

THE COMMONWEAL

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1887.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES.

Mr. CHAMPION's address at the Church Congress was as well received as could be expected, although very naturally a meeting largely composed of officials, was much disturbed at his attack on the head official, the Queen. A more or less friendly critic remarked that Socialism proposed to give plenty and wealth to everybody, but neglected their spiritual condition. To a non-ecclesiastical mind a good foundation for a sound spiritual condition would appear to be the common-place virtue called honesty, and, unless the Church Congress is much belied by the reporters, that virtue seems to be too common-place to be noticed by these providers for the spiritual life of the nation. The spirit of the meeting, especially during the discussion of that most spiritual question of tithes, was decidedly in accordance with the ancient motto, Get all you can, and keep what you get.

A Mr. Grier said, however, with much truth, that the English people, from the days of Hengist and Horsa to those of Lord Randolph Churchill and Burnham, was always ready to take everything they could lay their hands on. Well, the proverb, "Like people, like priest," is a good one, but Mr. Grier must remember it has two edges; and I must come back to my text and say that the most spiritual persons *ought* to be the most honest—though they seldom are.

One genius said that he feared that behind the apparently-innocent appearance of Socialism the livid spectre of Communism lay hid. This reminds me of an agreeable scene enacted at a rather stormy open-air meeting at which I was present, when a furious opponent said, "Why, at this rate you will be approving of the deeds of the Paris Commune." Whereat a reverend and much respected comrade sprang forward and addressed this retailer of stale news much as follows: "Sir, you have made a most remarkable discovery, a most remarkable discovery! Sir, I beg to congratulate you on your remarkable discovery! Sir, you are a fool!"

Mr. Arch, in addressing a great meeting of field-labourers, has been lamenting the sacking of Messrs. Fenwick and Burt, and, taking his cue from the respectable Liberal papers, has been telling them that it is probably a piece of treachery—the work of Tory intrigue and so forth. Why does Mr. Arch talk such nonsense, when he either knows the real facts or can easily find them out if he does not? He need not profess fear of the Northumbrian miners turning Tories; but if he thinks it a misfortune that they should turn Socialists he has considerable cause for fear.

Perhaps no Government ever took so little by an attack on freedom as the present Tory Government have taken in prosecuting Lord Mayor Sullivan; the defeat was so overwhelming that the only excuse the Government prints could find was in the stupidity of their own officials. It has given the Nationalists an opportunity for a most successful demonstration at the cheapest possible price. For the rest, though one finds it hard to help smiling at the spectacle of the Lord Mayor, attended by mace and sword, a prisoner in the police court, yet it is a good augury of the time when local bodies shall find themselves in formal opposition to the stupid centralisation, which a little time ago seemed to be all triumphant.

The news of the "Socialist Disturbance" in New York demands explanation. That the American police should break up a Socialist meeting with the most brutal violence is nothing remarkable, unfortunately, even setting aside their exploits at Chicago, for they are on the whole the most brutal of all the defenders of law and order. But what explanation can there be of Mr. Henry George's followers attacking the Socialists except that that gentleman has ratted and joined the Capitalist camp? Definitely as we Socialists differ from Mr. George, this would be a great disappointment to some of us, since he has always been put forward as a specially honest man and a lover of progress in all forms.

W. M.

During the enquiry into the death of Head-Constable Whelehan this past week, nothing has been so plain as that it was a hatched-up affair arranged by the police. Whether by Governmental instructions, in order to get an "efficient cause" for the coercion policy, or whether it was on their own account, to gain credit, has not been made clear; but what is clear is that unless the informer Callinan had worked up the business nothing would have happened.

In England, police intimidation and domiciliary visits; in Ireland, treachery and stupid official brutality; in "Hail Columbia, happy land!" the same as in Ireland—persecution for opinion and judicial murder; all these things are the bourgeois employing against the great movement which is growing so rapidly everywhere.

But their tools fail them sometimes. Last week a constable at Gweedore refused to fire upon the people; an inspector at Mitchelstown dared to tell the truth and shame—his superiors; many others are leaving or preparing to leave "the force;" even a hardened policeman has some humanity left in him sometimes, and recognises that it is to the oppressed people that he belongs.

Careful propaganda should be made, by all can do so, among soldiers and policemen, and that speedily, for nothing so effectually frightens a government as to find the "strong hand" weakening on which it relies, and the force which rests upon slipping away from it.

It cannot be too much insisted upon that there is inevitable war between "the classes and the masses," and that the army, navy, and police are, by the necessity of their position, against the latter. But they are drawn from the "masses," and may be made to realise that when these gain their end, the extinction of class, there will be more honourable and pleasanter work for them than the Quilp-cum-Judas employment they now follow.

The East London Waterworks Company, which issued its annual report on 14th inst., has earned some notoriety in the past year by reason of the eels in its mains and its intermittent supply, but can show an increase in its revenue of nearly £2,000 for the half-year and a decrease in its expenditure. Thus the company has been prospering while the people whom it serves have had to endure the inconvenience and risks of a short supply during the past summer.

The unfortunate customers of the company have suffered by the drought, but it has rolled in the shekels for the shareholders. The chairman boldly defended the intermittent supply, and threw all the blame on those "who had unadvisedly removed their cisterns, and who neglected to fill a receptacle during the day;" but the collectors of the company apparently have not "neglected" to collect the rates, whether a supply of water was obtained or not.

Instances of this kind of thing are always recurring, and all that can be said is that, so long as the people allow monopoly to control the necessities of life, they must expect to be fleeced. That they should be so patient while profit is made out of their mishaps is not one of the least surprising circumstances of the case.

Those who speak so readily and constantly of the "improved position" of the workers should read the report of the discussion between the Vestry of St. Luke's and the costers of Whitecross Street upon a poll-tax that the former proposed to levy upon the latter. One of the costers said:—

"There is not one of us who don't pay double the rent we did years ago. I pay treble. I have paid for the same accommodation 2s., 4s., 6s., and 9s. 6d. I am not in a position to pay what I am paying now, and ought not to have to pay it. The parish has gone down very much through the pulling down of the houses, and the building of the 'models' has not made it better."

S.

AN APPEAL TO THE MINERS.

ADDRESSED TO THEIR DELEGATES IN CONFERENCE
AT EDINBURGH, OCTOBER 11TH, 1887.

FELLOW WORKMEN,—

Though not a miner, I feel that no apology is needed in addressing you on the Labour Question. You are now too fully convinced of the identity of the interests of all workmen to refuse an impartial consideration to arguments, because advanced by one who is not of your own calling. The following words are addressed to you in the hope that they may be the means of inducing you and the half million of mining operatives whom you represent to look deeper into the labour problem than you have been accustomed to do.

The very holding of this Conference, whatever its immediate results may be, is a step in the right direction. The interests of the 520,000

men, women, and children who toil in and about our mines are the same. Their sufferings are borne in common, the wrongs of each are known to and felt by all; they are the victims of the same system of oppression, and their deliverance can only be achieved by the solid combination of the whole mass into one great Federation. But, still further, remember that the whole of the miners are but part of the working class; that your interests are just as nearly related to the operatives in the factories, the labourers in the field, and the seamen on the main as to your neighbours in the pit; and that to gain your own rights you must unite with the rest of the workers and help in the great struggle for the universal emancipation of labour.

The object of your Conference is to discuss (1) the best means of limiting the output of coal; (2) a fortnightly holiday; (3) National Federation; (4) an eight hours day enforced by law. The object of your 1st, 2nd, and 4th proposals is to wring better terms from your employers. You hope, by restricting the supply of coal, to raise prices, and, by raising prices, to raise wages. You hope also in doing this to lessen the shamefully long hours per day which most of you are compelled to work at present. A word of criticism from a Socialist point of view may be useful to you on these points.

In every attempt to better your hard lot the thorough sympathy of all Socialists is with you. But do not be too moderate in your demands. Whatever relief you get, if indeed you get any under the present system, will be got, not from the generosity, but from the fears of your masters. The less you ask the less you will get. Moderate rebellion against such im-moderate wrongs is at least bad policy, and even looks like cowardice. To appeal for such paltry concessions is but a waste of time. If you got all you ask for, you would find in a very short time that you had only a bogus benefit. Your policy is based on the assumption that you can regulate competition—and that is utterly beyond your power. With increasing markets, you can just manage to raise wages a very little; but with decreasing markets, with appliances for the saving of coal in manufactures in eager demand, with the attempts to save labour in the getting of coal, and with the enormous strides that are being made in the application of electricity, it is sheer madness to think that you can succeed. The advantages of the capitalists are too great for you ever to dream of winning if this policy is to be your only way of fighting. You are too weak, even if ever so well organised, to force a rise of prices. The employers, also, are unable, as well as unwilling, to grant any great advance. Home and foreign competition is pressing upon them harder and harder. Although there is practically no importation of coal into this country, and no danger of there being much, foreign competition has still to be dealt with. The price of coal has a direct and powerful influence on the price of iron and steel, and an indirect, though less powerful, influence on the price of all manufactures. If you carefully and fully measure the strength of the forces against you in this policy, you will surely see that it is sheer folly to depend upon it alone.

An eight hours day and a fortnightly holiday is becoming a popular workman's programme. It is welcome as a slight advance; but it is a superficial proposal if intended as a means of permanently bettering your condition. Do not disregard the lesson that Free Trade presents to you! It was right in principle, as the movement for shortening the hours of labour is. It put a few pence into one of your pockets, and took just about the same amount out of the other. The eight hours bill will be just the same story over again. Miners, of all men, ought to know that their long hours is a less evil than the intensity with which they have to labour. The piece-work system which they have been unable to get rid of compels them to strain every nerve and work like slaves in order to earn even the average wage; and shorter hours means either smaller wages or harder work, or, at the best, a judicious mixture of both.

