

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

[REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

VOL. 5.—No. 173.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1889.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

THE Socialist League advocates International Revolutionary Socialism. That is to say the destruction of the present class society, which consists of a class of men who live by owning property and therefore *need not work*, and a class that has no property and therefore *must work* in order that they may live to keep the idlers by their labour. Revolutionary Socialism insists that this system of society, which is the modern form of slavery, should be changed to a system of Society which would give every man an opportunity of doing useful work, and not allow any man to live without doing useful work. The result of this would be that livelihood would not be precarious nor labour burdensome. Labour would be employed in co-operation, and the struggle of man with man for bare subsistence would be supplanted by harmonious combination for the production of common wealth without the waste of labour or material.

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

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

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

Thus, while we abide by the old motto

Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,

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

We add to the first motto then this other one—

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

When this is realised there will be a genuine Society; until it is realised, Society is nothing but a band of robbers.

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

THE sentence on the Zulu chiefs for the crime of having the hardihood to defend their country against land-thieves, is worthy of the very worst days of the Roman Empire; amongst all the records of tyranny nothing worse has been recorded than this last piece of cruelty of "civilisation." It seems hardly possible that the sentence can be carried out, bad as we are.—W. M.

THE ENGLISH REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, 1815 TO 1817.

SPA-FIELDS RIOTS AND DERBYSHIRE INSURRECTION.

(Continued from p. 130.)

It has often been noticed in times of fear and disturbance, that not only is the public mind in an abnormal condition of intense excitement, but that nature also becomes distempered. Times of revolution are preceded and accompanied by earthquakes, terrible storms, or intense heat and drought; not to mention those aerial messengers, comets, which are supposed to bear with them the fate of kings and empires. Apart from the superstitious belief of our ancestors, there is a natural explanation, we know that nature and his surroundings act upon the man, that we are one with nature, and that her storms and tempests reflect themselves in us. Besides, heavy storms and thirsty drought destroy the corn crops and make bread dear, and a dear loaf will often bring the misery of the suffering people to such a pitch that revolt becomes the only escape from unbearable anguish. It was that terrible storm of hail, thunder, and rain exactly a year before the great French Revolution, which destroyed the crops and proved the last straw on the back of the French peasant, who otherwise might have borne his sufferings in silence for years longer. And even in our times, which are looked upon by all men as revolutionary, we see that Nature lends her aid to hurry on the inevitable convulsion. Think of the natural history of the last few years: earthquakes, floods, summers of scorching heat burning up corn and pastures, summers of pouring rain rotting the corn in the fields; hope and dread of they know not what in the hearts of men, and in the sky the lurid gleam of a new dawn about to break upon the world.

So at the time I am writing, in England at least, nature urged the people forward to revolt. The summer of 1815 was remarkable for a great drought throughout the country, and grass became unusually scarce. Farmers were forced to sell their cattle in large numbers at a great sacrifice. This made meat cheap for the time, but only at the cost of its becoming very dear in the succeeding year. Despite the drought, the harvest was not so bad, so the people did not feel at once the effects of the Corn Bill.

And thus for a time there was a period of comparative quiet. This was broken on October the 10th by a great strike among the merchant seamen on the Tyne. The treatment and payment of these men was far worse than what it is at the present time, and it was no wonder that they rebelled against the hard conditions of their lot. The steps they took to make their strike successful were of an extraordinary character. They had entire possession of the river, and they built a bridge of boats across, which effectually prevented any ships moving out of the port of Newcastle. It was estimated that there were over a thousand sail of shipping in Tyne which could not get men. The number of military and police in Newcastle was not large, and they were totally helpless before these daring rebels, who had the town entirely in their possession, and were thus enabled to keep the strike going by unlimited credit among the shopkeepers. No vessels were allowed to go to sea without a permit from the organising committee of strikers, and you can imagine they did not get this permit without agreeing to the committee's terms. The rebels numbered 4,000, and they paraded their forces through the town twice a day—in the morning and afternoon. If any man of them did not turn out with his comrades, he was treated as a blackleg, and they inflicted a very comical punishment upon him, by parading him through the town with his face blackened and his jacket turned inside out. This confederacy, after lasting some weeks, was broken up by the army and navy combined; for while a small army of soldiers were brought into the town to overawe the strikers, the bridge of boats was cleared out of the way by seamen from ships of war that had been ordered to Newcastle. The strike then collapsed.

On November 15th there was a strike among the miners at Wolverhampton, who, on being charged by the yeomanry, gave them such a warm reception with stones and brickbats that these zealous defenders of law and order were forced to retreat in great confusion. The strike was afterwards put down by his majesty's dragoons.

The rest of the year 1815 passed quietly, but these ominous signs made the middle and upper classes look with dread upon the future. And they soon had cause. I have said the harvest was not bad, but it was bad enough to cause a rise in the price of wheat, which the wet summer of 1816 drove up from fifty-two shillings to the extraordinary price of a hundred shillings a quarter. This is a little over three times the price of corn at present time; so for a loaf you give 3d. for now-adays you would have had to give 10d. in 1816. Trade was at a standstill; the streets of towns were crowded by beggars; robbers infested the roads of both town and country; while the ranks of the unemployed were recruited largely from the multitude of soldiers and sailors now discharged. While this was going on, princes, ministers, and rich men indulged in reckless extravagance, and revelled in profligate orgies. It was evident that England was on the verge of a revolution, and it is still a matter for wonder on the part of the student of history that England escaped the threatened convulsion.

