

# THE COMMONWEAL

## The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 5.—No. 201.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1889.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

### NOTES ON NEWS.

A CURIOUS article in the *Pall Mall Gazette* is a good example of how far the force of conventional ignorance can go. It is in praise of advertisements, and its writer actually says, and I suppose really does think, that advertisements cheapen wares! Says he, "The morning cup of cocoa pays for the morning newspaper," thinking apparently that the said cocoa is cheapened by its having to bear its share of the advertising-rag, differentiated by this that or the other political humbug, which we are pleased to call a newspaper.

Did it ever occur to this very droll writer that the said advertising sheet cost labour, and that that labour might have been employed in producing things useful to the citizens, instead of puffing the private adventure of some capitalist which has for its object the robbing of anyone who will allow himself to be robbed?

An advertisement is, in short, an act of war, and cheapens wares just as much as a battery trampling down a wheatfield cheapens bread. If the *Pall Mall Gazette* in its enthusiasm for advertisement, and the rotten rags called newspapers, would give us the statistics of advertising of all kinds, say in the form of the "Puffer's Almanack," it would earn my eternal gratitude.

Another *Pall Mall* writer (or perhaps the same) has a rapturous article on the subject of the Eiffel Tower, and hopes we shall have several in London. Now as to its beauty (?) tastes differ, but I shall not allow myself to be bullied by Philistia into silence even on that point; so I say that it appeared to me a hellish piece of ugliness; but let that pass. But what is the meaning or use of it? Its use is simply to catch francs. All the labour of the thousands of workmen employed on it has been devoted to the erection of a franc-catching trap; a piece of brigandage on the public.

That teacher of the public, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, ought to be able to see that these Eiffel Towers, advertisements, and the rest of it, are on one side of them mere acts of war of the predatory classes, the capitalists; and on the other bonfires wherewith to burn up the energies of the working-men, to waste their labour as much as if it had never been; to have fed, clothed, and housed the men who built the Eiffel Tower without providing them with "employment" would have been comparatively an act of wisdom. This is the kind of folly, to pay for which the lives of the workers are worn away in shame without their ever having had a day's real pleasure. Do not let us tolerate for a single moment any act of the accursed thing—Capitalism.

W. M.

To see how Socialism grows in favour it is only necessary to glance down any club lecture-list, or over the pages of any newspaper. I do not often see the *Weekly Budget*, nor I suppose do many readers of the *Commonweal*, but all the same it has an enormous circulation, mostly in country districts, so that it is interesting to note what a friendly attitude the editor assumes towards a mild (very mild!) kind of Socialism. The people must be more converted than some of us fancy when a firmly-established story paper such as this finds it necessary to progress in our direction.

A writer in the *Twentieth Century* has been "busting up" Henry George's reputation for originality by showing that 'Progress and Poverty' is only an old work by Patrick Edward Dove, worked over, re-written, and dressed in garments of more modern cut. To this Mr. George has replied in his own paper, but up to the present to no great effect. Of course, it does not affect the value of his book in the least that he took so much of it from another without acknowledgment, but it throws the same kind of light on his own character that his treatment of Socialists and others has done.

The Rev. T. W. Lewis, who describes himself as "a humble Methodist preacher, living and working to glorify God and do good to humanity," sends an article to the *New York Independent*, defending the action of the whites in killing twenty-seven Negroes in the State of Mississippi recently. He says, "The Anglo Saxon was born to rule in this Southern country." And again:

"I wish to say, in conclusion, that I am a true friend of the Negro. I preach to them. I believe they have immortal souls and are capable of advancement in morals as well as in mental culture. I preach a gospel of peace and love. . . . If we let the Negro alone, let him send his children to school, attend his church, see that he is paid for his work and not tampered with by designing white men, he is a peaceable citizen. But school him in politics, arouse his blood against the white people among whom he lives, and you make a fool of him. Yes; worse than a fool. You make him a dangerous element in society."

Whereupon comrade Pentecost in *Twentieth Century* comments in this fashion:

"This is the gospel of peace and love that is preached everywhere to working-men; for the Negro is the working-man of the South. Let him alone in his ignorance; let him send his children to school long enough to read and write a little; let him go to church, where he will be taught the virtues of economy and contentment in poverty; pay him for his work about one-fourth of what his work is worth; but do not train him in the art of getting his rights, do not arouse his mind, his blood, against his oppressors. If you do, you make him a dangerous element in society, which means, dangerous to the rich criminals, for whose benefit society is, at present, organised. This is the gospel that is preached by a large number of 'humble Methodist preachers, living and working to glorify' the God of the rich, and do good to the class that hires them to preach 'peace and love' to the poor; that is, that the poor should be peaceful and loving toward the rich."

Another "little war" is looming in the distance. There is one part of New Zealand known as the Uriwera country, where the Maories have remained isolated in their mountain fastnesses, refusing all contact with civilisation, adhering to their old customs and superstitions, and leading the life that their ancestors led before the arrival of Captain Cook. Gold is known to exist in the Uriwera country, and, if an attempt to "open it up" which is about to be made, is successful, the place will be soon rushed by crowds of intending diggers. Conflicts between the whites and Maories will then be inevitable; and the usual result inevitable also.

There has lately been going the round of the papers an amusing and true story at the expense of the Hamburg police. When the embassy from the Sultan of Zanzibar was in the city the African diplomats lodged in the Hamburger Hof, whose landlord, in honour of his guests, hoisted the red flag of Zanzibar upon the roof of his hotel. To a German policeman the sight of a red flag is more engaging than it is supposed to be to a bull. The astonished chief of police marched into the hotel and asked the landlord what the — he meant by unfurling the revolutionary symbol in so conspicuous a place. The landlord explained that the official flag of the African monarch was unfortunately the exact double of the official flag of the European anti-monarchical party; and though he danced with rage, the professional defender of law'n' order could only glare helplessly at the offending flag which waved so tauntingly in front of him.

Competition is killing itself all round, and combination—not yet for the common benefit—is taking its place. The publishing house of "George Routledge and Sons" is to be turned at once into a Limited Liability Company. But a more important change is under discussion. This is an amalgamation of the future Routledge and Co. with Messrs. Warne and Messrs. Ward, Lock, and Co. If this should really come about, it will be a very powerful combination. A second scheme is also talked of, in which three other well-known publishing houses are interested; Messrs. Kegan Paul and Co., Messrs. Trübner, and Mr. Redway. These rumours may be incorrect or premature, but they are certainly well founded, and show which way the current sets.

S,

## A LONG-DELAYED REPLY.

*Unity*, the organ of the leading Friendly Societies, in its October number had some friendly notes upon our reply to its former attack upon Socialists, which should have been answered before, but one thing and another has kept us from dealing with them as they deserve. This we are all the more sorry for, as the *Commonweal* was spoken of in a very complimentary way.

First of all, *Unity* says that we have not "attempted to parry the attack" which it made upon us for quarrelling and the like. Well! as to that, we sometimes quarrel, of course, as all men do, and never pretend otherwise. It is deplorable, no doubt, but very natural under existing circumstances. Really, our friend should see that our anxiety to alter the system under which we live is not because we are perfect, but because we want a chance of becoming so.

Another part of the charge was, that we took part in labour troubles without all of us being workmen. That we fully admitted and do admit, but where is the harm of it when all is said? It is a pity, perhaps, that workmen cannot wholly rely on themselves for their own emancipation, but it is not a pity that members of the privileged class should cast aside their privileges and step down to fight for the common good.

*Unity* thinks it scored against us as we did not reply more fully. We have said what seems to us necessary, but if more is needed we shall be glad to be told so.

And now for the answer to our "assault." "Our Socialistic friend," says *Unity*, "finds fault with Friendly Societies because they have not publicly taken part and identified themselves with the great strike, and, further, with us, for not having expressed in these columns our sympathy with the poor dockers. But surely the writer ought to know that trade disputes have nothing directly to do with Friendly Societies as bodies." Nothing to do directly, at least as far as their primary objects are concerned, we know that well enough. But the article goes on to say that: "The affiliations are mainly composed of the working-classes," (who have presumably nothing directly to do with wage-disputes!) "and we have no reason to believe that they, as individuals, have gathered their unspotted skirts around them, and passed by on the other side." Our charge was against them as organisations. What did they do?

"As bodies, they have no power to vote their money to other than specified purposes; and we know that the members have subscribed, as we ourselves have done, though the names do not appear in bold print. So far from 'passing by on the other side,' we have used both money and influence on behalf of the starving poor." All this may be true; we hope for the credit of human nature that it is. But is money everything? Our friend confesses that it is not, by coupling it with "influence." But here we would ask again, What influence was exerted? and where? and when? A no doubt estimable but comparatively unknown private person probably exerted his personal influence on the right side—but as editor of *Unity* he said nothing—at a time when silence could bear but one construction. And the same behaviour on the part of Friendly Societies as a whole was what we complained of. They had no power, it is said, to vote their funds for other than specific purposes. Granted; but need that have prevented them from voting that a collection be taken up at each meeting? Need the inability to vote money from their funds have prevented their voting sympathy? To place their organised influence, the assurance of their support, behind the struggling dockers, to let the public know that they, the more fortunate of the workers, were on the side of their weaker brethren—was this impossible?

