and woe to the man who dares to lay a finger on the landlord's hypothec.—
Yours,
J. M'G.

Moral: Abolish hypothec and distraint. But who will you get to undertake to propose such sacrifice?

LABOUR FEDERATION.—Comrade Mahon has asked us to point out an arithmetical error in the article on "Labour Federation" in our last issue. 10s. added to 17s. is obviously an increase of more than 50 per cent. This in no way affects the argument, but is worth correcting.

When Hercules cleaned out the Augean stable he was not scared from his task by the stink of the muck he was moving, nor should we be scared by the stink of the rotten press that is being disturbed by our shovels and brooms.—
—RADICAL JACK in Chicago *Labour Enquirer*.

A curious argument appeared in a curious leader in the *Labour Tribune* last week. It is there stated that the adverse result of the recent strike of Northumberland miners had justified the opposition to it on the part of Mr. Burt and his colleagues! This line of argument might pass if used on behalf of the capitalists, but coming from a labour paper it sounds "mighty queer."

THE MINERAL WATER SOCIETY.—In the House of Commons last Friday, Mr. Matthews, in reply to Mr. Bradlaugh, said that he had ascertained that by the articles of association of the Mineral Water Bottle Exchange Society, with 179 members as manufacturers, the employers agreed not to re-engage for two years any servant who had left the employment of any member except with the consent of the late employer. He had observed that in a case heard before Mr. Justice Chitty it was held that the rule was an unreasonable restraint on trade, and a motion to enforce it was refused with costs. The case was now pending before the Court of Appeal, and if the decision of Mr. Justice Chitty was upheld the rule would be inoperative.

A movement is on foot in Bolton for the establishment of a co-operative ironworks, based on the principle of partnership of labour, in consequence of the prolongation of the strike and the knowledge amongst the men that when a settlement is arrived at a large number of those who have taken a prominent part in the dispute will be weeded out. The movement for the establishment of such works, which finds much favour with the leaders of the men, has been taken up by the Bolton Co-operative Society, one of the wealthiest of its kind in the country, and the directors of that organisation have made arrangements for the holding of a meeting, to which the strike hands have been specially invited. There is every probability of the scheme being taken up and carried out.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

The Trades Council of Ashton-under-Lyne, have been discussing the practicability and advisability of forming a federation of trades unions in the United Kingdom.

BRICKLAYERS' LABOURERS' WAGES.—At Stockport the agitation for an increase of wages from 5d. to 5½d. per hour, before referred to, is still going on. The labourers have formed an association, and threaten to strike if their wages are not increased.

THE SPINDLE AND LOOM.—The outlook in the cotton spinning and manufacturing industry of Lancashire is very gloomy. In the district of Bury and Eton at the present time out of 40 large mills three are closed (and one has lately been unsuccessfully offered for sale). About half-a-dozen others are working short time, and one large firm, in consequence of the bad state of trade, is on the point of closing their premises after finishing the orders at present in hand. In addition to this several other mills are compelled to work for stock.

GOUROCK MASONS' STRIKE.—The masons in the employment of Messrs. Watt and Wilson, contractors for the Greenock section of Gourouck Railway have struck work against a proposal of the contractors to pay the hewers piece-work rates in place of weekly wages, paid since the work commenced. The builders have taken the side of the hewers, and consequently the work at the new Greenock Station has been stopped.

NORTHAMPTON SHOE TRADE.—The strike still continues, and Messrs. Cove and West, who possess one of the largest factories in the town, have closed for eight days. The men maintain that they are insufficiently paid, and assert that best work is done for the price of seconds. The lasters assert that their average wages for the past twelve months come to but little over 18s. a-week. It is not long since Mr. Bradlaugh cited the staple trade of Northampton as an instance against the Socialist assertion that the workers were unemployable and badly paid.

THE RIVET TRADE.—A meeting of the operatives was held on Monday at Black Heath; a workman presiding. It was stated that all the masters, with the exception of one in the Old Hill district, had resumed work at the list demanded. The master referred to had declined to give the advance; at the same time he wished his men to return to their employment at a lower rate. The operatives in his employ are out on strike, and are being supported by levies from their fellow-workmen.

SCOTCH MINERS.—The Airdrie, Motherwell, and Lanarkshire miners have decided to work five days a-week and eight hours a-day. Every endeavour is being made to get all the Scotch miners to adopt the same policy. At a mass meeting held at Hamilton it was unanimously agreed "that, inasmuch as the great majority of the mineowners in Lanarkshire have reduced wages by 7½ per cent., combined with the depreciation in the value of coal, and the enormous increase of stocks, we deem it advisable and strongly urge all the county immediately to return to their former policy of eight hours a-day and five days a-week, to avert further reductions and enhance the value of coal."