The trouble began among the agricultural population. With a scanty wage of 7s. a-week, and very often not that—for, owing to the introduction of machines and other causes, employment is scarce among the agricultural labourers—it is not easy to live in a time of dear bread and general scarcity. It is in Suffolk that trouble begins, and from Suffolk it spreads through the neighbouring counties of Norfolk, Cambridge, and Essex, till at last it develops into an agrarian insurrection. On May 9th, 1816, incendiary fires break out in Suffolk. The spring nights are illumined by the glare of blazing ricks and barns; and by the light of the flames mobs assemble and destroy the machinery which turns them upon the roadside. The establishments of manufacturers who have oppressed the poor are not spared, and the manufactories of Mr. Chandler of Illminster and Mr. Kingsbury of Bungay are burnt to the ground. In the space of ten days there are fifty fires in the county of Suffolk alone. On the 19th the sheriff of Suffolk and Mr. Willet of Brandon arrive in London at the Secretary of State's office with an alarming account of the state of the country, and a request for military assistance. It appears that from breaking threshing-machines and firing ricks the people have proceeded to open insurrection. A reduction of the price of bread and meat is the object of the rioters. They demand that a maximum be fixed, that the highest price for wheat be half-a-crown a bushel and that of prime joints 4d. a pound. At Brandon the rioters are in considerable force; they number, it is estimated, some fifteen hundred. They are divided into several parties, and are attacking the houses of the various local tyrants. At Brandon they have levelled several houses to the ground, including that of Mr. Willet the butcher. The sheriff of Suffolk and Mr. Willet, on their way to London, saw from the high ground a fire near Ely, which they conjecture to be the work of another party of rebels. The rioters were armed with long heavy sticks, the ends of which, to the extent of several inches, were studded with sharp iron spikes. Their flag was inscribed "Bread or blood," and they threaten to march to London. How much of this is true, and how much may be put down to the excited imagination of Mr. Willet and the worthy sheriff, I will leave to your judgment. A curious point is that the description of the rioters and their demands are similar to those of the French peasants in the time of the great Revolution, and it is evident they are under intelligent guidance. It is a fact at the present time there are popular songs among the Suffolk peasantry celebrating the French Revolution, one of which runs as follows:

"Weeva la! ye French conventions,
Weeva la! ye rights of man,
Weeva la! ye bold Americans—
You're the lads that first began";

so it is possible that the example of the French peasants may have greatly affected them.

The sheriff and Mr. Willet are dismissed with promises of assistance, and return to the distracted county.

On Thursday the 16th riotous bands of youths and other people smash the windows of respectable persons and sack a flour-mill at Norwich. A Doctor Alderson, who comes out to remonstrate with them, is knocked down. Respectable inhabitants assemble at the Guildhall, where they continue till a late hour; they then sally forth with staves and torches to the flour-mill, but find, no doubt to their intense disappointment, that the rioters have dispersed—a fact which one might think they might have known beforehand.

About the same time there is a rising at Bideford, a seaport in Devon, to prevent the exportation of provisions while the people are starving. Three of the ringleaders are arrested and thrown into prison, but an immense crowd collects, the prison doors are broken down with hammers and bludgeons, and the prisoners are released.

Meanwhile rioting has continued at Norwich, doubtless encouraged by the news that comes from Suffolk and other places. The gallant mayor and worthy burgesses determine on 22nd of May that strong measures are called for to curb the growing forces of sedition; but on this occasion it is not found necessary to expose the valuable lives of the magistrates and respectable citizens of Norwich. The troops and yeomanry are called out, and there is a battle royal in the Market Place. Fire-balls are thrown among the troops, which scare the horses, while a fusillade of stones rattles upon the helmets of the dragoons and yeomen. This battle lasts for some considerable time, but the riot is quelled at last, and order reigns in Norwich. D. J. NICOLL.

(To be continued.)

There is no creature whose inward being is so strong, that it is not greatly determined by what lies outside it.—George Eliot.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

TALK about paternalism or grandmotherly "government" being the necessary result of the adoption of Socialistic principles on the part of society at large! Just look at this specimen of paternalism indulged in by a private enterprise based on individualistic notions:

"An engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company covers the round trip from New York to Philadelphia, which is about 170 miles, once a-day. . . . He is not allowed to indulge in intoxicating liquor of any kind—he is ordered in fact to drink nothing but cold water, tea and coffee being also denied him. The number of hours that he must give to sleep are prescribed under the company's rules, and his amusements are chosen for him by his employers—the theatre being strictly forbidden. He is allowed one month's vacation each year without deduction of pay. In fact, as you can see, he is expected to give the best of his time, talent, and strength to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and this company has advanced so far in the line in which other railroads must follow sooner or later, that it arranges to care in a paternal way for its employes."

Liberty and Property Defence League people please note!

The agricultural labourer—also described as the farm hand—seems to be getting dangerously near the point of superfluity. Experiments to substitute orang-utangs and suchlike man-apes for this kind of labour, which were tried in the States a few years ago, appear to have shown the impracticability of this idea, as nothing more of it was heard since. But in the meantime technical improvements were made in agricultural machinery which practically does away with manual labour altogether, whether provided by man-apes or human beings. Mr. Edward Atkinson, writing in *Bradstreets*, points out that

"certain farming operations are carried on in California, where farming has already almost changed from an agricultural to a mechanical pursuit, which seem to indicate that the development of American farming in the direction of extraordinary economy is going on at a faster rate than anyone could have thought possible. One of the California farmers, who has wheat-fields of several thousand acres in extent, has sent on a statement of the cost of planting and harvesting his last crop. This was all performed, from the ploughing of the land to the sacking of the wheat, by a great and ingenious piece of mechanism, and from first to last—that is, ploughing, harrowing, seeding, cutting, thrashing, winnowing, and bagging the wheat—the cost did not exceed eighty cents (8s. 2d.) per acre. Assuming that the average yield is from 10—14 bushels to the acre, the labour-cost of producing wheat is insignificant in the extreme. Eight cents (four pence) a-bushel would be so low a labour-cost that the humblest ryot in India could hardly hope to hold his own against it."

