

THE COMMONWEALTH

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

VOL. 3.—No. 97.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1887.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

In Memoriam.

Murdered by law, Nov. 11, 1887.	Killed himself in prison, Nov. 10.
GEORGE ENGEL	LOUIS LINGG
ADOLPH FISCHER	Imprisoned for life.
ALBERT R. PARSONS	SAMUEL FIELDEN
AUGUST SPIES	MICHAEL SCHWAB
	Fifteen years' imprisonment.
	OSCAR NEEBE

In presence of the doom that has befallen our comrades, of the cowardly vengeance wreaked upon them by the bourgeois of Illinois for the fear felt before treachery gave them into their hands, words fail; it is hard even to speak a tithe of the thought and feeling that seek expression. Every Socialist in all the world has before his eyes the image of the gallows whereon the four have died, and the shadow of the prison wherein their comrades are to linger out a death in life. To the resolute a new edge added to their stern hatred of class-rule and its evil fruits; to the half-hearted a clear warning of the risk they run, a call for them to choose between unhonoured safety and the dangers of truth; to the dullard or dilettante a rude awakening to the harsh reality of the war we wage and the penalty that must be paid for taking part therein.

The four men who have been done to death have died for their belief; those who in Rome were flung to the lions, who in Smithfield were burned alive for a similar offence, that they taught the overthrow of legalised wrong, are counted saints and held sacred in men's memories. So also will be these men of Chicago. From their birth was the record of their doings, alike of those that are dead and those who live, searched minutely for aught that might discredit them—and searched in vain. They were men of honest and clean lives, against whom none could cast a stone—and they have died for their belief. Whenever men have tried to stay the march of Truth by slaying her servants the attempt has failed; the cause for which men died martyrs has inevitably won; the stake, the whip, the scaffold have had no power over thought, but making men speak under their breath and laying up a tenfold woe for that state in which the folk dared but whisper their discontent.

Be it noted also that in times past mere death has not been deemed enough to deter men from the holding "dangerous" opinions; torture of one kind or another has been brought in to heighten the terror of dissolution and strike dismay into unruly minds. To-day, under a thin coat of polished hypocrisy, the bourgeois are as full of sordid cruelty as was ever the worst of all the Inquisitors they execrate. With a myriad means at hand for insuring a sharp and sudden death, the vindicators of law and order in Chicago designedly prolonged the death-agony of our four comrades for a quarter of an hour less one minute. For fourteen minutes did the "respectables" of Chicago stand gloating over the spectacle of four men struggling in the throes of gradual death; pluming themselves, no doubt, that now at least their property was safe and the revolution crushed. Nor did they see what it was they were doing; how by their own act they were preparing a Red Terror that shall be with them night and day, that shall be an unspoken fear at all their feasts, a spectre of dread beside their couches, and a final ruin pending over their profit-hunting enterprises. How shall it be wondered at if those who knew the four and loved them take into their own hands the blood-atonement of their murder? Will not the remembered horror of those fourteen minutes freeze any word of "moderation" upon the lips of those who would speak it? Will not it also strike away from under capitalism one of its trustiest supports, the respect for law among the masses, the belief in its embodiment of justice? Will it not prove a striking lesson to the workers of all lands in the hollow mockery of bourgeois morality, bourgeois freedom, bourgeois civilisation?

When courage wanes for awhile and hope is shaken, the memory of those who died so bravely and the thought of those in prison who would gladly have died also, will hearten us to fresh effort and renew our faith in the only cause for which men can now be heroes and

martyrs like those of old. Far above the petty game of politics, or the squabbling of rival creeds, these men stand out on a nobler height, a sublimer level; their heroism has lifted them out of the world in which men bargain and get rich, into the purer air in which stand Huss and Bruno and all those great souls whose lives were spent that Man might live. S.

LONDON IN A STATE OF SIEGE.

SIR CHARLES WARREN has kept his promise and prevented the meeting organised by the Radical Clubs. From the military point of view he has been eminently successful, and deserved to be so, and it is now proper that we should make him a peer of the realm and Commander-in-Chief of the British forces, if he will kindly consent to waive the title of Emperor or three-tailed Bashaw or whatever else is the proper nick-name of a supreme and irresponsible ruler. Sir Charles, I repeat, made his military dispositions admirably, and revolutionists should study them, since they have had a little piece of real war suddenly brought to their notice. The "Square," *i.e.*, the sunken space, was guarded by foot-policemen four deep, whose business was simply to guard it and who had orders not to stir from their posts; outside these were strong bodies of horse-police who took careful note of any incipient gathering and at once scattered it.

This defence was ample against anything except an organised attack from determined persons acting in concert and able to depend on one another. In order that no such body should be formed and no such attack be possible, the careful general had posted strong bodies of police, with due supports to fall back on if necessary, about a radius of about a quarter of a mile of the Square, so that nothing could escape falling into the meshes of this net.

Into this net then we marched. The column in which the comrades of the League were, started from Clerkenwell Green in company with the Patriotic Club and some of the East-end clubs, including a Branch of the S. D. F. I see the correspondent of the *Daily News* estimates this column at 6000, but I think that is an exaggeration. Anyhow, we marched in good order through Theobalds' Road, and up Hart Street, crossing Oxford Street and Shaftesbury Avenue without attack from the police, but we had no sooner crossed the latter street and were about to enter the Seven Dials streets to make our way to St. Martin's Lane, than the attack came, and it was clearly the best possible place for it. The divergence of the streets would confuse any procession which had lost its rallying point; the side streets and the width of the thoroughfare at the spot gave a good opportunity for a flank charge, and at our rear was the open space of Shaftesbury Avenue to allow a charge in that quarter to finish us up after the attack on front and flank. It was all over in a few minutes: our comrades fought valiantly, but they had not learned how to stand and turn their column into a line, or to march on to the front. Those in front turned and faced their rear, not to run away, but to join in the fray if opportunity served. The police struck right and left like what they were, soldiers attacking an enemy, amidst wild shrieks of hatred from the women who came from the slums on our left. The band instruments were captured, the banners and flags destroyed, there was no rallying point and no possibility of rallying, and all that the people composing our once strong column could do was to straggle into the Square as helpless units. I confess I was astounded at the rapidity of the thing and the ease with which military organisation got its victory. I could see that numbers were of no avail unless led by a band of men acting in concert and each knowing his own part.

What happened to us happened, as I hear, to the other processions with more or less fighting. An eye-witness who marched up with the western column told me that they were suddenly attacked as they came opposite the Haymarket Theatre, by the police rushing out on them from the side streets and immediately batoning everybody they could reach, whether they resisted or not. The column, he said, was destroyed in two minutes, though certainly not quite without fighting; one brave man wrapping his banner torn from the pole round his arm and facing the police till he was hammered down with repeated blows.

Once in the Square we were, as I said, helpless units, especially as there were undoubtedly a good many mere spectators, many of them club gentlemen and other members of the class which employs Warren. Undoubtedly if two or three hundred men could have been got to make a rush on the cordon of the police, especially at the south-east corner the crowd could have swarmed into the Square, and if the weakest of the columns could have reached the Square in order this could easily

have been done. But the result would probably have been a far bloodier massacre than Peterloo; for the people, once in the Square, would have found themselves in a mere penfold at the mercy of the police and soldiers. It is true that as matters went, there seemed very little need for the appearance of the latter, so completely were the police, horse and foot, masters of the situation; and the great mass of the people also round the Square was composed of Radicals, very angry it is true at the horrible brutality with which they had been treated by Warren's men, but by no means strung up to fighting pitch. So that I was fairly surprised, the crowd being then quite quiet, to see the Life Guards form at the south of the Square and march up towards St. Martin's Church with the magistrate at their head (a sort of country-gentleman-looking imbecile) to read the Riot Act. The soldiers were cheered as well as hooted by the crowd, I think under the impression that they would not act as brutally against the people as the police: a mistaken impression, I think, as these gorgeous gentry are just the helmeted flunkies of the rich and would act on their orders just as their butlers or footmen would. A little after this a regiment of the foot-guards made their appearance with fixed bayonets, and completed the triumph of law and order.

Sir Charles Warren has thus given us a lesson in street fighting, the first point of which is that mere numbers without organisation or drill are useless; the second, which ought also to be noted, is the proper way to defend a position in a large town by a due system of scouts, outposts, and supports.

We Socialists should thank our master for his lesson, and so pass on from considering the military aspect of the case to its civil aspect. Warren has won a victory, but on what terms! It is clear from what is above printed that he would not have been thoroughly successful if he had not had a free hand given him: if he had not attacked citizens marching peaceably through the streets in just such a way as banditti might do, destroying and stealing their property, they would have been able to claim their right of meeting in Trafalgar Square in such a way that nothing but sharp shot and cold steel could have dealt with them. London has been put under martial law, nominally for behoof of a party, but really on behoof of a class, and *war* (for it is no less, whatever the consequences may be) has been forced upon us. The mask is off now, and the real meaning of all the petty persecution of our open-air meetings is as clear as may be. No more humbug need be talked about obstruction and the convenience of the public: it is obvious that those meetings were attacked because we displeased the dominant class and were weak. Last Sunday explains all, and the bourgeois now goes about boasting that he is the master and will do what he likes with his slaves. Again, the humbug is exposed of the political condemnation of coercion by Act of Parliament in Ireland, when here in London we have coercion without Act of Parliament; and the feeble twitterings of the *Daily News* will be received with jeers by the triumphant Tories.