"We rejoice in the victory that the dockers have achieved." Glad to hear that, anyway. "The battle was well fought and nobly won; and we admire John Burns for his active and self-denying labours." Sorry you didn't make it easier for him! "But Burns preached simple justice, and that was the reason he received support." What is "justice," friend? "If, instead, he had preached Socialism pure and simple, as we understand it—and we must confess that, although we have been studying the subject for some time, we are still somewhat mystified—the influence he would have been able to exert would have been altogether different. People subscribed for fairer wages for the oppressed poor—not for social upheaval." But they didn't subscribe until the "social upheaval" was taking place. On our back page will be found a statement of our principles, which may help to clear *Unity's* ideas of what Socialism is. It may be seen from that statement that we are concerned not so much with "fairer" wages as with fair wages—otherwise, that the full product of labour should go to the labourer. If that is not "simple justice," what is?

*Unity* goes on to say: "Well, we guess we are on the right side of the labour battle, if it means paying a fair day's wage for a fair day's work" (see questions above), "and we wish all our brethren would endorse the sentiment." But they don't, and won't so long as they are allowed to think that the whole duty of man is to "benefit the community at large, by relieving the rates, and by making provision for disasters which would otherwise entail suffering on relatives and friends."

Next, complains *Unity*, "our contemporary objects to the Friendly Societies having lots of money. The seven millions sterling possessed by the Oddfellows, for instance, is apparently an eyesore to the Socialist. Why, we don't quite see." Here, again, our friend is confused. What we objected to was not the possession of so much money, but the use made of it—putting it out at interest, deriving revenue from unpaid labour. "Now, in conclusion, we should like to ask,

Does the Socialist really object to the principles upon which affiliations are founded, and the work which is carried on upon those principles? Are Socialists wanting to fight Friendly Societies, Trade Unions, and everybody? If so, what are their principles? and How do they want to apply them? We await with interest an authoritative answer, an answer of reason and argument, not of thinly-veiled abuse, which may be, and indeed is, amusing—very amusing—but not convincing. If Socialism be right, then we are not above being Socialists ourselves; but we must be shown that it is right."

We do not object, we say again, to men combining for mutual benefit. How could we, when what we preach and work for is universal combination for the common good? What we do object to, is the tendency of those who combine for some partial and personal benefit imagining that thereby they are helping to solve the social problem. And we are wanting to fight anybody and everybody who by so acting gets across our path. Along with this number of the *Commonweal* we are sending *Unity* our manifesto, with such of our pamphlets as happen to be in print; and in our turn also we shall "await with interest" and confidence the close and searching criticism, the detailed and studied reply which we know will be accorded us by *Unity*. More than that, we shall await with quite equal confidence the, perhaps later, but still sure, conversion of our friend, the editor of *Unity*, to Socialism, and his admission that he has come to see that neither Benefit Clubs, Trade Unions, nor Co-operative Societies, together or separately, can work out the salvation of the working folk, but that they must melt into something wider and deeper, something that shall embrace them all, and more, the ownership and administration by the community of all the means of life—Socialism. S.

## IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE state of affairs in Johannesburg and in Kimberley just now is such that no tradesman, unless he is a fool, ought to even think of coming out from Britain. In Kimberley (diamond-fields) the De Beers Company has given notice that they intend to shut down two mines (Dutoitspan and Biefontien). This will throw 200 white and over 1,800 native workers out of employment. This restriction is expected to raise the price of diamonds in the home markets and so increase the shareholders' dividends. In Johannesburg matters are indeed critical. Cape Town people are fond of proclaiming—aye, even from the housetops—that there is no such thing as a porhouse in their midst. No; with the paupers as with the Robben Island lepers, a prison does instead. Woe to the poor wretch who is found wandering about "without any visible means of support." The following cutting is from the *Cape Times*, and may be taken for truth. Sometimes when reading the said paper I think that it must have been

"A page of the [*Cape Times* the Devil read,  
Then threw it down. Ahem!  
I'm the father of lies, I know, he said,  
But I'm damned if I father them!"

"A coloured woman named Sarah Daniels, who presented a pitiable sight on Saturday morning as she stood in the Police Court, was charged with being found wandering about without visible means of support. On Friday she was found in a state of starvation by a constable, who 'humanely' took her to the station. She had been for some time in the hospital, and since she left it she had nowhere to go to. Mr. Crosby passed a sentence of fourteen days' imprisonment." If the "visibility" of the stockbroking, shareholding, dividend-hunting gentry's means of support were demanded, the gaol would have a good many more insiders. And on the whole, it would be the best place for them, until they had learnt to earn their living honestly.

The *Eastern Star* (Johannesburg paper), commenting on the dilapidated state of the prison and the need of its repair, says that there are "176 scoundrels inside it." The population of Johannesburg is about 25,000. What a terrible large number of scoundrels there must be at large, to be sure. The difference in this case is that "the cute legal scoundrels are outside, the simple unauthorised ones in."

The scarcity of food tended to bring the strike of engineers, blacksmiths, etc., in Johannesburg to an end, but not before the demands of the men had in most cases been granted.

In Matabeleland the natives are beginning to scent danger and have driven most of the whites out. Colonel Carrington, who is near Matabeleland with a force of border police reports that he expects to be attacked every day by the Matabeles and that he is dissatisfied with the small force at his disposal. I expect to be in Matabeleland about March, and if there is fighting going on then shall be more likely to take sides with the Matabeles, who are a brave, manly tribe, than with the Rudd-Rhodes Syndicate. J. B.

## LITERARY NOTES.

The *National Economist*, of Washington, D.C., is the organ of the Farmer's and Labourer's Union of America, and so far as we can see from the numbers which have as yet come to hand, is a "live" paper, solid and square for labour interests and progress generally.

Ten years is the average life of the London dock labourer who sticks to it, and the wages never reach above 30 cents an hour. The worst English prisons do not succeed in using up an average man in less than 15 years, a margin of five years thus standing in their favour. Why wonder at crime in London.—*Boston Herald*.

SOCIALISM AND POLITICS.—There seems to be a split in the Socialistic Labour party. With Socialistic aspiration after a better state of things we have great sympathy, but with Socialistic politics none at all. Politics is necessarily bad because it necessarily involves more or less of lying, humbug, and hypocrisy. Truth and politics cannot live in the same town. Neither ballots nor bullets are necessary to accomplish what most people want done. It is a fallacy to suppose that we must get things done either by ballots or bullets. All that is necessary is that a sufficient number of persons shall want the things done.—*Twentieth Century*.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

## GERMANY.

The intended strike of the bookbinders at Stuttgart has been avoided, the masters of sixty-five firms having given way and accepted the new tariff claimed by the workers. Only a very few small employers have not as yet acceded to the toilers' demands. Some time ago the bookbinders of Munich also succeeded in bettering their lot, and it is now hoped that their colleagues in every town throughout Germany will soon follow suit.

The German engineers are very busy just now in order to strengthen their organisation, and to induce all the men in that trade to join the existing union. The central committee of their union have sent out emissaries in all parts of the country, and their corporative organ, which is issued at Nürnberg, is rapidly increasing its circulation. At Nürnberg itself the progress of the union has been very rapid; three years ago only 80 members were on the books, and now there are over 1,200. At Stuttgart, the locksmith's union was only formed two or three months ago, and it has already 200 members. They have also in the last-named town founded a professional school, which is frequented by 60 pupils.

The male and female workers in the hosiery line at Chemnitz (Saxony), who have been on strike for seventeen days, have now resumed work after having won a complete victory. They have obtained in the various parts of their trade an increase of wages of from 5 to 15 per cent., the system of fines has been reduced, and an official scale of wages has to be placarded in all the workshops.

The 8th part of the "Berliner Arbeiter-Bibliothek" (Berlin Worker's Library) has just been issued. It is entitled, "Die wirtschaftlichen Umwälzungen unserer Zeit und die Entwicklung der Sozialdemokratie" (The economical revolutions of our time, and the development of Social Democracy), by comrade Max Schippel, chief editor of the Berlin *Volks Tribune*, 32 pages, small 8vo, for 14d.

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Our Vienna comrades have started a new organ, which will defend in a satirical manner the interests of the working-classes. It is entitled, *Glühlichter* (Glow-lights), humoristic-satirical worker's paper. To begin with, it is to appear fortnightly, under the editorship of comrades Hans Czermak, administrator of *Vorwärts* (Forward), the organ of the book-printers' unions of Austria, and Hans Bernauer, compositor. The editorial address is, H. Bernauer, VIII., Lenaugasse, No. 16, Vienna; and the address of the administration, *Glühlichter*, I., Am Bergel, No. 1, Vienna. We wish our humouristic comps over there good luck in their venture.