Do not think that these criticisms are made in an unfriendly way for the purpose of chilling your hopes of amelioration. It is not from want of sympathy nor interest in seeing your lot bettered, but from fear that you are about to waste energy and raise false hopes by going about it in the wrong way. The advantages you have are few, and the chance of winning further advantages very small. By all means stick to what you have, and try to get as much more in the same way as you can; but let your ultimate aim be a thorough and real change which will end the petty and continual squabble between capitalist and labourers.

The third point in your list of subjects for discussion is really the most important of all. The Federation of the Miners of the whole county is a most important step. You have already a Miners' National Union, which is, however, unknown to fame except as a means of collecting money to pay part of the election expenses of your labour M.P.'s (of whom more anon). Let us hope no more abortions of the same kind will come to light. What is wanted now is a real Federation of the Miners' Unions for the purpose (1) of bringing the strength of the whole body to the support of each district in times of labour disputes; (2) to extend and strengthen the unions where they are now weak; (3) to promote a great federation of all trades—a gigantic union which will include the whole working-class; and (4) to consider the ways and means of effecting such a change as will secure to the working-class not merely bigger wages but the full fruits of their labour.

The first three points will be accepted by all the advanced spirits of the labour movement, and it is surely unnecessary to urge them here. The fourth is the one which most needs discussion. You must now see that a mere struggle for higher wages and shorter hours is not enough. The cause of the whole evil is that capital and land are monopolised by a class which uses them as instruments for the robbery of labour. Limiting and regulating this robbery is most unsatisfactory even when

successful. You must stop the systems of robbery altogether. The labour problem is (1) That useful work is not provided for all; (2) That even when work is got the return to the labourers is less than the value of the work done; (3) That the work is done under unhealthy and slavish conditions. All these evils spring from the competitive system which Socialists wish you to unite in breaking down. Sooner or later you must take this as your aim. If you choose you can waste a few more years in trying to get justice out of capitalists—but you might as well try to get blood out of a stone. As long as your labour is organised by masters for their own profit, they must grind you down and take everything from you but the price of some bread and butterine. Whenever you take the means of production into your own control, and organise your own labour in your own interests, all the fuss and war about wages, prices, gluts, depressions, etc., will be at an end.

The only purpose of this address is to put forward certain principles and to gain your adhesion to them. It would be out of place to lay down the details of the movement by which you are to gain these ends. The methods of propaganda and the practical work of putting these principles into operation are for you to decide. The essential thing is that instead of higgling and bargaining about the price at which you will sell yourselves to masters in the labour-market, you should now become your own masters and get the full fruits of your labour.

Whatever step you take towards organising the workers, begin by severing yourselves from Tory and Liberal politicians. However you may shape your politics you must clearly reckon on the opposition of Liberals and Tories alike. To-day the cause of labour is degraded by men who, under the name of "labour representatives," drag you after the Liberal party. Tories and Liberals alike are the defenders of the rights of property as against the rights of labour. Both parties have humbugged the working-class all through, and it is time now that you made it clearly understood by those who claim to be your leaders that they must make no compromise with the defenders of monopoly. In future the workers must rely upon themselves, they must keep their organisation clear of middle-class influence, and they must go to the root of this question instead of merely nibbling at the fringes of it.

Edinburgh, October 1887.

J. L. MAHON.

FREEDOM OF CONTRACT.

(Continued from p. 323.)

For all practical purposes, then, we may conclude that the labourer is considered not, as Mr. Bradlaugh asserts, as the slave of old was considered—"a kind of conscious machine"—but a mere machine carrying its own motive force, the price of which is determined by the price of the restoration of that force. All this Mr. Bradlaugh seems to deny, as will be seen by the following extract from the speech I have been commenting on: "I take it, then, that to-day, by all reasonable men, the labourer is reckoned with, not as a man who is a servant, not as a man who is a serf, not as a man who is a slave, but as a person who has his labour to sell, and who is entitled to make a fair bargain for that labour before the world."

Perhaps the best refutation of this astounding piece of nonsense is in Mr. Bradlaugh's own words, written some time before the delivery of the speech at Northampton.

"It is warmly contended," writes Mr. B. ('Labour's Prayer,' p. 4) "that the capitalist and labourer contend for the division of the fund appropriate in fair and open field; that the capitalist has his money to employ, the man his labour to sell; that if workmen are in excess of the capitalist's requirements, so that the labourer has to supplicate for employment, wages cannot rise, and will probably fall; but that if, on the contrary, capital has need to invite additional labourers, then wages must rise. That is the law of supply and demand brought prominently forward."

"In great part this is true, but it is not true that capital and labour compete in fair and open field, any more than it is true that an ironclad war-vessel, with heavy ordnance, would compete in fair field with a wooden frigate equipped with the material in use thirty years ago. Capital is gold-plated, and carries too many guns for unprotected labour."

"The intelligent capitalist makes the laws affecting master and servant which the uneducated labourer must obey, but has no effective voice to alter. The capitalist forms the government of the country, which in turn protects capital against labour; this government the labourer must sustain, and dares not modify. The capitalist does combine, and has combined, and the result of this combination has been an unfair appropriation of the divisible fund." Exactly.

It is evident Mr. Bradlaugh has altered his opinions lately, for when the same contention has been made by Socialists he has stoutly denied it. "What are the rights of capital?" asked Mr. B., at Northampton, "for capital has rights," he assured his audience. I was certainly under the impression that only human beings had rights; I have never for one moment dreamed that things inanimate had rights until Mr. B. said so. Rights imply duties, and are, therefore, the attributes of the human race.

"There are people who talk absolute nonsense," continued Mr. B., "who say that capital should be given without interest and used without profit, and who talk of making revolution against the capitalist class. Those men are either enemies of the people, or they are idiots: they are either traitors to the people, or they are madmen. If you want to dig a field and you have no spade, if you can earn something by digging,

and some other one has that spade, you must pay for the loan and use of that spade. It is impossible that capital will enterprise itself to make you live more easily unless capital has some inducement."

I willingly grant that you pay for the use of the spade, but to whom is the pay due? Mr. B. tells us it is due to the capitalist. The pay is due to the labourer who produced it, and not the capitalist who possesses it. The word "capital" is used here as something that will not enterprise itself to make you live more easily unless it has some inducement. This can only be understood by the substitution of the word capitalist for capital, and then, read through the spectacles of Mr. B. when he wrote 'Labour's Prayer,' it becomes as clear as daylight, and despite the denunciation of Socialists indulged in by Mr. B. as "traitors" and "idiots," this very slight alteration of his proposition will render the true position, and make the Socialists right and Mr. B. wrong.

It is interesting to note that the two individuals—the one who made the spade and the one who wishes to use it—are both producers, while the one who owns the spade, the capitalist, is an idler; and it is he who stands between the two labourers and prevents the one from using the product of the other unless he can make a profit by the process. "What is capital?" asked Mr. B. Sir Thomas Brassey, speaking at the Industrial Remuneration Conference (and, by the way, I think that was a good sign—rich men and poor men, men with millions and men with nothing—met together in Piccadilly, London, last year to discuss if it were possible to improve the relations between Capital and Labour. It was the first time that that was ever done in England; it should be done again and again)—Sir Thomas Brassey, speaking as a representative of Capital, used these three phrases: "(1) Abstinence from enjoyment is the only source of Capital; (2) it is upon the increase of Capital that the advance of wages depends; (3) while Labour is the vivifying principle which preserves Capital from decay."

Abstinence the only source of capital! Abstinence is a passive, not an active, quality; nothing is produced by it; the wealth of the country is in no way increased by it.

Capital is created by Labour. Now, Labour is an active quality. Besides, even supposing that abstinence is a creative virtue, who is it abstains? Sir Thomas Brassey? The only thing that Sir Thomas Brassey abstains from doing is useful work; and if we are to take into account abstinence from enjoyment at all, how about the workers of the country, who are almost total abstainers from any kind of enjoyment? They do all the work of the country, and consume the smallest share of what they produce; while those who look on and never do a hand's turn take and consume the largest share of any. The labourers build sumptuous palaces, and live in hovels; weave broadcloth, and wear shoddy; cut beautiful roads, and live in slums. Who abstains, then? It needs no answer; the thing answers itself. Therefore, if abstinence is the source of capital, the workers are the source from which it flows, even on this showing. H. DAVIS.

(To be concluded.)

ANOTHER LETTER FROM AMERICA.

"True as steel are the friends of the seven men whom the courts of Illinois have doomed to death in atonement for the tragedy in the Haymarket. They know no discouragement; they disdain despair. No toil is too irksome, no sacrifice too great in the task they have taken upon themselves." These are words not written by papers sympathetic to the cause of labour, but by capitalistic sheets, and they tell of devotion which has only been approached by the early Christian martyrs.

The case will be carried before the Supreme Court of the United States. This is the latest news I can report to the readers of the *Commonweal*. Captain Black, the legal assistant of the condemned men during their trial, arrived last Friday in New York from Chicago and at once went to see General Roger A. Pryor, one of the greatest experts in legal matters. The two men were closeted in the strictest privacy for two hours, but when Captain Black came out of the office he looked joyful. "I have won him to our side," the Captain said. "He is satisfied that both justice and law lie with us; that we are certain to win our object." "I have not the least doubt that our application for a writ of error will be granted," explained General Pryor to the reporters. "Indeed, the records show so many errors in the ruling and in the trial that I cannot see how our application can be denied." Most of the prominent lawyers express the opinion that no difficulty would be met with in securing the writ of error. Of course a writ of error is not equivalent to a reversal of the judgment of the Illinois Supreme Court, but it allows a delay in the execution until the case is finally disposed of by U.S. Supreme Court. The state of affairs in Chicago appears to be highly critical. Mrs. Black, the wife of Captain Black, gives the following graphic description:

"The town is torn by a tornado of conflicting passions—hate, pity, rage, sorrow—each with tense violence struggling for mastery. God knows where it will end. A very panic has seized the community. Our homes, our lives are near to destruction. Men speak of the danger that overhangs us all in accents of fear and horror. Women turn pale and tremble at the very mention of the momentous crisis that is at hand. In the presence of our little-ones we are silent of the dismal hour that threatens to darken the memory of their childhood days. We are dealing with men made desperate by weight of woe. They see their friends on the brink of an abyss over which wild, unreasoning passion works to hurl them to disgraceful death. Heaven help us if the worst comes. The story of their revenge will be written in solemn colours in the annals of the age. Frankly, we fear them.