An organisation known as the Associated Iron and Steel Workers of Great Britain was formed at Manchester in April, and the first general conference of delegates in connection with the society was held this week, at the Queen's Head Hotel, Attercliffe, Sheffield, but the proceedings were private. Some years ago there was a difference in the National Association with regard to a proposal for a centralised fund, and since that time the operations of the National Association have been chiefly confined to the north of England, while the Midland districts have been governed by the Conciliation Board. There has been a feeling that the formation of one body for the whole of the country, including the Scotch ironworkers, would strengthen the position of the men, and with that object the new association was formed. A communication was favourably received from Mr. Threlfall, of Southport, as to the direct representation of the operative ironworkers in Parliament, following up their resolution at the Manchester conference.

THE STRIKE OF WEAVERS.—Matters at Barnoldswick in connection with the trade dispute have assumed an acute phase. The police force has been increased, and more officers are to be sent there. Messrs. Bracewell are placing all available "odd hands" at the vacant looms, and those thus employed are being boycotted by the weavers on strike. One night an effigy, supposed to represent a "knobstick," was carried shoulder-high along the streets, which were lined with people, and the police had difficulty in keeping order. Over 30 summonses have been taken out on charges of intimidation, etc. A strike at the large works of Messrs. Newsome, West, and Co., Staincliffe, well-known manufacturers, is attracting some attention. In consequence of bad work done, the firm have made stoppages in the wages of the weavers, this being for "shady" pieces, and the earnings of some of the hands have in consequence been much reduced; but Messrs. Newsome, West, and Co. have been compelled to take this step to ensure more careful workmanship. It is expected a conference will take place between a deputation of the weavers and the heads of the firm, in order to arrive at a settlement if possible.

THE CRADLEY HEATH CHAINMAKERS.—The men and women engaged in this struggle deserve to win, for seldom has a strike been carried on so energetically. The strike has lasted just a twelvemonth, and great privations have been undergone. It was announced at meetings held at Cradley Heath, that upwards of twenty-five employers in the South Staffordshire nail trade had conceded a substantial advance in wages, and work would be resumed forthwith at these factories. Upwards of twenty employers have conceded advances in the chain trade, and there was a partial resumption of work. On August 4th, a meeting of chainmakers was held in the Salvation Army Barracks, Cradley Heath; Mr. J. Edmunds presiding. The Chairman pointed out that they had completed the fifty-second week of the strike, and during that time he considered the trade had been greatly improved. Messrs. T. Price, of Spinners End, and Messrs. Underwood, of Old Hill, had requested the society to allow their men to resume work. It was decided to allow the men to do so at once. The following subscriptions were announced:—From the Railway Servants' Society of London, £10; Tailors' Society of London, £7; Weavers and Hatters of Manchester, £3; Colonel Stewart, £2 11s.; Manchester Newspaper, £13 19s. 8d. Other smaller sums were announced, amounting to £40.

NAIL TRADE.—STRIKE RIOTS.—On Wednesday, August 3, a number of cast-nail makers, who have been on strike against a reduction in wages, marched to the works of Messrs. H. and F. Shaw, in Glover Street, Birmingham, and because the firm refused to allow them to return to work,

except at the reduced price, they began throwing stones and breaking the windows. The police, however, arrived before much damage was done. There are only four cast-nail making firms in Birmingham, and three of them had given notice of reduction on the ground that wages in Birmingham are 20 per cent. higher than at Bristol and Shrewsbury. The nail makers appear to be incensed because Messrs. Shaw have engaged a number of unskilled workmen, under two skilled men, to take the place of those on strike. On Saturday the 6th, a number of men from Cradley, Halesowen, and Bilston, assembled opposite the manufactory of Messrs. Shaw and Sons, Glover Street, where some men are still working, and demanded that they should come out. Some of the men obeyed, but the remainder kept at work, and the difficulty was to smuggle them out of the place, which was surrounded by an excited crowd of strikers. It was found necessary for the safety of the men to pack them in sacks, and send them out of the works in vans as bags of nails. When the men outside found they had been duped, they commenced an onslaught on the factory, smashed all the windows, and did great damage. One of the employers had to be escorted home by the police.

THE LIMERICK DOCK LABOURERS' STRIKE.—Friday, Aug. 6th.—The dock labourers' strike against the Limerick and Clyde Steamship Companies still continues, nor is there any apparent sign of a settlement. The Clyde Company are working their boats with their own crew hands, but the crew of the Ardnamult (the Limerick Steamship Company's boat) has struck, and 28 men brought down from Waterford last evening struck work at ten this morning. Some men were also brought up from Tralee, but they also refused to work on learning the facts of the dispute. A house to house collection was made during the day, and the men from Waterford and from Tralee were all sent back this afternoon. As matters at present stand there seems no likelihood of the Ardnamult, which is timed to leave for Liverpool on Sunday, being discharged within the next fortnight unless a settlement is arrived at. Much sympathy is expressed with the dock labourers.