And the greatest humbug which Sunday's events have laid bare is "the protection afforded by law to the humblest citizen." Some simple people will be thinking that Warren can be attacked legally for his murderous and cowardly assaults of Sunday. I say Warren, because 'tis no use beating the *stick* that beats you. Some perhaps will think that there may be a chance of his getting a few years penal servitude for inciting to riot and murder. But these persons forget that he has been *ordered* to act as he did just as he *ordered* his brigands, and that Salisbury and Co. who *ordered* him have done so at the *orders* of the class which they represent. They have made the laws, but have never intended to keep them when inconvenient. It has now become inconvenient to keep them—and in consequence we must think ourselves lucky to be *only* beaten by the policeman's baton if the bourgeois don't like us—lucky to get off the six months' or twelve months' imprisonment which is likely to accompany such an *accident*. In short, the very Radicals have now been taught that slaves have no rights. The lesson is a painful one, but surely useful to us boastful Englishmen: nay, in the long run it is necessary.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

HOW DIFFERENT FROM LONDON!—The following extract from a letter by the Jaggayapeta correspondent of the *Madras People's Friend* has a familiar ring about it: "The police here, as elsewhere, are more a curse than a boon to the people, and are indulging themselves in every kind of mischief. Village officials and shopkeepers form the chief objects of their prey. Innumerable are the false charges got up by them, and many are the persons suffering from their oppression. No mention need be made here of the bribery in this line, as everyone knows full well about it." Of course in London civilisation and Christianity together have guarded us against all this.

If capital insists on hanging men for political utterances, as it does in Chicago, what will it crave as punishment for political acts? Will it institute the stake, the rack, the thumbscrew and other Christian modes of convincing workmen that they had better lie still in the frying pan? But consistency is not a jewel in the crown of Pluto. The devil heats his furnace as hot for infants not a span long as for sinners old in iniquity, and a man might as well die for a sheep as a lamb. But suppression of free speech by hanging a few speakers will only close the valve through which extra pressure of discontent finds vent. Men cannot be convinced that they are wrong by hanging their friends for telling them they are right.—*Winsted Press*.

It was not Endacott alone who was on his trial the other day. It was Mr. Newton, and to some extent, Mr. Matthews also. A mere policeman might easily have been sacrificed to popular wrath, but alas, our rulers could not throw Endacott over and spare the others. They would have all hung together, hence the judicial joke of Mr. Justice Stephens' decision. We have gained something by the whole affair; a new word has been added to the English language. We all know what "boycotted" means, though the word is of recent origin. In future, when anyone finds himself in gaol through the stupidity or the hard swearing of a police constable, we shall say he has been "Endacotted."—*Norwich Daylight*.

"BROKEN CISTERNS."

WE Socialists are often asked to justify our revolutionary position; we are urged to show cause why we should seek to remodel society on a different basis instead of going on improving that which has grown up on the present one. Our questioner dilates upon all the improvements that have been made, especially in the last 50 years. He points to the spread of education and educational facilities, to the repeal of the laws against trades' unions, and their consequent spread, which resulted in raising the wages of most skilled trades, the amount of rise being variously stated at from 25 to 50 per cent. Then they point to the laws passed to prevent the overwork of children, to enforce sanitary arrangements, and to ensure the safety of the workers in mines and on the sea. They point triumphantly to the reduction of pauperism, and they try to persuade us that things are on the mend, and that we have only to go on in the same direction to put things as right as they ever can be in this world. They would have us believe that all action in the future must be a carrying on of the policies of the present political parties; they call us unpractical dreamers and all the rest of it, and finally go off to the caucus meeting to do their share in carrying on things as they have been going. While our friends are thus engaged, let us see how it is that Socialists are such unreasonable fellows that they are discontented with all these methods of improvement, and declare that nothing short of a complete change in the basis of society will avail. The best order, I think, will be to begin by examining the various agencies, political and social, through which it is hoped that improvement will be brought about; trying to see what ground there is for hope in each case, and why each and all must fail to produce the amelioration hoped for.

We will begin with the political agencies, and here we have two main parties, Conservative and Liberal, with a third, Radical, which is practically the advanced part of the Liberal. Now what is the aim of each of these parties, what is the theory of society on which they base their action? The first thing which strikes us is that their actions are not based on any consistent theory of society at all, but form a series of empirical or experimental laws passed under temporary pressure, with only a small amount of thought given to the all important question of what consistent form of society is aimed at. Opportunism best expresses the moving principle of our legislation; this is largely the result of our basis of party government by which it becomes the chief duty of a party when in office to keep there, when out of office to get there; the legislation is planned chiefly to this end, and only secondarily for the good of the community. There are, of course, individual exceptions who look more to the good of the community than to party, but they can only exert any telling influence when their advice does not happen to make much against party interests.

The Conservative party, in so far as it is more than a mere drag on progress, has or had some definite theory of society; it is not content with a society which consists of a mere assembly of unconnected units, but looks for some organisation. Looking back it finds that in olden times society consisted of various grades and classes, all depending one on another, having mutual duties and fixed relations; the lower classes depended upon the higher for protection and guidance, and in return gave them homage and wealth. In those good old days a man knew his place and did not aspire to be as good as his master, but was content to do as he was told. The thinking part of the Conservative party sees some such theory of social organisation in the past, and hopes to establish a similar system again rather modified to suit modern times. The rich and noble will govern the land, and will look after the poor, teach them to respect their betters, and generally take a paternal interest in them, for which services the poor are to work for them and show them respect, and all the rest of it. Have we anything to hope from this? Not much, I think; surely when a system has been tried in the past and society has outgrown it, there is little use in wishing to try it again. The coat which a boy outgrows he can never wear again; so with society, it will not return to an outgrown system, and if it should the result would be anything but happy. Society may take the discarded principles of some old system and come back to them again on a higher level. So society may take the principle of organisation which there was in the old times, and coming back to that we may again have an organised society instead of a course of atoms, but it will be on quite a higher level. Conservatism in so far as it has an ideal of organised society is superior to the other parties, but, unfortunately, its ideal is borrowed from the past and only suitable for the past. Hence it is that Conservatives in office are forced by the irresistible pressure of social development to pass laws in direct opposition to their ideal.

We next come to the Liberal party. Now if we come to consider the matter we can imagine a society such as the Conservative would wish for, we can imagine a society such as the Socialist would wish for; the ideal society of the Individualist or Anarchist can be to some extent imagined, the same with the ideal of the Positivist; but what is the ideal of the Liberal party? We are stumped. All we can think of is our own country after two or three reforms which the Liberal party are talking about shall have passed. The Liberal party is a party without an ideal or consistent aim, there are sections in it holding each of the ideals named above, hence its actions are empirical; it does a bit here, a bit there, according as pressure is put on it or circumstances dictate; it lives from hand to mouth trying to make the present system do by rushing wildly to any point where there is unusual friction, passing at odd times some good and useful measures, but failing to see any future ideal to which all shall be made to tend, and failing to make its measures consistent one with another. At one

time it coerces those who seek for something, at another it grants the request; at one time it favours individual enterprise and competition, at another it starts a government department to lessen the same. All this applies to the Radical as to the Liberal; the Radical has no consistent ideal before him, unless it be a political one. He may be a Republican and call that his ideal, but that has little to do with the social question; his ideal is realised in America, and there is the same social question to be solved there. What have we then to hope from this party without an ideal? Evidently nothing but what we can make them do to improve details of society as it at present exists. They may be convenient as a squeezable party, but the point I wish to urge is that their work is done without any definite aim for the final improvement of society. The organisation of society can only be accomplished by a body of men who know what is needed, and are bent on getting that and nothing else, making any intermediate measures preparatory to their purpose. The Liberal party has originated as a destructive agent to pull down the ancient form of society; it has done its work, and has no constructive ideal to place before us. What does its programme at present consist of? A few more reforms in the constitution, a little more responsibility thrown on to an employer for the lives of his men, some economies in the national expenditure, and some decentralisation of power. Well, some of them are good, let us take them if they come in our way; but when we have them all how much nearer shall we be to proceeding with the organisation of society unless we have found some consistent ideal to aim at? How much nearer is America, with all its Republican institutions, to solving its social problems than we are? And if the majority were convinced of the advantage of any definite form of society and wished to establish it, do you think they would let our political institutions stand three months in the way? And yet some would urge that we should spend our time for years to come in getting hold of the power without being able to decide what we should then do with it. If the people can once be shown how they can organise society in a way that shall be better for all, they will not be slow to seize the power; until then they will not trouble much about it. Probably one of the chief reasons why the people are content to leave political power in the hands of the landlords and capitalists, although they expect little from them, is that they do not see how they could use it to much purpose if they had it.

We see that there is no solution of our social problems to be hoped for from the existing political parties; true one party offers us greater political power, well we have no objection to that, only it is not much good to us till we have found out how to use it in such a manner as to do away with the misery of modern society!