## RUSSIA.

Last week we took from the telegraphic messages of the daily press the sad tidings of Tchernyshevsky's death, and announced at the same time that we intended in the present issue of this paper to deal at some length with the life and works of the founder of scientific revolutionary Socialism in Russia. We are now glad to say, in contradiction of this press news, that the illustrious sociologist is not dead at all, but on the contrary enjoys at the present time rather good health. Again, the news respecting his *free pardon*, which was here given some weeks ago, must be contradicted. We have the authority of Dr César De Paeppe, the translator into French of Tchernyshevsky's economical works, for stating that he has only been transferred from Astrakan to Saratoff, where he is still under *severe police supervision*. But in this last place of confinement the Czar's heroic victim is at liberty to devote himself to scientific work. He has already written, under the *nom de plume* of Andreief, several essays in a Russian review. He has also translated into Russian language Weber's *Universal History*. It is announced that he is now engaged on a considerable critical work on Karl Marx's 'Capital.' We are exceedingly glad to be able to communicate these good tidings to our readers, and we earnestly hope that he may be preserved for a long time to come to the cause of Socialism, for which he has suffered twenty-five years of his life in the mines and in the prisons of Siberia.

## HOLLAND.

On the 3rd November last the cigarmakers of Holland and Belgium met in a conference at the Hague and discussed the following agenda: 1. Situation of the two countries in relation to their trade; 2. Creation of branches both in Holland and Belgium, and of one general union for both countries; 3. Trades unions and their interference with politics; 4. Nomination of a committee for the organisation of an international cigarmakers' congress; 5. Ways and means by which to obtain a reduction of the work hours; 6. Ways and means by which to obtain equal wages for male and female workers; 7. Creation of a trade organ for both countries. We have not as yet received the minutes of the proceedings of the Hague conference, but we may say that the convening of an international congress of cigarmakers has been decided for the month of September 1890, and the trades organ *De Sigarenmaker* (Cigarmaker) of Amsterdam has been declared the official paper of the union.

## GREECE.

Here is one of those events which are of frequent occurrence in Greece, that ancient centre of civilisation, where all the royalties of Europe were gathered the other day to sanction, by the royal wedding at Athens, the sway of the capitalists and the exploiters. An Athenian (landowner, capitalist, and lawyer) was killed by a peasant lass of seventeen, Chariclea Verthi, whom he violated in a country house. The girl was working hard on his estate for a miserable wage, on which her family depended, her brother and father being out of employment. The rich lawyer, against whom the girl fought desperately but in vain, went to sleep after his brutal achievement, but the Greek heroine determined to lodge a bullet in his head. This she did by means of the sporting gun of her sleeping enemy, which was hung above his bed, and delivered herself afterwards to the police, saying that she had exterminated one of the enemies of the honour and happiness of her class. This little social drama shows that even in that young nation of modern Hellenes, who but for the politicians, might make rapid progress in civilisation, the rich class are the most immoral element of the community; and on the other hand it shows that the poor are full of the spirit of rebellion against bourgeois tyranny.

P. E. D.

BOW LIBERAL CLUB, Broke House, Ford Street, Roman Road, E.—Sunday Nov. 17, at 8.30, George Bernard Shaw, "Radicalism and Social Democracy."  
STAB RADICAL CLUB, 8 Mayall Road, Herne Hill.—Sunday Nov. 17, at 8.30, Henry Harris, M.R.C.S., "Birmingham and Manchester; a Comparison."

## THE AGE.

(HENRICH HEINE, Translated by EMMA LAZARUS.)

My heart is heavy; from the present  
It yearns towards those old days again,  
When still the world seemed fair and pleasant,  
And men lived happy, free from pain.

Now all things seem at six and sevens;  
A scramble, and a constant dread;  
Dead is the Lord God in the heavens,  
Below us is the Devil dead.

And all folks sad and mournful moving,  
Wear such a cold, cross, anxious face;  
Were there not still a little loving,  
There would not be a resting-place.

## REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 23, 1889.

17	Sun.	1794. J. Horne Tooke tried at the Old Bailey for "high treason," an alleged conspiracy to "depose the King and overturn the constitution." 1830. Revolt of Warsaw. 1838. Battle of Prescott, Upper Canada, between royal troops and rebels.
18	Mon.	1811. Stocking-weavers' riots at Nottingham, caused by the introduction of frames, which threw many out of employment. 1838. First number of the <i>Northern Star</i> , Leeds, weekly, 4d. 1887. Law and Liberty League founded.
19	Tues.	1792. Decree of fraternity and assistance to all peoples passed by French Convention. 1798. Wolfe Tone died in prison, having lingered a week since his attempted suicide. 1827. Election riots in Paris; barricades thrown up; several deaths. 1879. Michael Davitt, Killen, and Daly arrested for "sedition," in being active in the anti-rent agitation.
20	Wed.	1887. Socialist and Radical demonstration in Hyde Park.
21	Thur.	1768. First letter of "Junius" in <i>Public Advertiser</i> . 1838. Anti Poor Law riot at Todmorden. 1852. Napoleon III. "elected" Emperor. 1880. Colonel J. W. Peard ("Garibaldi's Englishman") died.
22	Fri.	1641. Carrying of the "Grand Remonstrance." 1838. Suicide of Robert Watson, secretary to Lord George Gordon at the time of the riots, and afterwards member of the London Corresponding Society. 1861. Thomas Slingsby Duncombe died. 1887. Swearing-in of special constables in London began.
23	Sat.	1499. Perkin Warbeck hanged. 1805. William Cobbett gives evidence for the Crown against Mr. Justice Johnson, on trial before the King's Bench for libel on the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. 1834. Rowland Derosier died. 1867. Judicial murder of Allan, Larkin, and O'Brien at Manchester. 1884. Unemployed riots in Paris; desperate fighting between workmen and police and gendarmes.

## SOCIALISM IN LEEDS.

We have been so eaten up with work in this town of late that report-writing for the *Commonweal* had to be left over. The Builders' Labourers' Union which we had the pleasure of inaugurating, and which came out so victoriously from the strike it was engaged in, now numbers over 900 members and has about £300 in hand. No sooner was their business settled than an agitation arose amongst the gas-workers, and a great number of meetings have been held in connection with their grievances, at which the various speakers of our society have taken part. Our rooms have been thrown open to them during the agitation, and matters are rapidly coming to a crisis. Another week will see them out on strike, and Leeds in darkness, if their demands are not conceded. A meeting in connection with the gas-workers' question was held on Sunday last, at which about 5,000 were present.

In addition to our work amongst the gas-men, we have been agitating amongst the tailoresses with the object of forming them into a union. A meeting was held a couple of weeks ago at one of the Board schools, and a goodly number of names enrolled. Our work has been greatly accelerated by a strike at one of the shops, where 600 girls and women came out, and the union now numbers about 1,500 members. The strike still continues, and when I mention that about two public meetings are held each day, you will perceive that our hands are full. The girls have been out about ten days (as I now write), and about £250 has been collected for them. A local paper has opened a strike fund, and is giving prominence to the dispute, devoting a couple of pages daily. When I tell you that several columns "interviews" with various members of our body have appeared in the press, you will perceive that Socialism is going ahead and becoming more tolerable—mayhap perforce—to the "respectables."

With all this on our hands, we have had to find time to go around and give the municipal candidates fits; and only last week a deputation of workmen came to our club and asked for assistance, as they intend striking. As the delegates represented about 400 men, lively times are anticipated. We shall try to form them into a branch of the N. U. G. W. & G. L.

Mr. Broadhurst, M.P., once instanced Leeds as a town where Socialism could never take root. We hope within a very short period to make it such a hotbed of Socialism that Mr. Broadhurst will be unable to get a following. I will report again in a couple of weeks as things develop.

P.

The Hartford (Conn.) *Examiner*, in a recent editorial, says: "What is the primal cause of all the poverty, suffering, and misery we behold in the world? Our answer would unhesitatingly be, the want of thought among the people. The majority of the people don't think, particularly the honest ones, therefore they are a prey to those who do."



OFFICES: 24 GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, W.C.

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!

THE COMMONWEAL is the official organ of the Socialist League; but, unless definitely so announced by the Editors, no article is to be taken as expressing in more than a general way the views of the League as a body. In accordance with the Manifesto and Statement of Principles of the League, the COMMONWEAL is an exponent of International Revolutionary Socialism, as distinguished from Individualist Anarchism on the one hand, and Parliamentary State Socialism on the other. On minor differences of opinion the widest freedom of discussion is maintained. As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to their position in the paper.

Articles and letters dealing with any phase of the social problem are invited and will meet with earnest consideration. They must be written on one side of the paper only, and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication. MSS. can only be returned if a stamped directed envelope accompanies them.

Advertisements can only be inserted if unobjectionable in all particulars. Scale of charges and special quotations may be obtained from the Manager.

