

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

VOL. 3.—No. 95.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1887.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Mr. Wilfrid Blunt is to go to prison for asserting the rights of free speech in Ireland. Well and good so far; but surely he is not to be the only one of the English Home Rulers who is going through this business: one could name half-a-dozen who would be fitter for the task than Mr. Blunt, who is a "faddist," which is the political jargon for a man who has some idea of justice outside mere party necessities, as witness Arabi and the Egyptian matter. Let some of the orthodox show the genuineness of their convictions on coercion, and for once be of some service to the cause of progress that they profess. It will be a shabby business indeed if they don't share the glory and discomfort with the candidate for Deptford.

Or the Balfour will score a victory, and the process may be a long one. But once for all there is a method of shortening the struggle, or rather of finishing it at one blow, which, strange to say, has not suggested itself to any Gladstonian partisan yet. Though I believe my following suggestion will not be accepted as the Columbus egg-trick by the whole Home Rule Liberal Party if, as is doubtful, they happen to read the *Commonweal*, yet it certainly should be so accepted.

Let Mr. Gladstone go over to Ireland and follow Mr. Wilfrid Blunt's example, and coercion is at an end, and the Tory Government along with it.

Yes, I know the orthodox will receive that as an unworthy joke; but the very fact that they will do so, and that I have been obliged to put it as a joke, shows how lightly politicians treat the matters which they talk about so solemnly. Here we have them gravely discussing the legality or illegality of Mr. Blunt's action when they know very well that he went to do what was at once illegal and reasonable. If Mr. Gladstone were to do the like, how the unreasonable legality would vanish amidst roars of laughter, and the discussion about Home Rule and the squeezing of rent from people who *can't* pay would enter on a new phase. But it is a joke to propose it for that very reason. It would crush the Tory party, and to do that is exactly what the orthodox Liberals will by no means do. A famous chess-player doesn't want to exterminate his adversary; or who is he to play with? He wants to beat him at the *game*, that is all. If there were no Tories to play with and make about the same moves as the Liberals, the latter might have to deal with *realities*—and what would they do then?

I repeat, let the great man go to Ireland and get arrested for speaking on the side of freedom at Woodford or elsewhere, and thereby put his political opponents in the deepest hole any government were ever in, and himself become the most popular man of the century.

Says a correspondent of the *Daily News*, "When any disturbance does occur it is the police that begin it." It is not London that he is speaking of but Woodford in Ireland; that is, doubtless, because he has not been in London for the last three weeks.

Mr. Chabmerlain's expression of passionate devotion to law-and-order is touching, coming as it does from the man who gave that warning to the rich about ransom. And it must be said that, if there is anything genuine about him at all, probably this later view of his is his genuine one; he is what the cabman once called the almost forgotten Robert Lowe (now Lord something or other) "a harbitrary gent."

Poor Samuel Huby has had very bad luck with Mr. Nupkins-Mansfield. The policeman in the attack on the citizens of October 20th, hit him and he very naturally hit the policeman, who being knocked down either received or imagined a kick. Huby explained that the policeman hit him three times and knocked him down; but though his old master came forward and gave him a good character, and though the policeman himself said: "he seems to be a respectable and very good lad," yet the *thing* on the bench paid no more attention to his statement than if it had been the wind blowing, and had the impudence to remark in the true Nupkins style, "It would be a most improbable thing for the constable to strike you without provocation." So Mr. Huby got three months' hard labour in order to increase his affection for the beauty of law and order. I don't know if he was a Socialist before his introduction to the Nupkins of Marlborough Street; but I should think he would lose no time in becoming one now.

The *Daily News* is very severe on the deputation sent on the 28th October to the Board of Works, for what it called their "Jack Cade" behaviour there; but may there not be another side to that story? Suppose that the deputation were treated by the majority of the board with that circumlocution-office off-handedness which is a standing insult to the citizen, and which everybody having business with an official body is sure to receive, as I by personal experience can declare, unless he is known as a "person of importance." If that were the case, is it wonderful that men on such serious business as the trying to get work in order to prevent them from starving, should show some resentment at this supercilious bad manners, not knowing perhaps that such bad manners are habitual and a part of what we pay for. The representatives of a vast body of starving men don't to my mind need forgiveness if they lose their temper when brought face to face with the brazen wall of official impudence and unreason, which even Dickens' immortal humour failed to shake by a hairs'-breadth.

The police have been spinning if not one of the longest, yet at least one of the stupidest of galley yarns on record about Clan-na-Gael conspirators and jubilees, and lodgings and swell hotels, and the Lord knows what, clearly under instructions and for the purpose of discrediting the Home Rule agitation. Stupid as it is, it will no doubt be an effective weapon as far as it goes, that is, it will frighten some timid voters who take everything for gospel which they see in an official report. But, really, was it worth the wear and tear?

W. M.

IS LUXURY GOOD FOR TRADE?

UNDER this heading there has been a brief passage-at-arms in the correspondence columns of the *Daily News* between Sir Henry E. Knight, Alderman, of the one part, and Mr. Sidney Webb, Professor of Political Economy, of the other part. "A happy combination of defects, natural and acquired," renders the worthy Alderman a fitting exponent of the time-honoured fallacy he set forth:—

"Money spent in entertainment goes into the pockets of the working classes. . . . I say further that for every pound spent in entertainment another pound is spent by the entertained, so that at least double the cost of the entertainment is distributed in wages; therefore he who spends encourages and promotes expenditure and is the best friend of the working classes."

In a second letter he disposed of his opponent's reply in an off-hand fashion with great satisfaction to himself, and still further established his claims to bourgeois orthodoxy by sacrificing those to sense. His "argument" is worth reproducing in full (but with a few words italicised):—

"Always putting aside abuse, which, being contrary to the laws of God and man, cannot be countenanced, can there be a doubt that the answer to this question [*i.e.*, Is luxury good for trade?] must be Yes? Nay, is it not an absolute necessity in order to find mankind in employment? Are not all things beyond the requirements of food, clothing, and shelter more or less luxuries? No doubt we could all live on plain food and drink water, and would perhaps be healthier and better than we are now, but in that case what would become of the millions who earn their living in the production and preparation of what we may call fancy food and drinks, and those great industries which produce the luxuries of beer and wine? We could all be clothed in homespun, but what would become of those millions who are employed in the manufacture of other dress goods—silks, satins, broadcloth, and hundreds of other cognate articles? We might also *all* be reduced to an equality (the Socialists' idea) and live in *comfortable houses* quite sufficient to afford the necessary amount of food and shelter; but in that case *what would become* of those millions connected with the trades which flourish by the erection of large premises and also the decoration and furnishing thereof? Can it be doubted that gold and silver plate, jewellery, carriages, and no end of other things in every-day use and consumption, are luxuries? Yet no one in their senses would propose to abolish them, as it would simply mean destroying the living of the best and most intelligent mechanics on the face of the earth. Need I pursue the subject further? Surely it is evident that the non-consumption of luxuries would mean the destruction of nearly the whole trade and industry of the human race."

The man who puts forward such a plea might lay claim to exceptional courage, were it not too evidently but an accidental audacity born of ignorance, "the colossal ignorance which drives the political economist to despair," as Mr. Webb calls it. The last-named put the whole case so far as concerns the present system, very clearly and cleverly:—

"Sir Henry Knight is apparently unaware even of the existence of a great body of ascertained and undisputed truth on the subject on which he undertakes to enlighten the 'ignorant working classes.' The blunder into which he has fallen is explained in the first few pages of every text-book on economics; yet even when his attention is called to it, he does not think it worth while to consult the most elementary primer, but denounces an unknown correspondent as 'an agi-

tator.' Now the point at issue is the *pons asinorum* of political economy. If Sir Henry Knight believes not Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill, Jevons and Marshall, neither will he hearken unto me. Nevertheless I will endeavour to make it clear to any but aldermanic intelligence. In an advanced industrial community all money incomes are necessarily spent in payments for labour, whether expended in luxuries or not. (The actual hoarding of metallic currency is of course excepted.) The owner of the income can exercise an option as to the kind of labour he will buy. He may, like Sir Henry Knight, hire cooks and wine-growers, or he may not. But if he does not spend his income in quickly-consumed commodities, he nevertheless hires labour. When Lord Mayors read economics and ~~submit~~ *wasteful banquets*, they will 'save' a portion of their incomes, and cease to employ so many cooks. But that 'saved' income is merely lent by them to their bankers, and thus placed at the disposal of builders, railway-makers, and other borrowers, who borrow in order to spend in wages. The Lord Mayor would, in effect, employ railway navvies instead of cooks. The amount spent in wages does not in the least depend upon whether luxuries or investments are preferred, as the choice of the owner determines only the kind of labour employed. If consumers elect to have merely transient pleasures, wages are paid, the ginger is a moment hot in the mouth, and all is gone. If they prefer 'investments,' wages are equally paid, and the world is enriched with a new railway or improved artisans' dwellings. It must be added that the form of industry does exercise an important influence on the prosperity of the workers, but this point has no reference to the distinction between employments productive of durable and of transient commodities. The most easily accessible authorities on the point may be added: Jevon's 'Primer of Political Economy,' para. 14 (Macmillan, 1s.); Marshall's 'Economics of Industry,' ch. 2, sec. 3 (Macmillan, 2s. 6d.); J. S. Mill's 'Principles of Political Economy,' bk. 1, ch. 5, sec. 5 (Longmans, 5s.); Cairnes's 'Some Leading Principles,' p. 31 (Macmillan); McCulloch's 'Principles,' part iv., p. 217 (Murray's Reprints); Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations,' bk. ii., ch. 3, p. 272 (Ward, Lock, and Co.). I conclude with a short quotation from Professor Cairnes, which may serve to clinch the matter; it is from the work and passage above cited: 'That useful function, therefore, which some profound writers fancy they discover in the abundant expenditure of the idle rich turns out to be a sheer illusion. Political economy furnishes no such palliation of unmitigated selfishness. Not that I would breathe a word against the sacredness of contracts; but I think it important, on moral no less than on economic grounds, to insist upon this, that no public benefit of any kind arises from the existence of an idle rich class. The wealth accumulated by their ancestors or others on their behalf, where it is employed as capital, no doubt helps to sustain industry; but what they consume in luxury and idleness is not capital, and helps to sustain nothing but their own unprofitable lives. By all means they must have their rent and interest, as it is written in the bond; but let them take their proper place as drones in the hive, gorging at a feast to which they have contributed nothing.' No wonder aldermen and the idle rich do not care to read political economy! I wonder how long they will continue to endow its professors?'