"Captain Black's position is indeed no pleasant one in this unhappy affair. He is upbraided by the one side for the moderation which he has urged and demanded; he is denounced by the enemies of the Anarchists for the part he has taken in their defence. He is striving, though, merely to play the part of the peacemaker. He has come here on a mission of mercy. He wants to save the Anarchists that he may save the capitalists. The destruction of the former means the ruin of the money kings. The labouring masses of Chicago are in no spirit to be trifled with. They see the families of the condemned men utterly undone with unutterable

and pity, and their prayers go not unheeded into every cottage in Chicago. We have come to this great city for aid. We say to the good people of this great and cultured community, 'Come, let us reason together.' If they deny us their kindly help we know not where to turn. We must then nerve ourselves for the worst, and God knows what that will be."

Dr. Giffen seems to be again on the stump. The capitalist papers report in full a paper which he must have read before some scientific institution or other. Naturally, as it becomes the flunkey of bourgeoisdom, the report he makes of British progress, especially of the labouring man's progress, is satisfactory indeed. We are told savings increase, paupers decrease, and working men are earning comfortable wages. A sceptic once defined statistics to be the science of lying in figures. Probably Dr. Giffen acts up to this definition, as the impression amongst the peoples themselves is very different to Dr. Giffen's tall-tales. Ah, if we had but once the occasion, time, etc., to investigate at proper quarters these figures, to examine into the ways of workhouses, charitable institutions, etc., we might be enabled to tell a tale forcing even Mr. Broadhurst to admit there is something radically wrong. However, now and then we stumble across a case which explains to us the way to decrease workhouse expenses. Here is one. The steamer "Warwick" arrived here a few days ago from Bristol, England, having on board Katie and Minnie Peters, consigned to the Children's Aid Society of New York. The Board of Public Charities, acting under the advice of the Secretary of the Treasury, decided that the children were amenable to the Act of Congress prohibiting the landing of foreigners liable to become public charges, and instructed the captain of the "Warwick" to return them to England. The children were sent by Mark Whitehall, a justice of the peace and superintendent of the poor in Bristol. The captain of the "Warwick" when told to take the children back, expressed much surprise, and said that Mr. Whitehall had frequently sent destitute children to New York and that the authorities of that port never objected to the landing of the children!

There has been no change in the situation in the Lehigh Valley (Pa.), miners being still out. Those in the Schuylkill and the Wyoming Valleys are at work, the former at the advance of 8 per cent. The threatened strike of 8000 Connellsville coke operatives has been postponed until October 2.

LIST OF STRIKES FOR SEPTEMBER.

Number of Strikers from September 1 to September 16	...	...	36,226
Ashaway, R. I., weavers against reduction of wages	...	...	26
Evansville, Ind., miners, for advance, Sept. 17	...	...	250
Wilkesbarre, Pa., asphalt-workers, for advance, Sept. 16	...	...	150
Pittsburgh, Pa., Iron-workers, against discharge of men, Sept. 17.	...	...	...
Succeeded Sept. 19	...	...	500
New York City tile-layers, for advance, Sept. 17	...	...	23
Wareham, Mass., Cranberry-pickers, for advance, Sept. 20	...	...	500
Cincinnati, Ohio, Grippen on the Mt. Adams and Eden Cable Road, against discharge of employes, Sept. 17	...	...	75
Randolph, Mass., Edge-setters, against employment of green-hand, Sept. 21. Failed	...	...	—
New York City builders, against employment of non-union plumbers, Sept. 22	...	...	200
New York City labourers, for back pay, Sept. 21	...	...	30
Yonkers, N. Y., machinists, back pay, Sept. 21	...	...	100
Hoboken, N. J., silk-weavers (girls), against reduction, Sept. 21	...	...	20
			38,109

New York, September 28, 1887.

H. CHARLES.

TORY BLACKGUARDS AT LOWESTOFT.

Last Sunday, Houghton and Nicoll tried to hold the usual meeting. For some time past the local Tories have set hired roughs upon our speakers, and they hardly expected to get much further than the railway station. They had been warned that they would not be allowed to set foot in the place. On their arrival they found a crowd of crimps, long-shore loafers, and others, waiting but subdued by the presence of two policemen. At the meeting-place Nicoll had hardly opened the meeting, by appealing to the crowd to act as Englishmen and give fair play, when a rush was made which swept down the hill towards the station. He was knocked down several times, but a soldier came to the rescue and told the mob to behave like men. This appeal would have been useless, however, had not the policemen suddenly appeared on the scene. They surrounded our men, and held the crowd back. Then was witnessed the unwonted spectacle of two Socialists protected by policemen against violence. To plainly prove the ignoble cowardice of the ruffianly crowd, it may be mentioned that about seven kept at least a thousand easily at bay! Just as the yard of the railway station was entered, the mob charged again, and for a few minutes overpowered the police. These rallied, however, and got our men into the station, where a special train was prepared, and took them off to a little village just out of the town. The mob avenged itself on two harmless onlookers unjustly suspected of Socialism! Our comrades were but slightly injured. Nicoll's face was scratched by a Conservative hero!

At a large open-air meeting on the Market Square, Northampton, on Sunday morning, on the motion of the chairman, Mr. Robert Reed, it was decided unanimously to make a public demonstration on the occasion of Prince Albert Victor's visit to the town next week to lay the foundation-stone of the Jubilee enlargements at Northampton General Infirmary. It was determined to have a procession, headed by a band which should play the Dead March in "Saul." The meeting subscribed for a large black flag it was resolved to procure, with the following inscription: "Put not your trust in princes." The chairman said it was an insult to the people of Northampton to bring down a stripling like the prince, and he warned those making the arrangements for the visit to tell Prince Albert Victor even now not to come. The visit, he declared, would be an historical one, and probably it would be the last time that a prince in England would leave his home.

LOW WAGES AND THE PARSON.—A "Country Rector" has written to the *Daily News* "How to Live on 5s. a-week." He himself undertook the experiment, and gives the result with a detailed account of the expenses. The amount allowed for rent is 9d., and for that useful article soap, only 4d. Most of the other items appear at about market price. The rector says he was able to perform his work as well as ever! He does not state, however, whether he is continuing the experiment. That the food recommended by this well-intentioned Christian is sufficient for the work performed by him is quite possible, but should not his letter have been addressed to those of his calling? How would a dinner of two ounces of cold bacon suit, say, a collier or an ironworker? Letters of this description are welcomed by callous employers striving to reduce wages, and ill become a follower of the Nazarene. The experiment, however, loses much of its value when it is recollected that



"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.

A. M'K. (S. L. & L. L.)—Please don't write on both sides of the paper. See notice last week.

J. T. D. (Walsall)—Wednesday morning is rather too late for the insertion of a longish article! It must be held over.

P. D.—Garibaldi was born at Nice 4 July 1807, so you are right in saying that the American Independence Day is his birthday. Several memoirs of his life have been published in English.

O'D.—A small collection of Mangan's poems can be got from M. H. Gill & Son, O'Connell Street, Dublin, 3d.

G. (Stradbally, co. Waterford)—Pamphlet sent. Shall be glad to hear from you.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 12.

ENGLAND		SWITZERLAND	
Justice	Boston—Woman's Journal	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	
Norwich—Daylight	Liberty		ITALY
Nottingham Free Press	Chicago (Ill.)—Labor Enquirer	Gazzetta Operaia	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Labour Tribune	Vorbote	Naples—Humanitas	Demolitore
Railway Review	Knights of Labor		SPAIN
London Arbeiter-Zeitung	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Cadiz—El Socialismo	Madrid—El Socialista
Christian Socialist	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole		GERMANY
Die Autonomie	N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate	Berlin—Volks Tribune	
Freedom	Detroit (Mich.)—The Advance		AUSTRIA
Anarchist	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	Arbeiterstimme	Vienna—Gleichheit
Worker's Friend	Philadelphia (Pa.)—Carpenter		HUNGARY
Jus	San Francisco (Cal) The People	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik	
INDIA		ROMANIA	
Bankipore—Behar Herald	FRANCE	Jassy—Lupta	
Allahabad—People's Budget	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)		DENMARK
Bombay Gazette	Le Socialiste		Social-Demokraten
Madras—People's Friend	La Revolte		SWEDEN
CANADA			Malmö—Arbetet
Toronto—Labor Reformer	Guise—Le Devoir		
UNITED STATES			
New York—Der Sozialist	Lille—Le Travailleur		
Volkszeitung	Antwerp—De Werker		
Freiheit	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde		
Leader	Seraing (Ougree)—Le Revil		
	HOLLAND		
	Hague—Recht voor Allen		
	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts		

SOCIALISM AT THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

NOTHING could show better the progress of the Socialist movement than the fact that that most conservative of institutions the Church of England, has begun to consider the movement. Last Thursday evening was devoted by the Church Congress to hearing three papers on Socialism; from the Bishop of Derry, H. H. Champion, and Stanley Leighton, M.P. The meeting was held in the Drill Hall, Wolverhampton, and was attended by about 2,500 people. About one half of the audience was composed of clergymen. The Bishop of Derry was unable to attend, so his paper was read by the Rector of Wolverhampton. The Bishop's paper showed an entire want of knowledge of the subject. A few trite remarks on the good intentions of many Socialists, followed by a few platitudes on the superiority of Christianity to Socialism, was all the Bishop had to say. He strongly advised the clergy not to play with Socialism and so assist "in spreading the germs of social zymotic disease." No criticism on the Bishop's paper can be made, for the simple reason that there was nothing in it.