We must next turn to social agencies, and see what hope is offered us there. The professors of the science of political economy claim our attention first. Strictly, they have not much to do with our question, because they start on the assumption that the present basis of society is right, and they seek to find the laws which in this system govern the production and distribution of wealth, but practically they have been obliged to extend their scope and to mingle with the scientific investigation of phenomena, as they exist under our system, a certain amount of discussion about the basis of that system, whether it is the best and most just one. I think this has been to some extent unfortunate, as their reasoning has been more a defence of the system which their science explains, put forward to make their science a little more popular, than an honest search for the best form of society. We do well to study what they have to tell us about our present system, and also their defence of it, but I fear we have not much to hope from them in the way of improvement. Modern economists are more and more going towards Socialism, and any improvement they have to offer in the future comes from Socialism rather than their own science. I think the course of events since the science was started shows that it has been useful as a means of clearing away many old and noxious customs and laws, but that it is useless as a constructive science. It was well qualified to make the present system as perfect as it is capable of becoming, but it is not suitable to clear away evils inherent in the system or to suggest a better. It did good service in exploding the idea that money was the only form of wealth worth having, and in clearing away foolish restrictions on trade. But when the commencement of the present century saw the vast revolution in industry caused by the rapid introduction of machinery, when men were thrown out of work and in their desperation destroyed the machines, when huge fortunes were made by the few out of the machines which plunged many into destitution, what had the economists to suggest then? All they could say was, "Let alone, let them be; it will all come right in time, our system is a wonderful system, is a beautiful system, it accommodates everything to its wants, those who are useless to it are crushed out, and only those whom it wants survive; this misery is only just the necessary part of changes, it will all come right in time." Such was the answer of the economists, and the ruling powers believed it, the more easily because it paid them best to follow the advice. The system has gone on crushing out those it does not require, for the time when things come right never arrives; as fast as one thing rights itself there is another change come which has to be righted. It is like the promise of "Jam, to-morrow!" but never jam to-day! And now we are beginning to see that man was not made for a system, to be fostered or crushed out according as that system needs or does not need him, but that systems are made for men, and that a system is good if it fosters all men and tends to raise and improve them, not good because it happens to be able to crush out those who do not fit it.

RAYMOND UNWIN.

(To be continued.)

THE DAY AFTER.

It lashed me like the scourge of Fate,
I could not work, I could not rest,
So fierce a flood of wrath and hate
Was raging in my breast;
I could not rest, and turning north
From the huge town, I hastened forth
To tire my restless limbs, and then
Think calmly of those murdered men.

By meadow-green and coppice bare
And homely brook I sped my way;
It seemed that Nature did not care
To mourn for yesterday.
Nor down each grassy village street,
Or windy common, did I meet
One son of toil who had despaired.
It was for him our comrades died.

Not Nature's carelessness I chide,
But the dull apathy of men,
Contented meekly to abide
Mewed in a hopeless pen.
Because their fathers wore a chain,
They bow the head and bear the pain,
And rot, unknowing of their worth,
Whilst Labour is true lord of earth.

Yet not in vain ye died, I know,
In witness of the world to come;
Sure your reward, if haply slow;
Your deed shall not be dumb.
Though slighted now, a crown of glory
Shall yet, ere long, bedeck your story,
And ye, with many a one, shall stand
Transfigured in the martyr-band.

See, with his foot upon the prey,
In seeming triumph Mammon stands,
And wipes contemptuously away
The crimson from his hands.
But ten times precious is the blood
That is poured out for brotherhood,
And when the hour at last is here,
This deed shall cost the monster dear.

But yonder, lo, far hence withdrawn
Through miles of night, fast stealing on,
That hideous mockery of the dawn,
The glare of Babylon,—
Our battlefield, whereon, at length,
Spoilers and spoiled shall measure strength;
Even now they gird them for the fray,
Fearing and hoping for the day.

Nov. 12, 1887.

C. W. BECKETT.

"A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT!"

MR. CREMER, M.P., one of the "Carnegie crew" at present in America crying "Peace, peace, when there is no peace," has been interviewed by a *New York Herald* reporter. After polishing off "the State of Europe," and delivering himself of the usual Peace Association twaddle, he proceeded to "write" himself "down an ass" in the following fashion:—

"What is the extent of the Anarchist, Communistic, and 'black flag' movement in Great Britain?"

"The Social Democracy has a following of course, arising out of the large number of unemployed in Great Britain and the distress consequently existing throughout the country. The distress is more extended and more acute than I have ever known it to be. In fact our commercial prosperity is a thing of the past, and I doubt if it will ever be revived."

"But what is the character of the 'black flag' demonstrations recently held in Trafalgar Square?"

"I have no doubt that these movements are promoted by the Social Democrats, but my impression is that the majority of the people who take part in such disturbances have not only 'got no work to do,' but 'want no work to do.' I have made it a point to mix with them in Trafalgar Square, and I think that the majority of them were loafers, though there are certainly some decent fellows among them."

The reporter calling upon Mr. Cremer nearly mistook the "big" man for "a cow-boy on a tour," and thus describes his "get-up":—"Dressed peculiarly—a soft white hat, coloured flannel shirt without a collar, heavy light overcoat, with pale fur collar and cuffs; a business suit of coarse material, yellow leather shoes."

I fancy, however, that an average cow-boy who had spent three weeks in London would have been able to give a more intelligent answer than the foregoing. But then the cow-boy would probably give the result of his own unbiassed observation; he would not have to "square" his views to meet the wishes of the "upper crust" people who patronise the "washy-washy" workingmen who hire themselves out for deputations.

What should a "respectable" working-man Member of Parliament, and confere of such eminent individuals as Andrew Carnegie, Lord Kinnaird, Lord Herschell, Sir Lyon Playfair, etc., have to do with such vulgar wretches as Socialists and lower class loafers? "Oh! 'Respectability,' what fantastic tricks are committed in thy name!"

T. B.

THE BETTER WAY.—Mr. William Hurman, the new Mayor of Bridgwater, has expressed his disapproval of the customary banquet given to the corporation, and intimated that he intends, instead of giving the usual dinner in the town hall, to give a dinner between this time and Christmas to all recipients of outdoor relief in Bridgwater. He hopes that the town councillors, who are never in want of a good dinner, will attend and assist as carvers.



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!

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.

Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R.—Tikhomirov's book has been translated into English by Dr. Aveling, and published by Sonnenschein and Co. A review of it is in preparation for an early number.

F. D.—You can obtain any information about the "Midland Counties Glass-workers' Association, Limited," from the secretary, Mr. J. M. O'Fallon, Kingswinford, near Dudley.

E. C.—For 'The Tables Turned' (4d.) write to manager, this office. 'A Dream of John Ball' is in preparation.

A.—H. A. Barker is the business manager of the "Commonweal Dramatic Co.," and to him any application should be addressed.

F.—We have no time for foolery. Any serious letter will receive careful attention.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday November 16.

ENGLAND	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	ITALY
Anarchist	Altruist	Gazetta Operaia
Jus	San Francisco (Cal) The People	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Labour Tribune	Arbeiter-Zeitung	SPAIN
London—Freie Presse	Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung	El Productor
Newrich—Daylight	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	Madrid—El Socialista
Railway Review	Detroit (Mich.)—The Advance	PORTUGAL
NEW SOUTH WALES	N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate	Oporto—A Perola
Hamilton—Radical	FRANCE	GERMANY
UNITED STATES	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Berlin—Volks Tribune
New York—Der Sozialist	Lille—Le Travailleur	AUSTRIA
Union Advocate	HOLLAND	Vienna—Gleichheit
Boston—Woman's Journal	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Arbeit
Liberty	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts	Brunn—Volksfreund
Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	BELGIUM	HUNGARY
Knights of Labor	Liege—L'Avenir	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	Ghent—Vooruit	ROMANIA
Hamontton (NJ) Credit Foncier	Antwerp—De Werker	Jassy—Lupta
Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt		

NOTES ON NEWS.

"Who drives fat oxen" need not "himself be fat," but assuredly "who preaches wisdom should himself be wise." Poor Professor Tyndall has been making a spectacle of himself again. Some wonder and many laugh. He is a standing illustration of the adage which warns a cobbler against wandering from his last, but is so little conscious of it that his latest project is one of such wandering on an extended scale: all "scientific" men are to give their opinion of Home Rule, etc.

As men their opinion is worth pretty near as much as that of any others; as scientists, their opinion is worth having on their own subjects but of no account on political matters. That they may know all about some department of nature does not show them capable of judging men. Indeed it is notorious that they are specially out of place in the workaday affairs of the world: "They will measure ground by geometry, set down limits, divide and subdivide, but cannot yet prescribe *quantum homini satis* (how much is enough for man) or keep within compass of reason and discretion."

The Lord Mayor's tomfoolery has passed off as usual, except that the curses and hisses were louder and sharper, and the cheers fewer than ever before. The rain and cold kept the unemployed from holding a meeting, and so the police had no chance of hatching up a riot. As one looked at the sorry spectacle and thought upon what it meant, and the bitter contrast it emphasised, the question rose again and again to the onlooker's lips, "How long will it last?"

"Law and order" is getting along merrily. During the past week there has again and again been recorded some stupidity on the part of the authorities, or of brutality on the part of the police. Tuesday's papers had the story of the mishaps which befell Mr. Walter Arter, timber merchant and prominent Conservative. Because he consented, when appealed to, to go to the police-station as a witness for a man he saw arrested, he himself was captured, tried, imprisoned, stripped, bathed, dressed in convict attire, etc. Of course, he has no remedy, although he has been able to expose the perjury of the police!

Wednesday we read of the arrest of Mr. Bennet Burleigh, the well-known war correspondent, who, for no other reason that can be seen

than that the police were even exceeding their average behaviour, was hauled off to King Street police-station, where the assembled constables greeted him with yells of "Bloody German" (!) and the like. We go to press before the result of this "little affair" is known, as Mr. Burleigh quite rightly refused to be shuffled out of Court, and comes up again on Thursday.

Mr. Winkles, another journalist arrested with Mr. Burleigh, but who had been speaking, was credited by the police evidence with having said that "in France they understand organisation," and "they should organise as the French did," and that "they had had revolutions there in recent years; and, my God, if it were not sedition, I would say it is time we had one here." But it was carefully suppressed that he immediately afterwards went on to say (as reported in the *Daily News*) that "a peaceable and commercial revolution might be brought about by combination." The notorious Superintendent Shepherd's explanation of his failure to report the last sentence was that he regarded it as another subject immaterial to the matter which had preceded it!