Two other correspondents who joined in the fray to the extent of a short note each, put these pertinent queries:—

"Does he understand the difference between productive and non-productive labour? between labour that grinds corn and labour that grinds wind? If so, Sir Henry's 'words, words, words' are merely clouds of dust raised to cover his retreat. Granted that money spent in 'entertainments' represents wages. So does money spent in productive labour. But this latter has the advantage of rendering the community richer; while the former leaves it poorer—merely shifts wealth from pocket to pocket without increasing it; necessities already produced being consumed in the meantime."

"Sir Henry Knight shows such a masterly knowledge of social science, and argues so ably that 'luxury is good for trade,' that it is difficult to understand why he did not also advise the deputation to the Guildhall that destruction of property might be good for trade. Surely the same arguments would hold good. Is it not more than possible that from such dangerous and false theories our unemployed may draw for themselves this perfectly just conclusion?"

To all of which one would add that Sir Henry Knight unconsciously conceded more than he knew in that letter of his; and he assuredly answered his own question as to "what would become of the millions, etc.," when he said that "we might *all* (including presumably the said millions) . . . live in comfortable houses."

There is an old proverb which says that "Wilful waste makes woful want," but like most old saws it is belied by the present system. Under class-rule, and where all production is for the pleasure or profit of the dominant class, all waste and destruction is good for the passing time to the workers whom it enables to "find employment," though to the community as a whole it be injurious. Such conditions carry with them their own destruction, and ensure that humanity, even if only from sheer despair and weariness, will get rid of monopoly and privilege—those things that make it a seeming truth that folly is the highest wisdom and the benefit of society to be wrought by wanton indulgence of base desire.

A rhetorical device is cleverly employed in the play upon the word "luxury," and its definition so as to include all comfort and beauty. Against "luxury" in that sense, we Socialists have nothing to say but this: It is allowable—nay, commendable to a high degree—for men to adorn and beautify their lives and their surroundings, *but* they must *produce* the wherewithal and not steal it from others; they must not compel others to toil fourfold or tenfold that they may be kept in idle comfort. The "luxury" of the few to-day is founded on the misery of the many; being itself debased and brutalised thereby. Men who amass money by the chicanery of modern commerce or the undisguised rascality of the "money-market," are naturally unfitted for other than aldermanic "luxury"; but there are some of us who look forward to a time when *all* shall be comfortable at the price of moderate exertion; when there shall be no "employers" supported by other men's labour; when leisure shall be the heritage of all; when personal existence will be freed from care and common life made beautiful.

H. HALLIDAY SPARLING.

We recognise the fact that the Labour question is social rather than political; that while just political action will bring relief, the full remedy for the evils which men of toil suffer can only be obtained by the cordial co-operation of all workers in sustaining the principles that underlie this great question. When the rights of labour, and the true relations of labour and capital, are fully understood and acknowledged by the mass of the people, reform must follow. Society will demand it, and no power can withstand the force of such demand.—*Paterson Labour Standard*.

THE EMIGRATION FRAUD AGAIN.

WE are allowed by a friend to make use of the following extracts from a private letter lately received from a young wife, who with her husband and four children was enrolled among the victims of enveigling Emigration Agents. What she writes was intended only for the eyes of her relatives, and bears the impress of unexaggerated truth in every line:—

"Perth, West Australia.

"My Dear Aunt,—I put off writing until we got settled a bit, but we seem just as far off it as we did five months ago. I will confess that I feel more homesick and miserable than I ever thought it possible I could be. The West Australia Land Company is a complete swindle; so far from finding their emigrants work, they never even countersigned the contract tickets that we received at Blackwall. The agent from the railway contractors came on board the *Yeoman* the day we arrived, and told the men if they with their families would go 140 miles up country, live in a tent 12 ft. long and 10 ft. wide (which was necessary on account of the camp being continually shifted), they could provide pick and shovel work. On the other hand, people who came to fetch their friends told us their was no work whatever to be got in the towns of Fremantle and Perth, many men being out four months at a stretch. This was "Jubilee day," and a day of suspense and misery it was to most of those on board the *Yeoman*. The day also being a holiday they could not get the people to bring the tender alongside to fetch us ashore, and our ship was too large to get in close to the jetty. Neither would the very hospitable Australians bring any fresh meat, which a great many of the emigrants expected, as after we left England, with one or two exceptions, we got nothing but tinned meat and salt junk. W— and P— suffered very much from dysentery, and W— was so bad I was afraid he would never see the end of the voyage. . . . I don't think I ever can forget the scene the night we left Cape Town. The doctor came on board mad drunk, and most of the sailors in the same condition (several Lascars and Greeks amongst them), and they began fighting with knives—the two bakers had broken open some of the emigrant's boxes and robbed them.

"We left Cape Town at five o'clock, and ten of the single men were left behind; those of them who had friends on board begging the captain to wait for them, but he would not. It was truly a scene better imagined than described.

"I told you at the beginning of this letter that we arrived on 'Jubilee' day, and the next day were taken on to the Government depot, where we got a dinner of fresh meat and potatoes. The following morning a notice was posted up that all the married people and twenty single men were to start for Beverley by the 6 a.m. train the next day to work on the railway cutting. In the meantime, A— had been to see Mr. — and Rev. Mr. —, to whom J— gave him letters of introduction, and they strongly advised us not to think of going up country to the bush, as the camps were most lawless places. Where they were sending the *Yeoman* people they would be 40 miles from a doctor, school, or church. A— also met with people who had been working up the country and had had to give it up; they were people who came out a ship or two before us. They gave the camps a dreadful name; they said water was very scarce and bad, that the contractors put new hands to work with the colonial navvies, and if they could compete with them they were put on piece-work, so that they could not earn more than a certain amount. You had to buy your own tent, pick, and shovel at extortionate prices, buy all your food of the contractor at his own price, and at the end of the month when the men were paid they generally found themselves in debt. We had this fully confirmed before a fortnight was at an end. Several of the single men came back. They told us that after going a railway journey of over 100 miles, *men, women, and children were huddled together in one large shed to sleep*. There was no food provided, and next morning trucks came and took all luggage; but every one (children included) had to tramp the remainder of the distance of over 40 miles through the bush. I leave you to imagine what a sensation this caused amongst those who had refused to go. There were 15 other families besides us who refused, and the caretaker told us all that having refused this magnificent offer, the Land Company washed their hands of us, and we were not to have any more rations and to clear out of the depot at once. The land agent took care not to show himself, or I am afraid he would have tasted a little lynch law. There were so many men out of work in Fremantle that the Government had started relief works, and A— got five days work there at 5s. per day.

"Mr. — was very kind in trying to get A— into the police force, but without success. A— was then walking about for nearly a fortnight, when he got a pass for himself to go to where they were making a branch line, 70 miles from Fremantle, 60 miles by rail. The other ten he tramped through the bush in company with two Irishmen, and when they arrived at the camp it was dark, and all the tents being full they made a fire and built a hut of rushes and branches of trees, and laid down in their blankets to sleep. Food was so scarce that none could be bought. A— shared a loaf and some tea he had taken with him, with these two men. The ganger could not start them to work either that day or the next, and all the food they got was a handful of rice and a small loaf. The third day they were up and at the hardest work in the colony, *i.e.*, digging, shovelling, and loading tip carts with ballast and then spreading it, and every now and then having to run for their lives as they were blasting rocks with dynamite. A— had to give the work up after the first day, and came back to us at Fremantle. He said the navvies were rough-looking but very good-natured; but if any looked rougher than he did I should like to have seen them. He was away just a week and 7s. 6d. out of pocket. After that he was walking about between Fremantle and Perth for over three weeks, and then he got a job to drive a one horse trolley for the West Australian Carrying Company, but that finished up a week ago. The Company winds up on account of business being so slack. The manager strongly advised A— to go to either Sydney or Melbourne, as he felt sure A— would do well either at his own trade or on the railways; but as it would cost nearly as much as it did to come from England it is quite out of our power. A— has tried all departments of the railway here, but 'Not at present' is the answer. . . . Will you, dear aunt, kindly tell J— that Mr. — was fully aware of the condition of this colony, for I have spoken to people who came out in the *Hampshire* and the *Chollerton*, who wrote direct to him; but I suppose he gets a *commission* for every poor wretch he deludes.

"So far from the West Australian Land Company's people being the

beneficent fairies Miss C— stated they were, they are bound as one of the conditions under which they hold their land, to bring out so many emigrants annually. The captain and doctor receives a *commission* for every one of us landed in good health; the agent here gets a *commission* of something like £5 per head from the Government, and they dare to boast of England freeing slaves!

"So far from the schools being free, I have to pay 6d. per week for J— and A—, and the first week had to pay 7s. for books, etc. I forgot to mention that provisions are more than double the prices they are in England. I have sent a letter to Miss C—, though it will not do us any good, it may be the means of preventing other poor creatures being sent out here. It grieves me very much to think of all the children will lose."