No wonder that the workers in the United States, mostly ignorant and prejudiced, if they could have their way would vote by a large majority to "luddite" all machinery. Of late, in many a trade co-operative societies have been formed whose members have sacredly pledged themselves never to make use of any machinery whatsoever. Editor Dana, of the *New York Sun*, said a few days ago, "In many of our institutions and ideas we resemble the flowery kingdom of the middle"; and the editor is in the main correct, perhaps more so than anybody dares to admit to himself.

The New York newspapers have taken the first step towards forming a trust. A combination was formed by them, with the exception of the *Herald*, to raise the price of the Sunday issues to five cents. The *Herald* always charged this price.

The sugar trust has raised the price of sugar to 9 cents a-pound. Altogether a rise of 3 cents, or 33 per cent., since the formation of the trust.

Some time ago, a comrade in the cause received the following letter from an acquaintance:

"I am very sorry indeed I cannot render you any assistance in getting a job, but your being an 'Anarchist' prevents me from doing so. You have no idea how 'Anarchists' are hated in this country. If you were a thief, a forger, or had committed any other crime—aye, even that of murder—you might be forgiven, but in the people's eyes there is no excuse for one who is an 'Anarchist.'"

If we consider what these sentences imply, and then read the following letter, we must admit to ourselves that all is not lost as long as such workers in the cause as the noble woman in Grinnell can be found:

"Grinnell, Iowa, April 5th, 1889.

"... That you may better understand our position, perhaps I had better tell you of the origin of our little 'group.' This city was founded by and named after J. B. Grinnell, a first cousin of *Julius Grinnell* of Chicago, the State Attorney in the Anarchist trial. J. B. Grinnell vouched to the court for the good character of *Harry Gilmer* when he was called to give witness against *Spies et cons.* On the day our Chicago comrades were sentenced to death all the bells were rung in rejoicing; the same thing was done at noon on the day of the murder, and at night they had bonfires and general rejoicing. So far as I knew, I was the only Anarchist in the place; but I draped my office in mourning, put on a mourning costume, and then went to work to make converts to the cause, right here among its most bitter enemies. I have had some success: our 'group' now numbers eleven, but six are mechanics and common labourers of very poor education. These men cannot read Marx, Proudhon, or Spencer; the language, the logic, the science are all far above the reach of my poor friends. And they have so little time. When night comes they are too tired for books, too tired to think; but a paper, you know, or a leaflet, can be carried in the blouse and read at the noon hour, and perhaps discussed with other workmen.—Fraternally yours,
"DR. MARY HERMA AIKIN."

Let capitalism come and show such unselfish workers for its cause, and we will gladly take a back seat. Surely "the religion of Socialism" breeds the same spirit as Christianity did in its better and nobler days.

That the institution of private property in the means of production and distribution is at the bottom of all social evils, can hardly be doubted any longer by reasonable people. Of course, people possessed of an over abundance of "analytical proclivities" may question the correctness of this statement, but they will find it a hard nut to crack to prove it incorrect. We have just now a fine illustration of its truth in the States. A part of the Indian territory known as the Oklahoma lands, will be opened for settlement on the 21st inst. People have been hanging around these lands for years awaiting their opening. They will stand no better chance than the new-comer who only arrives on the 21st in the selection of homesteads. They are consequently in a very ugly frame of mind, and it will be strange indeed if there is not any amount of bloodshed and violence indulged in during the settlement of the territory. It is estimated that at present already about 100,000 persons are ready at the frontier to enter Oklahoma. There are only about 10,000 homesteads to be given away. For each section open there will be at least a dozen applicants. The military authorities state that the soldiers are not equal to the task of keeping the people out, and that they will be unable to prevent bloodshed and violence. Every

train arriving is crowded, and the wagons are passing in like an endless chain.

The foregoing also proves that incalculable numbers of people are out of work. For each job at the disposal of the new President, there are at least twenty applicants.

Strikes are breaking out again like an epidemic over the whole country. The carpenters in most cities are out to enforce the nine hour day. In Allentown, Pa., the ironworkers struck against a reduction of 10 per cent.; in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn., the street car men are out against a reduction of 25 per cent.; and in Newark, N.J., the thread-workers and spinners of the Clarke works had to strike to prevent a large reduction.

Notices like the following are nowadays of daily occurrence in trade union papers:—

“Painters are warned to stay away from Brooklyn, N.Y., as trade is dull and many of the craft are out of employment.”

“Labourers and mechanics are warned to stay away from Springfield, Ohio, as there are over 2,000 idle men at present in that city.”

“Miners are warned to stay away from Lehigh, Indian Territory, as the mines there are being run only two days in each week. Hundreds of idle men are in the vicinity.”

“Labourers and mechanics are warned to stay away from Pittsburg, Kansas, as there are hundreds of men in that city at present who are unable to obtain employment.”

“Workingmen are warned to stay away from Peoria, Ill., as there are hundreds of men there unable to obtain employment. Pay no heed to advertisements appearing from time to time in Eastern papers. They are untruthful and misleading.”

Indeed we may ask ourselves the question: “Is the world getting madder or are we getting near the crisis?”

In the alleged dynamite conspiracy case of the Burlington, Quincy, and Chicago system, two more verdicts were rendered by a “jury” in Geneva, Ill., viz.: Broderick to one year's imprisonment, and a fine of 500 dols. against Godding. Two more victims of capitalistic brutality.