John Oldland, indicted for having, on the 18th of October, riotously disturbed the peace, and also for assaulting two constables "in the execution of their duty," was accorded at the Middlesex Sessions on Thursday the 10th, by Judge Edlin, what even the ordinary press admits is a "vindictive sentence." The prosecution withdrew the first count with regard to rioting, and relied on the counts charging the assaults. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the Assistant Judge sentenced him to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for each assault, making twelve months in all. He was also ordered to find two sureties in £25 each and enter into his own recognisances in £50 to be of good behaviour for a subsequent term of twelve months, in default of finding such sureties to be imprisoned as a second-class misdemeanant for two months.

The notorious procuress and bawd, Mrs. Jeffries, was brought up at the same place and before the same judge as Oldland, next day (Friday), but met with very different treatment. Her friend, Mr. Edlin, could not screw up his courage to sentence her, though she had been duly found guilty. She is to remain in custody till next Sessions and then be sentenced. Can this mean that she is held back until forgotten a bit, so that she may be left off the more easily?

Sir Charles Warren's attempt to apply his methods of order-keeping in Cairo to London, was handicapped from the beginning by his inability to flog and fling in prison and hang men, women, and children without trial, as he was wont to do; wherefore he has been borrowing leaves from the books of Mitchelstown and Chicago—with what result is known!

I commend to Sir Charles Warren the perusal of the Illinois Conspiracy Law given on another page; it will simplify matters considerably for him if he can get it passed by the English Legislature; it assuredly will aid him in the cold-blooded and brutal work in which he is engaged, which is his function.

The way in which the press has treated the Irish and Free Speech Questions is very instructive, the *Pall Mall* being the only paper that has even tried to be consistent. The *Daily News* endorses Free Speech in Ireland, but calls for Coercion in London; the *Daily Chronicle* broke down for a moment in its dishonest career, and admitted that Coercion was wrong—out of Ireland! Of the whole ruck of daily papers there is but one which has not pandered and truckled to law-breaking authority, either in London or Ireland. Among the weeklies of course *Reynolds* speaks out well; the rest hobble along gracefully, as near the hedge as may be.

A DREAM OF QUEER FISHES.

(A MODERN PROSE-IDYLL.)

"As the sleeping hound dreams of the chase, so the fisherman dreams of fishes." Thus says the old Greek poet Theocritus; and that the same thing is true even to the present day may be seen from the strange dream dreamed by Joe, the Commissioner of Fisheries, as he was on his way to America to manage the fishy business of the firm of Salisbury and Co., whose service he had lately entered. Now Joe was thoroughly familiar with every kind of bait and fishing-tackle, having been apprenticed as a youth to a grand old fisherman, a regular old piscatorial hand, who carried on certain deep-sea fisheries, in which Joe soon became very expert, and was regarded by his master as his right-hand man. But unfortunately Joe had been always on the look-out for bettering himself, until at last he and the old man had words, and Joe rashly gave a month's notice and left the service in which he was doing so well. After this Joe had set up service on his own account, but finding it did not prosper, and being still very bitter against his old employer, he had become commercial traveller to the rival firm above-mentioned—a post for which he was specially qualified, through his proficiency in the piscatorial language usually known as "Billingsgate."

So Joe was now in mid-voyage for America; and it happened that one night, after thinking a great deal by day of the fishy business on which he was embarked, he dreamed that he had fallen overboard and was surrounded by a vast multitude of fishes. Herring, mackarel, mullet, whiting, turbot, cod, haddock, soles, eels, oysters—every fish, great and small, was there, from a whale to a sprat. It was, in fact, a Public Meeting of sea-fish into which Joe had suddenly entered and

just at that very moment the chair (a relic of a sunken vessel) was being taken by the Old Man of the Sea. It was a great annoyance to Joe in his dream to find that there was an Old Man even in this submarine assembly, especially as he seemed to detect in his features a lurking resemblance to his old employer; but what alarmed him still more was the hostile feeling which evidently animated the scaly meeting against himself. Each fish as he sailed round to his seat rolled a glassy eye on Joe with a very sinister expression; but Joe, smart fellow that he was, cocked his eyeglass in return and did his best to stare them out of countenance. Now fish, as we all know, are dumb; so in this Public Meeting there could not, on their part at least, be any delivery of speeches; yet, strange to say, Joe's conscience told him clearly enough what was the object of the meeting and how he himself was concerned with it. These fish were met for the purpose of demanding Home Rule, which he, as Commissioner of Fisheries, had the power of giving them—nay, more, which he had formerly pledged himself to give them (such was the extraordinary conviction by which he was possessed in his nightmare) and had since broken his promise.

Every eye was now turned on Joe, and there was a twinkle on the features of the Old Man of the Sea as he invited him by a courteous gesture to reply to the complaints which, though unspoken, were plainly understood. What was Joe to say, and in what language could he address a company of fishes? Suddenly the happy thought occurred to him that he might address them in Billingsgate; so, leaping on an old fragment of a wreck, he poured out one of his vigorous harangues. The upshot of his speech, as far as it could afterwards be remembered—for, as is the way in dreams, it was rather vague and illogical—was that the Home rule he had once promised them was not what they now demanded, but *Canadian* Home Rule, and that as they were a shoal of rascally, gaping, cold-blooded conspirators, he was now determined not to give them any Home Rule at all. He further managed to recommend them, in choicest Billingsgate, one and all to go about their business—the herrings to be cured, the mackerel to be pickled, the oysters to be scalloped, the cod to be crimped, the lobsters to be potted, and the eels to be skinned alive. Such was Joe's spirited oration; but, if the truth be told, he soon repented of it, for he quickly found that he had got a pretty kettle of fish on his hands. So far from knocking under to Joe's bluster, the fish had one and all got their backs—or rather, their dorsal fins—up, and came round him in vast numbers, with the evident intent of making him food for fishes. In vain poor Joe, who now inwardly cursed himself for his temerity, entreated them to shake fins and be friends again, promising to use his influence with his new employer to obtain for each one of them three acres of good submarine pasturage and a sea-cow. For they would have none of it—nothing but Home Rule would satisfy them, and it seemed even that was now to be preceded by the execution of Joe. For at a signal from the Old Man of the Sea, whose face wore a stern yet half-amused expression, a sword-fish appeared on the scene, while two large eels, even more slippery than Joe himself, began to pinch Joe and lead him towards a block of water-logged timber which lay on the ocean floor. It was a fearful moment; for, as is usual in nightmares, Joe could stir neither hand nor foot, and even his voice failed him as he tried to call aloud to his old pals to come to his assistance. However, just as the sword-fish was about to strike, Joe woke with a cry and found himself once more in his comfortable cabin.

Such was Joe's dream, which he remembered for a long time afterwards, the thing which dwelt longest in his memory being perhaps the sort of pitying half-smile on the face of the Old Man of the Sea when poor Joe, in the extremity of his despair, offered the three acres and a sea-cow as a substitute for the Home Rule which he had first promised and afterwards refused.

H. S. S.

STRIKES.

THROUGHOUT the United Kingdom, and in fact throughout the whole civilised world, in all trades and occupations, there occur at certain indefinite periods what we call strikes. At the present time in many large towns in Great Britain, in some industry or other, master and workmen are at war with each other; while in the United States and on the Continent strikes are of alarming frequency. Mines, manufactories, railways, etc., are at a standstill, and thousands of men are idle. The machinery is in perfect working order, the materials are all at hand for producing wealth, yet owing to these disputes mines and factories are closed, and machinery stands idle, until one side yields to the demands of the other.

Let us look for a moment at the real cause of so much ill-feeling existing between the capitalist and his workmen; how it is that strikes with their accompanying destruction and distress are brought about. In the first place, we are aware that Labour is the source of all wealth, that the class who perform the work of the world are those who produce all luxuries and comforts. One would naturally suppose that those who produce all wealth and all luxuries ought at least to enjoy what they create. Such, however, is by no means the case. All the good things of life are in the hands of another class—a class who perform no useful labour themselves, who do nothing in the interests of the community at large, yet whose whole life is one long round of pleasure, one continual season of idleness and ease. This latter class we find have appropriated to themselves the mines, factories, machinery, shipping, and all the means to which the labour of man can be applied to produce wealth. Now, having got possession of the means of production, they set the workers to labour at them, paying them so much weekly or monthly for their toil. What is returned to them in the shape of wages only realises about a quarter of the full produce of their

toil, the surplus going into the pockets of the employers, as the idle class are termed. Let us suppose that trade is at its very best, the workers are all employed, and in receipt of fairly good wage, there being a great demand for goods of various kinds. All these employers who are engaged in making those articles that are selling so rapidly will naturally endeavour to turn out as much as possible; so as to dispose of them at a profit—to make hay while the sun shines, to use a popular phrase. The consequence is they overstep the mark. So eager are they to take advantage of the revival of trade that they fail to see the catastrophe that awaits them. They find in course of time that the demand decreases, and when their warehouses are full they find they cannot sell at a profit what previously obtained a ready sale in the market. This is termed over-production. Rather than submit to smaller profits, or lose anything by the result of their own folly, they endeavour to make up this deficit by discharging the extra hands engaged during the period of prosperity and by threatening to reduce the wages of the ordinary workers. The workers, of course, sooner than submit to this reduction in their wages, refuse to work at all, and come out on strike, thus giving the employer the opportunity he desired of disposing of his stored-up goods without having to pay wages. It is doubtful, however, whether the employers gain anything in the long-run, because while the workers of various trades are on strike they cannot buy the same quantity of food or clothing they did while in employment, and they being also the consumers as well as the producers, the goods are only disposed of very slowly. When the warehouses are full the employer has little to lose by a strike, but as soon as the goods which fill them are disposed of, then he also begins to feel their effects, but being in no danger of starvation, having capital at his back and still enjoying the ease and luxury he has been accustomed to, he resolutely refuses to take the workers on again at the old rate of wages, waiting patiently until such time as they see fit to accede to his demands. The workers during a strike have to endure great privation and misery, and in most cases stern necessity compels them to give in. True, they are assisted in their struggle by the trade union to which they belong; but owing to the frequency of strikes and the want of a thorough organisation amongst the workers of all trades (each supporting the other against the common enemy), the funds are speedily exhausted if a strike is at all a protracted one. Then they have to rely on the charity of the outside public.