LETTERS FROM AMERICA.

V.

The cowardly attempt of the German authorities to murder John Neve inch by inch has caused most intense bitterness in Socialistic circles here. Neve was known for his abnormal devotion to the cause, his heroic, unpretentious willingness to undertake any work, however dangerous, that had to be done; and many a personal friend of his, hearing the terrible news, silently shed a tear, and pledged himself yet to settle accounts with the German bourgeoisie for this latest outburst of ferocity.

Judging from the reports cabled daily to the American press, people think England is on the eve of a great revolution. It is sincerely to be hoped they think correctly. The situation is painted in the deepest black, and we read of nothing but immense crowds parading the streets of London, with black flags, demanding bread or lead, and attacking the police,—in fact, showing altogether a spirit much to be feared by the have-alls. Gladstone is severely blamed for having taken up the cudgels for Lyons. The "respectable" people in general are said to have lost all respect for and confidence in the police. Of course Socialists never had any.

The Rev. R. S. Holland, professor of ethics at Maryland College, of Woodstock, Maryland, has written a book on 'Ownership and Natural Right.' I recommend it to all Socialists for perusal. It is endorsed by Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Corrigan, and plainly shows how despicable a man can become if he engages in the craft of priesthood, especially of jesuitism. The arguments are based on the most outrageous fallacies, historical as well as economical; every word is deeply underlined by sophistry, and the whole trash smells of most cunning insincerity.

At Minneapolis the opposition has almost given up the struggle, as everything is one-sided, and the administration has had matters nearly all its own way. The principal fight was made over the great Chicago stockyard strike. The Chicago men feel sore over the defeat of the strike, and are backed up by T. B. Barry of the General Executive Board. They assert that the G. E. B. had no right to order off a strike when the Board was a thousand miles away from the scene of action and knew little about the case. They further maintain that if G. M. W. Powderly had not ordered off the strike they would have gained the day. Documents have been introduced in the General Assembly to prove this to be the case, and the Chicago delegates gave the history of the strike, pictured the grievances of the men, told how many of them were blacklisted, could not obtain work, all on account of the G. E. B. A resolution was introduced censuring the Board, but suffered speedy defeat by a vote of 161 to 49. After that Powderly thought it high time to carry into effect his *coup d'état*. He wanted to oust the two independent members of the Board—viz., T. B. Barry and W. H. Bailey, and he also desired to be absolute master. So the committee on law sprang the following proposition on the delegates: "That the term of the general officers are only for one year and that the Executive Board consist of the General Master Workman and approved by the General Assembly." In spite of Powderly's passionate speech urging the delegates to adopt this plan, they rejected it. Then Powderly tried on another trick. He and all other members of the E. B. resigned, but Barry and Bailey seeing through this little game could not be persuaded to do the same, and stuck to their posts. The delegates begged the clan to withdraw the resignation, which they did. They had to give up the fight eventually, and the Executive Board remains as last year. The Assembly dissolved on the 20th inst. *Resumé* of work done: Propositions to start Governmental telegraph lines, and to demand a Cabinet Minister for trade; the rest personal squabbling. The staff to do this in one year costs £15,000. Comment superfluous.

Henry Tueber, one of the two men charged with assaulting policeman Feeny, and with resisting this officer in the discharge of his duty at Union Hill on Sunday, Oct. 2, has been found guilty by a Jersey jury. The instructions (?), as the phrase over here goes for summing up, given by Judge Lippincott to the jury, were a most decided plea, aye, a demand for conviction.

The defence proved clearly that the police wantonly charged the crowd; that the crowd was peaceable, in fact, a good deal more orderly than the police liked it to be. The following stuff and nonsense uttered by the prosecuting attorney Winfield shows what sort of people he knew the jury consisted of: "Gentlemen of the jury, this man had in his possession a circular, where amongst other bloodthirsty sentences the following is to be found: 'Brutus, sleepeth thou?' Do you know, gentlemen of the jury, who Brutus was? Brutus was a vulgar assassin, who backwardly slew one of Rome's finest men. This man had also in his pocket a knife. What does all this mean? It means that this man intended to imitate Brutus and to murder everybody." On the motion of the defence a stay of proceedings was granted until the 21st inst. Mrs. Hinton, the wife of the editor of the *Leader*, entered formal charges before the grand jury against officer Feeny for deliberate perjury during the trial of Tueber. The trial of Wohlman jointly charged with Tueber will begin to-day.

Albert R. Parsons, one of our Chicago comrades, has written an open letter to the Governor of Illinois, demanding if innocent his liberty, or if guilty his death, and rejects once for all all commutation to imprisonment for a charge of which he is not guilty. General Ben Butler, General Pryor, Captain Black, and Mr. Salomon, the lawyers retained for the seven, have started to-day for Washington to make an application for a stay of proceedings.

An immense crowd numbering about 20,000 men, assembled Monday, Oct. 17th, in mass meeting at Union Square, New York, to protest against the brutal police outrage of Saturday, Oct. 8th. Resolutions strongly condemning the authorities, and pledging the men to defend at all hazards the right of Free Speech, were adopted unanimously. Things are getting worse and worse. Last Sunday, a hawker of Socialist papers had his wares stolen by the police in Hoboken, New Jersey, under the pretext of the Chief of

Police, who desired to first peruse such periodicals to prevent the sale of treasonable literature. Members of the Social Democratic and Anarchistic parties in New York, are also constantly shadowed by detectives of the Central Office. There is but little difference between the New York police department and the notorious Third Section department in St. Petersburg.

The Conservative wing of the Labour movement had a huge mass meeting last night at Cooper's Union to protest against the intended judicial murder in Chicago. The American flag over the speaker's desk was draped with crape.

LABOUR MOVEMENT.

The bosses of the locked out brass-workers have refused to grant the Saturday half-holiday with full pay, and have notified the strikers that they will hereafter hold no conferences except with their own men.

Work in the Carmel Colliery was resumed October 7th. The same wages will be paid as those paid by the Reading Company.

Coxe Bros. and Co.'s Derringer Colliery, and S. C. Haydon and Co.'s mine at Jamesville, have resumed work with non-union hands.

In consequence of the strike of the hundred cigar-makers at Boyertown, Pa., recently for an advance of 1 dol. per thousand, the firm formerly exploiting them has decided to discontinue work and remove its factory from that point to Greenville, Pa.

A strike of street-car drivers at Beaver Falls, Pa., is intended. The men ask for an advance in wages of 25c. a-day. They are now getting 1 dol. 50c. and want 1 dol. 75c.

The scarcity of sand is said to be likely to restrict work in the glass trade at Pittsburgh. A want of cars to haul the sand in is the reason assigned.

The strike of the green-glass blowers east of the Alleghenies, on September 1st, for an increase of 10 per cent. in their wages, was settled October 7th, by an agreement on part of bosses to pay 5 per cent. advance, and work is to be resumed on October 17th. About 5,000 men are involved.

The Tardee Colliery at Hazleton, Pa., has resumed work under police protection with non-union men.

LIST OF STRIKES FOR OCTOBER.

Number of strikers to Oct. 6	...	...	...	...	2250
Brooklyn, N. Y.—brewery hands, unionism, Oct 7	...	...	...	...	25
Louisville, Ky.—brakemen on short line railroad, Oct. 6	...	...	...	...	105
New York and Brooklyn.—brass-workers lock-out, refusal of employers to allow Saturday half-holiday with full day's pay, strike and lock-out, Oct. 8	...	...	...	...	3000
New York City—compositors and pressmen, on book and job printing, for increase of wages 3 cents. per 1,000 ems, and to make all shops card offices, Oct. 11	...	...	...	...	700
Malden, Mass.—carpet weavers, docking of wages because of damaged work, Oct. 11	...	...	...	...	75
Portland, Oregon.—job printers, nine hours work and ten hours pay, Oct. 7	...	...	...	...	numbers not known
San Francisco, Cal.—furniture workers for shorter hours, Oct. 4	...	...	...	...	"
Eau Claire, Wis.—lumber raftsmen, for advance in wages, Oct. 10	...	...	...	...	"
Akron, Ohio.—coal handlers on Ohio Canal for higher wages, Oct. 10	...	...	...	...	"
Lowell, Mass.—newspaper compositors, caused by the hiring of a man from an outside office to set up advertisements, Oct. 12	...	...	...	...	"
Martin's Ferry, Pa.—glassworkers, against docking of wages	...	...	...	...	"
Southern Indiana.—additional miners for higher wages, Oct. 10	...	...	...	...	1500
Total known for October 1st to 13th	...	...	...	...	7,685
New York, October 21, 1887.	HENRY F. CHARLES.				

THE PROSPECTS OF LABOUR.

Even judges may be sometimes mistaken. The accompanying letter from the *Daily News* rudely shakes the optimistic views of Mr. Justice Field as to the prosperity of the county of Kent:

"SIR,—You publish to-day some remarks of Mr. Justice Field, made at the opening of the Assizes at Maidstone, on the prosperity of agriculture in Kent district. His remarks about the scarcity of farms to let are very misleading, as in this neighbourhood, right on the Kentish border and in Kent there are hundreds of acres to let, or being carried on at a loss by the landlords themselves. One agent near here, I believe, has had nearly 8000 acres to let, and has not, I believe, succeeded in letting one-tenth part of that amount. Let his lordship go to Rolvenden, Tenterden, Beveden, Cranbrook, Hawhurst, or anywhere in this district, and perhaps when he finds there are thousands of acres "to let" he will alter his opinion. The deep distress prevailing here is greatly underrated, and well may jurymen shrug their shoulders when one of England's judges (unintentionally) makes such a misleading statement. If you want to see the genuine unemployed, come down to this district, Sir. If you want to see penniless farmers struggling along, trying to do battle with low prices, come here. If you want to see ruin, poverty and starvation, come to this district for the winter. In the little parish of Wittersham (in Kent) there are already 30 families out of employ, and as many as 25 houses tenantless; and a year or two back this was the most prosperous parish in the neighbourhood. It requires an able pen to paint the picture of misery and ruin that really exists. My heart is full, but I cannot paint the picture of misery one-tenth part black enough. May the state of affairs become known to some able penman, who may wake the country with the tale of ruin and of misery that is existing in this district!—A SUBSCRIBER."