Subscriptions, including postage:—For British Islands, Europe, United States, and Canada, a year, 6s.; six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

Remittances should be made in postal orders or halfpenny stamps.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. K. WILKINS (Dunedin, N. Z.).—Have written you by last mail. Can you help us to get news and correspondence from your part of the world? "CENSORIOUS."—If there were fewer fine-spun fringes on your belief there would be a chance of more down-right earnest in your work. A wise pioneer does not trouble about whether a cross or a crescent is marked on the handle of a comrade's axe; he looks to the edge of his own and hews right on.

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ENGLAND	FRANCE	SWITZERLAND
Die Antonomie	Chicago—Knights of Labor	Arbeiterstimme
Freedom	Vorbete	ITALY
Justice	Cincinnati (O.) Volks-Anwalt	Rome—L'Emancipazione
Labour Tribune	Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	SPAIN
Norwich—Daylight	Philadelphia—United Labour	Madrid—El Socialista
Railway Review	Princeton (Mass.)—Word	Seville—La Solidaridad
Sozial Demokrat	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	PORTUGAL
caftaring	S. F.—Coast Seamen's Journal	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Hamrock Standard	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Farole	Porto—A Revolucao Social
New South WALES	Altruist	GERMANY
Hamilton—Radical	Washington—Natl. Economist	Berlin—Volks Tribune
INDIA	FRANCE	AUSTRIA
Bankpore—Behar Herald	Paris—Le Proletariat	Vienna—Arbeiter-Zeitung
UNITED STATES	Bourse du Travail	Brunn—Arbeiterstimme.
New York—Twentieth Century	La Revue Europeenne	DENMARK
Der Sozialist	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	Copenhagen—Arbejdere
Freiheit	HOLLAND	Social-Demokrat
Volkszeitung	Hague—Recht voor Allen	SWEDEN
Jewish Volkszeitung	Middelburg—Licht en Wahrheid	Malmö—Arbetet
United Irishman	BEELGIUM	Goteborg—Folkets Rost
Workmen's Advocate	Antwerp—De Werker	Stockholm, Social-Demokrat
Boston—Woman's Journal	Ghent—Vooruit	ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung	Liege—L'Avenir	Buenos Ayres—Vorwarts

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

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OF THE

"COMMONWEAL"

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Exchanges and Correspondents Please Note.

THE ART CONGRESS.

LAST week was an eventful one with us in Edinburgh. Not that we can say the Art Congress has, from a general point of view, been a success. On the contrary, the members have been few and the papers seldom brilliant. It started badly. The Marquis of Lorne may be an excellent person, but he made a poor president. There was a select audience of about four hundred to hear his opening address, but to three-fourths of them it was mere pantomime of a rather awkward kind. I was disposed to consider myself one of the victims, but on talking the matter over with one of the apparently privileged order on the platform he assured me my position was the more enviable. A glance at the address in the newspapers went a long way to convince me he was right. The marquis, however, is hardly to blame for his ludicrous suggestions or incoherent commonplace. He makes no pretention either to have any knowledge of or any interest in art; and if the Association are such frightful snobs as to be satisfied with an empty title, they must take the consequences. There was a want of sincerity indicated in such a selection, and it was also manifested in many of the papers. The faddists were of course present in great numbers, with their pet schemes for the Encouragement of Home Industries, and such like. Worthy people they are, no doubt, and one would never think of visiting their proposals with unqualified condemnation: some good may result from them. One might tolerate them if they talked with more humility about them. It is when they pose as the regenerators of society and submit their little schemes as panaceas for our social ills we regret their want of insight. They had their innings, but we found them tedious, because, with due allowance for good intentions, they promised to heal but very slightly the hurts of the people.

Needless to say there were also a few Philistines, who distinguished themselves by attacking Ruskin and his doctrine of morality in art. One might have sympathised with them if convinced their hostility had been directed to the morality of Pharasaism. We have too much of this miserable conventionality everywhere, but we felt somehow the critics had more than their own share of it; for after all, the morality of Ruskin is nothing more than fidelity of execution and sincerity of purpose. One has merely to define morality on its practical side as an attempt to get into right relations with each other and the objects around us, to realise the impossibility of any genuine art existing without it. The absence of this very morality not only accounted for much that was irrelevant in this criticism of Ruskin, but might also explain some defects in the productions of many of our artists. It must, however, be confessed they are not as a class conspicuous for the want of it. Quite the contrary. They are not only much more susceptible to beauty, but also in consequence more capable of generosity. The Socialists, for this reason, carried off the honours of the Congress. Their merits no doubt entitled them to do so, but still it was to the credit of the members they were so appreciative. The presidential address of our comrade Morris drew the largest gathering of the week. He was in fine form, and delivered his weighty words in splendid style. Nothing could have been better than the impression produced, for the audience not merely admired its ability, but were moved by its reasoning.

The most successful meetings of all, however, were perhaps the lectures given to working men. These were led off by Morris and Crane and finished by Walker and Sanderson. We were not only much gratified by the reception given by the artizans to our comrades, but proud also to think they had been found most competent to address them on matters relative to their handicrafts.

Crane and Morris also lectured under the auspices of the Socialists to fashionable audiences in a West-end hall. The charges were high, and the attendance, considering the time and weather, was good. Crane's subject was "The Educational Value of Art," and it took well. He was in good form, and his illustrations of the Crag Baron, the Bag Baron, and the Capitalist elephant on the tortoise of Labour were most effective and instructive. Morris lectured on "The Origins of Ornamental Art." We hope he will soon publish it, for, as one of the audience remarked, it was the best lecture he had heard given by Morris. It was too rich food, however, for many of them to assimilate at once, but they understood enough of it to see Socialism was not the vain thing they had been taught to believe. It would, in short, be hardly possible to exaggerate the amount and value of the work done in public and private during the past week by our comrades in this city.

The proceedings terminated on Friday night by a regular Socialist meeting, with Crane in the chair and Morris as speaker. It was not only well attended in point of numbers, but the quality of the audience was also excellent.

The Branch held a Social in honour of our comrades at the close, and kept it up with speech and song to "the wee short hours ayont the twal." Altogether we have been refreshed and strengthened by the visit of our comrades from London. G.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

To those who have obtained copies of the *Commonweal* through the propagandist work of our comrades, by free distribution in the streets and public conveyances, or by purchase at our outdoor stations, we ask if in agreement with our principles to help the sale of the *Commonweal* by ordering it of their newsagents, and sending on to us the names of newsagents willing to sell it; and still better, as our outdoor work must shortly be reduced, by joining the local branches and helping on the work.



## ANNIVERSARY OF CHICAGO MARTYRS AND BLOODY SUNDAY.

The South Place Institute was overcrowded last Monday with an enthusiastic audience, which vociferously cheered the songs and speeches, and unanimously voted the resolutions submitted to it.

The proceedings opened by the choir singing "When the People have their own again," after which the following resolution was moved by the chairman in a brief and simple speech:—

"That this meeting, having heard with deep regret of the death of Lulu, the youngest child of their murdered comrade, Albert R. Parsons, desires unanimously to express its unfeigned and fraternal sympathy with the widowed and bereaved mother, and to assure her of their participation in her great sorrow."

The choir then sang Parsons' favourite, "Annie Laurie," after which the first resolution was moved by C. W. Mowbray (S.L.) and seconded by James Blackwell (Freedom Group); F. Feigenbaum (Berner Street Club), Lothrop Withington, and Peter Kropotkin supported, the latter making pathetic reference to an episode of Siberian life which had recently come to light, and asking the meeting to include the Russian comrades in their memory with the martyrs:—

"That this meeting, called together to commemorate the legal murder of four men in Chicago on November 11th, 1887 (Parsons, Spies, Fischer, and Engel), the driving to suicide of another (Linnell) in prison, and the cruel imprisonment of three more (Fielden, Schwab, and Neebe), by the government of the State of Illinois, for the crime of encouraging workmen on strike and helping them to carry on the struggle against their masters, and the further crime of trying to maintain the rights of free speech and public meeting, calls the attention of the workmen of the world to the gradual abrogation of these rights in all capitalistic countries, and while emphatically denouncing the tyrannical interference with these elementary rights, points out that it is a natural and necessary result of a so-called Society based upon the robbery of Labour."

A collection was then taken, and realised £5 19s.

After a few minutes recess, "Linnell's Death Song" was sung by the choir, and the second resolution was moved by Frank Kitz, seconded by William Morris, and supported by D. J. Nicoll:—

"That this meeting also denounces the similar attack on free speech and the right of public meeting in London on Sunday, November 13, 1887, through which three men were killed (Linnell, Curwen, and Connell), one (Harrison) so injured that he died after a painful and lingering illness, and many sent to prison after a mere mockery of trial, and it again calls for the immediate and unconditional release of George Harrison, condemned to five years' penal servitude for being present at a political meeting which was ferociously attacked by the police."