When trade is prosperous the workers often strike for an increase of wages, naturally assuming that as the profits of the employer are far above the average, they as the wealth-producers have a right to a share in them. Even when this is the case in very few instances do the employers give way. However large profits the employing class may be making, we never find that the wages of the workers show a corresponding increase. Employers do, and will so long as they have the power, make it their sole business to get as much work as possible out of their slaves and to give as little as possible in return.

In conclusion, let me sum up the evils that are the cause of strikes, and endeavour to point out a remedy for the poverty and vice prevailing at the present day. The present misery of the workers is due to the existence of a class who have the monopoly of the means of production and who use that monopoly in their own selfish interests at the expense of the workers. Cunning and selfishness are seated over a pinnacle of wealth, while honest labour is rewarded with a crust. Shall this state of affairs continue? All right-minded men answer No, and use their influence to bring about a change for the better. Education is the first duty, however, and that education must be pushed with the greatest vigour and the most unflinching enthusiasm. The workers must be taught that their emancipation can only be brought about by a social revolution—peaceable if possible, forcible if necessary. A revolution that shall institute in the place of capitalism that universal co-operation, where the whole people shall collectively own the land and natural resources—mines, manufactories, shipping, etc.—and shall use them for the common good. Where the whole people shall be the sole producer and distributor, and where all shall work and all receive equal remuneration for their labour.

The prospect before the governing classes at the present moment is not a pleasant one. The winter is almost upon us, and the army of the destitute and unemployed is ever increasing. Who knows but that before the winter is over thousands of men facing starvation will rise desperately, madly, striking aimlessly for bread or vengeance? We see the sturdy miner, working deep down in the bowels of the earth for twelve or fourteen shillings a-week, and we see the evicted tenant-farmer of Ireland standing with bitter curse on his lips gazing on the ruins of his homestead. We see the brutal police, striking down the miserable wretches who meet to ask for work and to parade their misery and wretchedness before the denizens of the West-end. We see the hangman's rope dangling over the heads of our doomed comrades in Chicago; while on the Continent we see the dungeon, the bullet, and the scaffold all at work to kill and torture the heroes of the proletariat. Everywhere the governing classes are with the strong hand trying to stem the rising tide of revolt. We note the brutal laugh and the sneer of respectability, and we discover that already the revolution is upon us: even now the battle of the wage-slaves is begun. Shall this great contest be one of undisciplined revolt, of frightful carnage and fearful vengeance? It is for the governing classes to decide. Let them be wise in time. Let them by the passing of wise and just laws, which shall improve the condition of the people, take away all class distinctions, and granting leisure and opportunity for their physical and intellectual advancement, lead the way to a calm and peaceable revolution in which reason and intellect will show the way to victory.

WILLIAM E. MUSE.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

BLACKBURN ENGINEERS.—The Society of Engineers have issued a manifesto appealing to those on strike for funds to continue the strike.

OVER-PRODUCTION.—It is stated that over 80,000 miners are out of employment in Derbyshire, owing to the over-production of coal.

The Northumberland miners in many cases are only getting three days work a fortnight while seven is a good average.

A movement has been set on foot amongst the drapery assistants in Dublin to bring about the closing of the establishments at an early hour on Saturday.

LEEDS PUDDLERS.—Owing to the depression of trade, a large number of puddlers have been thrown out of employment. As the trade is slack generally, there is every prospect of a hard winter for puddlers in Leeds.

THREATENED STRIKE OF PLASTERERS.—At Edinburgh and Leith the plasterers have made a demand for an advance in wages of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. The employers have unanimously resolved not to grant the advance, and the men are considering the advisability of striking.

THE WEST CUMBERLAND IRON TRADE.—A meeting of the ironmasters of West Cumberland has been held at Whitehaven, at which it was unanimously resolved to reduce the output of the district by blowing out a number of furnaces, and also to make a reduction of 10 per cent. in furnace-men's wages.

STRIKE OF IRONWORKERS.—The workmen employed at the Norfolk Ironworks, Ecclesfield, recently decided to strike against a proposed reduction of 10 per cent. A deputation waited upon the senior partner, and offered to submit to a reduction of 5 per cent. That gentleman, however, said his firm were obliged to press for the full 10 per cent. reduction. These terms the men refused, and shortly after they returned home.

Trade is very bad in Nottingham, and thousands of people are out of work. At the firm of Hill and Company last week, about 150 hands were discharged, mostly girls. Large numbers of men have also been discharged from the different machine works, and most of remainder put on short time. Building and other trades also in bad condition.

NOTTINGHAM CIGAR-MAKERS.—Notice have been given to the women and girls employed at cigar-making at a firm on Derby Road, Nottingham, of 25 per cent. reduction in their wages. A meeting has been held at which deputations from other towns were present, representing the Cigar-maker's Union. The women and girls all joined the union, and declared they would resist the reduction, support being promised from other towns.

THE CHAINMAKERS' STRIKE.—In these times of rabid coercion it is pleasant to note that at the Staffordshire adjourned quarter sessions the Court quashed the conviction of Thomas Homer, president of the Chainmakers' Association, who was recently charged with aiding and abetting in the intimidation of a female operative during the chainmakers' strike at Cradley-Heath, near Dudley. The only penalty left was the imposition of the costs, which Mr. Horner can ill afford to pay. The strike still continues.

SELF-HELP SOCIETIES.—The principle of self-help is taking hold of operative weavers in Burnley to a large extent. Already there are two societies in the town working two sheds, and another is in progress of formation. It appears that no operative can be employed by these companies who is not a shareholder, but outsiders can be shareholders too. The Haggate Company is not an industrial partnership like the Healey Royd and Trinity Societies, but most of the hands at Harle Syke (Haggate Company) are shareholders in the place.

COLLIERY STRIKE.—The men employed underground in Wollaston Colliery, near Nottingham, numbering about five hundred, have struck work. In summer the men submitted to a reduction of 10 per cent., consequent upon a fall in the price of coal, and a fortnight ago they gave notice for an increase of threepence per ton on soft and twopence per ton on hard coal, contending that there had been a return to the old prices. The notice expired on Wednesday, and the company declining to accede to the demand, the men left work, taking their tools. The strike was settled on Saturday by a compromise, most of the men getting an advance and a promise of a further advance all round on the next rise in the price of coal. About 700 took part in the strike.

MINERS' MEETING AT QUARRY BANK.—On Wednesday 9th inst. a meeting of the miners locked out at the Netherend Colliery was held at the Hope and Anchor Inn, Quarry Bank. Mr. B. Winwood, who presided, said the present severe struggle of 19 weeks for the right to live by their labour proved conclusively the great necessity of closer combination among the miners of these districts than existed at the present time, and he hoped this dispute would serve as a lesson in future for the better organisation for the whole of the miners of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire districts. Resolutions were carried unanimously in favour of continuing the strike, and appealing to fellow miners to assist them in the struggle.

IMPENDING STRIKE OF WEAVERS.—At a large and enthusiastic meeting of Colne weavers, held to consider the best steps to be pursued in the impending strike at Mr. Catlow's Garden Vale Shed, Mr. E. Riddihough, who presided, stated that every effort to get this employer to adhere to the Burnley standard list had hitherto failed, and the North-East Lancashire Weavers' Association felt compelled, in the interest of other firms, to take the matter up and compel conformity to the list. In his district, for the same class of goods they were receiving 3s. a week more, and Mr. Catlow was upwards of 15 per cent. under the list. Unless that firm was taken in hand, a general reduction all round would shortly take place. Mr. Holmes said that notices in the shape of a "round robin" had been sent in, which represented 900 looms out of a total of 1,100. Those weavers were practically working six weeks per annum for nothing, compared with the other part of the district, and it was unfair to other manufacturers. Colne generally was behind the list, but it would have to be brought up shortly, and everything depended upon that firm. A resolution was then passed, that to show this employer that they were determined to have the Burnley standard list adhered to, the first payment to the weavers out on strike be made one week in advance, and that each weaver contribute 2d. per loom per week.

NEW PHASE IN SCOTCH IRON TRADE.—RUSSIAN POLES AT GLENGARNOCK.