The following goes somewhat deeper into the question: it is from the *St. James's Gazette*:

"SIR,—Whatever we may think of the character and composition of the Hyde Park mobs, it will be well to bear in mind that the present condition of the labour market, bad as it is, is likely to become much worse; and that this state of things will probably not be temporary, but permanent.

"Any sudden increase of the number of those out of work must necessarily augment existing distress; and there is every prospect of such an addition. The farm-labourers' wages have just been reduced to 9s. a week in some districts, and the fall will soon be general; considerable quantities of land, especially in Berks, Wiltshire, Norfolk, and Essex, will pass out of cultivation this winter. Much has already been deserted, and the young men are enlisting. The men with families have not yet found their way to the towns. When they do, it will be to beg—not to work, for there is none that they can find. But others are arriving now. Like the small streams that make their way through a dam before it bursts, the country artisans are dribbling into London. All over the country the makers of agricultural machinery are closing their works or reducing their numbers, and the men are seeking work in town. A further fall of 2s. or 3s. in the price of wheat will send the labourers after them, and this may happen in a year at the present rate of decrease. Even if we are spared a sudden influx from the fields, is there any hope of better wages or constant work for the ordinary 'hand'? No one who has any practical knowledge of the history of labour during the last fifteen years believes it."



"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.

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.

B. K.—See Mr. Sidney Webb's letter, quoted on another page. That will give the particulars of books you ask for. Gavan Duffy's 'Bird's-eye View of Irish History' can be got for 1s. from Duffy and Sons, Wellington Quay, Dublin.

RECEIVED with thanks, but unsuitable—G. P.; J. D.; F. T. Will be utilised—Speranza.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday November 2.

ENGLAND	Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	SWITZERLAND
Church Reformer	Hampton(NJ)Credit Foncier	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Jus	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	ITALY
Justice	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	Gzetta Operaia
Labour Tribune	Paterson (N J) Labor Standard	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
London—Freie Presse	San Francisco (Cal) The People	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Norwich—Daylight	Arbeiter-Zeitung	SPAIN
Railway Review	FRANCE	El Productor
To-Day	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Madrid—El Socialista
Worker's Friend	La Revolté	Barcelona—Acracia
INDIA	Lille—Le Travailleur	GERMANY
Bankipore—Behar Herald	HOLLAND	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Madras—People's Friend	Hague—Recht voor Allen	AUSTRIA
UNITED STATES	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts	Brunn—Volksfreund
New York—Der Sozialist	BELGIUM	ROUMANIA
Truthseeker	Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil	Jassy—Lupta
Volkszeitung	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde	SWEDEN
Boston—Woman's Journal	Liege—L'Avenir	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
Chicago (Ill.)—Knights of Labor		Malmö—Arbetet

PESSIMISM.

Is pessimism increasing? is a question frequently asked. It is generally answered in the affirmative. Yet as it is constantly asserted that we are advancing towards a higher civilisation—that we have many advantages which our forefathers had not, that we have comforts and privileges which our forefathers never thought of—there seems to be inconsistency in giving an affirmative answer. Is an affirmative answer correct? We think it is; and that along with the advantages of modern civilisation are disadvantages which almost if not more than counterbalance the benefits. It is not that the benefits do not exist, but that the management of human affairs has not so progressed as to diffuse the full capabilities of our civilisation among the whole population. It is the custom of a large section of those who write to dwell almost exclusively upon certain improvements or advances we have made; but there is no systematic attempt made to ascertain whether the mass of mankind have the benefit of the discoveries which have been made. The increase of our scientific knowledge is extensively proclaimed. Our fertility in mechanical invention and adaptation is continually paraded. But the debtor side is entirely overlooked. It is seldom mentioned that the great proportion of working men has been reduced to the position of machines. They are drilled to attend to a machine which performs a certain operation, and instead as in past terms making an article they now only assist in making a fragment of an article. Machinery has taken away the independence of those who live by their labour and skill, as the great cost of machinery completely prevents their chance of getting out of their state of servitude. In many other ways is the present position of workmen full of unfavourable and depressing influences which cannot fail to develop pessimism. And yet he who writes a sensational novel is immediately lionised by an unthinking horde of mis-called aristocrats; while he who works for the elevation of the mass of his fellow-men and women, who strives for their better education and just rights, is derided by those in high place. Ought there, under these conditions of life, to be an increase of pessimism? Yes; and I am surprised that it is not ten-fold more than it is. The passive pessimism which exists at present must be educated and fanned into a fierce and relentless persecution of the tyrants who grind to death, by poverty and injustice, the mass of mankind. The mass of mankind have nothing to lose but everything to gain by an overthrow of the existing system, under which the vilest of men ascend to power and influence. How could honest, kind-hearted, amiable men and women be otherwise than pessimistic under a *regime* which

favours the success of the unscrupulous, the hard-hearted, and cruel? For the sake of rents the land tyrants have depopulated the country; for the greed of gain man has been made subservient to machinery.

Workmen may make themselves more proficient in technical education, but it will only be to maintain their masters in luxury and vice. It is not the labourer but the capitalist who overpeaks the country with vice. No one scarcely can succeed unless they pander to capitalists. The foreman, the overseer, the manager, are generally the harshest—the bullies, in fact, in the capitalist's employment. Such undoubtedly are the characteristics of the men who find favour with the employers; for such men will naturally most readily carry out the behests of the capitalist, who is eager only for gain, and cares nothing for the condition of his employes.

For the sake of gain there is a strong tendency in this age to increase the artificial wants of man. Men anxious only for their own gain skilfully discover some desire among a portion of a community, or ingeniously kindle a desire to satisfy which will be profitable to them. Man now strives after many luxuries which are detrimental to him, and masters, in order to gratify their desires, reduce their servants' wages. The immense inequality which every one daily sees, and which is not owing to superior ability or higher morality, undoubtedly spreads pessimistic views of life. How is it possible that men and women of excellent character, much intellectual power and keen sympathy, can escape a pessimistic expression when they see the unscrupulous and the low-minded secure the material advantage here, and prove the truth of the saying: "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

The extensive pessimism which now prevails proves the existence of a wide-spread dissatisfaction. Many who feel a depressing influence have never attempted to find out its cause, and many who have made attempts to discover the cause of their pessimistic feeling have not had the courage to admit to themselves that it is due to the false, or rather non-organisation of modern Society, although they have a perception that the present disorganised state of Society is answerable for many evils. This increasing pessimism may be regarded as a hopeful sign by social and industrial reformers. But, of course, it is necessary that the people should not be allowed to sink into a condition of lethargy with no energy to seek and obtain such a change as will bring them justice. The new gospel, which is to revive and quicken the spirit of men, is that of Socialism, whose advocates will, however, no doubt meet with persecution, as all movements for the good of mankind have encountered the fiercest opposition.

SAMUEL SIDNEY.

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY; OR, THE INCONVENIENCE OF STEALING.

[A DIALOGUE between Mr. JAMES BROWN, a business man, and Mr. OLAF EVANS, a kind of artist and literary man; neighbours.]

SCENE—A Suburban Highway, tending towards.

EVANS (*turning round as BROWN catches him up on the road*). Well, Brown, you look in a deuce of a hurry this morning.

BROWN (*sulkily*). And you look as if you have no need to hurry.

E. No, I haven't—because I must write my own books and paint my own pictures myself—but don't be in such a hurry, old man; it's a long time since I have had a talk with you, although we live next door but one to each other.

B. (*testily*) No, no, it's all very well for you, who have all the day before you to loaf in, to take it easy; but I must get on to my business, and catch the 'bus.

E. Come now, Brown! You know well enough that your clerks don't want you; and they can't idle, because they have got old Jackson to drive them; and he does it as a pleasure and not as a duty. You will only be in the way when you get there.

[BROWN'S sulkiness visibly increases; but he slows down, and they walk on side by side for a little, but without talking, EVANS whistling 'The Last Rose of Summer' very much out of tune.]

B. Well, now, why don't you talk, Evans, since you have kept me here lounging along with you: and there you go mooning along, pretending to be pondering over your novel, or your picture, and really thinking about nothing.

E. Well, you see, I like human company even when it doesn't talk. But what were you thinking about Brown?

B. (*very testily*). You.

E. Curious! I was thinking about you, and wondering what had put you out so this morning; because you are generally rather a cheery kind of a bird.

B. Well, I admit that I am in a bad temper—there.

E. Or rather you were; but since you have made up your mind to tell me all about it you are beaming as usual. Well, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh;" abound my friend, abound!

B. Well you know, Evans, you may think it a little thing, but there's that jolly little garden of mine, all spoilt this morning. You know, the square piece between the trees.

E. Hilloa! who's done that? One of your Tory friends been spitting you these brisk political times, like Mr. Whiteley's desperate enemies?

B. Well you see, it's the pears. They have come after them; you know, that jargonelle tree close by.

E. Come after them? Yes, and got them too, I suppose—boys, I should think.

B. Every blessed one—no, no! it *isn't* boys, its blackguards; blackguards I tell you. No one can keep any fruit for them in this beastly hole.