STRIKE OF THE MIDLAND ENGINE-DRIVERS.—On the 15th July the directors of the Midland Railway gave notice of a new method of working and pay for engine-drivers and firemen—the substitution of precarious piecework for weekly wage. The new scheme aroused great opposition all over the line and efforts were made to induce the directors to postpone the alteration. This they declined to do and a strike is the consequence. There is little or no prospect of success, as the men have not all turned out and many have gone back. Great assistance has been given the Midland by other companies, and as the number of unemployed is great, men have been readily obtained to fill the places of the strikers. The depression of trade has seriously affected railway incomes, and to make the dividend the workers generally suffer. Strikes to be successful must be wider in their scope. Why have not the signalmen been induced to co-operate? Every Midland man knows why the guards failed some years ago; it is a pity that another strike should have been entered upon to court the same fate. That the engine-men will fail there is little doubt, though their cause deserves the sympathy of every worker. The leaders, too, have shown a want of boldness and decision, and to this must be partly attributed the failure of the present strike. What is wanted is a federation of all workers, embracing all branches of trade and industry; until this is accomplished this column must continue to chronicle disastrous strikes, reductions of wages, and the inability of the trades' unions to perform the function for which they were founded. A nominal subscription could meet this demand, and the friendly society benefits might well be left to the option of the members. Workers must learn to know that the injury to one is the concern of all; when this is recognised success will attend labour in its struggle against capital, and the future will be for the workers. A particularly noticeable feature in the present struggle is the unscrupulous hostility and hypocrisy of the press in regard to the strikers. The virtues of the directors of the Midland Railway Company have been extolled *ad nauseam*, and lying statements by the column were inserted as to the collapse of the strike almost before it had begun. This and the sickly cant of "moderation" and respect for so-called "public opinion," as manufactured by the organs of the exploiting classes, has paralysed the cause of the men, who, until they learn to stick together, and fight shoulder to shoulder, will neither win nor deserve to win.

THE BOLTON STRIKE.—The great strike in the engineering trade at Bolton has now entered into its thirteenth week. The Mayor is making another effort to bring the dispute to an end, having written to both the employers and the joint committee of the men, suggesting that the whole question of radius from Manchester, whether 12 miles as suggested by the employers, or three miles as claimed by the men, should be left to the Recorder of Bolton to decide. Meanwhile the employers are, it is said, making every effort to import labour into the town. The report is that one large firm are erecting an additional building for the convenience of men lodged upon the premises, and that provision will be made for religious worship and for concerts. On the other hand, the men are being encouraged by subscriptions and counsel to continue the struggle. In issuing the eleventh weekly report, the Strike Committee state that they have a splendid balance of over £1,100, an increase of £200 on the week. London contributes £40, Manchester district £60, Blackburn £25, Bury £30, Rochdale £12, Oldham £40, Preston £6, and Liverpool £6. The Bolton Co-operative Society have forwarded a fourth weekly contribution of £25. The Vigilance Committee has cost £21 and £160 has been distributed in relief. On Saturday, nine of the imported men left the town after appearing before the Strike Committee, by whom they were assisted home. There was hooting at one of the employers on Saturday, and two "knobsticks" recognised in the streets came in for like attention. Thirteen men were imported into Bolton on Wednesday to take the places of men on strike. The strangers entered a bus in waiting, and were guarded by police. A number of cases arising out of recent disorders were dealt with by the borough magistrates on Monday. The offences were hooting, principally, and one woman was charged with breaking the window of an omnibus in which some importations were seated. It is understood that copies of resolutions passed at the ratepayers' indignation meeting on Monday, protesting against the bringing of Hussars and county constabulary to the town, have been forwarded to the Home Secretary. Imported men arrived in Bolton from Leeds on Wednesday. They were guarded by sixty policemen, mounted and on foot, and speedily landed into an omnibus in waiting. They were delivered at Messrs. Dobson and Barlow's works, Kay Street. Trinity Street was blocked by strong cordons of police during the arrival of the men. A gentleman aged 86 years, called at the headquarters of the Bolton Strike Committee on Sunday, and made a donation of £20. He refused to give his name, but said he lived on the outskirts of the town, and had been a member of a trade society for 65 years.

CONTINENTAL NOTES

BELGIUM.