Mr. Champion delivered an excellent speech, in which he briefly gave the Socialist explanation of the present perilous position. He summed up this in four propositions (1) private ownership of land and capital (2) giving unlimited power to the owners over the propertyless class (3) who use that power to confiscate enormous quantities of the labour of the landless workers (4) these by the whip of hunger being obliged to accept the cost price of their labour, viz., starvation wages, for producing all the wealth of England. The remedy was to set firmly about limiting the power of the monopolists, and so render it possible for honest people to get a living. "The cause of the unmeasured vehemence of some of the language used by Socialists was the cowardly conduct of practical politicians. If governments had to choose between holding London in a state of siege and of grappling seriously with the labour question, practical politicians would soon find the problem ripe for solution." The speech was on the whole received very favourably; only once was there any serious interruption. When Mr. Champion was commenting on the wasteful extravagance of spending £17,000 on upholstering Westminster Abbey for a woman to pray in, loud shouts

of "Withdraw!" were heard, met with a few stentorian "No, noes!" One royalist shouted in the tone you sometimes hear in a provincial cathedral, "God save the Queen!"

Stanley Leighton, the Tory M.P., spoke after Champion. The Bishop of Derry was bad enough, but this fiery layman was clever enough to crowd about half-a-dozen misrepresentations of Socialism into every sentence. He characterised Socialism as an attack on common sense, and referring to the indignant demand of the Socialist, "Why should society allow one man to waste thousands in utter selfishness, and allow another to die of starvation?" he said, "We are as much dissatisfied with such a state of things as the Socialist." It is curious that notwithstanding this Tory landlord's dissatisfaction with things as they are, he taboos the only effective remedy—Socialism. Mr. Leighton wants to find a way for the rich remaining rich without working, and by which the worker can be plundered, without being impoverished by the process. Such simple-minded nonsense is worthy of a Tory landlord. He does not know that the riches of the rich are built on the poverty of the masses, and their continual exploitation by the monopolists, of whom Mr. Stanley Leighton is one. A sarcastic person might remark that Mr. Leighton is either an ignoramus or a hypocrite, and I should not vehemently contradict him. Mr. Leighton looks to penny banks, coffee taverns, building societies, and emigration, for the solution of the labour problem. We may inform him that he is looking in the wrong direction, and may point out to him that instead of congratulating the Church on the miserable schemes referred to, he should rather grieve that in the rich land of England, the producers have to scrape pennies together; have become so demoralised by the grinding of landlords and other exploiters, that they fly to the grog shop for a little relief from their monotonous lives; and that to counteract this, "5 per cent per ann." members of the Church of Christ have started Gospel Coffee Taverns, where bad coffee is sold at double its cost. It is not in miserable schemes of this kind, which are all very well as makeshifts, that the labour question is to be solved; but in practically applying the Heathen and Christian maxim, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." When landlords realise what that means, they will understand Socialism, and when they act upon it, they will be Socialists.

The discussion on the papers was limited, only one layman taking part. Canon Grier desired to see co-operation substituted for competition, and was anxious for the suppression of the liquor traffic. An Irish Churchman, the Dean of Armagh, made a virulent attack on Socialism, composed of blarney and ignorance. He supported the wasting of £17,000 on upholstery for Westminster Abbey; he did not believe we could get along without capital [who wants to?]; he did not desire to see people reduced to a dull dead level, and society made into a swamp and morass (!); and was anxious that the eighth and tenth commandments should not be forgotten.

Stewart Headlam vigorously replied, and said that he endorsed Ruskin's division of men into workers, beggars, and robbers; and urged that Socialism was a movement for endeavouring to turn the robbers and beggars into the ranks of the workers. To the landlord and to the capitalist he said, "Rob no more!" and he urged the priests and especially the bishops of the Church to follow the example of the Guild of St. Matthew, in exhorting the idle rich to cease their dishonest practices, and to learn to live by their own labour.

The concluding speaker was the Bishop of Bedford, who said the contrast between the rich and the poor was so appalling, that he was prepared to consider carefully any scheme, no matter how revolutionary, that promised relief. It is to be hoped that the Bishop will remember to carry out what he has undertaken, and if after investigation he concludes that the monopolists have ruined England, that he will boldly stand in the ranks of the Socialists, and help them to make it possible for honest men to live.

At the close the chairman, the Bishop of Lichfield, asked the assembly if the committee was right in asking Mr. Champion to read a paper. Loud cries of "Yes," were given in response. A large quantity of Socialist literature was distributed to the clergy who attended the sitting.

A. K. DONALD.

THE COMPETITIVE SYSTEM.

In church and in state it is rule or be ruled;
In courtship and marriage it is fool or be fooled;
In logic and law it is nick or be nicked;
In gambling or trade it is trick or be tricked;
In treaty and war it is beat or be beaten;
In the struggle of life it is eat or be eaten.

LITERARY NOTICES.

'A Political Essay, showing the Necessity of having Money, Land, and all Manufacturing Industries National,' by R. Crawford (author, 55, College Place, Camden Town, Gd.) is a very temperate, plainly worded treatment of the theme its title indicates. Many, indeed most, of the author's illustrations are drawn from South Africa, a part of the world he evidently knows well. It is easier for men to appreciate the true relations of circumstances not those of their immediate surroundings, and this alone would have made the pamphlet a valuable one.

The *Gazzetta Operaia*, Turin, "an independent journal of no political party," contains some sensible vigorous writing on current social questions. We note especially in a recent issue an article pointing out the illusory nature of the good done by the ordinary partial, spasmodic trade-strikes, their very doubtful victories, and not at all doubtful defeats in the unequal combat; recognising too that the individualist capitalist is often as helpless in the crisis-development as the men he employs.

SOCIALISM IN ABERDEEN.

ARREST OF J. L. MAHON.

THE baton of Aberdeen officialism has been raised against Socialism and dropped again in deference to popular indignation. The guardians of "the law," property, and orthodoxy were startled to learn that a Socialist intended to visit the city on Saturday, October 1st. The Radical had proved himself a "thorn in the flesh" of smug authority, and so the advent of a Socialist was a positive terror. And there had been a midnight robbery of a jeweller's window, and the police were on the outlook for suspicious persons. Possibly they expected Mr. Mahon to wear one of the best of the stolen gold watches. When, on Saturday, at seven o'clock, he stood up on the Castlegate, a large market square, to address the numerous audience quietly assembled to hear him, they had to confess to each other that he was, as the superintendent said, "a reasonable looking person," who certainly had no jewellery flaunted on his breast. Beyond showing a little brief authority by asking him to remove to another spot, out of the way of the meeting usually held where he was standing, they did not interfere with him. He finished his address in quietness, and evidently made a favourable impression.

But on Sunday the baton quivered with zeal for the Sabbath and conventional religion. The superintendent was eager to do battle for the Pharisees, the Kirk, and "the Lord's Day." But it was not till evening that he grew valiant. Perhaps he dined with some of the "elders," and got inspired at the sumptuous table. Mr. Mahon's three o'clock meeting at the Duthie Park, situated at the southern outskirts of the city, was not interfered with. The "bobby" on duty there listened quietly with his baton in its sheath and his white gloves on his folded hands. The sunshine of the glorious autumn day abashed the owls of Conventionalism, and the gospel of Socialism was proclaimed in peace to the large and attentive congregation.

But as evening approached the baton became restless, and authority determined that a blow should be struck against the strange and dangerous propaganda. No doubt there had been excited consultations, among the Pharisees in vestries and elsewhere, and the police were coached. When Mr. Mahon took his stand at the entrance to Correction Wynd (a recess opening out of a busy thoroughfare), about six o'clock to begin his address, a policeman requested him to move on as he would disturb a congregation then worshipping in an adjoining church. Mr. Mahon immediately left the spot and went to Castlegate, followed by a large number of persons. He resumed his address there, but had not spoken many minutes when a policeman came up to him and informed him that he could not be allowed to hold his meeting without the superintendent's permission. Mr. Mahon pointed out that other meetings were being held in the square at the moment, and declined to stop his address. The official endeavoured to persuade Mr. Mahon that a political meeting was very improper on the Sabbath, but found that he was not open to such persuasion. Thereupon the argumentative bobby required Mr. Mahon to go with him to the police office. The lecturer, after telling the immense crowd that he was virtually under arrest, went with some friends to the office. They found the superintendent in a very wrathful mood. Instead of coolly explaining to Mr. Mahon what offence he was committing, he expostulated with him on the sin of lecturing on politics on "the Lord's Day." He said nothing whatever about obstruction, or disorder, or anything but the horrible profanity of the "like of him" breaking the Sabbath. After listening to the lecture of the baton, and being told he was at liberty, Mr. Mahon returned to his former stand and continued his address. The crowd was swollen to a great size, but there was not the slightest disorder. Finding its lecture on Sabbatarian propriety disregarded, the baton marched in state to the Castlegate, arrested Mahon and broke up the crowd. At the office Mahon was charged in a vague way with a breach of "the law," and was required to appear at the police-court on Tuesday at eleven, a bail of 40s. being paid as the security of his appearance. The streets were full of people, and when Mahon reappeared a large crowd followed him calling for a speech. He found means of slipping away from the crowd, and soon quietness prevailed. It may be explained here that, though Sunday meetings on the Castle Gate were summarily suppressed about twenty years ago, all sorts of meetings have for years been permitted there.