[Here he uses the resources of the English language in a manner too emphatic for our printer to render with the resources of type.

E. My dear Brown, calm yourself, when its done you all the good it can! I suppose these blackguards had no pears and wanted some, and had no money to buy them with. Blackguards seldom have any money, I notice. It often happens so to me.

B. No, blast them! They had spent it all in beer.

[The resources of the English language drawn on again.

E. Doubtless; and the pears would come refreshing to them after hot-coppers—if blackguards ever have hot-coppers!

B. Refreshing! don't be a fool! Don't you know that they would sell 'em and buy more beer with them, blast them!

E. Touching instance of the Marxian formula, C—M—C! Never mind me, Brown, my mind wanders a little sometimes. But I say, really, don't let it put you out so, for you can easily buy some more pears, and much better ones; you're not a blackguard, and you have got plenty of money, and the ones that were gone were no great shakes after all. And then they won't be wasted, somebody will eat them; and look here, it quite squares with your dignified position as a leading Radical in the neighbourhood to grow fruit for the public benefit. By Jove! an idea seizes me. Suppose you put up for Parliament here next election, you might get a good deal of popularity by this affair if you managed it properly. But since the pears were what they were, perhaps they will give people the gripes; but even then that's a kind of revenge for you at the worst, even if the stealers exchange their commodity pears, for money wherewith to buy the commodity beer; some one will get the gripes.

B. Now look here, Evans, you think yourself damned clever with your chaff; but you know very well I don't care about the value of the pears, but one does want to know what becomes of one's own fruit. And when you talk of the gripes and the beer and all that; that just what I say. It damages me and doesn't do any good to them. That's what always comes of stealing. And as to the pears being wasted, I know my garden is wasted; why my wife had tears in her eyes when I fetched her out before breakfast to look at the damage those damned blackguards had done; all those single dahlias broken down and all, and she doesn't care about flowers anything like as much as I do! Damnation!

E. Poor Mrs. Brown!

B. Now there you go! You won't understand me! they are welcome to the fruit. Next year I'll have it all picked and put in baskets before the door in the open street with a placard over them, "Blackguards are requested to partake of other people's property; scoundrels are begged to accept what other people have worked for."

E. A very proper thing to do! and won't do your popularity any harm. People will take in your pears much quicker than your jokes, though they are not bad. If only you understood where they would lead you if you followed them up properly.

B. What I mean is this, and I'm sure when you think fit to be serious, you will agree with me; that in stealing it isn't so much the shifting of the property from one man to another, especially if he is a rich man, that is so bad, as the confusion and nuisance of it, and its waste and destruction, and the heart-burning and hatred it causes. In short, as I said, it does harm both to the stealer and the stolen-from; in short, it is bad all round.

E. Isn't even good for trade?

B. Of course not. (*Pompously*) Nothing is good for trade except steady production, and honest dealing in the things produced. But, Evans, I really wonder at a decent man like you, a very good-natured fellow, being so flippant about such a beastly, miserable, destructive, inconvenient vice as stealing. The more I think of it the more I hate it: it is simply the worst form of war. Come, my dear fellow, be serious.

E. I assure you I'm as serious as possible, and quite delighted to hear that you hate stealing, since I quite agree with all that you have been saying about it.

B. (*mollified*). Well, I thought you would.

E. Yes; and what you have been saying makes me bold to say something to you in return: that since you hate stealing, you ought to do your best to get rid of it altogether.

B. Well, so I do, don't I?

E. Do you? How, pray?

B. Why, I look sharp after my property; don't allow anyone that I have to do with to be backward with their accounts; don't put temptation in anyone's way; whilst at the same time I must say for myself that I am liberal in my dealings—give my servants good wages, and my clerks too, though you did sneer at me about old Jackson; who, I must tell you, is a very useful person, and a precious good screw he gets from me. In short, I'm none of your sloppy, indulgent, weakly good-natured persons like—like—

E. Like me, eh?

B. Well, don't take offence; but you are, rather, you know, ain't you? But look here, Evans, it don't do, you know—that sort of thing; you do much more harm by it than good. Now I really take trouble with the people I have to deal with, and both by example and by looking sharply after them and treating them justly (and they know

when they are justly treated, bless you!) I do hope I make them honest persons. I hold that a man has no right to have property unless he accepts its responsibilities and takes that kind of trouble: and it is a trouble, mind you. Now you—

E. But do you never try to do anything to keep yourself from stealing?

B. There, there! you are at it again!—never serious for two minutes together! But you needn't look penitent; I wasn't offended, my dear fellow.

E. Well, but I am not penitent at all; but I am somewhat discouraged, because I was deadly serious, and was going to beg you to help me and others to put an end to stealing, both other peoples' and our own.

B. Evans, what do you mean?

E. Since you did really seem to hate stealing so, and since I know you are an honest man enough at heart, I was going to ask you to join the Socialist League, to which I belong—

E. Evans! Evans!

B. And the object of which is to get rid of all stealing for good and all.

B. Get rid of all property, you mean! But I never knew that you were a Socialist;—I am shocked, I am shocked! And the Socialist League, too! Well!

E. How you fly out at a man! How should you have known I was a Socialist? If ever I began to talk about the wrongs of the working class, or the stupidity of our system of production, you would take me all cross, and think I was only talking Ruskinism; and then you would shut me up with some Radical aphorism, and get excited about Gladstone, and not listen to one word I had to say. And I didn't like to push myself forward, as if I were a person of any importance.

B. Well, only to think of it! And let me tell you, Mr. Socialist, when you call me a thief, I call you a coward for not telling me before.

E. (*penitently*). Well, it was rather cowardly. But now you see I've done it; so you need not twit me with it. And I won't be cowardly any more about it; and I'll speak at the open-air meetings about here, instead of at the East-end only.

B. What! you a street-preaching demagogue too!—go about advising people to rebellion and murder and all that!

E. No; I advise them not to steal or let others steal. Come, I say, I don't mind your hard words, but just think it over about joining us.

B. NO!!!

E. Well, here we are close to the Straightway and the 'bus. Let's make peace, at any rate; and come in this evening and have a pipe, and convert me, if you can, to the ways of peace, righteousness—and stealing; and forget about your garden.

B. Well, I will come in; but no Socialist politics, if you please. Well, I promise to come.

E. Well, we won't talk politics. I'll read you the manuscript of my last poem, on the Birth of the Bruce: it isn't very long.

B. (*dubiously*). All right, all right. Now I must be off: 'bus is just going to start. (*Exit on 'bus.*)

E. (*to himself*). Well, I've caught him properly. Because, don't you see, when he comes in and sees my MS. on the table, he will be anxious to put off the evil half-hour of the reading, and he will be glad to let me begin to talk of Socialism or anything else rather than read my poetry to him. And when I once begin he will presently get hot and argue; and even if I don't sow a seed or two in him (and really he is a very good fellow) at all events it will be good practice for me against my next open-air speech.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be concluded.)

AN ADDRESS TO PRINTERS.

THE following is an extract from an address delivered by the Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost recently at a United Labor Party's mass meeting, under the auspices of the Printing Trades' Legion, at the Cooper Union Hall, N.Y.:

"Fellow Craftsmen,—I have been a minister of the gospel for several years, and prepared myself for the pulpit by working at the case in a printing office. Society at large is similar to a printing office. I once worked in Indianapolis. One or two men got all the 'fat takes,' and when it was found that they obtained them through trickery a revolution was threatened unless fair play was given to all, and we got it. There never was a day when I was a 'rat,' or had anything to do with a 'rat.' When I was a printer and there was a strike I was in the strike. Were I back-to-morrow and a strike should come I would be in it. We hold that the rich as a class are rich because they have taken that which belongs to somebody else. This great battle we have undertaken should and will be carried on until every reasonable desire of mind, body, and soul shall be gratified. We have repudiated the doctrine that God is responsible for poverty. The reason why some people are on the top of the heap financially is not because they are superior to others in brains, but because they are inferior to others in conscience. There is no difference between men of different nationalities. The German is as good as the Englishman, the Irishman as good as the Frenchman or American, and so it goes. It is the surroundings and influences, not the blood, that makes the man. Society is at present organised in the form of 'pie,' which we must 'reset' and place in a 'chase' of justice, place about it 'sdesticks' of fairness and equality, stick in 'quoins' of reason, use a 'shooting stick' of logic, and drive it with a 'mallet' of conscience."

UNEMPLOYED BOATMEN.—About 200 men have been thrown out of work by the suspension for the winter of the steamboat traffic on the Thames.

A strike in the Bolton bleaching trade is imminent, as the men have given notice for an advance which the masters decline to give.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

A large number of rivet makers in the Blackheath district of Staffordshire have struck against a reduction in wages. The men remaining at work will subscribe for their support.

REDUCTION OF IRONWORKERS' WAGES.—Messrs. Green Brothers, of the Norfolk Foundry, Ecclesfield Common, have intimated to the moulders, grinders, and fitters in their employ that owing to the depressed state of trade, it is their intention to give a fortnight's notice of a reduction of 10 per cent.

MATCH-MAKERS.—The match manufactory at Newton Heath, established nearly a quarter of a century, ceased working on Saturday, the business being transferred to the chief works of Messrs. Bryant and May, London. The extensive timber trade originally carried on in conjunction with the matchmaking will be retained at Newton Heath, but the hands employed in matchmaking are all thrown out of an employment which many of them have been accustomed to all their lives.