During the evening several telegrams (which will be printed in full next week) were received and read to the meeting, eliciting loud applause.

The meeting closed at a late hour by singing the "Marseillaise," and giving three cheers for the Social Revolution.

## BURIAL OF LULU PARSONS.

On Wednesday, 16th October, Lulu E. Parsons, the only and deeply-loved daughter of our dead comrade Parsons—the child of his hope and his most ardent love—was buried near the eastern boundary of Waldheim Cemetery, Chicago. Mrs. Kinsella, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Sund, and Mrs. Appel were the pall-bearers, and there were a large number of mourners and many tributes and signs of sympathy. The casket, a plain white one, was literally covered with flowers. The name "Lulu" appeared in immortelles on several wreaths. Bright red ribbons streamed from two or three. Mrs. Parsons stood with difficulty while the casket was borne past her to the grave, and sat down on the turf when the simple ceremonies began. Mr. Holmes stood beside the coffin, which was uncovered, and made a brief pathetic address, in the course of which he said: "The child who gave such bright promise of womanhood is gone from our midst; cut off in the early springtime of her life. For more than a year she bore her sufferings; bore them with sweet, uncomplaining patience that excited wonder and admiration in all who knew her; bore them even with cheerfulness, for her's was a disposition of gladness and sunshine. Time was when she was the pride of a fond father's heart; that father who paid the penalty of a crime the most heinous of which civilisation can conceive, the crime of loving oppressed humanity better than himself, the crime of loving justice and truth more than power and pelf. She was the light of her mother's eye; that mother who stands desolate and alone in her overpowering grief—twice stricken by the remorseless hand of Destiny. To those of you who knew our little Lulu I need speak no word of praise. To know was to admire and love her. To you who knew not, or scarcely knew this child, I will say she was one of the brightest, fairest flowers ever gathered into the bosom of our common mother. She was beautiful, and gave promise of a more beautiful womanhood. She was gentle, and good, and patient; loving and lovable. She was a beam of sunshine, reflecting the radiance of all that is good and glad in nature; and she gave abundant promise of superior intellectual force, of rare versatility and talent. And yet she was but a child—a child in years and in feeling; not precocious or self-conscious in the least, but happy, frolicsome, gay as a butterfly. Such was the little creature for whom we join this stricken mother in mourning." At the conclusion of the address Mrs. Kinsella sang "Annie Laurie" in a sweet, subdued voice, and the friends then slowly filed by to take a last look at the waxen face beneath the glass. This over, Mrs. Parsons quickly went away, the coffin was lowered into the grave, and very soon the little Anarchist maid was sleeping near her murdered father under a canopy of flowers.

The Montreal *Witness* alleges that at Woodstock, Ontario, a number of once useful, but now feeble and helpless poor men, are in prison just because they are poor. The climax is reached in the statement that a lady, a scholarly and accomplished Scotswoman, the cousin of a pioneer Presbyterian D.D. and the widow of a Baptist deacon, is now lying in jail because of her helpless poverty. It is hard to believe these statements.—*Christian Leader*.—They are not so much unlike what we have here. It requires little effort to believe and know them—even in Scotland.—G. McL.

## IN AUSTRALIA.

SINCE the last communication to the *Commonweal* an incident of a most striking and startling nature has come to light. In the last letter from here a short epitome of the A. A. Co. Glebe Pit disaster was given, and the verdict of the coroners' jury stated. Since then, however, the rescue party have discovered the whole of the buried men, and the philanthropic company which murdered them in its rush for gold has kindly condescended to pay the expenses of their second burial, on account, probably, of the profit their previous burial (alive) brought it. The rescue party left the crosscut to work in Murphy's heading, with the object of finding deputy-overman Hodson and Messrs. Meadows, Grant, and Beaumont. On Tuesday 3rd inst. the body of Hodson was found at the end of a forty-five yard passage which he and his fellow-sufferers had scraped out with their hands and a piece of tin. His body was well preserved, and the features were actually recognisable, after being buried alive for eight or nine weeks. His fellow-victims were found forty-five yards away, their bodies being dried and parched, besides being wasted away by the starvation they had endured. It was decided by the coroner that an inquest should be held on the body of Hodson. At the inquest evidence was advanced to substantiate the insinuation made by the vast majority, that they had actually died of starvation. At the last moment Dr. Harris gave it as his medical opinion that the men had not died of starvation, but had died of suffocation about forty-eight hours after the occurrence of the disaster. However, evidence is brought forward in the shape of a food-tin with the following inscription scratched upon it with a pin: "John Meadows 30 years 7 days starvation," which completely disproves that assertion. It is now rumoured that Dr. Harris was got at by the company, who endeavoured to save some of their ill-gotten gains from going back to the murdered men's relatives. However, proof is wanting. The inquest is adjourned, so we do not know what the verdict will be; but if we were on the jury it would be one of wilful murder against the A. A. Co. And right here let me give the reason for those four men being in the pit and entombed as they were to die slowly and horribly from want of food and air and water. The manager, fearing that a fall was going to occur, sent down the deputy-overman with the three others stated to extract a Tange pump and save it from being buried and lost to the A. A. Co. Seeing that the company knew exactly where these men were, anyone would have expected them to make an effort to save their lives; but no! they left that for the State to do.

Seeing that the State had to come to the rescue, and seeing that the poor slaves of the company were sacrificed in an attempt at saving a paltry pump, the reader may not unnaturally be inclined to think that the A. A. Company is a poor company struggling along for a bare existence. Let the following report tell its own tale: "The A. A. Company in their report state that the accounts for 1888 show the following balances for the year: Unappropriated capital, £10,966; net revenue earned £113,887; amount available for dividend, £102,988. The dividend paid in February absorbed £80,100; and it is proposed to appropriate a further £50,000 to the payment of a second dividend at the same rate—viz., 50s. per share. The total sum distributed in dividend in 1888 will thus amount to £100,000, or 25 per cent. on the total capital." Figures and facts which, read in connection with the murderous details already given, show the character of this company. But the character of this company is that of the whole capitalist system, which produces such monstrosities.

Great sympathy is felt here for the London dock-labourers in their strike, and subscriptions are pouring in from all sides. The sum they are fighting for is just half what the dock-labourers get here. So many subscriptions are coming in from capitalists that some of us are beginning to suspect them of making a move to attract attention and cause a wholesale emigration to Australia, to reduce the wages of labour here when the time comes round. The labourers here receive twice as much in wages as in London, but pay away thrice as much in rent, which causes a considerable increase in the cost of living, and so brings their wages to about the same as in England. We still have, both in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales, our usual body of unemployed, numbering in all about 10,000 or 12,000, they being a necessary part of the capitalist system.

The *Australian Radical*, though it has severed its connection with the Australian Socialist League, is still hard at work preaching Socialism. Its circulation is gradually increasing, and there is good hope that it will soon be able to resume its old size. The Melbourne Socialists are working very hard, and with apparent success. The Sydney Socialists are considerably reduced in number by recent events; although the principles they advocate are fast taking root. Unflinching energy can alone make the movement a success, and here, as elsewhere, there is none too much of it. However, a right good work is being done with what we have, and you may confidently look for great developments on this continent before very long.

With fraternal greetings to all comrades, J. E. ANDERTON.

Radical Office, Hamilton, near Newcastle, N.S.W., Sept. 10.

## SOCIALISM IN YARMOUTH.

At the Radical Club, Yarmouth, on Wednesday 6th, Mr. Dawson read his paper on Socialism, which was most abusive. He was well replied to by Reynolds, after which the discussion was adjourned until Wednesday next. On Sunday 10th we celebrated the anniversary of the Chicago murders and Bloody Sunday. In the morning, on Priory Plain, we began by Mrs. Tochatti singing "The Starving Poor," followed by a few remarks from Reynolds; after which Mrs. Schack gave an earnest address on the events we commemorated, explaining their meaning to an audience of over 1,000 people, who listened with great interest. We closed the meeting by singing the "March of the Workers," the audience taking up the chorus with great gusto. In the afternoon, at Colman's Granary, Mrs. Tochatti opened with "Trafalgar Square" and the "Marseillaise," followed by Rufold, and by Mrs. Schack with a touching address on the Trafalgar Square murders. Mrs. Tochatti then sang the "Carmagnole," and Reynolds addressed the meeting, which closed by singing "The Starving Poor." Reynolds kept up a discussion with a Scotch fisherman who made a little opposition for a long time after the meeting, but Scottie seemed to get the worst of it. In the evening, at same place, Mrs. Tochatti opened with "Annie Laurie," followed by Mrs. Schack with another long and earnest address, in which she appealed to the Yarmouth people to accept Socialism. After Mrs. Tochatti had sung "Linnell's Death Song," Reynolds followed, again bringing the Scotchman to the front with his Christianity. We closed with the "Marseillaise," after which we adjourned to comrade Headley's, and spent the remainder of the night (up to 1 a.m.) in singing revolutionary songs, with the help of comrade H.'s fiddle. 36 *Commonweal* sold, 6s. 4d. collected, and good sale of literature. J. H.