On Monday evening Mahon held a meeting on Castlegate, at the same spot where he spoke on Sunday. There was a large and orderly audience, and the meeting was not stopped. After it, a meeting was held in the Northern Friendly Society's Hall, which was crowded in every part. Mr. Geo. Bisset, President of the Trades' Council, took the chair, and protested strongly against the action of the police. The following resolutions were proposed and passed enthusiastically: Proposed by Mr. Jas. Leatham, and seconded by Mr. P. Barron:—

"That the arrest of Mr. J. L. Mahon, organising secretary of the Scottish Land and Labour League, while engaged in stating the objects and principles of the League in an orderly manner in Castle Street last night, was invidious, unjust, and tyrannous; an unwarranted interference with the right of free speech and the privilege of public assemblage; an insult to Mr. Mahon, and a presumptuous condemnation of the Scottish Land and Labour League."

Proposed by the Rev. Alexander Webster, and seconded by Mr. H. H. Duncan:—

"That we, as citizens of Aberdeen, claim, and, if necessary will defend the right to hold public meetings in any suitable place in the city, on any day, to discuss any subject in an orderly way, provided no obstruction of traffic or any annoyance to the lieges is caused."

Mahon delivered an address on "The Aims of the Socialist Party," which was frequently applauded.

On Tuesday, at 11, the farce of the baton began. The court-room was crowded, and behind the bench the wings were occupied by clusters of bailiffs, councillors, and other representatives of the law. The trial of a Socialist was evidently a sensation. The charge was as follows:—

"John Lincoln Mahon, designating himself as organising secretary for the Scottish Land and Labour League, and presently residing in Watson Street of Aberdeen, at No. 51, has contravened the Police and Waterworks Act, 1862, the Aberdeen Police and Waterworks Amendment Act, 1867, and the Aberdeen Municipality Extension Act, 1871, or one or more of them, actor or art and part, in so far as on the 2nd day of October current, 1887, being Sunday, and between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock on the evening of that day, the said John Lincoln Mahon did wilfully obstruct or incommode, hinder or prevent, the free passage of Castle Street, a public place within the Royal Burgh and City of Aberdeen, by placing a chair or platform thereon, and haranguing the passers-by therefrom, whereby a large crowd was collected, to the obstruction, annoyance, or danger of the residents and passengers, and this after he had been warned by an officer of police to refrain or desist from so doing, in contravention of the Act of 1862 above referred to, section 134, and of the Act of 1871 above referred to, section 147, whereby the said John Lincoln Mahon is liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s., or in the discretion of the Magistrate to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 14 days."

Mahon pleaded not guilty, and Superintendent Wyness went into the witness-box. Under the dexterous manipulation of Mr. Mahon he shuffled, turned somersaults, sunk into his boots, and performed all sorts of intellectual antics. There followed him several witnesses for the baton, but their evidence turned out to be more against than for it.

The witnesses for Mahon declared that there was no obstruction whatever, and after consultation the presiding magistrates announced that obstruction had not been proved. The baton was most ignominiously floored, and the Superintendent, by common consent, was written down "an ass." There can be no doubt that his rash and invidious act was intended as a crushing blow to Socialistic work here, but it has had the reverse effect. By the prompt and determined action at Monday's meeting the defence of free speech was laid upon the masses, and they took it up heartily—all the more so because it concerned the agitation for their interests so closely. A very large number have been deeply interested in Socialism, and a strong society is certain to be established.

Mahon's conduct throughout the ordeal is worthy of high praise. He kept his head and his place well—yielded no principle or privilege, but spoke not a rash or regrettable word.

On Tuesday evening he addressed a large meeting at the place of his arrest, and on Wednesday (the Autumn Fast-day) he spoke twice at Woodside (a populous suburb), and also on the Castlegate.

It is quite evident that the right of free speech will be maintained on behalf of Socialist speakers, for it is plain that Socialism, even by the help of the baton, has made a deep impression on the mental granite of Bon-accord.

BORRAS.

FREEDOM IN AMERICA.

WHERE is thy home, O Freedom? Have they set
Thine image up upon a rock to greet
All comers shaking from their wandering feet
The dust of the old world bondage, to forget
The tyrannies of fraud and force, nor fret,
Where men are equal, slavish chain unmeet;
Nor bitter bread of discontent to eat,
Here, where all races of the earth are met?

America! beneath thy banded flag
Of old it was thy boast that men were free,
To think, to speak, to meet, to come, to go.
What meaneth then the gibbet and the gag
Held up to Labour's sons who would not see
Fair Freedom but a mask—a hollow show?

Oct. 7.

WALTER CRANE.

THE CONDEMNED ANARCHISTS.

On Friday 6th inst. the meeting announced for Cleveland Hall was held at the Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, as the advertised place of meeting was closed and in the hands of the police. Although there was little or no time to make the change known, there was a crowded meeting, which listened with much enthusiasm, and passed with applause the following resolution: "That this meeting enters its protest against the outrageous sentence passed upon the Chicago Anarchists for free speech, though ostensibly for conspiracy, based upon the unsupported and hatched-up testimony of the police; and strongly condemns the partial attitude of the Supreme Court of Illinois in refusing a new trial and the hearing of evidence which was admittedly suppressed by the prosecution. We furthermore declare our solidarity with our Chicago comrades who are condemned to death for their efforts for the emancipation of the proletariat." The speaking was thoroughly international, almost every speaker represented a different nationality. In English the speakers were Morris (chair), Bartlett, Sparling, and Allman, of the Socialist League, and Seymour and Withington of the Anarchist; in German, Daubenspeck and Trunk; in French, Borde; in Italian, Droskia.

The Political Council of the North Camberwell Radical Club, 57 Gloucester Road, Camberwell, at a meeting held on Sept. 30, resolved: "That the members of this Council emphatically protest against the recent sentences passed on the Chicago Anarchists, being of opinion that, if carried into effect, judicial murder will be perpetrated."

Several other meetings have been held by League branches and other bodies at which similar resolutions have been passed.

Let it not be forgotten that the jury that condemned the Anarchists to death was a packed jury, selected from the capitalistic class, and that when it had done its murderous work a subscription was gotten up to pay each member his proportion of the blood-money he had earned. The Chicago Tribune said that at least the capitalists could afford to divide 100,000 dollars among the precious twelve.—N. Y. Leader.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

The unfortunate nailmakers of the Midland districts are still holding out for the amelioration of their condition.

THE MINERS' STRIKE AT ROWLEY.—At a meeting of miners at Rowley (Mr. B. Winwood, miners' agent, presiding), a resolution was passed rejecting the masters' offer and pledging the men to remain out on strike until the old rates were paid. Another resolution was passed in favour of steps being taken to secure a general advance of the miners' wages.

THE CHAINMAKERS' STRIKE.—Following resolutions passed at a meeting held some time since, a society has been registered called the "Walsall Co-operative Cart-gear, Chain, and Hame Manufacturing Society, Limited." The capital is to be raised in £1 shares, sufficient of which have been taken up to enable the promoters to commence operations.

A settlement has been effected of the strike of joiners connected with the shipyard of Messrs. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co., at Elswick, and the men, who, to the number of 200, came out about five weeks ago, on the allegation that the carpenters got more than their share of work, returned to their places on Monday.

WEST CALDER SHALE-MINERS.—Although the strike here has been formally announced as settled, very few of the men have yet returned to their work. About forty may be reckoned as the average number, and the largest half of these are employed as oncost-men, or company's men, in putting the pits into repair, one of which (No. 11) had suffered severely during the twelve weeks' strike.

DISCHARGE OF CLERKS FOR CHEAPER LABOUR.—Last week 51 of the clerks employed at the head offices of the Royal Liver Friendly Society, Prescott Street, London, were discharged. The reason for this step is said to be a desire on the part of the committee of management to economise so as to meet the £5,000 expenditure incurred in the recent agitation. The clerks discharged include some of the oldest employes of the society, and many of them are married men with families. The places of the clerks discharged have been filled up by the employment of girls and boys.

THE PRESTON WEAVERS' DISPUTE.—At a meeting held last week at Manchester, the Executive Committee of the North and North-east Cotton Spinners and Manufacturer's Association had under consideration the weavers' dispute at Messrs. Owtram's mill, Preston. The wages question connected with the dispute was settled last week, but all the operatives on strike now claim to have their places back. This Messrs. Owtram decline to agree to. From a report issued by the weavers' union it appears that if the employers' terms are accepted, not more than one in five of the late employes will be allowed to start work.

THE SOUTH WALES COLLIERIES.—Last week there was a meeting of workmen's representatives, at which it was resolved to call a general delegate meeting at Merthyr for both house and steam coal workmen of South Wales and Monmouthshire to consider the position of affairs. Among the points for discussion will be the necessity of forming a general federation for colliers and for workmen in connection with all collieries of South Wales, and the eight hours' movement. From sixty to seventy thousand men are affected, and upon the forthcoming proceedings undoubtedly a great deal will depend as to the welfare of all the Welsh districts.

MINERS' CONFERENCE AT EDINBURGH.—A four days' conference of representatives of the miners of England, Scotland, and Wales, was opened on Tuesday, in the Oddfellows Hall, Edinburgh. Mr. Thomas Burt presided, and thirty-nine delegates attended, representing 252,450 miners. The President, in his address, intimated that the subjects to be discussed at the conference would be the limitation of the output of coal, the advisability of all men being idle a certain portion of time each fortnight, the formation of a national federation, the eight hours' labour question, and the House of Lords' amendments to the Mines Bill.

STRIKE OF NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—In consequence of the reduction of labourer's wages to 10s., a meeting was held on the Green, St. Faith's, near Norwich, on Tuesday of last week, and a strike was decided on. The men came off on Saturday morning, not one staying on the farms. As a stoppage of work just now means the ruin of next year's grain crops, the farmers were forced to give in, and sent for the men on Saturday afternoon, asking them to resume work at their former wages. The men are now considering the advisability of a further strike for an advance of 2s. a week. A union has been started, and as soon as it is strong enough, the men will in all likelihood claim the advance.