DESTITUTION AMONGST LABOURERS IN IRELAND.—Pitiable accounts are continually being received of the distress amongst the labouring population. At a recent meeting of the Tullamore guardians about fifty labourers forced their way into the boardroom and appealed piteously to the guardians for work or relief. They said they were starving—their wives and children were starving—and they could endure it no longer. Some of them, it appeared, had not been working for two months, and were in a very weak state for want of food.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—Whitchurch, Dorset, Oct. 26.—Agricultural labourers' wages are being reduced in the villages in Dorset, from 11s. and 12s. per week to 9s. and 10s. There are from six to fifteen men out of work, in most villages. Many cottages are empty as the people are gone into the towns to seek work; the farmers don't employ them although the land is full of couch and other weeds. I see from six to fifteen poor men on tramp passing through the village daily asking for bread tickets, they having slept in the union the previous night; these men are mostly tradesmen from the towns. It is worse now than I ever remember, and I can't think what will be the end of it.—J. S.

THE BOLTON STRIKE.—Two hundred engineers at Yates's Canal Foundry Blackburn, the most important engineering establishment in North-east Lancashire, have struck work as a protest against the alleged wrongful dismissal of one of their number for taking an active part in organising collections for the Bolton engineers' strike. They also decline to work unless an advance of 2s. per week be granted them, and are organising for a long struggle.—The dispute at Bolton is reported to be at an end. A conference was held and it has been arranged that the men shall resume work at the old terms; a board of conciliation, to be composed of both masters and men, to be appointed to settle what, if any, is to be the rate of advance. The objections as to overtime are to be withdrawn by the men.—The knobsticks who have been lodged inside the works, left the town on Monday, followed by great crowds.

STAFFORDSHIRE MINERS.—At a conference of miners representing the whole of the districts of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, resolutions were passed in favour of restricting the hours of labour to eight per day, and calling upon all those who were at work longer than that to cease doing so. It was also agreed that it would be a politic thing to observe every Monday as a holiday, and the desirability of a week's cessation from work was also insisted upon. It was further resolved that the time had come when united action should be taken to secure an advance of wages, and the conference decided to give such notice on November 12.

WELSH MINERS.—An important conference of Welsh miners has been held at Merthyr Tydvil, delegates representing over 40,000 men attending. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the question of the renewal of the sliding-scale as a means of adjusting wages, notice having been given by the men's representatives on the scale to terminate the agreement next month. After a discussion lasting many hours, the question whether or not the sliding-scale should be continued was put to the meeting, with the result that delegates representing 21,720 miners voted for, and delegates representing 18,927 against the continuance of the scale. The secretary of the conference was therefore instructed to withdraw the notice to terminate the agreement. By a majority, a resolution in favour of the federation of the South Wales miners was adopted, and another resolution was passed, supporting the eight hours movement.

STRIKES IN THE COAL TRADE.—The threatened adoption of an idle week by the colliers, as recommended at the National Conference at Edinburgh, does not occasion any apprehensions among the coalmasters. The last time the restriction was resorted to in Scotland, it had the effect of enabling the coalmasters to clear away from the pitheads enormous quantities of stuff that, in other circumstances, they could not have disposed of at any price. For this material they obtained good prices. They did not suffer on account of a scarcity of good coals so far as their obligations under contracts were concerned, because all contracts of any importance now contain a strike clause, the effect of which is to allow the coalmaster to supply the best material he can at the enhanced price given to it by the general scarcity in the market. If the idle week is adopted the same thing will be repeated, and the masters will be the gainers and the men the losers.

THE NAILMAKERS' STRIKE.—The great strike in the nailmaking industry of the Midlands still runs on, and a good deal of distress and privation is being experienced by the unfortunate operatives who have now been on strike seven weeks in the hope of obtaining from the employers a return to what is known as the "1879 list." The masters have offered to give them an advance, but not to the extent demanded, though it is known that some of the employers would do so if the general body of employers were willing. It is the conduct of the little masters which tells against the interest of the men, but their want of unity has prevented them resisting the low prices of the "foggers." The latter undersell the market owing to the cheap labour they get. Even at the best of times the earnings of the nailers are very small. Their position at the present time is very trying, and relief funds have been opened to assist them.

CONVICTION UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT.—Messrs. J. J. Metcalfe and Co., printers, 3, Grocers' Hall-court, attended at the Mansion House on Friday, on two summonses, charging them with infringing the Factories and Workshops Act, 1878, in having employed a lad under the age of 16, from eight o'clock one morning until one o'clock the next, and in engaging the same lad

for a year without obtaining a certificate in the prescribed form of his fitness for employment in their factory. Mr. J. B. Lakeman, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories, attended in support of the complaint. The defendants admitted the infringement, and explained that the lad was employed after hours in an emergency, owing to a machine hand absenting himself, but he was allowed a holiday on the following day to make up for it. In the other matter, the absence of the formal certificate was due to the illness of a partner. Sir Robert Carden in the first case merely ordered the costs to be paid, and in the second imposed a fine of 5s. and 2s. costs.

THE SHOP HOURS' REGULATION ACT.—At Lambeth police-court on Friday, a master hairdresser was summoned at the instance of Mr. H. H. Champion, of 13, Paternoster-row, hon. secretary of the Shop Hours' Regulation Act Committee, for breaches of the Act passed at the instance of Sir John Lubbock, in that he employed a youth under 18 years of age for 98 hours in one week, 74 being the statutory limit. He was also charged under a second summons for not exhibiting in his shop any notice of the provisions of the Act. Mr. T. Southerst, who prosecuted, pointed out the evils resulting from his long hours of confinement. Mr. Chance said that the defendant had not, according to the evidence, caused the ill-health of the boy, but held that he had committed two breaches of the Act. The prosecution did not press for a heavy penalty, and the magistrate bound the defendant in £10 not to employ the boy more than 74 hours per week, and to exhibit a notice of the provisions of the Act.

NORTHAMPTON SHOEMAKERS.—It is generally believed by the boot operatives of Northampton that a general lock-out is imminent. The strike of boot rivetters and finishers at Messrs. Cove and West's factory is farther off a settlement than ever. Both masters and men, after the strike had lasted 11 weeks, accepted arbitration, but the first point upon which the Board of Arbitration could not agree the masters unanimously refused to refer to the unanimously appointed referee. The Arbitration Board immediately broke up with no prospect of re-forming. The manufacturers approved of the action of their representatives on the board, and sixty-five boot manufacturing firms, employing about fifteen thousand "hands," intimated to the Workmen's Union that it would be impossible to carry on the trade of the town under the conditions required by the men's representatives on the Arbitration Board. The men at a mass meeting held immediately after this decided to uphold their representatives; and the Boot Stitchers' Union decided to support the rivetters and finishers. It is anticipated that to-day (Monday) the stitchers (cordwainers) employed at Messrs. Cove and West's Northampton manufactory will come out on strike. The operatives of Northampton expect that this decision on the part of the men will be met by a lock-out by the sixty-five manufacturers who have supported their arbitration representatives. The strike has already lasted fifteen weeks.

THE CONDEMNED ANARCHISTS.

On October 29th the Extreme Left of the French Chamber addressed the following telegram to the Government of Illinois:—"In the name of humanity and of the solidarity between the two great Republics, the deputies assembled in Paris who are in favour of the abolition of capital punishment for political offences ask of the Government of Illinois the lives of the seven Chicago Anarchists now lying under sentence of death."

At a meeting of working men held at Chesterfield on Sunday evening, the following resolution was passed:—"That this meeting protests against the execution of the sentence passed upon the seven Chicago Anarchists, and having examined the evidence, considers that it entirely fails to prove that either of the seven men now under sentence of death had anything to do with the throwing of the bomb."

Many meetings have also been held in France, Italy, Spain, and many parts of the British Isles.

A largely attended meeting of ironworkers was held at Walsall on Monday. Mr. Trow, secretary of the Iron and Steel Workers' Association, delivered a powerful address upon the need of organisation, and it was decided to form a branch of the National Association.

Endacott has of course been acquitted, and the jury practically dispensed with in the matter. This was to be expected, official witnesses must be defended at any cost, and those whom they bear witness against must put up with the trifling inconveniences resulting to them from the exercise of official imagination. Surely we must sacrifice something to Law and Order.

"A WIFE'S OPINION."—Under this heading a Fireman's Wife gives the following excellent advice in a letter to the *Railway Review*. Would that there were more women like her to preach the true Labour gospel, "One for all: all for one!"—"I have read your very interesting paper for a very long time, and I have often thought I should like to send a little letter to you, but have put it off, because I am a wife and not a husband. I don't, however, see why your paper should not be open to women as well as men. Excuse me if I am proposing anything out of place, but often the wife is really the head of the house, although the man does the bread-winning part; but if the wife had a word in the *Review* I am sure you would get more husbands to join the valuable Society, although, I am sorry to say, mine does not at present, yet I think before long he will. For myself, I think it is a great mistake that every railwayman does not belong to it. I believe in it myself, and if all those men on the Midland had been banded together in one common cause and studied their own as well as one another's interest, they must have won the day. I can see it myself, although I do not profess to understand railway work. I am so sorry to see that their fellow-men have been so backward in giving their mite towards their comrades in need. I think if more men were true believers in the gospel they would be better men in themselves and truer to each other. How much better it would be if they were more united in the bonds of love to their fellows. There would have been more real assistance given both to the men of the Midland and those of the Hexthorpe disaster. If each man had given sixpence a-week for three months it would never have hurt any of them. I am sure many railwaymen spend more fools' pence than six times sixpence a-week. Now they would be all the better off in their heads and their hearts too, I am sure, for giving it to help a brother, especially as they never know who may need it next. Do to others as, if it was your case, you would wish to be done by; and, as I said before, if women were to write to the *Review*, I am sure their hearts would warm to a sister in distress, or I am much mistaken; and seeing it so, perhaps the men would feel ashamed and come forward more largely, and not let the weaker vessel beat the lords of creation."