The Chicago *Arbeiter-Zeitung* is now branded by all labour papers for having “boodled” during the late election.

The Social Democrats in Chicago, Ill., polled for their candidate as mayor, 167 votes; in Milwaukee, Wis., they obtained 420 for their candidate as city judge; and in Jersey City, Heights, N.J., they materialised 104 votes all told.

The Social Democrats of Massachusetts had a conference in Boston about a week ago, when they resolved “to nominate a full State ticket, and to take several other steps which would lead to the control of Massachusetts being conducted by their party.”

Boston, Mass., April 15, 1889.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MAY 11, 1889.

5	Sun.	1789. Opening of the Assembly of the States-General in France. 1821. Napoleon Buonaparte died at St. Helena. 1860. Garibaldi embarked for Sicily.
6	Mon.	1850. Meeting in St. Martin's Hall. 1862. H. D. Thoreau died. 1867. Reform demonstration in Hyde Park. 1882. Killing of Burke and Cavendish in Phenix Park.
7	Tues.	1716. Septennial Bill passed.
8	Wed.	1795. Fouquier-Tinville guillotined. 1840. Socialist Congress at Leeds. 1843. Monster Repeal meeting at Kilkenny. 1873. John Stuart Mill died.
9	Thur.	1800. John Brown, of Harper's Ferry, born.
10	Fri.	1774. Louis XV. dies at Versailles. 1857. Indian Mutiny breaks out. 1870. Barricades thrown up at Belleville. 1881. Bradlaugh ejected from the House of Commons.
11	Sat.	1796. R. T. Crossfeild tried for high treason. 1840. Feargus O'Connor sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. 1860. Landing of the “Thousand” at Marsala. 1866. Commercial crisis and stoppage of banks. 1878. Hodel's attempt on Kaiser Wilhelm.

THE POWER OF EDUCATION.

THAT the propertied classes may be the better able to keep for their own special advantage the accumulated labour of the workers, they have appropriated the great thoughts of all preceding generations of men and women who have left any traces behind them of having led useful lives. They are thoroughly conscious that class domination can only exist as long as ignorance prevails, and therefore it is that only the barest elementary knowledge is imparted to the children of the workers. Fearing that this knowledge may in itself prove dangerous, a correcting influence is supplied—the mysteries of the future life intervene. Thus the necessary training in subjection is imparted to fit the children of the slaves for the weary lives which the masters, in the endeavour to perpetuate their shameful institutions, think proper to impose.

Now, as we claim that the material products of the workers of past generations should be held collectively by existing generations, so all those whose inclinations and tastes so lead them should have opportunities for acquiring and enjoying the fruits of the mental labours of those who went before them.

“Knowledge is power,” says Bacon, and it is the monopoly of knowledge by the classes that gives them sophisticated speakers to gull the slaves with the idea that there must be men to rule and men to be ruled; it gives the crafty men who are perpetually engaged in law-making, i.e., fencing in the so-called rights of private property; it gives them a class of people who pretend to lighten the miseries of this life by depicting the perpetual bliss of the future; and it gives them those pompous individuals who can live in luxury without the slightest pretence of doing work.

“Knowledge is power,” and when the knowledge that the workers are being robbed by the classes is clearly understood by them, it will in itself become the power by which the destruction of the classes will be effected. Thus the education of the people must precede and be the means of effecting their emancipation. A. B.

THE PEOPLE'S HOPE.

O, say not they are mad who hold
The faith that ours should be,
The Paradise of which we're told,
That we yet hope to see;
Things as they are may suit the few,
They'll suit the people when,
Content, they share their portion too
Of all God meant for men;
They are not mad who bid us dare,
Of all God gives to claim our share.

Our day is near, and come it must,
The day that surely shows
That God, to all he makes is just,
Nor wills our human woes;
They are not mad who cry, “Be wise,
No starving lives endure;
On to the day that forward lies,
Where there shall be no poor.”
They are not mad who bid us dare,
Of all God gives to claim our share.

W. C. BENNETT.

A CLEARANCE MELODY.

FOR THE MILLIONS.

“He hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor. He hath violently taken away an house that he builded not.”—*Words of the Man of Uz.*

AIR—“*Git out o' the way Ole Dan Tucker.*”

WINTER time for village razing,
Summer grass is prime for grazing—
Give me room to feed my flocks in;
Out go MEX, and in go OXEN:
Sheriff, come to village-wracking—
Send these “wretches” off a-packing;
Don't be moved by want or weeping,
Child at play, or old man creeping.

Wrackers, this devoted village
Can't produce an ounce of pillage—
I took all they scraped together,
Hot, or cold, or rainy weather:
Fed am I on dishes dainty—
Starved are they amidst of plenty!
Don't be moved by want or weeping,
Foodless child, or old man creeping.

Sheriff, fall to village-wracking—
Send these “wretches” off a-packing—
Spade and pick and crowbar—ready—
“CHARGE”—and “level,” sure and steady!
Wrackers, list to no beseeching—
Deathbed groan or woman screeching—
Don't be moved by want or weeping,
Child at play, or old man creeping.

Sheriff, see that woman linger!
From her birthplace quickly fling her;
For the child that dies beside her,
Shelter will yon graves provide her!
Wild her scream and full of horror!
Here we have no shelter for her—
Don't be moved by woe or weeping,
Gasping child, or old man creeping.

On yonder graves are salt tears falling—
Women clapping hands and calling
To their kindred and relations,
Sleeping sound for generations.
See, the children fly affrighted!
Hearths for them no more are lighted—
Wet and cold, in ditches sleeping,
Naked mothers o'er them weeping.