The *Parti ouvrier* (workman's party) of Belgium will hold its annual congress at Mons on the 15th inst. The labour troubles of Belgium, as *Dispatch* observes truly, are only momentarily in abeyance, but they have in no way ceased. Our readers are aware of what happened in 1866 in the coal districts of Charleroi, Borinage, Mons, etc. This year a new attempt was made to organise a general strike—the so-called *black strike*. The fact that the Executive Council of the Workman's Party did not support this wholesale strike has been the subject of much dispute among the Socialists of Belgium. The forthcoming Congress will now have to decide whether the effort shall be renewed, and, this time, with the united support of every labour organisation in the country. As a general strike in Belgium, supported by the whole *Parti ouvrier*, would deeply affect the political and the social interests of the country, we are anxious to know what will be the result of the Mons Congress. We are, however, not of opinion that the Executive Council of the *Parti*, or the delegates of the Congress to come, or any body of men, can organise a general strike,—for a strike of that description means no more and no less than revolution, and a revolution cannot be fixed for to-day or for to-morrow, but comes forward, irresistibly, with or without the sanction of parties, *as soon as times are ripe for it*. Therefore we may suggest to our friends in Belgium to carry on their local organisations as well as they possibly can, and not to let them be used for mere political purposes, as it is done at Brussels, and then, as soon as they think the time has come, not to wait a watchword for going forward. Certainly, the support of the whole Party may be morally useful, but the *command* of an executive would most decidedly be disastrous.

A few days ago some liberal members of the Belgian miniature-Parliament, M.M. Guillery, Houzeau, and others, have again brought in a bill for the revision of the Constitution, a necessary preparation for another bill establishing universal suffrage. After three or four hours chit-chat and nonsense retailed by the law-makers, the clerical majority of the Chamber has refused even to take the bill into consideration, so that it will not be discussed, but at once thrown away in the waste-paper basket. A good job too! For, if it had been otherwise, the workers would have been abused further on by these political dodgers and those in the workers' party who patronise them. Perhaps they now at last will open their eyes and listen no longer to those who preach, as remedies for all social evils, parliamentarianism, universal suffrage, and economical pea-soup kitchens!

The 25th of last month was the day appointed for the trial of comrade Jahn, a young Anarchist who, at the time of the last Belgian strikes, had pronounced several "most incendiary" speeches, and, we are told, "dynamited" a little bit "against a window." Now, the trial has been postponed for three months, because the public prosecutor was to be the scandalous Demaret, who, of course, is now prevented. But just look at the justice of the matter: Jahn will have to undergo three months further imprisonment, because Demaret has done—what you know! D.

FRANCE.

The French "Republican" journalists are nice fellows indeed! Katkoff died last week—what he ought to have done at least twenty years ago—and at once these Republican scribblers feel it their duty to send wreaths of laurels and letters of condolence to the family of one of the most atrocious scoundrels of the nineteenth century! Why? Because Katkoff was a hater of the Germans and has become, in his latter days, a friend of the French. He was all-powerful in Russia, and promised to support France against Germany in the next gigantic bloodshed which the European diplomatists are now preparing. And the French *Republicans* call that patriotism, cleverness! And the sempiternal clown of patriotism, the ridiculous Deroulede, is dispatched to Petersburg, in the name of the Association of Republican and so-called Socialist journalists! Have they forgotten that Katkoff was a renegade of the liberal ideas of his youth, the most energetic supporter of the most absolute despotism, the enemy of reform and progress, of liberty and justice, the councillor and friend of Alexander the Hanger? Have they even the right to forget that Katkoff encouraged by all means the brutal and ferocious resistance of Russia against the movement towards freedom and independence which threw thousands of heroic men in the mines of Siberia and in the steppes of Arkangel? that he was one of the vanquished Poles? and that he stimulated Alexander the Third, as he had done Alexander the Second, to maintain under his iron claws, in oppression and misery, an immense nation of one hundred million men? We cannot help thinking that the "French Republican journalists" have acted scandalously by honouring the memory of that arch-scoundrel Katkoff!

Our readers will remember that in the great Anarchist trial at Lyons, in January 1883, where Kröpotkine, B-rdat, and others were sentenced to several years of imprisonment, a miserable wretch, the pseudo-Anarchist Georges Garou, *alias* Valadier acted as a police spy. This villain has now received the just reward of his infamous action: some ten or twelve Socialists have thrown him in the lake of Zürich, where his corpse has been found in a state of putrefaction. D.

GERMANY.

On the 5th of this month a new Socialistic paper has made its appearance at Berlin, *Berliner Volks Tribune*, under the editorship of Max Schippel. This is certainly a courageous attempt, and we wish every success to our weekly colleague. The editor says in his first number that he is fully aware of the fact, that in publishing a journal for the workers under the circumstances under which Germany lingers nowadays, politically and socially, is a most dangerous enterprise, but nevertheless he will try it and do his best. At any rate a trial is worth while.

Socialism is spreading rapidly in the German army. Last week, at Augsburg, a staff-officer and two soldiers have been arrested, because they had attempted to introduce in the barracks several hundred pamphlets for distribution among the soldiers. At Munich, two officers have been arrested because they have distributed among the men under their command invitations to assist in an open-air meeting to be held in a forest near the town.

In the same city of Munich, there are no less than 150 Socialists now awaiting their trial for various "Socialistic" offences, most of them for distributing prohibited literature. Socialism is growing fast!