CORRESPONDENCE.

SOCIALISM AND CO-OPERATION.

Albert Tarn writes in reply to Varley, insisting:—

"That the Socialistic way of getting capital is to seize that of individual capitalists and use it for the benefit of the whole community; and that the Socialistic way of dealing with shopkeepers is to tell them they are not wanted and to provide them with useful work for the benefit of the community. Does comrade Varley imagine that shopkeepers are such out of 'sheer cussedness'? My idea is that they are shopkeepers because there is no room under the present system in other occupations. My objection to the competitive way of going to work is that it tells most against the honest folk and tends to make them take to dishonest ways. I am afraid Maple, Peter Robinson, etc., will be found tough customers. . . . I think the elimination of small shopkeepers will take place in the ordinary course of events, and if I were comrade Varley I wouldn't waste my energy on such work."

H. Davis writes contending that "Socialist co-operation cannot be obtained without full possession of raw material and the means of production. . . . We can do nothing by such schemes as these while competition lasts; while we are uniting the power of our shillings, the Rothschilds and others are uniting their pounds and are sure to beat us out of the market."

THE PROPAGANDA IN NORFOLK.

At first we were ridiculed; now, that having failed, our opponents are trying to crush us out by brute-force. They began at Lowestoft, where our comrades were attacked by roughs; now it has spread to Yarmouth. Thursday week a crowd of Primrose Leaguers attacked the meeting on the Quay, but were completely beaten by sympathisers. During the next week, however, they organised for the purpose of ill-treating whatever speaker might go down. The police authorities drafted in extra officers for fear of a disturbance. I went down by an earlier train than usual, and disappointed the kindly intentions of those who wished to mob me at the station. At the usual time I began to speak, and it was evident that the crowd meant mischief. A number of Radical friends formed a ring, and I was allowed to proceed; but when I referred to the Primrose League, this seemed to be the signal for an outburst. The mob made a rush, shouting "Put him in the river." I began to feel comfortable, for the river was not twenty yards off and a strong tide was running. At this point, however, the chief constable and his men came up, and the hustling stopped until I finished my address. Then it was resumed with greater fury than ever. As a free fight seemed imminent, and I had an hour to wait for my train, I was conveyed to the police-station and waited there, having in the interval of waiting the pleasure of talking about Socialism to a large number of assembled constables. I reached the station in safety, changing hats with the chief-constable to prevent recognition, and as the night was dark the plan succeeded. A number of sympathisers were assembled at the station, who heartily wished me good-night; and we resolved that the meeting should not be given up, whatever action the Primrose League may choose to take.

Norwich, October 31.

FRED HENDERSON.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR BAKERS.

1. Thou shalt never forget that you also are human; nothing of interest to humanity should be beyond your reach; you should love and aspire to what is good and noble, and abhor everything that might debase you.
2. Thou shalt work only a reasonable number of hours, and remember that in working excessive hours you not only deprive those of bread that are wandering from shop to shop to obtain work, but you are also lowering your own wages.
3. Thou shalt not be arrogant toward your boss, nor shall you allow him to be arrogant toward you. Behave yourself as a man and insist upon being treated as such by everybody.
4. Thou shalt not try to teach good manners to your boss if he does not possess them, but rather leave him than run any risk of having your own good manners spoiled.
5. Thou shalt not believe that your boss is the one that maintains you, but think over the matter whether you are not the one that maintains him.
6. Thou shalt belong to the union, for if you are not a member you only aid in making yourself a life-long slave.
7. Thou shalt not believe that after having paid fifty cents. to the union that your wages will be doubled the following week and the working hours reduced one-half, but consider that it takes many drops of water and considerable time before a hole is drilled in a stone.
8. Thou shalt never think that they will get along without you, and thus excuse your absence from the meetings of your union, but always believe that there is one missing by your not being present.
9. Thou shalt not trust the man working with you unless he belongs to the union, for such a man is full of cunning and intrigues; he only waits for others to spread the table to sit down and help to eat what they cook for themselves.
10. Thou shalt subscribe for and read the Labour paper, and induce others to follow your example, so that your mind will be improved, that you may not only be happy in heaven after death, but also prosper while living on earth.—*Bakers' Journal* (U.S.A.).

'THE TABLES TURNED.'

On Saturday, Oct. 22nd, the "Socialist interlude" by Wm. Morris, was reproduced at Farringdon Road, and last Saturday, Oct. 29th, at the Athenaeum Hall, Tottenham Court Road. On both occasions there were good audiences, including many people who are not often seen at a Socialistic meeting, and in this way there is no doubt that some good propagandist work is being done. The contrast is very effective between the Court Scene, which C. and H. A. Barker have made very realistic, and Mr. Campfield's pretty Landscape, with its tree for the open-air communal council, and its dwellings in the distance. Comrades Krapotkin and Reclus are talking of putting Nupkins into a French dress, and sending him forth to do additional good in that fashion. To-day (Saturday 5th) a performance will be given in the Hall of the Hammersmith Branch, and the manager (H. A. Barker) is arranging for its repetition elsewhere.

THE MODERN GUY FAWKES.

He lurks deep down beside the base Of that proud edifice, Society, Where fashionable idlers chase The phantom-form they call "variety";	By which those careless folk, intent On everlasting rouse and revel, Will see their festal mansions sent In swift combustion to the devil.
Where landlords lounge from room to room, And millionaires suspect no treason— Deep down in subterranean gloom He lives, and lurks, and bides his season.	Even now they riot flush'd with wine, And the mad din swells loud and louder; Deep down he stores the secret mine, And lays the silent train of powder; No chemic compound, subtly wrought, Is this, for death and devastation; Nay, but a train of kindling thought, A mine of moral indignation.
Above, through many a spacious hall, Deck'd gorgeously with stolen treasure, They ply their pastime, one and all, The votaries of pelf and pleasure; Indulging every wanton whim, Carousing, trading, gambling, whoring, How should they pause to think of him— That fellow underneath the flooring?	A fierce, consuming, quenchless blast Of righteous wrath and fiery feeling, By which that fabric of the past, Piled high through centuries of stealing, Shall start and shiver at the roar Of the loud summons democratic, Fate-stricken to its inmost core, From lowest base to highest attic.
A rude, rough fellow, who delights To scout conventional civility; Who cares no whit for vested rights, Nor cultivates respectability; Who hath no balance at the bank, No Sunday pew in church or chapel— Take heed, ye men of wealth and rank, Foredoom'd with this grim foe to grapple!	When comes the crash? No tongue may tell. The train is laid; the fuse is ready; Deep down in subterranean cell He bides his season, stern and steady. Take heed, ye lofty millionaires! Proud dames and high-born lords, remember The rude rough Guy that lurks downstairs, On this—the fifth day of November!
For this is he, the modern Guy, By poets famed as Demogorgon, Who, unbeheld of mortal eye, Constructs a strange explosive organ,	H S SALT.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

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

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.

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

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

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Collection by L. Beber, 1s. *Weekly Subscriptions*—K. F., 1s. C. J. F., 2s. Oxford Branch, 2s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d. W. B., 6d. PH. W., Treasurer, Nov. 1.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—Business meeting Oct. 27th, T. J. Dalziel elected secretary, and several suggestions for improvement of branch brought forward and adopted. Meeting at St. Pancras Arches Sunday morning, Oct. 30th, addressed by Bartlett, Mainwaring, Wardle, Henry, Turner, and Dalziel. *Commonweal* sale increasing.—T. J. D.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Oct. 26th, H. H. Sparling lectured to us on "Wealth." Sunday evening, good open-air meeting on Green, addressed by Barker and Turner. In the hall, T. E. Wardle lectured on "Law and Order." Lively discussions.—A. T. and W. B.

HOXTON.—Good meetings Thursday evening and Sunday morning. Literature sold well. Evening in hall, Mrs. C. M. Wilson lectured to a large audience on "The Social Revolution." Good discussion followed.—C. J. Y.

KINGSLAND GREEN.—A very good meeting was addressed here by W. B. Parker, A. Cores, and a friend from Chicago, on Sunday morning.

MERTON.—We held our usual meeting on Mitcham Fair Green, Eden and Kitz entertaining a good audience. The following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this meeting sympathises with the men imprisoned in consequence of their opposition to the police in their brutal attacks upon the people, and calls for assistance for their wives and families." This was responded to by a collection amounting to 3s. 6d. for that object. We wish to inform our comrades and friends of Mitcham that a course of lectures will be delivered during the coming winter months, commencing Sunday, Nov. 6th, when comrade Gregory will give a reading and address.—R. C.

NORTH LONDON.—Meeting of about 600 or 700 people at Regent's Park on Sunday morning, when Cantwell, Nicoll, E. and E. B. Aveling spoke. 8s. 9d. collected for propaganda. Good sale of literature.—T. C.

STAMFORD HILL.—A good audience were here addressed on Sunday evening by Brooks, Cores, Cantwell, and W. B. Parker.

GLASGOW.—Usual meeting Saturday in Jail Square, speakers, Downie and Glasier. On arriving at Paisley Road Toll on Sunday, we found the Orange rowdies, who have several times attempted to break up our meetings, had taken up our place of meeting with an orator of their own. We started our meeting not far off, and carried it through without any annoyance. In evening, after address from Glasier in Watson Street, we adjourned to hall, where we had a lecture from Daniel McCulloch on "Education under Capitalistic and under Socialistic Conditions."—A. M'K.