DISPUTE IN THE BOOT TRADE.—The men on Mr. John Cooper's firm (late Sir William Pallasier), London, have been informed that the firm can no longer pay the London Statement, and the men are asked to work at a considerable reduction. Mr. Cooper met the London members of the Rivetters and Finishers' Union last Tuesday night at the Banner Street Hall. He advised the men to accept the reduction and so keep the work in London, or else he would shut up his factory. The meeting decided unanimously to keep to the London Statement. Now this man has got large factories at Croydon and Leicester, and a large mansion of his own, and boasts of rising from a working man. It was gratifying to see the Jewish workmen attend the meeting. The members of the Rivetters and Finishers' Union passed a vote of thanks to the members of the Jewish society for standing by them during the dispute.

COMPOSITORS' DISPUTE.—Mr. Railton, one of the partners of the firm of King, Sell & Railton, having decided that the employment of society hands interfered with his ideas of "freedom of contract," notified that in future he intended to employ only non-society men. Railton, late of Brighton, offered to keep on the old hands if they would leave the society. This was refused, and the men, about thirty, left work at the expiration of their notices. The premises are picketed, and being close to Fleet Street, numbers of the unemployed assemble and demonstrate when the "rats" appear. The services of six policemen have been requisitioned to "keep the peace." One day last week Railton was too venturesome, and got severely hustled in leaving the premises. At the present time there are about 700 society men partially or wholly unemployed, and the number of non-society applicants to fill the places of those on strike, exceeded 300. Railton the apostle of "freedom of contract," mentioned that he could get plenty of men at 8s. less per week; and he has got them. In the face of these facts, it is to be hoped the costly and ineffective tactics employed during the Waterlow strike will not be repeated.

THE BROXBURNE MINERS.—The shale miners are holding out very determinedly. The Company with great difficulty have got together 27 "black-nebs," several of whom, it is said, have never dug shale before. They are having a lively time, as hostile demonstrations take place daily. The *Pall Mall Gazette* of Tuesday, thus writes of the heartless evictions which took place on the preceding day: "The 'hard case' of the Broxburn miners entered upon the hardest stage of all, so far as forty-three of them are concerned, yesterday, when they, their families, and their 'household gods' were cast out of their homes on to the highway. The company is unquestionably within its strict legal rights; but it will be difficult for them or their friends to prove that they are playing a just and Christian part. Thanks to the competition of the capitalists in oil, the dividend of the company has suddenly run down from 22 to 15 per cent., and to save themselves from the stark, staring ruin of only 15 per cent., they are insisting that their miners shall suffer a reduction amounting as regards one class to 10 per cent., and as regards another class to 17 per cent. Perhaps the directors of the company—Messrs. R. Bell (chairman), J. Steel, J. Hurl, W. Weir, and W. Kennedy (managing director)—will kindly enlighten the world as to the substantial grounds for a step apparently so extraordinary and inhuman. Their conduct assuredly stands in need of explanation."

THE BOLTON STRIKE.—The only fresh development in connection with this strike has been the conclusion of negotiations by which Messrs. Threlfall's men should resume work, and the rupture of those negotiations. The firm were willing to restore 1s. out of the 2s. claimed, and to give a general promise to restore the other 1s. when the state of trade warrants it; and it was agreed that the men should accept these terms, subject to confirmation from London, and return to work. It afterwards transpired that the men required the firm to name a date when they would restore the second shilling, which the firm decline to do, and the men were not allowed to resume employment. The refusal of arbitration on the issue in dispute—viz., the restoration of the 2s. taken off last year—after a strike of nearly five months' duration, is a fact almost without precedent in the history of wars between capital and labour. At a meeting of workmen engaged in the iron trade, held in the Temperance Hall, Rochdale, on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of further considering the strike at Bolton, a member of the Rochdale Trades Council moved a resolution to the effect that continuance of the strike was justified, and that the men had acted honourably in refusing arbitration; and taking this into consideration, the ironworkers of Rochdale would give those on strike their pecuniary and other support. This resolution was carried unanimously.

The municipal elections at Bolton promise an interesting contest. There are Conservative, Liberal, Labour and Social-Democrat candidates. The Labour candidates are run as a protest against the employment of extra police by the employers, who possess the control of the Council.

MORE ECONOMY.—The workmen at Portsmouth Dockyard had their last Admiralty holiday last Saturday. As these holidays cost the country £2,500 each, they are to be discontinued. This action is mean enough, truly; but do the higher officials have their holidays stopped? Dockyard economy has affected one class of workers only: that which can the least afford it, the weekly wage-earners.

INCREASE OF PAUPERISM IN LANCASHIRE.—The President of the Poor Law Conference held in Manchester, stated that in Lancashire he had to regret a very considerable increase of pauperism within the past ten years. He also said that the large sums collected and distributed by trades unions accounted in a large measure for the diminution of pauperism in other parts of the country.

SOCIALISM IN THE UNITED STATES.—NEW YORK, Oct. 10.—Indignation meetings were held here yesterday by the Labour Party and the Socialists to denounce the conduct of the police in charging the crowd in Union Square on Saturday evening, when the Socialists and the followers of Mr. Henry George were batoned indiscriminately. Resolutions were adopted demanding the punishment of the offenders.—*Reuter*.

"OUR" HOME SECRETARY CONSIDERS.—A letter has been received by the secretary of the Bolton Ratepayers' Association from Mr. Matthews, the Home Secretary, in which he replies to the contentions laid before him by the deputation who recently saw him in London and complained of the action of the authorities in taking extra police into the town to guard the importations of "rats." The Home Secretary, "having given the fullest consideration," says he "sees no reason whatever" to complain of the action of the authorities, and "does not consider" any enquiry necessary.

LORD RIPON'S ADVICE TO WORKING MEN.—The Marquis of Ripon, speaking at a gathering of working men at Bradford on Saturday, said the working classes must look for immediate leaders and guides in their political conduct to the most intelligent and best educated in their own ranks, because it was only those who could thoroughly understand the problems which specially concerned working men. Personally, he hoped for a large increase in the number of labour representatives in Parliament. The working classes must be determined to uphold the right of free speech and discharge the great duties to which they had been called.

MR. CHANNING, M.P., ON COMBINATION.—Mr. Channing, M.P., writing to the Kettering Bootmakers' Union, says nothing has contributed so much to the elevation of the working classes as trades-unionism. Combination means not only strength, but wisdom and success. Thorough and rational combination will not aggravate the inevitable struggle between capital and labour, but will be a sure road to the peaceful and harmonious readjustment of all forces and interests involved in the production and distribution of wealth, which would be the best guarantee of the prosperity and happiness of the whole community. Combination is the key of society.

DEMONSTRATION BY UNEMPLOYED MEN AND BOYS.—A number of men and boys assembled again on Tuesday in the West-end and organised a parade with the object of demonstrating their claim that "Something must be done" for them. Leaving Trafalgar Square, they passed westward in procession, whistling the "Marseillaise," and hissing at several of the clubs. In St. James's Street, where a portion of the road is up for repairs, a body of police guarded the heaps of stones that lay in the roadway. Throughout the route a detachment of mounted police followed the crowd. The procession eventually returned by St. Martin's Lane to Trafalgar Square, where a large crowd was assembled. Speeches were then made by some of the men, revealing a terrible state of misery and destitution, and at the close of the proceedings it was announced that another parade would take place to-day (Wednesday).

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

At Cholet, in the Maine-et-Loire department, ten thousand weavers are on strike. Two thousand workers were occupied in the town itself, and earned daily wages of *thirteen pence* for twelve hours' work; the number of "hands" in the same industry, in a radius of ten or twelve miles around the town, is ten or twelve thousand; these poor slaves, for the same number of hours, got *nine pence* a day! The weavers ask only for one hour reduction per day, and 20 per cent. augmentation of their starvation wages. We are glad to say that a good deal of the bourgeoisie of Cholet are very sympathetic to the strikers.

The out-of-town weavers have already gained their victory. The "masters" have surrendered to the conditions of their "slaves." These, with an admirable sense of solidarity, have decided not to resume work until their comrades of Cholet have won the battle.

The municipal council of Paris has granted a sum of ten thousand francs, to be sent to Cholet for the relief of the strikers. But the government has refused to sanction the vote of the Paris councillors. The municipal council of Cholet, in its turn, has granted a sum of three thousand francs, but on the condition that this sum should only be distributed to the strikers if they resumed work. The weavers, however, have indignantly refused to accept any relief whatever on such terms.

GERMANY.

Johann Christoph Neve, one of the most devoted and intelligent members of the Anarchist movement in Europe, has been tried, within closed doors, by the so-called Imperial Court of Justice at Leipsic, and sentenced by that body of malignant judges to *fifteen years' hard labour*. Our readers are aware that our courageous comrade was denounced at Liege, in Belgium, by a pair of scoundrels who brought about his extradition to Germany, where he was "wanted" for several years by the Prussian police bloodhounds. All those who have known him personally can bear witness to his noble-minded spirit, his indomitable trustiness, his fondness for the ideas he had embraced as being just and righteous and true. His devotion to the cause of the Social Revolution was really inexhaustible: from his earliest youth down to the day on which treason and wickedness gave him up to his mortal foes, he assiduously worked and toiled, regardless of personal pains and sorrows, for the promotion of Socialism. In America, in France, in Switzerland, in Austria, in Belgium and Germany—everywhere, in fact, where he lived, he was the right man in the right place and at once gained the sympathies of the masses. The proletariat, for whom he has so long struggled and for whom he is now undergoing such a dreadful term of imprisonment, will never forget him, for he always has been one of its best and most faithful friends.