## THE LABOUR REVOLT.

### The Railway Men.

The union is increasing rapidly. John Burns stated in his speech at the Priory Hall, Vauxhall, "that the General Railway Worker's Union had within a month enrolled in London alone 3,000 members. Of 6,000 men employed at the Broad Street Goods Depot of the London and North-Western Railway, 536 joined the union last Wednesday, and as a result of that union already many of the London and North-Western Company's guards, drivers, firemen, and platelayers had secured a rise of 2s., 3s., and in some cases 4s. a-week." The union is also getting a fair hold in the provinces. It now numbers over 6,000 members.

### The Wharf Men.

Most of the men who came out on the Surrey side last week against the deduction for the meal-times, have gained their point. It is evident that the capitalists are routed all along the line. The workers seem victorious everywhere.

### The Lightermen.

We are glad to hear that the men have won. The masters, doubtless, thought the Mansion House Committee and Lord Brassey (the arbitrator) would side with them, but they have found out their little mistake. The middle-class have had quite enough of strikes at the docks, and they don't want any more. There was great danger if the lightermen held out, that every one at the docks would soon be out also, so the Lord Mayor, the conciliation committee, and the arbitrator suddenly ranged themselves on the side of the men, to the great disgust of the masters, who complained pathetically that it was all through that John Burns, who had got such powers of speech that he could talk over our Lord Mayors. When we take into consideration the danger of the work of lightermen upon the river at night, and how many lives of these over-worked men are yearly drowned in the gloomy waters of the Thames, we can only be glad that such work will be largely diminished in the future.

### The Silvertown Strike.

A number of the girls on strike at Silvertown were summoned before Mr. Bagallay charged with the serious crime of intimidating the blacklegs employed at Silver's works. The intimidation consisted of a free expression of opinion in the form of hooting and hissing. To the great dissatisfaction of the firm and their philanthropic manager Mr. Gray, none of these youthful criminals suffered severely for their "wicked" behaviour, Mr. Bagallay merely binding them over in their own recognisances of £5 to come up for judgment when called upon. The company have therefore not gained much by this attempt to legally intimidate the strikers. The directors are also trying another form of intimidation; they are removing their machinery to France, with the help of certain members of the Society of Engineers, who are thus disgracing themselves by fighting against their poorer and weaker brethren. What can be said of these people—who have been repeatedly asked to "come out," but have always declined—but that they are blacklegs of the worst type? There is some excuse for a poor starving wretch who does a mean action for the sake of a crust of bread, but there is none for members of the wealthiest trade union in England, who have deliberately lent themselves to such meanness. If they have not manhood enough to do their duty, their society ought to make them do it.

The strikers distributed numerous copies of a manifesto at their meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday, in which Lord Salisbury, Conservative Prime Minister, and Edmond Robertson, Radical M.P., are denounced as shareholders who gain their dividends from the slave-driving of English men and women. The *Daily News* objects to this sort of thing, and says that a man is not responsible because he holds shares in such a concern. No doubt the editor knows that many respectable Liberal philanthropists are partners in such iniquity, and fears that they also may be exposed.

### Impending Strike of Bakers.

It is evident that the workmen and their masters are on the verge of a severe struggle. The masters held a meeting, at which they decided to stick to their proposal of twelve hours work instead of the ten hours a-day which the men demanded. The men wisely decided, in spite of the interested advice of the capitalist press, to insist upon the ten hours limit, and last Saturday, Oct. 9th, they sent in their notices. Already the wisdom of this course has been shown, for over a thousand masters have given way, among them the notorious Bread Union, the boss of which, Mr. Bonthorne, declared a little while ago that he would never give in to the union demands. Now, however, the serving of the notices has cooled his warlike ardour, and in the 250 shops of the Bread Union the ten hours limit will prevail. The bakers held a splendid demonstration in Hyde Park last Sunday. It was a fine afternoon, which reminded you more of the succession of bright Sundays which accompanied the demonstrations of dockers during their famous strike, than the usual dull and gloomy weather which you expect at this period of the year. Many of those who were present declared that there were if anything more people in the Park than during some of the dockers' demonstrations. One thing was quite certain, the enthusiasm ran quite as high as ever it did during any demonstration held during what we may call the great strike period. The bakers appeared in high spirits, and rejoiced greatly in the popular favour accorded to them. The central figure of the demonstration of course was John Burns, who seemed in good form, judging from the vigorous applause that rang out from the listening crowd. The enthusiasm was literally at boiling point at John's platform. On the whole, the demonstration was an immense success, and we imagine that any master present would feel forced at once, by its size and enthusiasm, to surrender as quickly as possible.

### Bury Gas Stokers.

On Saturday, the gas stokers and about two-thirds of the yardmen at the Bury Corporation Gasworks struck. For some time the men have been employed at 4s. 8d. a day of twelve hours, and they have asked for 5s. a day of eight hours. Their demands were conceded, and it was thought everything had been arranged. The yardmen asked for 22s. per week in place of £1, and time and a half for Sunday. The price paid was 5s. per day for every two tons of coal carbonised, but as some of the men did not carbonise the full quantity a proportionate reduction in their wages was made. This the

men resented, insisting that they should be paid the full 5s. and price and a quarter for all coal gas carbonised above that quantity. When the men asked for the interview they said they must have it in half an hour or the committee must wait their time. The committee offered to comply with the men's requests; the men then produced a document which they demanded that the committee should sign, saying they were the Manchester terms. The committee declined to sign, but promised if there were any differences in carrying out the arrangements to remedy them on explanation. The men refused these conditions, and would not return to work. A number of fire brigade labourers and others were got to work, but of course they were not equal to all the strikers. The committee are offering 5s. a day to labourers, but cannot get enough rats to go on with. A large staff of police are on duty at the gasworks. The streets last Sunday night were in darkness.

### Bristol Cotton-workers.

These are still out. The first distribution of strike relief took place last week, and on Sunday the strikers demonstrated at the principal churches in the city. The directors still continue obdurate, and the struggle promises to be a long one. Funds are urgently needed.

### The Leeds Gas Workers.

On Saturday, the Gas Committee put an end to the dispute between them and their employes at the different gas works in Leeds. The demands of the men, comprising a reduction of hours and an increase of wages, represented an advance of nearly 40 per cent., which the committee thought was unreasonable. They offered 20 per cent. advance, but the men held out, with the result that they have secured their full terms. The only alternative was a strike on their part, and this must have entailed very serious consequences. The men had taken care that, in the event of their demands being refused, there would not be gas in stock sufficient to last beyond Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. Three hundred retorts could not be made productive last week, because the men would not allow the rats to enter the works for that purpose. The pressure of gas had to be reduced both on Friday and Saturday. The committee were thus placed in great straits, and had to give in to the men, for they were not prepared to take the grave responsibility of allowing the town to be without gas.

### Strike of Quay Labourers in Cork.

The labourers of Penrose's and other quays in Cork to the number of over a hundred, struck on Saturday for an increase of wages. The men put forward a demand for an advance of 1d. an hour (from 4d. to 5d.) in the day rate, and an advance from 4d. to 5½d. in the night work. The ordinary employes of the Cork Steamship Companies have not joined the strike, and are not expected to do so.

## STRAIGHT TALK TO A TIMID MAN.

A MAN in San Pasquale, California, is in a state of mind because he owns a farm, which he fears some of these desperate reformers will be for taking away from him. So he writes to the *Twentieth Century* that "confiscation of land is not right. I have a little farm of 320 acres, and it represents a life of toil to me, and I think no one else has any right to it." And the answer he receives is:

"This is a pretty good specimen of the way in which a good many people approach the consideration of questions of right and wrong. They don't begin by asking, Is this thing right? Does duty to my fellow-men require that I should act thus and so? What they want to know is, how it is going to affect them—what it is going to do for them—what it is going to take from them—what will be its cost or profit. 'I have a 320 acre farm,' says our San Pasquale friend. 'Your reform would take it away from me. Therefore your reform must be contrary to justice.' That was just the principle that lay at the bottom of all the pro-slavery arguments a generation ago.

"This San Pasquale farmer lives in a State in which only a small fraction of the earth's surface is being utilised for any purpose whatever. Let him stand upon the nearest unused tract of land—I guess he won't have to go far from his own house door to reach it—and ask himself this individual: 'Is it conceivable that any man, or any body or assemblage of men—any individual, corporation, or community—can have a moral right to forbid me or any other man to go to work on this land and produce things by applying labour to it?' Never mind whether it injures men to be so forbidden or not—that is a secondary question. The real question is, Is it right to forbid them? If my San Pasquale friend will ask that question of his soul, and keep on asking until he gets an answer, he will find the gospel of emancipation illumined with a sudden light, that will reveal its beauty and its glory to him as he never dreamed of them.