At Ludwigshaven, where several thousands of the pamphlet, 'An Appeal to the Voter,' have been thrown in the streets, F. Ehrhardt, an upholsterer, the leader of the Socialists in that town and a candidate for the Reichstag,

has been arrested under the suspicion of having introduced the pamphlets there. Ehrhardt is well known among the Paris and London workers.

At Königsberg, we will have shortly a trial for conspiracy, where for the first time in Germany, Socialist students and women will be tried.

At Darmstadt, the paper *Freie Presse*, has been suppressed in accordance with the laws against Socialism.

At Altona, twelve Socialists will be tried next week, among whom is the well-known contributor to the paper *Bürgerzeitung*, L. W. Molkenbuhr.

At Manheim, six Socialists were sentenced last Saturday for distribution of Socialist literature, to terms of imprisonment varying from three weeks to ten months.

The German Socialists, both Social Democrats and Anarchists, are spreading in considerable quantities their pamphlet literature all over Germany in spite of Bismark and his blood-hounds. We recommend the lecture of these pamphlets to all those who understand the language, and we suggest that the translation of most of them into English would be an excellent enterprise. Up to date, the Anarchist series includes: 1, 'Appeal to the Proletariat'; 2, 'The Hell of Blackwell's Island'; 3, 'The Plague of the God-idea'; 4, 'The Descent of Man.' The Social Democrat series comprises the following: 1, 'Communitic and Private Property'; 2, 'The Trial of K. Marx at the Court of Assizes of Cologne'; 3, 'The Future of Socialism'; 4, 'Marx's Revelations on the Communist Trial at Cologne'; 5, 'Our Aims'; 6, 'The Thousand Million of Silesia'; 7, 'Socialistic Lectures'; 8, 'The Dead Schulze against the Living Lassalle'; 9, 'Materialism in Political Economy'; 10, 'The Programme of the Workers'; 11, 'William Weitling'; 12, 'Christianity and Socialism'; 13, 'The Lodging Question'; 14, 'Babouf and his Conspiracy'; 15, 'The Science and the Workers'; 16, 'The Chartist Movement.'

In one of our next issues, we intend to analyse at some length these pamphlets, the first series of which are issued at New York, and the second at Zurich. D.

HOLLAND.

On the 1st of this month, a mass meeting was held at Amsterdam, organised by the Union Society for the promotion of social science, with a view of obtaining the liberation of F. Domela Nieuwenhuis, imprisoned at Utrecht since the 17th of January past. The president of the Union, M. G. Ribbink, was in the chair. After he had stated that a great number of petitions, asking for Nieuwenhuis' release, had already been sent to the government, that twenty professors of law at the various universities of Holland, had sent in a legal memoir proving that the prisoner was not sentenced in accordance with the laws, that every organised body of workmen in the country had passed resolutions in favour of their friend (although Domela Nieuwenhuis himself had never condescended to write one single line on his own behalf) the chairman called on Prof. Dr. A. Pierson who moved that "the committee of the Union on behalf of the people gathered in the Hall Stroucken at Amsterdam, should be instructed to call on the Minister of Justice and demand the immediate release of the prisoner." This resolution was seconded and supported by Dr. Benjamins, Prof. Kemman, Dr. van der Goes, and comrades van der Stadt, Fortuyn, Kooper, and Simons. All the speakers protested against the idea of asking the king's *pardon* for Nieuwenhuis; they asked only for immediate and unconditional release.

Recht voor Allen has adhered, in the name of the Dutch worker's organisations, to the resolutions put forward by the Socialist organisation of Antwerp relating to the political interference of the workers in the parliamentary and radical humbug. They strongly contend against having anything whatever to do with Radical or non-Radical bourgeoisdom. In the long run, all fallacies will vanish and be swept away! D.

SWEDEN.

Comrades Palm, Nordman, and Danielson have just returned from a long propaganda campaign in the provinces, and their report states that they were exceedingly successful. They have noticed almost everywhere a good spirit of solidarity among the workers and a strong desire to check the evils of commercialism. They intend now to set forth their work of propaganda by issuing at regular periods pamphlets of a theoretical character. As comrade Palm, who has been until now the editor of the paper *Social Democraten*, at Stockholm, has been sentenced to one month's imprisonment and has further on to answer two other charges for contempt of the legislative chambers, the editorship of the paper will in the future rest on comrade Hjalmar Branting. D.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

Library.—The Library is open to members of the Socialist League and affiliated bodies. LIBRARY CATALOGUE, containing the Rules, 2d. D. J. NICOLL and W. BLUNDELL are the Librarians.

Co-operative Store.—The Committee attend at the offices at 8.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. All Groceries can be had at current store prices. Orders over 10s. will be delivered carriage paid in London.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A Special Meeting of the London Members will be held on Monday next, August 15, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the London Propaganda.