Sheriff, on these heaps of wreckment
Toast we British Law Ejectment;
Dust and crash and screaming over,
Silence reigns!—and now for clover!
Now I've room to put my flocks in—
Out go MEX, and in go OXEN!
Staunch were we 'gainst woe and weeping,
Child at play, or old man creeping!

(Taken from a ballad-slip which circulated widely in Ireland many years ago. Landlords have grown humane since then!)

Add to the power of discovering truth, the desire of using it for the promotion of human happiness, and you have the great end and object of our existence.—*Herbert Spencer.*

Next in importance to the inborn nature, is the acquired nature which a person owes to his education and training; not alone to the education which is called learning, but to that development of character which has been evoked by the conditions of life.—*Dr. H. Maudsley.*

Verily, the Prophet (Mahomet) said, “He who shall take the right of a Moslem by a false oath, verily God will make hell-fire proper for him, and will forbid him Paradise.” Then a man said to his highness, “Although the right so taken should be trifling and contemptible?” He said, “Although it should be but a twig from a bush of thorns.”



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

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication. As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors. Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d. Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTTINGHAM SOCIALIST CLUB.—Report received too late; must arrive first post Tuesday morning.

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Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday May 1.

ENGLAND	FRANCE	GERMANY
Casson's Circular	Paris—L'Égalité (daily)	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Die Autonomie	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	Wien—Gleichheit
Justice	Le Proletariat	Briinn—Volksfreund
Labour Elector	La Revolte	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Labour Tribune	Le Coup de Feu	
London—Freie Presse	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	
Manchester Sunday Chronicle		
Norwich—Daylight		
Railway Review		
Sozial Demokrat		
Telegraph Service Gazette		
Worker's Friend		
UNITED STATES	HOLLAND	DENMARK
New York—Der Sozialist	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Social-Demokraten
Freiheit		Copenhagen—Arbejdereen
Truthseeker		
Volkszeitung		
Workmen's Advocate		
The Truth		
Boston—Woman's Journal		
Investigator		
Chicago—Knights of Labor		
Vorbote		
ITALY	WEST INDIES	
Turin—Il Muratore		
Rome—L'Emancipazione		
SWITZERLAND	SPAIN	PORTUGAL
Arbeiterstimme	Madrid—El Socialista	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
	Barcelona—Ticra y Libertad	

NOTICE.

Comrade Kropotkin wishes it to be announced that the lectures on Social Evolution, which were to have been given in the South Kensington Town Hall, will not now be delivered. Some misapprehension having arisen as to the circumstances under which they were being promoted, Kropotkin, who wished to give an exposition of Socialism in the interest of society only, has declined to proceed with them.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Few people who have watched the course of what is called "justice" in the present day, and especially Sir Peter Edlin's administration of it, will have expected anything like what justice is poetically supposed to be from the Clerkenwell Sessions House when presided over by that legal luminary; but even those who have read of the case in the ordinary reports of the daily papers, will be a little startled at the disgraceful sentence passed by Edlin on our comrades of Berner Street.

It seems that Edlin is so pleased with himself, that he is going to ask the County Council to raise his salary by £500. The *Star* suggests

very appropriately that they might so far take his request into consideration as to lower it by that amount. For, after all, is Sir Peter really earning his salary? from his employer's point of view I mean. The "law" or "administration of justice," or whatever else you call it, is at its best such a cruel instrument of oppression against the poor, that those servants of it, the judges, would best serve the interests of the ruling classes that employ them, who should carry on their vile office with an affectation at least of moderation and fairness. The game of the masters of Society at present is to get people to say, "Well, the system has its blemishes, but you see it doesn't work so ill. Let it alone!"

But men like Edlin are resolved, it seems, to prove that the system is all blemishes; to make it clear to poor people that the law is their enemy. He seems determined to carry on the tradition of the police-courts after Bloody Sunday, and to show those that are discontented with their share of the wealth of the country (all kicks and no half-pence), that to be accused by a policeman is to be condemned by the Court, and that the boasted liberty of Englishmen is only meant to apply to those who have property to back it.

In fact, "too much zeal" is surely injuring the usefulness, to their employers the upper classes, of some of our judges. The other day Sir Peter Edlin pointed out to the public the abuses of our law courts in the matter of judge-directed verdicts, by an unsuccessful attempt to bully a jury into accepting his view of the evidence instead of carrying out the spirit of their oath by insisting on their view. This again was a very poor service to render to the votaries of law-'n'-order.

In short, if the County Council do raise Sir Peter Edlin's salary, they will surely do so in virtue of their sympathies with Revolution, and consider him as a revolutionary agent to be encouraged in his present course; so that at last people will find that the whole thing is unbearable, that the very air they breathe is so corrupted by tyranny and oppression that it stifles them.

Mr. John Morley took some pains at Newcastle the other day to pronounce against the eight hour's movement. Whatever our views as Socialists may be as to the value of this movement (and I amongst others think it will prove illusory), Mr. Morley means by pronouncing against it to pronounce against Socialism, and against the Socialist-Radical movement as led by the *Star*. That paper considers Mr. Morley's disclaimer as courageous on his part; but I don't know. All it means is that he has cast up the pros and cons as to the effect to be produced on his election on the one hand, and his position as a claimant for Mr. Gladstone's shoes on the other, and has come to the conclusion that it will be better for him to run the small risk of the Socialist vote at Newcastle, rather than involve himself in an alliance with the Progressive Radicals, and be suspected of Socialist tendencies. The time is not yet come when a statesman can get beyond Whiggery. Will it ever come?