In the latter part of this month of October, we shall have the trial for secret conspiracy of 38 Socialists, now under arrest at Breslau, and 67 witnesses will support the evidence for the prosecution.

Next week, sixteen Socialists will stand their trial at Posen. The principal accused is comrade Kurowski, a compositor.

There are apparently no more Socialist papers to suppress in Germany, for the police now commences to prohibit the merely democratic journals; the Hamburg *Burger-Zeitung* was killed last week by an ukase of Bismark. And as this deed was not sufficient, he also expelled its editor, Johann Wedde, from Hamburg.

The *Elmshorner-Zeitung*, another democratic but not Socialist paper, of Elmshorn, in Silesia, has also been suppressed. After the suppression of the Progressivist papers, Bismark will apparently lay hands on the Liberal press, so as to have at last the "whole" public opinion on his side. In the next session of the Reichstag, he is also going to add some new paragraphs to the Anti-Socialist Laws, which, in his opinion have not been made "brutal" enough!

BELGIUM.

On the 20th inst., the young Anarchist Jahn, arrested in March at La Louviere, will be tried on account of his "inflammatory speeches" by the Court of Assizes of Mons,—and condemned of course.

Last week, the Court of Assizes at Brussels condemned to two year's imprisonment the Anarchist Moreau, who had delivered two or three "incendiary" speeches. But our comrade, who knows that freedom of speech is gone from "happy little Belgium," went away before the sentence was pronounced and reached Holland in due time.

The 2nd of this month, a new daily paper has appeared in Antwerp, *De Socialist* (The Socialist), organ of the Antwerp Federation of the various workmen's associations. The paper costs 2 centimes, viz., *less than one farthing*, per copy. This is the third daily Socialist paper which is issued in Belgium, the others being *Vooruit* (A-head) of Ghent, and *Le Peuple* (The People) of Brussels.

SPAIN.

SEVILLE.—A strike among the sombrero-makers is going on here, the strikers hold out firmly, and hope to obtain victory—such as it is.

CASTELVELL Y VILLAR.—We hear that the situation of the workers in this industrial centre grows worse and worse, and that the outlook for the winter is gloomy indeed. By way of preparing for an inevitable crisis, the manufacturers mostly have lowered their wage-tariff considerably. At one spinning factory, where formerly the hands could make from 30 to 34 pesetas, they now only make from 20 to 22. And so forth—the tale is endless.

MADRID.—There has been considerable excitement among the cigar-makers in Madrid; the women employed in one of the factories numbering several thousand, took possession of the place, barricading doors and windows. After a good while they desisted from their "demonstration" and left. An intended reduction of wages is said to have been the origin of the proceedings.

ITALY.

PAVIA.—At the Conference of the Italian Labour Party, held at Pavia on the 18th and 19th September, it was announced when the reading of the year's report of the central committee was due, that it could not take place owing to the confiscation of the committee's books and registers by the Court of Assizes during the late trials in Milan. It was agreed that Alessandria should be the seat of the central committee for the year, though Venice had been proposed, seeing that the Venetian provinces are the most

oppressed and worst off, and that propaganda there is of much importance. Parliamentarianism in the party was discussed at some length, and it was finally resolved that liberty of action thereon be allowed to all sections of the party. A vote of sympathy with the masons on strike in Milan (reported to number about 2,000) was passed, and a collection made in aid of the same.

MILAN.—The masons at Milan have been on strike for about a month, the strike being pretty well general now. They declare that the 3 lire a-day, which is the highest pay for the most experienced mason, is insufficient to maintain their families, and demand an increase of the lira. Says the *Gazzetta Operaia*, "deducting wet days, frosts, and feast-days, the masons only manage to get 200 working-days in the year, thus making 600 lire (about £24) a-year." Some of the masters and contractors, thus shorn of their hands, went to the country to collect new ones, assuring them that the strike was finished. These on arriving in Milan became aware of the deception, and irritated at the constant supervision of soldiers and carabinieri, left the work and returned whence they came. The contractors will by no means treat, and have issued a manifesto to the men which is a wail of alarmed self-interest piteous to peruse. The strikers are encamped under the sky awaiting what may come. M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOWBRAY TESTIMONIAL FUND.

TO SOCIALISTS AND FRIENDS.—We make a special appeal to you to do what you can to subscribe towards the above fund, which is intended to give Mowbray a little start in business at his trade of a tailor, as he cannot expect to get work from the capitalists in Norwich. Thanking all comrades and friends for their past support towards the maintenance of Mowbray's wife and family, specially thanking Mrs. Besant and the Fabian friends for the liberal support they have given, up to his release.—We are

A. T. SUTTON & F. C. SLAUGHTER, Hon. Secs.

5 Duke Street, Norwich, Oct. 10th, 1887.

N.B.—Communications and subscriptions to be forwarded to A. T. Sutton, 5 Duke Street, Norwich.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

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

SPECIAL NOTICE.

On Monday October 17th a Special Meeting of Council will be held to consider the policy to be pursued by the League on the "Unemployed." The meeting will be an open one to all members of the League; and all who can are specially requested to attend and discuss the matter.

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Hammersmith, Mitcham, Walsall to July 31. Bloomsbury, Clerkenwell, Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Hull, Mile End, Wednesbury, to Sept. 30.

THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

A Friend, 5s. For Mrs. Mowbray—Per Annie Besant: A Few Fabians (weekly), 10s.; Donation, 1s.—Mowbray will be released on October 15, and it is requested that all monies and subscription-lists be returned by that date, so that the fund may be wound up as soon as possible thereafter.—J. LANE, Treas.

MOWBRAY TESTIMONIAL.

Labour Emancipation League, 5s. John Wallace, 1s.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Hammersmith Branch (2 weeks), £1. Weekly Subscriptions—K. F., 1s. C. J. F., 2s. Oxford Branch, 2s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d. W. B., 6d.

Strike Committee.—Collected in Regent's Park—Oct. 2, 2s. 5d.; Oct. 10, 8s. Hyde Park, 2s. 5d. Mile-end Waste, Oct. 4, 1s. 6d.—J. LANE.

South Wales Propaganda.—Mitcham Branch, collected, 1s. 8d.

REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Oct. 5th, T. Dalziel lectured. Sunday good meeting on Green by Mainwaring and Turner. In hall, Charlotte Wilson lectured on "The Social Revolution." Literature steady sale.—A. T. and W. B.

FULHAM.—Good meeting at Walham Green on Sunday morning addressed by Tarlton and Morris, on the Chicago trial and the right of free speech; they moved and seconded a resolution, supported by Tochatti, and carried unanimously, protesting against the atrocious sentence, and calling for the unconditional release of these men. Good sale of *Commonweal*; 9s. 5d. collected for branch.—S. B. G.

HACKNEY.—A large meeting was held at the Broadway, London Fields, last Wednesday; Cores and Allman spoke. Davis and Cores addressed a good meeting at the Salmon and Ball on Sunday morning. At Warner Place on Sunday evening, a good meeting was addressed by Brooks, Cores, and E. Lefevre.

HAMMERSMITH.—Good meeting at Starch Green Broadway, Catterson Smith and Tochatti speaking. In the hall, W. Morris lectured on "Early Norse Literature." 11 *Commonweal* sold.—T.

HOXTON.—Good outdoor meetings on Thursday and Sunday evening in hall. J. H. Pope lectured on our "Parochial System from a Socialist Standpoint;" no opposition.—C. J. Y.

MILE END AND BETHNAL GREEN.—On Tuesday, Oct. 4, good meeting on the Waste, Mainwaring and Davis speaking. Some opposition was offered by a Freethinker, who challenged Davis to debate, which was accepted; 1s. 6d. collected for South Wales Propaganda Fund. Usual meeting in Victoria Park on Sunday.—H. M.

MITCHAM.—Good meeting on Fair Green on Sunday morning, addressed by Kitz, while Eden spoke at Haydon's Road. 54 *Commonweal* sold, and 1s. 8d. collected for South Wales Miners.—R. C.

MARYLEBONE.—Good meeting in Hyde Park, Mainwaring and Cantwell spoke; collected 2s. 10d.—M.

NORTH LONDON.—Meeting at Ossulton Street as usual on Tuesday, addressed by Allman, and Walker of the S.D.F. At Regent's Park on Sunday morning, Sparling spoke to a very large audience about the Chicago Anarchists amid considerable enthusiasm. 8s. collected for propaganda.—T. C.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday, Carmichael, Downie, Gilbert, and Paterson went out and spoke at Cambuslang. At Paisley Road Toll on Sunday afternoon, Bullock, Glasier, and Paterson spoke. Two meetings in Jail Square Sunday, first by Glasier and Downie at one, and second at six by Bullock and Glasier. *Commonweal* sold well at all meetings, and our audiences continue large and favourable, though there is a lack of discussion. At seven on Sunday, Glasier lectured in Watson Street Hall, on "The Prophecy of Socialism."—A. M'K.

IPSWICH.—Sunday morning and afternoon, addresses by Slaughter of Norwich, and J. Thomas of Ipswich. Sale of *Commonweal* good.—J. R.

LEEDS.—On Sunday night, Maguire lectured in our hall on "The Need of a Labour Party."—T. P.

NORWICH.—On Sunday, Nicoll and Parker held a good meeting at Ber Street. In the morning, Nicoll and Houghton went to Lowestoft. Parker held a very large meeting in the Market-place at 3, then holding a good meeting on the Agricultural Hall Plain at 7, finishing with a lecture in the Gordon Hall at 8, on "Parliamentarianism," to a full audience, Miss Armstrong, of Manchester, taking the chair. Slaughter went to Ipswich. *Commonweal* sold well. We collected 12s. 6d. for the "Mowbray Special Testimonial Fund."—T. M.