LEICESTER.—There has been a three night's debate here at the Secular Hall between T. Slater (of Bury) and comrade Barclay, on "Co-operation or Socialism: which is best calculated to improve the condition of the People?" Slater showed the great progress co-operation had made, advocated thrift, and defended competition. Barclay showed that capitalism had made greater progress in same time, and must needs because those in possession of the capital can "get more off their own bat in the game" than by becoming co-operators. Nothing could improve the condition of the whole people but nationalisation not only of land but of all capital. On 28th, Mr. Holt, a new member, read paper on "The Condition of the Workers."—J. F.

LEES.—Sunday morning Sollitt and Paylor held meeting in Vicars Croft. In evening, Hill lectured at rooms on "The Labour Struggle." Animated discussion followed.—T. P.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday, Wm. Morris delivered two lectures in Secular Hall, at 3 p.m. on "The Origins of Ornamental Art," the Rev. Prof. Symes in the chair, and at 7 p.m. on "Monopoly." Lectures well received by large audiences. Several questions asked, but no real opposition offered. At 5 in club room we had a tea for members and friends; Morris was present. Also on Saturday evening, a social gathering of members and friends, including the Rev. Prof. Symes, Rev. A. H. Baynes, J. P. Briscoe, librarian of Nottingham Free Library, G. H. Wallis, curator of the Castle Museum, and E. Cockburn. Meetings reported in local press, and we feel satisfied that the visit has been a success.—A. M. C.

WALSALL.—Two outdoor meetings held by Donald Saturday, one on The Bridge, the other top of Park Street. Great opposition evinced, and dealt with by Donald to the apparent satisfaction of the large majority.

WEDNESBURY.—Donald lectured in Market Place on Thursday night. Branch is arranging for carrying on propaganda indoors during winter.

St. FAITH'S.—Henderson spoke on Green Sunday afternoon.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.—Meetings during the week on St. George's Plain, Haymarket, and Market Place.

CARROW.—Meeting held on Friday by Henderson at Carrow.

BIRMINGHAM.—Four meetings held here on Sunday. Two indoor at Baskerville Hall, where Donald lectured morning and night, also addressing open-air meeting in afternoon at Council House. Sanders and Sketchley spoke in Bull Ring in evening; numerous questions put and satisfactorily answered. Our audiences continue to increase, and a good impression is being made.

WEST BROMWICH.—Sanders addressed indoor meeting here on Saturday.—J. T. D.

DUBLIN.—Our recent meeting and resolution, protesting against execution of Chicago Anarchists, has evoked considerable attention from the "largest circulation in Ireland," viz., *Irish Times* (Conservative), during past week. We have got several leaders, letters, etc., and are now called on to state our aims and how we propose to carry them out, which we will do. Pressure being put on the landlord of our hall, we were evicted on termination of our terms of occupying. We expect to engage suitable accommodation immediately.—J. M'C.

Scottish Land and Labour League.

EDINBURGH.—At the Earl of Meath's lecture on "State Colonisation," Mahon and J. D. Christie moved an amendment and made speeches in opposition, which were well received. Arrangements have been made for sending Edinburgh members to lecture at the new branches, and start branches at Leith and Kirkcaldy.

DYSART AND GALLATOWN.—A branch member has been nominated for the Town Council, with a good chance of success. The branch is steadily progressing.

COWDENBEATH.—A good body of members have been got together here, and with further effort there will be still better fruit. The greatest difficulty is that in the whole place a room for the branch cannot be obtained.

LOCHGELLY.—Mahon lectured on "Wrongs and Rights of Labour." Branch formed, several members being eager to take up the work and push it on.

DUNDEE.—Three meetings held here on Sunday by Mahon, Weksleder, Duncan, Carr, Dempster, Simpson, and Grainger. Evening meeting in Trades' Hall was very successful, and lecture well received. Class arranged for study of Socialism Sunday mornings, also class for singing which comrade Weksleder undertook to conduct, and a monthly programme of lectures. Several joined, progress being made.

ARBROATH.—A good debate on Friday. Arrangements made for Mahon's visit on Tuesday, and how to increase the sale of *Commonweal*.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday Nov. 3, Social Evening for members and friends, 8.30.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday November 6, at 8.30. Free Concert by members and friends. Wednesday 9th, at 8.30. H. A. Barker, "The Condition of the Working Classes." Sun. 13. G. B. Shaw, "Practical Socialism." Wed. 16. W. H. Utley, "The Iron Age." Sun. 20. W. Morris, "The Coming Society."

Fulham.—Committee meets Wednesday evenings, 8 o'clock, at 4 Werlery Avenue, Dawes Rd., Fulham.
Hammersmith.—Kelmiscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday November 6, at 8 p.m. Mrs. C. M. Wilson, "The Social Revolution."

Hoxton (L.E.L.).—Sunday November 6, at 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road, F. Kitz will lecture at 8.30 on "Criminal Classes, High and Low." Members' meeting at close of lecture.

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, 12 Maule St., secy. Thursday next, J. L. Mahon, "How to Realise Socialism."

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. Pending the engaging of suitable rooms, all communications to be directed to J. E. M'Carthy, 44 Davidson Street, Dublin.

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

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. *Gallatoun and Dysart* (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Music and Shorthand Classes, Tuesday at 8. Choir Practice, Wednesday at 8. Discussion Class, Thursday at 8 (Nov. 10, "Eight Hours Working Day"—J. Adams).—In the Hall, 8 Watson Street, Gallowgate, on Sunday Nov. 6, at 7 p.m., J. Shaw Maxwell, "The Labour Problem."

Hamilton.—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Thursday, 7.30.

Leeds.—17 Chesham St., Sweet St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m. On Sunday November 6, at 7 p.m., F. Corkwell will lecture on "The Principles of Socialism."

Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.

Lochgelly (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (*pro tem.*), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.

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.

West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 6.

- 9.30...Starch GreenHammersmith Branch
- 11.30...Hackney—Salmon and BallGraham
- 11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Nicoll
- 11.30...Kingsland GreenDavis & Barker
- 11.30...Merton—Haydons RoadKitz
- 11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenThe Branch
- 11.30...Regent's ParkParker & Wade
- 11.30...St. Pancras Arches...Walker, Warille, Bartlett
- 11.30...Walham Green.....The Branch
- 3 ...Hyde ParkNicoll
- 7 ...Stamford HillLane
- 7 ...Clerkenwell GreenBrookes

Tuesday.

- 8 ...Mile-end WasteFlockton & Allman
- 8 ...Ossulton St., Euston RoadNicoll

Wednesday.

- 8 ...Broadway, London FieldsGraham

Thursday.

- 8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Allman & Davis

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—*Bam Square*: Sunday, 1 p.m.—Glazier and Downie.

St. George's Cross: Sunday, 1 p.m.—M'Culloch, Pollock, and Gilbert.

Paisley Road: Sunday, 4.30—M'Culloch, Downie.

Watson Street: Sunday, 6.30—Bulloch and Glazier.

Cambuslang.—Saturday, 5.30—Glazier, Pollock, Gilbert, and Adams.

Greenock.—Saturday: Wallace Square, at 5; Arcade Hall, at 7—Downie & M'Culloch.

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)

Sat. 5—*Dumfries*. Grassmarket, at 7.30—Simpson, Carr, and Dempster.

" *Arbroath*. Brothock Bridge, 7 p.m.—Duncan and Weksleder (of Dundee).

Sun. 6—*Dumfries*. High Street, 2.30. Trades Hall, Union St. (Tay Bridge Station), Members Meeting, 11 a.m.; Lecture, 6.30.

" *Edinburgh*. Trades Hall, High Street, at 6.30—Davidson, "Labour Federation."

Wed. 9—*Montrose*. Temperance Hall, 7.30—lecture by Mahon.

Thurs. 10—*Arbroath*. Brothock Bridge, 7.15. High Street Hall, 8 p.m.—Mahon.

Fri. 11—*Carnoustie*. Temperance Hall, 7.30, lecture by Mahon, "How to Realise Socialism."

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

Reports for *Commonweal* should be sent to London. Labour Leaflet, "A Few Words for Socialism," 6d. per 100, postage 1d. *Commonweal* and all Socialist Literature may be had from Edinburgh.

Small Posting Bills (12 in. by 9) announcing meetings, 10 for 1s; 50, 2s 3d; 100, 3s 6d; 200, 4s 6d. Orders, with particulars, to J. M. Hossack, at Labour League Office, 4 Park Street, Edinburgh.

North of England Socialist Federation.

THE REV. JOHN GLASS, of Edinburgh, will lecture on Socialism as follows:

Monday Nov. 7 (S.D.F. and Socialist Federation)—Lecture Room, Nelson Street, Newcastle, at 7.30.

Tues. Nov. 8—Central Hall, Waterloo, Blyth, 7.30.

Wednesday Nov. 9—Seghill Schoolroom, 7.30.

Thursday Nov. 10—Co-operative Hall, Seaton Terrace, 7.30.

Friday Nov. 11—North Shields Oddfellows' Hall, Saville Street, 7.30.

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.

NORWICH ANARCHIST GROUP.

Yarmouth.—Thursday, on the Quay, at 7.30.

Carrow.—Friday, at 1.30.

St. Faith's.—Sunday, on the Green, at 3.30.

Norwich.—St. George's Plain, Saturday, at 1.15.

Haymarket, Saturday, at 8—Fred Henderson, on "Emigration." Market Place, Sunday at 11 and 8.

FULHAM LIBERAL CLUB.—J. Tochatti lectured to good audience on "Human Nature and Socialism." Next Sunday Wm. Morris lectures there—subject, "What Socialists Want."

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

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday November 6, at 3.30 p.m. prompt.

Now ready. 32 pp., in Wrapper.

THE TABLES TURNED;

Or, Nupkins Awakened.

A SOCIALIST INTERLUDE

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

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The November Volume of THE CANTERBURY POET ready Oct. 25, will be

IRISH MINSTRELSY.

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