The *North British Mail* of Nov. 11 contains a report by its special commissioner on this latest phase of the Labour Struggle in Britain, from which the following is extracted:—"Much excitement has been recently created

in the iron manufacturing districts of the West of Scotland by a serious reduction in the wages of the labourers employed, and by the introduction by Messrs. Merry and Cuninghame, at the Glengarnock Steel Works in Ayrshire, of a number of Russian Poles as labourers. Hitherto, notwithstanding the long and serious depression in trade, the current rate of wages has not been seriously tampered with by employers. The difficulty on the part of the men has been to find employment. Of course under such circumstances the general law of supply and demand has, as was to have been expected, exercised its influence, and wages have long since ceased to range at what might be termed the top rate. The most competent men have been constrained to accept the lowest current rates, and the less competent have been left out in the cold. The movement recently made at the Glengarnock Works, however, seems to indicate something much more serious than this. A considerable number of Russian Poles have been introduced into the district and employment found for them at the works, and this has been followed by a general reduction of the labourers wages to the very low figure of 2s. a day. When trade was brisk in the West of Scotland, 3s. and 3s. 6d. a day was the recognised standard wage for a labourer at such works as the Glengarnock Iron Works, and in West Cumberland, which is the newest iron district, these are the current wages even at the present time. Even now the average wage throughout Lanarkshire is not less than 2s. 6d. per day; but this is the first time that we have heard of such low wages as "two shillings a-day" being paid to men employed in such heavy and laborious work, and this is a wage even that we are sorry to think men should be constrained to accept. Food, no doubt, is cheap, and the cost of living perhaps is as low, and it may be even lower, than it has ever been known to be during the present generation. But let our readers but think what twelve shillings a week means to a man who has a wife and a family and a home to keep up. What will be left out of such a pittance after rent and rates and schooling for the children and other outside expenses are provided for. Let any one make the calculation for himself, and see how he would like to be placed in such a predicament. We certainly do not envy the employers who are constrained to pay such wages, and our necessities would indeed be great before we would stoop to call in the aid of the foreigner to impose them upon our fellow-countrymen. No doubt the work which these men have to do requires but little skill or previous training, but it is exhausting work, which necessarily implies that the man who does it must be well fed. As we recently overheard an employer remark in a cynical way: "It is a strong back and a weak brain that we want," and possibly the Russian Pole at Glengarnock is an ideal in this respect.

"Surely Messrs. Merry and Cuninghame might have found cheap enough labour at this time in Scotland without troubling the Russian consul in this city to find it for them. From their own standpoint of view their conduct cannot be consistently defended. They are Tories in politics, and ardent supporters of all that Toryism implies. They would most cordially support any measure that might be proposed to impose a tax upon the product of foreign labour, even although it increased the cost of the bread which their workpeople earn by the sweat of their brow; but they claim for themselves the right to import that labour free so that they may maintain wages at starvation point here. The consistency of such a position will not stand discussion, but we would ask is it just? is it honest? should it be tolerated?"

"There is more than the pecuniary profits of Messrs. Merry and Cuninghame at issue. The health and general interests of the whole community are involved, and the question is, are they to be reckoned of no weight in the balance as against the saving of a shilling a-day which this firm will effect, perhaps, on two or three score of men? The danger of infection from such a class of people as these Russian Poles unfortunately is no illusion, and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, Messrs. Merry and Cuninghame have done nothing to protect the people of Kilbirnie against it. Then, in the event of these men breaking down in health or being discharged from their employment, who, then, is to bear the burden? The ratepayers have a right to ask this question, for, failing Messrs. Merry and Cuninghame, it will undoubtedly fall upon them.

"It is hard to see what motive this firm can have in resorting to a step of this kind, unless it be that of pure greed. There has been no dispute with their workpeople, and there has been no unreasonable demand made by the latter which would have served as an excuse for the importation of foreign labour of this low class. The public certainly will expect some explanation from Messrs. Merry and Cuninghame respecting this matter, and we think they have a right to it."

AMERICA.

On Saturday October 29 the New York Knights of Labour assembled in thousands in Union Square to show, as the call declared, "that there is still manhood enough left in the industrial heart of the nation to enter a vigorous protest against the execution of the seven men in Chicago whose only crime was love for their fellow men." James E. Quinn of District Assembly 49 touched the keynote of the meeting by saying, "that while in the past we working men have relied upon our ballots to protect our liberties, we find to-day that the ballot-box cannot be relied upon to protect us." The proceedings were most enthusiastic, and this was as yet the most radical utterance of Organised Labour. Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting with the words, "If necessary we must fight in defence of our principles."

How cowardly and base the police are acting may be seen from the following extract from the *New York Herald*: "Mrs. Parsons (the wife of one of the seven) was selling to-day in the streets of Chicago General Trumbull's speech to Governor Oglesby on behalf of the Anarchists. She appeared thin and haggard, and extended the pamphlet, which she sold for 5 cents, to passers-by with pleading eyes and an eager manner. A crowd quickly collected and the sale went on rapidly until a big policeman came along and told her to move on. There was none of the old defiance, not a sign of the wild, untamed lioness about the faithful wife of the man now standing beneath the shadow of death. A year ago Mrs. Parsons would have turned on the blue-coated minister of despotism, she would have castigated him with fierce invective. To-day she obeyed the by no means courteous order to 'move on,' and hastened to a stairway, which she ascended and sank exhausted from the rapidity of her flight. 'Of course they must keep the streets clear,' she explained; 'I wish to aid them all I can'; and then the wretched woman, who firmly believes she will be a widow next Friday, smiled in a ghastly way."

LIST OF STRIKES FOR OCTOBER.

Number of strikers to Oct. 21	31,331
Philadelphia, Pa.—stove-molders and kettle-makers, against reduction of wages and for the discharge of foreman, Oct. 25	60
Harrison, N. J. (East Newark)—wire-workers, against system of fining, Oct. 20	15
Findlay, Ohio—edge-tool grinders, against reduction of wages	—

Pittsburgh, Pa.—boys in glassworks, for increase of wages	...	...	...	—
Scottsdale, Pa.—coke-drawers, against loss of time, Oct. 27	...	...	...	—
New York city—varnishers, for increase of wages	...	...	...	—
Total known for October 1 to 28	...	...	...	13,406

THE CONSPIRACY LAW OF ILLINOIS.

ENCLOSED is a copy of the present Conspiracy Law of Illinois, in which State is the city of Chicago, where the seven Anarchists are condemned to be hanged. It was passed after the Haymarket affair—indeed, if it had been in existence then there would not have been so much legal delay possible—but it illustrates the unreasoning panic in Chicago better than would the Act under which they were condemned, as public excitement was at its height when the present law was introduced and passed. Use it if you can in the cause of liberty. Study will show its atrocity.

JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON.

New York, October 29.

An Act entitled "An Act to further define Conspiracy and to Punish the same, and Crimes committed in pursuance thereof, and relating to the Rule of Evidence."

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That if two or more persons shall conspire to do an unlawful act, dangerous in its character to human life or to person or property, or if its accomplishment will necessarily or probably require the use of force and violence, which may result in the taking of human life or injury to person or property, every party to such conspiracy shall be held criminally liable for whatever offence any one or more of his co-conspirators shall commit in furtherance of the common design.

Sec. 2. If any person shall, by speaking to any public or private assemblage of people, or in any public place, or shall by writing, printing, or publishing, or by causing to be written, printed, published, or circulated, any written or printed matter, advise, encourage, aid, abet, or incite a local revolution, or the overthrowing or destruction of the existing order of society by force or violence, or the resistance to and destruction of the lawful power and authority of the legal authorities of this State, or of any of the towns, cities or counties of this State, or resistance to the same, by force and violence, or by any of the means aforesaid shall advise, abet, encourage or incite the disturbance of the public peace, and by such disturbance attempt at revolution or destruction of public order shall thereafter ensue, and human life is taken or any person is injured, or property is destroyed by any person or by any of the means employed to carry into effect the purposes so advised, encouraged, aided, abetted or incited as aforesaid, every person so aiding, advising, encouraging, abetting or inciting the same shall be deemed as having conspired with the person or persons who actually commit the crime, and shall be deemed a principal in the perpetration of the same and be punished accordingly: and it shall not be necessary for the prosecution to show that the speaking was heard or the written or printed matter aforesaid was read or communicated to the person or persons actually committing the crime, if such speaking, writing, printing or publishing is shown to have been done in a public manner within this State.

Sec. 3. If two or more persons conspire to overthrow the existing order of society by force or violence, or to bring about a local revolution by force, or to destroy or resist and overcome the legal authorities of the State or of any county, city or town thereof, and a human being is killed or person injured, or property destroyed, by any of the persons engaged in such conspiracy, or by any one who may participate with them in the unlawful design and purpose, in furtherance of the object of such conspiracy, then all persons who may have conspired together as aforesaid, together with all persons who may actively participate in carrying into effect their common design, shall be deemed guilty of the crime committed by any one or more of such persons so conspiring or acting with such conspirators in the common design, and shall be punished accordingly; notwithstanding the time and place for the bringing about such revolution or overthrowing of public order, or the destruction or overcoming of such authorities, had not been definitely agreed upon by such conspirators, but was left to the exigencies of the time, or the judgment of co-conspirators or some one or more of them.

Sec. 4. Hereafter it shall not be necessary in order to establish a conspiracy as aforesaid to prove that the parties charged ever came together and entered into any agreement, combination or arrangement to accomplish a criminal or unlawful purpose, but it shall be sufficient if it appears that the parties charged were actually pursuing, in concert, the unlawful purpose, whether acting separately or together, at the same or different times, by the same or different means, providing that the acts of each were knowingly tending to the same unlawful result.

Sec. 5. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as repealing by implication or otherwise any law now in force in this State.

Approved June 15, 1887.