WOOLWICH.—Last Sunday, Utley failing to turn up here, Broad and Banner took his place, and held a very successful meeting. We sold a good supply of literature, and collected 2s. 6d. for branch expenses. Political Economy Class begins next Saturday, Oct. 18th, in Middle-class School-room, Upper Market Street, at 4 p.m. Fee for the course 2s. 6d.—R. B.

WALSALL.—Weaver and Deakin spoke on Monday. Thursday evening the Rev. Stewart Headlam lectured for branch in Exchange room. A good audience followed the speaker with marked attention; several questions were put and answered.—J. T. D.

PELSALL.—Sanders spoke on Tuesday to good audience of trade unionists, and was well received.

WEST BROMWICH.—On Saturday, Sanders lectured here, and arrangements made for large indoor meeting at an early date.

WEDNESBURY.—The usual meeting was addressed by Donald in the Market-place, after which H. H. Champion lectured in the Assembly Rooms.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Friday, H. H. Champion and the Rev. Stewart Headlam lectured in the theatre of the Midland Institute. On Saturday, Donald addressed a good meeting at the Council House, and on Sunday meetings in the Bull Ring and at the Council House. The Sunday evening meeting at the Council House is becoming more successful every week.

YARMOUTH.—Nicoll and Henderson lectured on the Quay, on Thursday.

ST. FAITH'S.—Henderson and Syder at St. Faith's Sunday afternoon, had the liveliest meeting ever held here.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS.—On Monday, Sept. 26th, M. A. Maloy opened interesting debate on "The Best Means of Making the Land National Property." On Monday, Oct. 3, Mr. Shaw, a trade unionist, opened on "Trades' Unions in the Past, and what they will be in the Future." Story, Dallas, and Unwin spoke on the Socialist's side. It was very interesting and instructive.—M. A. M.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.—Henderson spoke at Carrow on Friday. Nicoll and Henderson held meetings on St. George's Plain and the Haymarket on Saturday. Two very large meetings were addressed by Henderson in Norwich Market-place on Sunday morning and evening.

North of England Socialist Federation.

ANNITSFORD.—Good meeting held in rooms to hear address by J. Macdonald on "C. Bradlaugh and Socialism."

WEST HOLYWELL.—In reading-rooms, P. McKay in the chair, Macdonald lectured on "The Government, what it can do for the People, and what the People can do for themselves."

BLYTH.—Macdonald spoke, but the rain spoilt the meeting.

NORTH SHIELDS.—In evening, Macdonald spoke on "Socialism, its Progress and Principles." Discussion followed.

In view of the approaching winter, and the impossibility of carrying on outdoor propaganda, members should form classes for the discussion and study of Socialist principles, and obtaining practice in the art of public speaking. Books and pamphlets for free distribution will be gladly received and distributed by M. MACK, Gen. Sec., 4, Back Marlow St., Blyth.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

EDINBURGH.—On Thursday night, the Political Economy Class was resumed, 'Das Kapital' again being the text-book. On Sunday night, a fairly good meeting was held at the Trades' Hall, Gilray giving a splendid paper on "Socialism, Reason or Sentiment?" The Society would beg all friends in Edinburgh to attend these Sunday night lectures, and make them known to their friends.—C. W. T.

ABERDEEN BRANCH.—Account of police interference is given in another column. The meetings were all very successful, both before and after the attempt to suppress them. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Mahon addressed enormous gatherings on the forbidden ground at Castlegate. Good collections were made, and a very large amount of literature disposed of. At the indoor meeting in the Northern Hall over 1000 people were present. Mr. Geo. Bisset, President of the Trades Council, presided, and after hearing the policy of the Socialist Party explained, announced his willingness to work for it. A strong branch has been formed, and regular meetings arranged.

WOODSIDE.—Propaganda opened here on Wednesday afternoon by Mahon, Leatham, and Barron. In the evening a large meeting was addressed by Mahon, Leatham, and the Rev. A. Webster.

ARBROATH BRANCH.—This branch continues to make steady progress. Every week the members increase, and the indoor meetings are very successful.

CARNOUSTIE BRANCH.—Good meeting held in the Templars Hall, on Friday last. Lecture by Mahon; interesting discussion; five new members enrolled.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—Good meeting addressed by Simpson, Mahon, and Dempster on Saturday night. On Sunday four meetings were held—at the West Port, High Street, Hilltown, and in the new Hall of the branch at Tay Bridge Station. A very good meeting turned up at the first meeting in the new hall. Mahon lectured on "The Policy of the Socialist Labour Party." New members made.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Oct. 13, Mr. Barry, "Scientific Boycotting." 20th. Mr. Varley, "Socialistic Co-operation."

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday October 16, at 8.30, Mr. Varley, "Co-operation." Wednesday 19, at 8.30, S. Mainwaring will lecture.

Hackney.—23 Audrey Street, Goldsmith Row. Club Room open every evening from 8 till 11.30; Saturday 7 till 12.30; Sunday 11 a.m. till 12 p.m.

Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Oct. 16, at 8 p.m. Sydney Olivier (Fabian Society), "European Peasant Revolts." Hoxton (L.E.L.).—Globe Coffee House, 227 High St., Hoxton. On Sunday 16, at 8.30, Rev. S. D. Headlam, B.A., "Christian Socialism." Special Notice—On Sunday morning, Oct. 23, at 11 o'clock, Demonstration on Free Speech in America.

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., 12 Short Loanings.

Arbroath (Scot. Sect.).—High Street Hall. Meeting Friday evenings. W. Smith, 17 Lindsay St., secy. Next Friday W. Marwick lectures on "Mazzini."

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. Sec.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec Dublin.—Irish Labour League, Carpenters' Hall, 75 Angier Street. Meetings every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Forenoon, business and members' discussion; evening, lecture and discussion.

Dysart and Gallatoun (Scottish Section: Fife).—Sinclairtrach and Boreland men may enroll in this branch. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park St. Business Meeting Thursdays at 7.30. Discussion Class 8 p.m. Sunday night lectures, Trades Hall, High Street.

Galashiels (Scot. Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Choir Practice, Wednesday at 8. In the Hall, 8 Watson Street, Gallowgate, lecture on Sunday 16, at 7 o'clock, by Gilray of Edinburgh.

Hamilton.—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Thursday, 7.30. Lancaster.—Addresses Sunday morning on Quay Jetty.

Leeds.—17 Chesham St., Sweet St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m. On Sunday October 16, at 7 p.m., T. Paylor, "The Lesson of the Trades Congress."

Leicester.—Hostery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8. Lochee (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Secretary (pro tem.), P. M'Dougal, 10 Mercer Street.

Norwich.—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures every Sunday at 8. Business Meeting Monday at 8.30. Speakers' Class Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and Wednesday 8 p.m. Social Evening Saturdays at 8.

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

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

Walsall.—Temperance Hall. Meets every Monday.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 16.

9.30...Starch GreenHammersmith Branch
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and BallGraham

11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Pope & Wade
11.30...Kingsland GreenBarker
11.30...Merton—Haydons RoadParker
11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenAllman
11.30...Regent's ParkCooper
11.30...St. Pancras ArchesThe Branch
11.30...Walham GreenThe Branch
3 ...Hyde ParkParker
4 ...Victoria ParkLane
7 ...Hackney Road—Warner PlaceThe Branch
7 ...Stamford HillParker
7 ...Clerkenwell GreenJ. Allman

Monday.

8 ...Polygon, Somers TownThe Branch
Tuesday.
8 ...Mile-end WasteDavis
8 ...Ossulton St., Euston RoadPope

Wednesday.

8 ...Broadway, London FieldsFlockton

Thursday.

8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Parker
WOOLWICH.—Arsenal Gates, Sunday October 16, at 7 o'clock—W. C. Wade, "The Religion of Socialism."

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Jail's Square: Sunday, 1 p.m.—Glasier, Downie, Adams, and Bulloch.

Paisley Road Toll: Sunday, 5 p.m.—Glasier, Bulloch, and Paterson.

Watson Street: Sunday, 6.30—Bulloch, Downie, and Glasier.

Cambuslang.—Saturday at 6 p.m.—Downie, Gilbert, Paterson, and Carmichael.

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.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

Fri. 14—Dysart. The Cross, 7 p.m.—Mahon.

Sat. 15—Gallatoun. The Big Brae, 8 p.m.—Mahon.

Sat. 15—Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.

" Dundee. Greenmarket, 7 p.m.—Dempster and Simpson.

" Arbroath. Brothock Bridge, 6 p.m.—Duncan of Dundee.

Sun. 16—Edinburgh.—Trades Hall, High Street, at 6.30—J. L. Mahon.

" Dundee. Trades Hall, 11 a.m., important business meeting of members. High St., 3 p.m.—Dempster, Duncan, & Simpson.

Trades Hall, 8 p.m.—Music and Lecture.

Mon. 17—Edinburgh. High Street, 7 p.m.

Tues. 18—Leith. Foot of Walk, 7 p.m.

WEST MARYLEBONE WORKING MEN'S CLUB, 123a Church Street, Edgware Road.—On Sunday Oct. 16, at 8 p.m., Wm. Morris will lecture on "Monopoly."

IPSWICH.—Public meeting in Co-operative Hall, October 15, at 8 p.m., to welcome C. W. Mowbray on his release. Speakers—Mowbray, Kitz, Mainwaring, and others.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Monday Oct. 17 Mr. J. Sketchley will lecture at the Forward Liberal Club, Gt. Hampton Street—subject, "Socialism." Chair taken at 7.30.

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

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.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE.—

Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday October 16, at 3 p.m. prompt.

'COMMONWEAL' CONCERT,

TO-DAY (SATURDAY) AT 8.

Those having Tickets on sale are reminded that all settlements must be made before the Concert, otherwise tickets will be reckoned as sold.

FACTS FOR SOCIALISTS.

(THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH IN ENGLAND)

16 pp., One Penny.

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