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League) to June 30. Clerkenwell, Mitcham, Walsall to July 31.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Norwich, 3s. Merton 3s. 2d. Mrs. Schack, 5s. Walter Crane, £1. Hammer-smith Branch (2 weeks) £1. E. B. B. (3 weeks) 3s. K. F. (2 weeks), 2s. C. J. F. (2 weeks) 4s. J. L. (2 weeks) 1s. P. W. (2 weeks) 1s. Per Blundell from sale of exchange papers, 5s. 7d.

P. WEBB, Treasurer, Aug. 9.

THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

C. Walkden, 11s. For Mrs. Mowbray—A Few Fabians, per Annie Besant (weekly), 10s. J. LANE, Treasurer.

FOR PROPAGANDA.

Per F. Kitz, 2s. 6d.

REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, August 3, T. Dalziel lectured on "Communitistic Art." Good discussion followed. On Sunday, August 7, an open-air meeting was held on the Green, addressed by Blundell. In our hall, a successful "social" was held by Blundell and friends, after open-air meeting. Literature has steady sale.—A. T. and W. B.

HOXTON.—On Thursday evening last, the usual outdoor meeting was held opposite Hoxton church, comrades Pope and Allman addressing a good audience. On Sunday morning, the outdoor meeting was a very large one. H. A. Barker, who addressed the meeting, met with a most hearty and enthusiastic reception. Good sale of literature. In the evening, at our new place of meeting, Geo. Bernard Shaw gave a very interesting lecture on the subject, "Why Socialists don't act up to their Principles," followed by a good discussion, in which comrades Jas. Allman, J. J. Allman, Ackland, Iarner, Pope, Turner, and H. Barker joined.—C. J. Y.

MERTON AND MITCHAM.—On Sunday last, comrades Fitzgerald (Socialist Union), Sparling, Kitz, and Eden (Socialist League), addressed an attentive audience on the Fair Green, Mitcham. In the evening at Merton club-room, comrades Morris and Lane met the members of the Mitcham, Merton, and Croydon branches, and an interesting discussion took place as to the best plan of agitation for the district. The following proposals were adopted: A speakers' class be formed, whereat the most difficult points of Socialism should be threshed out, and the speakers' class should be also a literary circle, purchasing what books of reference are needed, and thus increase the library at the disposal of these branches; further, that we take steps to form a co-operative community in the immediate vicinity of London, and with that end in view issue shares to purchase one of the many estates which are now going begging to the jerry builders. We opine that such a community would have a ready sale for its farm produce in London, and would also afford a pleasant rendezvous to Radical and Socialist clubs for outings. Sale of *Commonweal* this week, 52. Collection, 2s 6d.—F. K.

NORTH LONDON.—The adjourned debate was resumed between comrade Wardle and Morley on Tuesday last. Brookes and Doughty also addressed an attentive audience. At Regent's Park, Brookes, Mainwaring, and Beckett spoke. A debate is arranged for Sunday next, subject: "Will Parliamentary Action further the interests of Socialism?" Collection, 5s. At Hyde Park, the largest audience we have as yet had, listened to our speakers last Sunday. Brookes, Turner, Nicoll, Mainwaring, Sampson, and Murphy spoke. Collection, 2s 10d.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday forenoon, Glasier, and Lamont (S.D.F.) addressed a good audience on Jail Square. In the afternoon, meetings were held at Paisley Road Toll and Jail Square, Glasier, Downie, and Warrington being the speakers. In the evening in our room a business meeting was held. There was good sale of *Commonweal* at all the meetings.

LEEDS.—Taking advantage of the fine weather during the holidays, a few of us determined upon a little propaganda into the outlying districts of Leeds, and selected Rothwell—a mining district—for our first experiment. We distributed a quantity of literature, and created an unusual stir, and in making the acquaintance of four sympathetic men on the way home, who promised to help us in our future propagandist arrangements in Rothwell, and with whom we are now in correspondence. On the Tuesday we visited Churwell and Morley, and distributed five good-sized parcels of literature. At the latter place we got a meeting together, and Braithwaite, Hill, and myself addressed them for about an hour. The affair was a success, and will, I believe, result in the formation of a branch.—T. PAYLOR.

NORWICH.—On Monday, the 8th inst., we held a meeting at Coltishall, being our first visit, which was very successful. On Thursday, Henderson and Cantwell addressed a large meeting at Yarmouth. On Sunday morning, a meeting was held at Diss and also at Coltishall, at which latter place we sold a good stock of *Commonweal*. In the afternoon a large crowd assembled in the Norwich Market-place. At the close of Henderson's lecture, opposition was called for but was not forthcoming. In the evening on the Agricultural Hall Plain, Slaughter and Morley spoke. At eight o'clock in the Gordon Hall, Henderson lectured on "Emigration."—J. S.