The Bermondsey Radical who wrote to Mr. Gladstone was doubtless disappointed with the answer, but it was very simple of him to be so. The question of the rights of the people is not a party matter, and therefore Mr. Gladstone can pay no attention to it. Nevertheless, the answer is useful; and there is even a glimmer of honesty about it, since Mr. Gladstone really says in it that if he were in the same position as the present Government is, he would do pretty much the same, *i.e.*, put down public meetings when they were inconvenient to "Society." Radicals might take note of this!—W. M.

A comrade forwards us an anonymous postcard received by him, with a request that we should notice it. The sneaking cad who writes it has revealed himself more clearly than we could paint him. After abusing one of the unemployed speakers, whom he calls "a rascally thief," he says: "That is just the sort of man who becomes 'unemployed' and a hero of the Socialist worship; and it is to allow him and those like him to preach theft and rapine and incendiarism and murder, and the destruction of all law and order and decency, in the hope of reducing society to the old barbarian level of Troglodyte Man, that we are to give up our parks, our squares, our streets, our comfort and our safety. That is your gospel; it is not that of *nous autres*. I would give such ruffians the benefit of the Nordenfett gun; and if a few stray bullets knocked about the inside of 2 Northumberland Street, Strand, I should not cry my eyes out." The editor of the *P. M. G.* will doubtless be as proud as is our comrade to have incurred such gentlemanly wrath.—S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Will you kindly answer the subjoined questions in the next issue of your paper? I am preparing a paper on "Socialism Practically Considered," as you will see by enclosed card. An answer to my inquiries will materially assist me in the formation of a correct judgment on the issues involved:—

1. What is Socialism?
2. Its aim and object?
3. How to be attained?

Also quote a work that would give the information I require?—I am, etc.,
78A, Park Street, N.W., Nov. 9th.
T H. S.

[The above is a genuine example of a class of letter we are constantly receiving. We do not wish to discourage any enquirer, hostile or otherwise, but must point out that it is hopeless to attempt to master a subject like Socialism in a few days, and then to get up and explain it all! Those of us who have spent years in the study of the social problem, and who find every day new fields for study and research, are aghast sometimes at the unreasoning audacity of those who expect to deal with Socialism as lightly as a juggler with a handkerchief, and who expect the whole matter to be pressed into three small pills to be swallowed at a gulp! Knowledge, even on Socialism, must be *learned* to be of use, and not taken ready-made. Grönlund's 'Co-operative Commonwealth' (Sonnenschein, 2s.), and Mrs. Besant's 'Essays on Socialism' (Freethought Publishing Company, 2s. 6d.) may be recommended to a beginner.—Ed.]

THE CHICAGO MARTYRS.

The Glasgow Branch passed unanimously on Sunday evening a resolution recording admiration of the noble and heroic behaviour of their Chicago comrades, Spies, Parsons, Engels, and Fischer, in the face of death; their detestation of the brutal legal system by which they and their comrades were most unjustly condemned, and expressing the deepest sympathy with the relatives and friends of these brave martyrs in the Cause of the People. Resolutions of a similar nature were also carried at a great number of other meetings in all parts of the country.

General W. H. Parsons, a brother of our murdered comrade, gave the following facts concerning him to a reporter of an American paper recently:

"My brother was born in Montgomery county, Alabama, June 20, 1848, and therefore in his fortieth year. His grandfather was a major-general in the Revolutionary war, and his grand-uncle lost an arm at the battle of Bunker Hill. At twelve years of age my brother entered the Galveston *News* office, but on the breaking out of the war, at the age of thirteen, he joined a Confederate company, the Lone Star Grays, participating in many actions, and assisting in the capture of General Twiggs. He later became a member of my brigade and an excellent cavalry scout, serving under me till the war ended, when he was seventeen years of age. He edited the *Waco, Texas, Spectator* in 1868, and was married to a talented and beautiful Mexican lady in 1872, at Austin, Texas. Two children are the result of their union. In 1876 he was elected secretary of the Texas Senate, and the following year was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue. Going to Chicago in 1883, he resumed his trade as compositor on the *Times*, and in 1886 joined the Socialists. He has been nominated for alderman three times, for Congress twice and for sheriff and county clerk once each."

This is one of the "wretches" over whose untimely fate the cruel cowardly London *Chronicle* and its capitalist contemporaries are now gloating. B.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

Resolutions of Council.

(1) "That this meeting of the Council of the Socialist League condemns the action of Sir Charles Warren in ordering the police to prevent peaceable citizens from meeting in a public place in every way suited for meetings, and for ordering them to attack the said citizens while passing through the streets in a peaceable errand as if they were in an enemy's country, and also for calling out the military, and in all ways behaving as if London were in a state of siege."

(2) "That this meeting of the Council of the Socialist League expresses deep sympathy with the relatives of the Chicago martyrs in their bereavement, and pledges itself to do all in its power to make a substantial sign of that sympathy."

Propaganda Fund.—C. W. Mowbray, 6d.

Mowbray Testimonial Fund.—Announced up to October 29, £5, 19s. 6d. Received November 7—E. Beare, 1s. T. Morley, 1s. A. T. Sutton, 1s. 6d. A. Houghton, 10s. F. Kahler, 2s. F. C. Slaughter, 12s. H. Samuels, 1s.—A. T. SUTTON and F. C. SLAUGHTER, Secs.

Socialist Defence Association.—Geo. Porter, 5s. Isabella Sandheim, 10s.

Fund for the Provision of Wives and Families of the Martyred Anarchists.

Under this heading we shall be pleased to acknowledge donations for the above object.
D. Nicoll, 2s. Jenny Morris, 10s. W. Morris, £1.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Annie Cobden-Sanderson, donation, £2, 2s. *Weekly Subscriptions*—K. F., 1s. C. J. F., 2s. Oxford Branch, 2s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d. W. B., 6d. PH. W., Treasurer, Nov. 15.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday, Nov. 10th, W. H. Utley lectured on "Evolution of Society." Good discussion and two new members elected. Sunday morning meeting at St. Pancras Arches addressed by Wardle, Springfield, and Dalziel. Several promised to join branch.—T. J. D.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Nov. 9th, no meeting. Sunday evening, an indignation meeting was held on Green, when speeches were made protesting against the murderous and brutal action of the "guinea-a-week bullies" on unarmed and peaceable men and women. In hall (Annie Besant in chair) George Bernard Shaw lectured to large audience on "Practical Socialism." Good discussion and reply from lecturer followed.—B.

FULHAM.—On Sunday, Nov. 13th, large meeting addressed by Graham Wallas, Mahony, and Tochatti. Fair sale of *Commonweal*. 5s. 2d. collected and another member made.—S. B. G.

HOXTON.—Meetings well attended Thursday evening and Sunday morning. On Sunday evening, H. H. Sparling lectured on "Socialism, its Probable Effect on Life." Interesting discussion. A vote of condolence with the families of the murdered heroes of Chicago carried with enthusiasm at close, and 4s. collected for Chicago Fund.—C. J. Y.

MITCHAM.—Meeting on Fair Green addressed by Eden and Kitz. Our meetings (despite the inclement weather) still increase, as does also the attendance of police. A special meeting will shortly be convened with supper for these worthies to regale themselves upon, as a reward for their exertions in protecting law and order.—R. C.

GLASGOW.—On Thursday evening, the first meeting of the discussion class was held. Comrade Adams opened a debate on the "Eight Hours Working-day," and demonstrated that no reduction of the hours of labour would permanently benefit the wage-earners. On Saturday, a good meeting was held at Cambuslang. Glasier and Downie were the speakers, and were received with the good-will that is always accorded to our comrades here. Sunday at 2 p.m., Glasier, Pollock, and Gilbert addressed a large and attentive audience in Infirmary Square. Our usual meeting at Paisley Road Toll was very successful, Glasier and Pollock being the speakers, and were listened to with great attention. At 7 p.m., in our hall, at 8, Watson Street, Mavor delivered an interesting lecture on the "Working of the Commercial System." Good discussion followed. Good sale of *Commonweal*.—H.

LEICESTER.—Nov. 4th, a lecture on "Malthusianism," given by Robson. Several new members joined. At the Y. M. Institute in connection with the Victoria Road Church, a paper read on 8th. "Is the Socialistic Tendency of Modern Legislation likely to prove beneficial to the English Nation." Discussion followed, remarkable for the advanced opinions expressed. Mr. Daniells nobly vindicated the justice of our propaganda. Amongst the speakers were the Rev. Greenough, L.L.D., M.A., Mr. Alderman Bennett, and many of the "hupper ten."—J. P.

LEEDS.—Sunday morning, Braithwaite, Paylor, Maguire, and Sollitt addressed meeting in Vicar's Croft. In evening question of "Technical Education" discussed at our rooms.—T. P.

NORWICH.—Meeting at Cawston, a village about 12 miles from Norwich, by Mowbray and Houghton; also in Market Place and Agricultural Hall Plain, Mowbray and Darley speakers; our banners draped in black as a token of respect for Chicago comrades. Papers sold well, and good collections made at all our meetings. On Monday 7th, social gathering held in Gordon Hall to present Mowbray with a purse of seven guineas to enable him to start at his trade in Norwich. Very enjoyable evening spent. A string band is forming in connection with our branch; five members already joined. First rehearsal of 'Nupkins' on Tuesday next, Nov. 14th. Parker lectured, assisted by Mowbray, in Gordon Hall on "The Murder of Anarchists in Chicago, and the Lessons of it."—M.