The *Pull Mall Gazette* has taken up the cause of the Primrose Ladies with such fervour, that one may hope it is so blinded with enthusiasm as not to perceive that at the best that valuable institution is furthering the emancipation of Ladies, not of women. For otherwise, judging by this and other articles (notably a long-winded essay by that very hard-shell Radical, Admiral Maxse), one must say of it that it is becoming almost too fair for journalistic war, and shows signs of being on the verge of conversion by Balfour's heroism and Salisbury's "sweet reasonableness." W. M.

It will be our own fault if in our own land society is not organised upon a new foundation.—Miss Sedgwick.

There are many in the world whose whole existence is a makeshift, and perhaps the formula which would fit the largest number of lives, is "a doing without, more or less patiently."—George Eliot.

NOTE FROM LEICESTER.—We have had John Burns here lately, and we hope to see him again in about a month. Lectured twice on a Sunday. (Grand audiences; Secular Hall filled in the afternoon (an astonishing thing). Tea provided in the hall after the noon lecture. About thirty Socialists and their friends sat down. One friend had come twelve miles. At the evening lecture—"Past, Present, and Future of Trades Unionism"—Burns attacked Bradlaugh and the labour leaders, Broadhurst and Howell; predicting, by virtue of his being behind the scenes and seeing what's what, defection of the first-named, and accusing the others of corruption by the capitalists. Being charged himself with taking money from the Tories at Nottingham at the time of his candidature, he replied in a short history of the affair, giving the name of the gentleman (a chairman of a Liberal Association in Liverpool) who furnished the money alleged to be "Tory gold," and which Burns used to defray the expenses of a Socialist programme and propaganda. The lecture, which was not so witty as the afternoon one, on "Modern Poverty: Cause, Effect, Remedy," was solid, and called forth letters in the local press—remonstrances and denials on the part of the people charged, and reply by Burns. For the first time, our Branch cleared all expenses and had a few shillings to the good. Burns's style just hits the popular taste. He is neither pedantic, nor too grammatical. His powers were recognised in the audience's bursts of applause and ringing laughter. A visit or two from him to any tottering Branch is calculated to put it straight and firm. A London Fabian recommended Burns to us, and a local Fabian paid his personal expenses. When a member of one section (Fabian) pays for a member of another section (S.D.F.) to lecture for the benefit of a third section (S.L.), it ought to shut our enemies' mouths about our contradicting and excluding one another.—T. B.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. GEORGE'S FARM.

A SUGGESTION.

In speaking of our friend Harrison Riley as "one of the most active" of the Communist party at Totley, I did not imply or mean to imply that he was one of the most active *talkers*—rather the opposite—nor did I say anything about his being on the committee. It is quite possible, however, that my account of the affair is defective, as, though I have tried to get accurate information on the subject I have found it hard to do so; and I quite endorse comrade George Sturt's suggestion that some one should write a detailed story of the venture. Who better than Riley himself—since his letter suggests his willingness to do so? Riley, show up!

In reference to the letter of George Sturt, I think one reason why all these little communal schemes fail is their narrowness—and it is a good thing they do fail, though it is also a good thing (and a very good thing) that they are started and succeed for a time. I think they all help the Cause on, and break ground in one direction or another; but when you come to have a score or fifty or even a hundred people penned together in a little community, they are bound either to chafe and gall each other into a state of exasperation and explosion, or else if they are so like-minded as to have no serious differences it can only be by reason of their exceeding narrowness and sectarian character (as of some of the communities in the United States), which of itself condemns them beforehand to failure. Personally, I would not like to belong to a community of under a million people! I think with that number one might feel safe, but with less there would be a great danger of being *watched*. If one used the common funds, for instance, to have a glass of beer on the sly, and the majority were blue ribbonites; or to have a good dinner, and they were vegetarians; or if one wanted to use bad language, and the rest of the community was highly æsthetic; how one would be made to feel it! But in a large body an immense variety of opinion and practice (though there would have to be limits even here) would be represented and allowed for; and under those circumstances Communism would be splendid. However, all success to these small ventures, all the same. Some of them may grow to become large ones, and may rise as it were from below to meet the great general movement towards Communism, which owing to economic conditions is taking place from above. And all honour to those who have fought to establish these little communities. They have kept the sacred fire alight through a long and dark night.

April 21, 1889.

EDWARD CARPENTER.

OUR FIELDS AND CITIES.

George Sturt's query in relation to St. George's Farm, Totley (*Commonweal*, April 20th) is very helpful. To provide for the millions, now being killed in towns and cities, is the question on which many others turn; the control of agriculture is a condition in the path of our progress which Kropotkin recognises in his article in the *Nineteenth Century*, June, 1888.

I write from a district in which 24,000 population have 90,000 acres of average arable land to breathe in—we have nearly 4 acres a head to swing our arms upon—and the adjoining districts are very similarly placed. The wild animals, wild birds, and wild fruits which might be here in a wild state, would nearly feed us all, and it is only 40 miles from London! In most of the villages the existing population would be ten years in getting the land prepared for an average vegetable crop. We require quite double our present population to do the work of agriculture alone, as it ought to be done, even in the present way of doing it, which, as is well known, is imperfect.

If the additional workers could be added quietly, they would be incorporated into rural life without the difficulty that most people think. There is not much to fear that the town worker could not mix with the rural worker, when once each saw that it is needful to both that they should so mix. The business of agriculture is not the mystery that the land-holders would make us believe. Almost every worker knows what to do and when to do it, and a very large percentage could guide a freshman without external supervision; but to secure the cordial co-operation of the present rural worker it is necessary first to show him that the added men are not to be competitors who might eat him up. The wretched circumstances under which he has grown up leave him very much a prey to jealousy of "strangers," as the present middle-class teach him to regard every one outside his native parish.

Our Radical friends say, "Nationalise the land and all will change," but their scheme would place much more power in the hands of farmers than they now have (economically). Land Nationalisers speak as if forty millions of cultivated acres were already in half-acre "allotments."