"Only let San Pasquale be honest. If no man or body of men have a right to forbid any man to apply his labour to any piece of land that no one else is using, then the man who compels his fellow-man to pay, in money or in kind, for the privilege of using vacant land is a thief, no matter if a thousand statute laws are passed to make his stealing legal. And the duty that this San Pasquale farmer owes to himself and his fellow-men is to denounce the stealing. Whether the result will be the loss of his 320 acre farm or not is altogether beside the question. Men who stand by and see their neighbours' pockets picked, and say nothing about it for fear of something happening to themselves, are simply cowards.

"But San Pasquale need not be afraid. If he is really using 320 acres of land, he has a right to use it, and nobody has a right to forbid him, or to make him pay one penny for the privilege. And if he will think a little, he will see that the best thing that could happen for him would be that other men should be allowed to use land too, without being blackmailed for it. For the crops that San Pasquale raises on his 320 acres are of mighty little value to him, unless other people are utilising other tracts of land to produce things to give him in exchange for his crops; and the more other men produce, the better will be the market for what he himself produces. The corner-stone of civilisation is the Golden Rule—the simple law of justice. If our San Pasquale farmer wants prosperity and happiness for himself, he can secure those blessings only by seeing to it that others are not deprived of them by theft and rapine."

The nutrition of a commonwealth consisteth in the plenty and distribution of materials conducing to life. As for the plenty of matter, it is a thing limited by nature to those commodities which, from (the two breasts of our common mother) land and sea, God usually either freely giveth, or for labour selleth to mankind. For the matter of this nutriment, consisting in animals, vegetables, minerals, God hath freely laid them before us, in or near to the face of the earth, so as there needeth no more but the labour and industry of receiving them. Inasmuch that plenty (next to God's favour) dependeth on the labour and industry of man. *Hobbes: 'Leviathan,' 1651.*

# THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

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The Offices of the Socialist League will be open for the sale of *Commonweal* and all other Socialist publications from 8.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday. The Secretary will be in attendance from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

**Commonweals for 1888**, handsomely bound in red, are now ready, price 5s.; per post, 5s. 6d.

**Notice to Branch Secretaries.**—Membership Cards can now be had by the Branches at 9d. per dozen from Central Office.

**Branch Subscriptions Paid.**—1888:—Oxford, to end of September.

1889:—Bradford and Hammersmith, to end of April. Norwich, Glasgow, Yarmouth, and Mitcham, to end of May. East London, and Clerkenwell, to end of June. North London, to end of August. Leicester, North Kensington, and Manchester, to end of September. St. Georges East, to end of December.

**Notice to Branch Secretaries.**—Please remit to Central Office your Branch Capitation fees as soon as possible.

**Notice.**—All letters on League business, except those intended for Editors of *Commonweal*, to be addressed to me. No other person is authorised to sign any official communication. FRANK KITZ, Secretary.

## "COMMONWEAL" GUARANTEE FUND.

The following further sums have been received towards this fund:—F. C. S. S., 1s.; C. Saunders, 1s.; J. Rose, 1s.; A. J., 1s.; R. J., 1s.; J. B. G., 1s.; and B. W., 6d.

## REPORTS.

**EAST LONDON.**—Splendid meeting on Triangle held in Commemoration of Chicago Martyrs, addressed by Davis and Cores; in hall, meeting addressed by Cantwell, Davis, and Cores; very good impression made.

**NORTH KENSINGTON.**—A good meeting was held at Latimer Road; speakers were R. J. Lyne and J. F. Lyne; all *Commonweal* sold. J. Turner lectured to a good audience on the subject of "A Working Man as a Socialist"; a good muster in room.

**SOUTHWARK.**—At Bricklayer's Hall, on Monday, Nov. 4th, comrades Cores, Mowbray, and Samuels debated the question of "Foreign Competition and English Labour" with Messrs. Pettifer, Edgcombe (editor of *Fair Trade*), and W. F. Drew (Tory candidate for West Southwark). The hall was crammed, and the meeting afforded a good opportunity for preaching the principles of International Revolutionary Socialism to an audience of workmen not very well acquainted with our ideas.

**ABERDEEN.**—At indoor meeting on 4th inst., a lecture entitled "Looking Forward," by Professor Orchardson, of New York, was read and discussed. On the 6th, comrade Glasier, of Edinburgh, lectured on "The Ethics of Socialism" to a good audience in the Unitarian Church, the meeting being held under the auspices of the Bon-Accord Inquirers' Society, which is mostly made up of Socialists; comrade Webster occupied the chair. The lecture was very well received, and questions were put at the close. This is the first of a series of lectures to be delivered in the same place, the speakers yet to come being Forrest (Kilmarnock), Webster (Aberdeen), and Walker (Glasgow).

**GLASGOW.**—On Tuesday evening, no meeting held on Cathedral Square, owing to bad weather. On Sunday, at 2 o'clock, Glasier, Joe Burgoyne, Tim Burgoyne, and Gilbert spoke to a good crowd. At 5.30, Joe Burgoyne, Tim Burgoyne, and Gilbert addressed an unusually large meeting at Paisley Road Toll. At 7 o'clock a meeting of members was held in Rooms. On Monday evening the members gathered in Rooms to commemorate the anniversary of the Chicago murders and Bloody Sunday. A resolution testifying the members' devotion to the cause for which our comrades died in Chicago and London was passed, and appropriate speeches, readings, and revolutionary songs were given.

**LEICESTER.**—Sunday 10th C. W. Mowbray lectured twice in the Radical Club, Vine Street, to good audiences—morning, "The Chicago Martyrs"; evening, "The Difference between Radicalism and Socialism." The last named was remarkably stirring. The lecturer hit straight from the shoulder, and brought down the house repeatedly, his revolutionary proposals being lustily cheered by Socialists and non-Socialists alike. Collection, 13s. 5d.; *Commonweal* sold, three quires.

**MANCHESTER.**—The branch entertained P. Kropotkin at the club on Nov. 7th, when a most enjoyable evening was passed, none being better satisfied than our comrade, who addressed us in an impressive oration on the progress of the movement. His other engagements did not permit of his giving a public lecture for the League.—We held a meeting at Philips Park on Sunday morning; Barton and Baillie spoke; a large number of *Commonweal* and other literature was sold. In the afternoon, a meeting was held at our usual station to organise the carters and lorrymen of all the railway companies. In the evening, at the club, a public meeting commemorating the Chicago martyrs was held. Several comrades spoke in English and Yiddish, and revolutionary songs were sung.

**NORWICH.**—Owing to disappointment of London comrades, commemoration meetings were postponed until 17th inst. Sunday last, good meeting held in the Market, addressed by comrades W. Moore and Swash; both spoke upon the Chicago murders. A meeting was also held at Blofield; comrade Thompson spoke; large quantity of literature distributed. In the evening a meeting was held in the Gordon Hall; comrade Emery opened and Poynts followed; an interesting address upon the Chicago Anarchists was given; discussion followed, after which "Annie Laurie," "All for the Cause," etc., were sung by different comrades. Good sale of literature.

**DUBLIN.**—At Progressist Club, 87 Marlboro Street, Nov. 9th, T. Hamilton lectured on "What is Malthusianism," opposing the doctrines of Malthus from the Christian standpoint. King, Wilson, O'Gorman, St. Rich, Kavanagh and others spoke.

**NOTTINGHAM SOCIALIST CLUB.**—We had a busy day here on Sunday. In the morning, in Sneinton Market, Peacock and Proctor held a meeting in support of their candidature at the ensuing School Board elections; 6s. collected for election fund. In the afternoon the gas-stokers held a demonstration, at which Proctor and Peacock spoke. In the evening Proctor presided at a lecture on "Education" at the Secular Hall by Mrs. Annie Besant, and subsequently, with Peacock, Whalley, Knight, and Rooke, addressed a large meeting in Great Market; 6s. collected for election fund.

**SHEFFIELD—COMMEMORATIVE MEETINGS.**—Saturday 16th: Gower Street, at 12.30; Orchard Street, at 7. Sunday 17th: Orchard Street, at 11; Hall of Science Conference, at 3; Tea and Social Gathering, at 5; Lecture by Mowbray on "Revolution or Reform," at 7. Monday 18th, lecture by W. Morris, at St. Paul's Central Schools, at 8.—"Socialism."

**Syllabus of Lectures**, in connection with the Arts and Crafts Exhibition now open, to be given in the New Gallery, Regent Street, on Thursday evenings, at 8.30 p.m.—Nov. 21st, T. J. Cobden-Sanderson, "The Decoration of Bound Books." 28th, Lewis F. Day, "Ornament." Dec. 5, Walter Crane, "Design and Expression." Admission 2s. 6d.; art students and employes, 1s.

## LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

**Battersea.**—All communications to E. Buteux, 20 Abercrombie Street, Battersea Park Road.  
**Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. (½-minute from Farringdon Station, 1 minute from Holborn Viaduct). On Sunday November 17, at 8 p.m., W. Blundell, "Physical and Mental Starvation."  
**East London.**—Crown Coffee Tavern, 2 Columbia Road, Hackney Road. Sunday November 17, at 7.30, Members' meeting. At 8, meeting on Triangle. At 8.30, W. B. Parker.  
**Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. A Lecture, Reading or Discussion every Sunday at 8 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 20, at 8 p.m., W. Morris will lecture on "Gothic Architecture." French Class, 8 to 9 every Friday.  
**Merton.**—3 Clare Villas, Merton Road.  
**Mitcham.**—"Lord Napier," Fair Green. Meets every Sunday at 12.30, to enroll members, etc.  
**North Kensington.**—Clarendon Coffee Tavern. Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. On Sunday November 17, at 8 p.m., R. E. Dell will lecture on "Why I am a Socialist."  
**North London.**—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Rd. Meets every Friday evening at 8 o'clock.  
**Southwark.**—Secretary, George Evans, 56 Lucy Road, Bermondsey, S.E. Hill's Coffee Tavern, Great Charlotte Street, Blackfriars Road, S.E.  
**Streatham.**—Meets every Thursday at the "Leigham Arms," Wellfield Road, at 8.30 p.m.  
**Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.**—Branch meetings at International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road. J. Turner, organising secretary.

PROVINCES.

**Aberdeen.**—Organiser, J. Leatham, 7 Jamaica Street. Branch meets in Odd-fellows' Small Hall, Crooked Lane, on Monday evenings at 8. Singing practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursdays at 8 p.m.  
**Bradford.**—Laycock's Temperance Hotel, Albion Court, Kirkgate. Meets every Tuesday at 7.30.  
**Dundee.**—Address to W. Cameron, 17 Laurence Street, Dundee.  
**Glasgow.**—Ram's Horn Hall, 122 Ingram Street. Branch meets on Thursday evenings at 8 o'clock and Sundays at 7 o'clock.  
**Halifax.**—Socialists meet every Sunday at 6.30 p.m. at Helliwell's Temperance Hotel, Northgate.  
**Leeds.**—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Road and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m.  
**Leicester.**—Exchange Buildings, Rutland Street. Branch meets on Monday and Thursday, at 8 p.m. In the Co-operative Hall, High Street, on Tuesday November 19th, at 8 p.m., William Clark will lecture on "A Practicable Labour Programme."  
**Manchester.**—Working Men's Educational Club, 122 Corporation Street, corner of Hanover Street. Weekly meeting of members every Tuesday at 8 p.m.  
**Norwich.**—Sunday, at 8.15, Lecture in Gordon Hall by H. Samuels. Monday and Friday, Rehearsals. Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' meeting. Thursday, at 8, Discussion Class. Saturday, at 8, Social Meeting for members and friends; free.  
**Oxford.**—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. First Friday in every month, at 8.30 p.m.  
**Walsall.**—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.  
**Yarmouth.**—Branch meets at comrade Headley's, near Co-operative Stores, every Tuesday evening. Elocution Class Friday at 8 p.m.

## OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

8.30..... Mile-end Waste ..... Cores  
 SATURDAY 16.  
 SUNDAY 17.  
 11 ..... Latimer Road Station ..... J. F. Lyne and Crouch  
 11.30..... Chelsea Embankment ..... Branch  
 11.30..... Kilburn—"Old Plough," Kilburn Lane ..... Mainwaring  
 11.30..... North Kensington—St. Ann's Road ..... R. J. Lyne, Maughan, Dean  
 11.30..... Commercial Road—Union Street ..... Davis  
 11.30..... Mitcham—Fair Green ..... Kitz  
 11.30..... Regent's Park ..... Nioll  
 11.30..... Southwark—Flat Iron Square ..... The Branch  
 11.30..... Starch Green ..... The Branch  
 3.30..... Hyde Park—Marble Arch ..... Parker and Cores  
 3.30..... Victoria Park ..... Davis  
 7 ..... Weltejo Road, Ravenscourt Park ..... Hammersmith Branch  
 7.30..... Mitcham—Fair Green ..... Kitz  
 8 ..... Streatham—Fountain, High Street ..... The Branch  
 7.30..... Walham Green—back of Church ..... Hammersmith Branch  
 8 ..... Clerkenwell Green ..... The Branch  
 TUESDAY 19.  
 8 ..... Walham Green—back of Church ..... Hammersmith Branch  
 THURSDAY 21.  
 8.15..... Hoxton Church ..... Cores

PROVINCES.

**Aberdeen.**—Saturday: Castle Street, 7 p.m.  
**Glasgow.**—Sunday: Jail Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock. Tuesday: Cathedral Square, at 8 p.m.  
**Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.  
**Manchester.**—Sunday: Philips Park Gates, at 11; Stevenson Square, at 3.  
**Norwich.**—Sunday: St. Faiths, at 11; Ber Street Fountain, at 11. At 3 p.m. in the Market, Commemoration of Chicago murders—speakers, H. Samuels (London), W. Moore, G. Poynts, and Swash. Market Place, at 7.30.  
**Yarmouth.**—Sunday: Priory Plain, at 11; Fish Wharf, at 3; Colman's Granary Quay, at 7. Bradwell, Sunday at 11.30. Belton, every Monday at 8.

DUBLIN.—Progressist Club, 87 Marlboro Street, Saturday November 16, at 8, G. McCully, "Social Inequalities."

BORO' OF BETHNAL GREEN RADICAL CLUB, 29 Abbey St., Bethnal Green Rd.—Sunday Nov. 17, at 12 noon, W. S. De Mattos, "Practicable Socialism."

CHELSEA S.D.F., Co-operative Lecture Hall, 312 Kings Road, Chelsea.—Sunday November 17, at 8 p.m., Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, "The Land Question."

MANHOOD SUFFRAGE LEAGUE, "Three Doves," Berwick St., Oxford St., W.—Sunday November 17, at 8.45 p.m., Lothrop Withington, "No Social Salvation in the Hopeless Hat."

A CENTURY OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS.—Course of Lectures to be given by members of the Fabian Society, at Willis's Rooms, King Street, S.W., on Friday evenings at 8 o'clock. November 15th, Hubert Bland, "The Protest of Literature and Sentiment." Dec. 6, Annie Besant, "The Trades Union Movement." 20th, G. Bernard Shaw, "The New Politics." Tickets of admission may be obtained from the Secretary, 180 Portsoad Road, W.

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## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

THE Socialist League advocates International Revolutionary Socialism. That is to say the destruction of the present class society, which consists of one class who live by owning property and therefore *need not work*, and of another that has no property and therefore *must work* in order that they may live to keep the idlers by their labour. Revolutionary Socialism insists that this system of society, which is the modern form of slavery, should be changed to a system of Society which would give every man an opportunity of doing useful work, and not allow any man to live without so doing, which work could not be useful unless it were done for the whole body of workers instead of for do-nothing individuals. The result of this would be that livelihood would not be precarious nor labour burdensome. Labour would be employed in co-operation, and the struggle of man with man for bare subsistence would be supplanted by harmonious combination for the production of common wealth and the exchange of mutual services without the waste of labour or material.

Every man's needs would be satisfied from this common stock, but no man would be allowed to own anything which he could not *use*, and which consequently he must *abuse* by employing it as an instrument for forcing others to labour for him unpaid. Thus the land, the capital, machinery, and means of transit would cease to be private property, since they can only be *used* by the combination of labour to produce wealth.

Thus men would be *free* because they would no longer be dependent on idle property-owners for subsistence; thus they would be *brothers*, for the cause of strife, the struggle for subsistence at other people's expense, would have come to an end. Thus they would be *equal*, for if all men were doing useful work no man's labour could be dispensed with. Thus the motto of Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality, which is but an empty boast in a society that upholds the monopoly of the means of production, would at last be realised.

This Revolutionary Socialism must be International. The change which would put an end to the struggle between man and man, would destroy it also between nation and nation. One harmonious system of federation throughout the whole of civilisation would take the place of the old destructive rivalries. There would be no great centres breeding race hatred and commercial jealousy, but people would manage their own affairs in communities not too large to prevent all citizens from taking a part in the administration necessary for the conduct of life, so that party politics would come to an end.

Thus, while we abide by the old motto:

**Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,**

we say that the existence of private property destroys Equality, and therefore under it there can be neither Liberty nor Fraternity.

We add to the first motto then this other one—

**FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS CAPACITY, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS.**

When this is realised there will be a genuine Society; until it is realised, Society is nothing but a band of robbers. We must add that this change can only be brought about by combination amongst the workers themselves, and must embrace the whole of Society. The new life cannot be *given* to the workers by a class higher than they, but must be *taken* by them by means of the abolition of classes and the reorganisation of Society.

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

### NOTICE.

Subscribers who find a red mark against this notice are thereby reminded that their subscriptions have expired and must be renewed immediately if they wish to continue to receive *Commonweal*.

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