NOTTINGHAM.—At club Saturday night, visit received from Rev. S. D. Headlam, who held a general conversation with members on the unemployed. Sunday morning he lectured in Secular Hall to crowded audience on "Christian Socialism." Lecture well received, slight opposition sufficiently answered by lecturer. Collection made for the Socialist Defence Fund, £1 6s. 11d. At a late meeting of the branch on Sunday night, on receiving the news of the Trafalgar Square conflict, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—(1) "This meeting strongly condemns the suppression of public meetings in Trafalgar Square, and is of opinion that the Home Secretary and the Chief Commissioner of Police are responsible for the injuries inflicted upon peaceful citizens by the police, and demands their immediate resignation of the offices they have proved themselves to be incompetent to fill." (2) "This meeting expresses its full concurrence with the efforts that have been made to maintain the rights of public meeting in Trafalgar Square, a place which is national property, and trusts that these efforts will be repeated until successful, and that if necessary deputations will be summoned from all parts of the country to support the citizens of London in their opposition to tyranny and oppression."—A. M'C.

WALSALL.—Donald spoke here Saturday evening to large audience. Meetings also held Sunday and Monday by Sanders.—J. T. D.

DUBLIN.—At the Saturday Club, Nov. 12th, the relative merits of "Free or Fair Trade" from a Socialistic standpoint were discussed by J. B. Killen, Brown, and Fitzpatrick, who also delivered a powerful condemnation of the judicial murder of the four Anarchists in Chicago.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.—Henderson spoke during week at Carrow, Yarmouth; Norwich, on St. George's Plain and Haymarket, on Saturday. Two good meetings held in Market Sunday, and one at Ber Street. At Yarmouth the meeting assumed the proportions of a demonstration, and most effectually silenced the Tory roughs who raised the late disturbances.—A.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

EDINBURGH.—Sunday evening, Tuke read paper on "Individualism" at usual meeting-place. As paper was short, J. N. Smith read translation of debate held at New York between Henry George and Schevitch.

Larger audience than usual listened with great attention to both papers. Good collection.—C. W. T.

ABERDEEN.—Further meetings addressed by Mahon. On Monday night business meeting held, and a programme for six weeks arranged.

WOODSIDE.—Mahon addressed three meetings here on Tuesday. At Grandholm Works dinner-hour, in the open-air 7 p.m., and in St. Katherine's Hall at 8. Barrow and Leatham spoke at night. Enough names given in to form branch.

MONTROSE.—Mahon addressed a second meeting here in the Temperance Hall on 9th. Audience very sympathetic and attentive. Some names for branch given; good deal of literature sold.

ARBROATH.—Mahon spoke at Tower Nook on 10th, and to crowded indoor meeting same evening. Several added to branch.

CARNOUSTIE.—Mahon lectured on "How to Realise Socialism" on 11th. Good sale of literature, collection, and several new members.

DUNDEE.—Branch is now progressing favourably. Saturday and Sunday four meetings held, at which Mahon, Duncan, Weksleder, Carr, Simpson, and Grainger spoke. Sunday night, Mahon's lecture on "The Rise and Progress of Socialism" was well attended. Number of new members enrolled, and good sale of literature effected. Next Sunday our members class begins.—J. C.

Notice to Branches of the S.L.L.L.

Branches desiring literature apply to D. K. Mackenzie, librarian, 163 Pleasance, Edinburgh.

North of England Socialist Federation.

A very interesting report of a week's campaign in Northumberland, by the Rev. John Glasse, of Edinburgh, who are reluctantly compelled to hold over by extreme pressure of space and time.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Nov. 17, at 8.30, T. E. Wardle, "Society: Present and Future." Nov. 24, at 7.30, business meeting; at 8.30, lecture by Edward Carpenter, "Peasant Life in Italy."

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday November 20, at 8.30, W. Morris, "The Coming Society." Wednesday 23, at 8.30, H. H. Sparling, "Wilful Waste and Woful Want."

Fulham.—Committee meets Wednesday evenings, 8 o'clock, at 4 Werley Avenue, Dawes Rd., Fulham. On Sunday 20th Turner will lecture.

Hammersmith.—KelmScott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday November 20, at 8 p.m. A. C. Varley, "Socialistic Co-operation."

Hoxton (L.E.L.).—Grand Concert and Draw will be held at 13 Farringdon Road on Saturday evening, December 10, to raise a fund for the purpose of forming an East-end Socialist Club. Members of other eastern branches are invited to co-operate. Circulars will be issued in a few days. Concert and draw committee meeting on Saturday at 8.30, at 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road. Special members' meeting to further discuss this matter at *Commonweal* Office on Tuesday Nov. 22, at 8.30.

Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11. Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business Meeting every Thursday at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after Business Meeting.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—James Leatham, secy., 15 St. Nicholas Street.

Arbroath (Scot. Sect.).—High Street Hall. Meeting Friday evenings. W. Smith, 12 Maule St., secy. Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.

Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Secretary *pro tem.*, D. M'Dougal, East Path.

Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sect.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec Dublin.—Saturday Club, Central Hall, 12 Westmorland Street, every Saturday at 8 p.m. Free debates on Social and Political subjects. All friends invited.

Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Political Economy class, 11 a.m. Lecture at 6.30.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. 'Das Kapital' class every Thursday at 7.30. Members requested to pay weekly subscriptions on that night. Sunday evening, Trades Hall, High St., J. L. Mahon *Galashies* (Scot. Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec. Gallatoun and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Glasgow.—34 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Music and Shorthand Classes, Tuesday at 8. Choir Practice, Wednesday at 8. Discussion Class, Thursdays at 8 (on 24th Moffat will open a debate on "Objections to Socialism").—In the Hall, 8 Watson Street, Gallowgate, on Sunday Nov. 20, at 6.30, R. M'Ghee, "Land Restoration."

Hamilton.—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Thursday, 7.30. Leeds.—17 Chesham St., Sweet St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m. On Sunday November 20, at 7.30, Debate, "Individualism v. Socialism." *Ind.*, J. S. Fisher (Party of Individual Liberty); *Soc.*, T. Maguire.

Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8. Lochgelly (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (*pro tem.*), John Greig and Hugh Cotway, The Square.

Norwich.—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures every Sunday at 8. Business Meeting Monday at 8.30.

Nottingham.—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.

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

Walsall.—Temperance Hall. Meets every Monday. West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 20.

- 9.30...Starch GreenHammersmith Branch
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and Ball.....
11.30...Hoxton Ch., Pitfield St....Mainwaring & Davis
11.30...Kingsland GreenBarker
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road.....The Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenJ. J. Allman
11.30...Regent's ParkNicoll
11.30...St. Pancras ArchesDalziel & Wardle
11.30...Walham Green.....The Branch
3 ...Hyde Park
7 ...Stamford HillGraham
7 ...Clerkenwell GreenLaine

Wednesday.

- 8 ...Broadway, London Fields.....Cores

Thursday.

- 8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.....Brookes

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—St. George's Cross: Sunday, 1 p.m.—Glasier and Pollock.

Paisley Road Toll: Sunday, 4.30.—Bulloch and Pollock.

Hamilton: Saturday, at 6 p.m.—Glasier and Adams.

Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, 11 a.m.

Norwich Branch.—Sunday: Market Place at 3; Agricultural Hall Plain at 7.

Dereham.—Every Wednesday, Market Place at 7.

North of England Socialist Federation.

BRANCHES AND SECRETARIES.

Annitsford.—F. Rivett, Dudley Colliery.

Backworth.—W. Maddison, C. Pit.

Consett.—J. Walton, Medonsby Road.

Blyth.—Martin Mack, 4 Back Marlow Street.

South Shields.—F. Dick, 139 Marsden Street, West.

North Shields.—J. T. Harrison, 24 Queen Street.

East Holywell.—J. M'Lean, Top Row, Bates's Cottages.

West Holywell.—F. M'Carroll, West Holywell.

Seaton Delaval.—W. Day, Seaton Delaval.

Seghill.—Wm. Whalley, New Square.

M. Mack, Gen. Sec., 4 Back Marlow Street, Blyth.

HOXTON, Globe Coffee House, 227 High Street.—Mrs. Annie Besant (Fabian) lectures for the L.E.L. on Wednesday November 30, at 8.30—subject, "The only Path to Freedom for Labour."

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS, Commonwealth Café, Scotland Street, Sheffield.—Discussions or Lectures every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Free.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.—Yarmouth—Thursday, on the Quay, at 7.30. Carrow—Friday, at 1.30.

St. Faith's—Sunday, on the Green, 3.30. Norwich—St. George's Plain, Saturday, at 1.15; Haymarket, Saturday, at 8; Market Place, Sunday at 11 and 8.

Y. M. LITERARY AND TRAINING SOCIETY, Mornington Chapel, Hampstead Road, N.W.—Monday Nov. 28, T. Shingles, "Socialism Practically Considered," 8 pm.

WEST MARYLEBONE WORKING MEN'S CLUB (S.D.F.), 123a Church Street, Edgware Road, W.—Sunday Nov. 20, at 8 p.m., H. A. Barker (S.L.), "The Aims of Socialists."

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday November 20, at 3.30 p.m. prompt.

NUPKINS AWAKENED.

On Saturday December 3rd the above Dramatic Sketch will be performed, IN AID OF "THE PRISONERS' DEFENCE FUND."

Chants for Socialists. By William Morris. . 1d.

Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades' Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Binning (London Society of Compositors). 1d.

Socialism on its Defence. A REPLY TO PROFESSOR FLINT. 1d.

The Rights of Labour according to John Ruskin. By Thomas Barclay. 1d

The Manifesto of the Socialist League. Annotated by E. Belfort Bax and William Morris. An exposition of the principles on which the League is founded. 1d.