WALSALL.—On Wednesday, comrade Weaver, of Walsall, addressed an outdoor meeting here, and was attentively listened to by a good audience. Meetings will be held here every Wednesday outdoor, so long as weather permits. This branch has every appearance of being a powerful centre of ironworkers and miners. On Sunday last, comrades Weaver and Russell visited several outlying towns for the purpose of arranging for lectures and distributing literature.

WALSALL.—On Tuesday last we broke new ground at Great Bridge, a small town five miles from here, right in the heart of the Black Country. Hundreds of skilled workmen are on the verge of starvation, and the people generally and their homes show clearly the rottenness of the present system. The men seemed to fully realise the hopeless position in which they are placed, for they applauded our speaker's references to the delusive dodges of Liberals, Tories, and Radicals. Deakin and Sanders were the speakers.

WEDNESBURY.—This branch will very soon be in thorough working order. Up to the present a great difficulty has been experienced in getting a suitable meeting-room. On Thursday evening, comrades Deakin, Weaver, and Sanders, of the Walsall Branch,

spoke for them in the Market-place. The audience numbered several hundreds, and listened attentively. Several questions were put at the close, of the usual block type. A good sale of literature, and several more names to the branch closed a good meeting.

WOOLWICH.—At the Arsenal Gates, last Sunday, Hennessy spoke to a large audience, and was supported by Thornton, Macdonald, and Banner. Literature again sold well, and 7s. 1d. collected towards defraying expenses of Irish delegation.—R. B.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

Galashiels.—A very large meeting—the first in the town—was held on Tuesday last in the market square. Mahon challenged a temperance speaker who was abusing Socialism, but this went unheeded. After the Socialist meeting had closed, Mahon was called upon by the audience and went to the temperance platform, and an animated discussion ensued, which went on till after ten o'clock. A large amount of literature was sold.

Broxburn.—Mahon spent two days amongst the shale-miners locked-out in Broxburn and the surrounding districts. Two very large meetings were held, and Socialist principles met with hearty acceptance. The first meeting was presided over by one of the check-weighmen and the second by Mr. John Wilson, the popular and energetic secretary of the Shale-Miners in Scotland. A full report will be found in another column.

Cowdenbeath.—The second Socialist meeting was held here last Friday afternoon. A large attendance of miners gave a most sympathetic hearing to the speaker. Mahon, in passing, severely criticised the Labour M.P.'s, and condemned the action of the Five miners who voted £100 to the salaries of Burt and Fenwick, M.P.'s. The men did not seem to know that this had been done and were unanimously against doing it. A good collection was made; fair sale of literature and 24 names taken to form a branch.

Dunfermline.—On Friday night a meeting was held in the public park. The address dealt chiefly with trade depression and labour federation. The inhuman conduct of the responsible officials at the Forth Bridge works was severely commented on. Some questions were asked, and answered to the satisfaction of the audience. Mr. M'Allister, chairman of the "Glasgow and West of Scotland Vigilance Association," made a general attack upon Socialism, and was answered in lively and effective manner. It was arranged later on that a two nights' set debate should be held in Dunfermline.

Leith.—A splendid meeting was held at the Quay-side on Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Tuke and Mahon spoke. The police interfered with us for obstructing the street, but ten yards off the ground belonged to the Dock Company, and here the meeting was continued. There were some very interesting questions and some discussion also. Good collection and sale of literature, and some names taken for membership. Some seamen were present, and one of them spoke to the members after the lecture. In a few weeks we will have some special meetings of seamen and get them on, as if possible.

Edinburgh.—On Thursday evening at our weekly discussion class we had a visit from some fifteen or sixteen German Socialists, who are at present working as glassblowers at Portobello, a place about three miles from Edinburgh. We got a very interesting account of how the cause is progressing in Germany from one of them. They kindly consented to our request to hear a revolutionary German song, and sang the Marseillaise in splendid style. Before parting, we all joined in giving three cheers for the coming social revolution. **Calton Hill.**—A meeting of railway men in connection with the strike on the Midland Railway was announced for last Sunday afternoon, and Mahon and Smith went there with the expectation of addressing them; but for some reason or other none turned up. A good meeting was held all the same, and a fair collection got and a good quantity of literature disposed of. **Queen's Park.**—In the evening Smith, Mahon, Gilray, and Tuke spoke to an audience of over four hundred. Two names taken for membership. Good collection and fair sale of literature made.

CHAS. WM. TUKE, sec.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloombury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Aug. 11, H. Samuels, "Socialism and Parliamentary Action: a Challenge to Parliamentarians." 18. Thos. J. Dalziel, "Communitistic Art." 25. Fred. Lessner, "Socialism on the Continent." Sept. 1. Edward Aveling, "The Value of Brain Work."
Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday August 14, at 8.30 p.m. Fred Verinder, "The Bible and the Land Question." Wednesday Aug. 17, at 8.30. Sydney Webb, "The Political Duty of Socialists."
Croydon.—Parker Road.
Hackney.—23 Audrey Street, Goldsmith Row. Club Room open every evening from 8 till 11.30; Saturday, 7 till 12.30; Sunday 11 a.m. till 12 p.m. Members Business Meeting every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. Debating Class every Thursday.
Hammersmith.—Kelmecott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday August 14, at 8 p.m. G. Bernard Shaw, "Wages."
Hoxton (L. E. L.).—Globe Coffee House, 227 High St.,

Hoxton. On Sunday August 14, H. A. Barker will lecture—subject, "What Socialists Want." On Saturday at 8 p.m., Members' Meeting; special Business; a full attendance of members earnestly requested. There will be a Concert in aid of the League on Saturday August 30. A list of names of friends who will sing or recite will be advertised in the *Commonweal* next week. Programmes will also be printed.

Merton.—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Club Room open every evening. Committee every Thursday. Discussions held every Sunday morning at 11.
Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11.
North London.—Branch meets at 32 Camden Road, N.W., for reception of new members and other business, on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock, until further notice. H. Bartlett, sec.

PROVINCES.

Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.
Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. (prompt) to transact business. Discussion Class at 8.30.
Glasgow.—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Sunday Aug. 14, meeting of members in Rooms.
Hamilton.—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Every Thursday at 7.30.
Hull.—Merrill's Dairy, 56 Walker Street. Mondays, at 8 p.m.
Lancaster.—Addresses every Sunday morning on the Quay Jetty.
Leeds.—17 Chesham Street, Sweet Street. Club and reading room open every evening. Business meetings every Wednesday at 8 p.m.
Leicester.—Office of Hosiery Union, Horsefair Street. Fridays at 8 p.m.
Norwich.—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures every Sunday at 8 p.m. Business Meeting, Monday at 8.30. Speakers' Class, Sunday mornings at 10.30 and Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. Social Evening, Saturdays at 8.
Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 14.

11.30...Hackney—"Salmon and Ball".....Barker
11.30...Hammersmith—Beacon Road.....The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Ch., Pitfield Street.....Wade & Pope
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green.....Ball & Eden
11.30...Regent's Park.....Nicoll
11.30...St. Pancras Arches.....Dalziel & Wardle
11.30...Walham Green.....The Branch
3...Hyde Park.....Lane
6.30...Victoria Park.....The Branch
7...Clerkenwell Green.....Blundell

Tuesday.

8...Ossulton Street, Euston Road.....Nicoll
8...Mile-end Waste.....The Branch

Wednesday.

8...Broadway, London Fields.....The Branch

Thursday.

8...Hoxton, Pitfield Street.....The Branch

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Saturday: Jail's Square, at 8 p.m. Sunday: Jail's Square, at 1; Paisley Road Toll at 5.
Cambuslang.—Saturday: 6 o'clock.
Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, 11; Vicar's Croft, 7.30. Friday: Corner of Christ Church, Meadow Lane, at 8 p.m.
Norwich.—Sunday: Market Place at 3; Agricultural Hall Plain at 7.
Dereham.—Every Wednesday, Market Place at 7.
Yarmouth.—Every Thursday on the Beach at 7.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

4 PARK STREET, EDINBURGH.

Fri. 12.—**Cowdenbeath**, South Park at 4 p.m.
Dunfermline, Public Park at 7.30 p.m.
Sat. 13.—**Eainburg**: Demonstration in aid of Shale-miners locked-out, Queen's Park at 5.30.
Leith: Demonstration in aid of Shale-miners, Giant's Brae, Links, 6.30 p.m.
Sun. 14.—**Leith** (J. B. Glasier), Quayside at 10 a.m.
Edinburgh (J. B. Glasier), Grassmarket 3 p.m.; Queen's Park 6.30; Mound 8 p.m.
Dundee (Mahon), 11 a.m. Greenmarket; 3 p.m. West Port; 7 p.m. foot of Hilltown.
Mon. 15.—**Hawick**, Tower Knowe at 7 p.m.
Carnoustie (Mahon), Market Place 7 p.m.
Tue. 16.—**Galashiels**, Market Square 7 p.m.
Arbroath (Mahon), Brothock Bridge 7 p.m. Tower Nook 7.30.
Wed. 17.—**Forfar** (Mahon), Market Place 7 p.m.
Thur. 18.—**Dundee**, Green Market 7 p.m.
Fri. 19.—**Dunfermline**, Public Park at 7.30 p.m.
Sat. 20.—**Burntisland**, Links at 5 p.m.
Sun. 21.—Same as August 14.

WOOLWICH.—Arsenal Gates, Sunday August 14, at 7 o'clock—Andreas Scheu.

PLAISTOW WORKING MEN'S CLUB, 10 Stephenson Street, Canning Town.—Sunday August 14, at 11.30 a.m. H. H. Sparling, "Labour and Leisure."