The most useful propaganda for the country districts would be co-operative farms. They would excite the deadly hostility of the existing master agriculturist, which in itself would be of the greatest assistance to the Cause. To establish a co-operative farm we should have to face a stiff rent and an equally stiff rate of usury on the cost of implements, cattle, etc., for equipment. I can find a sufficient number of men ready to take the work up, but they say "How are we to get over the first harvest?" Clearly by the use of the product of previous labour, which just at this moment is in a farmer's keeping, and consists of certain sheep and other things which when he counts he calls *his*; and the men who are about have a habit of thinking they are *his* and not *theirs*.

Co-operative farms would bring back the people to the localities where the death-rate is 13 in the thousand instead of 19 to 30; they would transform field-work from its present drudgery into a pleasant occupation carried on by healthy people in its proper season, so as to afford reasonable leisure when the elements prohibit outdoor work; at which times the state of the workers is now that of exceptional misery.

Should "Our Cities" smash up suddenly, and not give the interval for quietly transferring the people back to the land, we shall indeed have to use all our wits and energies too. The confusion will be great.

JOHN GREENWOOD.

SOCIALIST DEMONSTRATION ON BLACKSTONE EDGE.

A great Socialist demonstration will be held on Blackstone Edge, on Sunday May 5th, 1889. The following will address the meeting: Mr. R. B. Cunninghame Graham, Labour M.P. for Lanark; comrade Frank Kitz, representative of the Socialist League; comrade H. M. Hyndman, repre-

sentative of the S.D.F.; comrade A. Wess, representative of the international workmen; comrades Maguire and Paylor, Leeds, representatives of Yorkshire; comrades Horrocks, Riding, Sharples, representatives of Lancashire; also comrades Walkden, Ritson, Phair, Shufflebotham, West, Radcliffe, Marshall, Parkinson, Hall, Evans, Thompson, and others.

A preliminary meeting will be held at the Big Lamp, Littleborough, at 11.30—comrade Evans in the chair. The meeting will be addressed by comrades Horrocks, Hall, Kitz, Shufflebotham, West, Wess, Walkden, and Thompson.

At 12.30 a Welcome Dinner to the various representatives will be held in the Turner Dining Rooms, Littleborough. Tickets, 1s. each. Early application is necessary, as the hall is limited for size.

At 1.20 the Branches will be marshalled at the Lamp, Littleborough, and proceed to Blackstone Edge at 1.30 in processional order as follows: 1st, Speakers and Council; 2. Blackburn; 3. Sheffield; 4. Bolton; 5. Leeds; 6. Manchester and International; 7. Daiwen; 8. Salford; 9. Bradford; 10. Rochdale.

The chair will be taken at 3 p.m. prompt by Dr. Geo. Brown, Rochdale, and the following resolutions will be submitted to the meeting and supported by the various comrades:

1st resolution—"That this meeting, recognising the terrible privations of the skilled and unskilled artizans from want of employment, therefore calls on the borough and councils to employ them in useful work by the erection of healthy artizan dwellings, to be let at the cost of erection and maintenance, and other public works, at trade union rate of wages."

2nd resolution—"That this meeting calls upon the Government to introduce a compulsory Eight Hours Bill, and enforce the registration of places or habitations as workshops wherever any article is in the process of manufacture."

3rd resolution—"That this meeting of the masses of Yorkshire and Lancashire recognises the justice of the claim that Socialism is the only means for the complete emancipation of the toiling masses, and we therefore pledge ourselves to enroll ourselves as members of Socialist bodies and work for the accomplishment of the Social Revolution."

A meeting will be held in the evening at the Town Hall Square, Rochdale, on the return from Blackstone Edge.

All communications, applications for dinner tickets, etc., to be made to comrade J. M. Hutchison, 24 Manchester Street, Salford, who alone has authority to make all arrangements.

J. M. HUTCHISON, Sec. Lancashire Council.

NOTE FROM ABERDEEN.—During the last fortnight, a discussion which has attracted a good deal of interest and attention, was opened up in the columns of a local Conservative evening paper by Webster and Leatham, each writing without knowing that the other was doing so, and both letters appearing simultaneously. The subject was the position of the mill-worker, upon which a local clerical "worker's friend" had delivered a rose-coloured and misleading sermon, of which a report had appeared in said Conservative organ. The reporter spoke with appreciation of the practicality of the reverend philanthropist's sermon; but in a leader which followed our comrade's letters the editor assumed a very different tone, making a frank confession of the miserable condition of the millworkers. We find that Gronlund's advice as to invading the capitalist press with Socialist contributions can be followed with good results.—L.

LABOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Mr. John Hogan, Chairman Johannesburg Building Trades' Association, writes to *Reynolds* respecting a cablegram sent from Johannesburg to some English papers by a Mr. G. Kynoch, M.P., reading, "Transvaal wants thousands carpenters, masons, bricklayers; 30s. daily." He says: Mr. G. Kynoch, M.P., has been grossly misinformed as to the wants of the Transvaal, or has knowingly given a very misleading account of the actual condition concerning the building trades of this State, and more especially of Johannesburg and Pretoria. I believe the cablegram was sent about the beginning of January this year; wages were then on the average 18s. per day of nine hours, and, anticipating a rise of wages, the cablegram may have been forwarded for motives best known to the sender and speculative gentry of these parts. About two and a half years ago the ruling wages for Johannesburg was 7s. 6d. to 10s. per day of ten hours, and has risen with the development of these gold-fields to 22s. 6d. per diem of nine hours—the average for the present week. Considering the stir made among the English artizans by such reports, I think it but right the other side of the question should be put. The cost from an English port to a South African port can easily be reckoned at your end of the journey, and after landing at Port Natal, which I daresay leaves the shortest route to these fields (about 400 miles), £15 would no more cover the journey per rail and coach. All luggage is forwarded about 240 miles by mule and bullock waggons, the trip by the former occupying ten to fifteen days; the latter, eighteen to thirty days. Board and lodging comes between 35s. and 45s. per week, exclusive of washing. At present house rent is very high, three or four roomed cottages are not to be had, nor any class of dwelling suited for a married working man. The cable message may give an impression that the Transvaal is thickly studied with towns, where employment is easily obtained, whereas the very opposite is the case. Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Klerkshorp are the only towns where artizans could reasonably chance a trip in search of employment, and already artizans are flocking to this place in great numbers from Natal and the Cape Colony. Building material often runs short of the demand, and at present fully one-half of the jobs are at a standstill through the scarcity of bricks, caused by the monopoly granted by the Government to a syndicate for the manufacture of bricks by steam in Johannesburg. And when material can be obtained, some builders have a peculiar idea in advertising fifteen to twenty men wanted, to suit their requirements of five to seven men. Such an advertisement is often the means of breaking up home and luring people this way. White labourers have no chance in the Transvaal, and I may say South Africa, as the blacks can be got to work for 1s. to 3s. per day, sunrise to sunset, and blacks are also principally engaged in the mines, having a white man to boss them up. American and Swedish manufactured doors, sashes, frames, and other class of joinery leaves little to be done in that line, and the means of transit are so uncertain that tradesmen lose a good deal of time. Apologising for the length of this letter, and hoping the above will prepare those artizans who are contemplating a trip to this El Dorado—El Dorado to capitalists and company mongers alone—not to expect a bed of roses, but 22s. 6d. a-day for 22s. 6d. worth of labour, and also to caution them before acting on the advice of questionable cablegrams, believe me yours truly.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

The Fife and Clackmannan coalmasters have decided that the present prices do not warrant any advance in miners' wages. The men had asked for 10 per cent.

IRONWORKERS' WAGES.—Notices were posted on the 25th at the extensive works of the Dowlais Iron and Steel Company, informing the employés that it had been decided to grant an advance of wages to all the hands.

At a meeting of blast furnacemen, held on Thursday 25th, at the Hen and Chickens Inn, Castle Street, Dudley, the resolution passed a week or so ago was confirmed, that two men from each works should wait on the masters and ask for a 10 per cent. advance, and report to a meeting on May the 6th.

The Saltmakers' Association of Winsford, Cheshire, has issued a notice to the Salt Union demanding a reduction of the hours for men and an increase in number of men working in gangs, and stating that if their demands are not conceded every man in the employ of the Union in Cheshire will be called out.

SEAMEN'S WAGES.—The seamen on the Tyne, who are members of the Sailors' and Firemen's General Association, are at present agitating for an advance of wages—namely, £4 5s. on deck, £4 10s. below, £5 for cooks and stewards, and carpenters £6 per month. A public meeting and demonstration were held Monday 29th at North and South Shields. Resolutions were passed urging the men to stand out for the advance, and recommending the men not to ship with non-union men.

CHAINMAKERS.—A meeting of chainmakers has been held at the New Town Lane Schools, Cradley Heath, at which a resolution was carried to declare a general strike at all the factories where the employers refuse to pay the list prices. There appears to be a general impression amongst the leaders of the men and operatives alike that the strike will be of short duration. The new list represents an increase in wages ranging from 5 to 12½ per cent. A cordial letter was read from Cunninghame Graham, M.P., and it was also reported that some employers had already given in.

NORTHERN COLLIERIES' WAGES.—The fresh ballot of the county of Durham coalminers has been completed. The existing sliding-scale is unanimously condemned, and an increase of 20 per cent. in wages is demanded. The present sliding-scale terminates in about two months' time. A mass meeting of the miners at the Seaham Harbour and Rainton Collieries and the men from the neighbouring collieries held a mass meeting on Saturday afternoon at Seaham Harbour, and decided to demand an advance of 20 per cent. in wages. Resolutions were also passed condemning the local sliding-scale, and calling upon the Durham miners generally to organise more efficiently. A meeting of Northumberland officials with reference to the soft coal trade in that county was held same day. It was reported that the notices which had been sent in by the men engaged in the soft coal trade asking to be placed on the same footing as those at the steam coal collieries had been withdrawn.

WEST BROMWICH BRICK TRADE.—The agitation respecting wages in the brick trade is now extending to the Black Country. A dispute has arisen at one of the largest brickworks in West Bromwich between the employers and the setters and drawers as to rate of wages to be paid in future. The kilns in which the bricks are made have been recently enlarged, and under these circumstances the men employed in setting and drawing claimed an advance. It has been the custom to pay the men piece-work, a certain number of days being allowed for drawing and setting the kilns. The men contended that the enlargement of the kilns considerably increased their stint, and applied to have a sum equal to a quarter of a day's wages added to the allowance to each kiln. This the employers declined at first to concede. The men then gave a week's notice, which expired on Friday 19th. Meantime the masters advertised for other men, and at one time the dispute wore a serious aspect. It was, however, reported last Friday that the employers had given in and that the men would resume work last Monday.

WAGES IN THE COAL TRADE.—At a numerously attended meeting of colliery proprietors at Manchester on the 16th ult., it was unanimously resolved to refuse an advance on the ground that it was not warranted by the state of trade. An interview took place at Sheffield on the 17th ult. between the coalowners of South and West Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Miners' Association, on the question of an advance of 10 per cent. On behalf of the men it was urged that the coalowners were quite able to concede the advance, but the owners declared that neither trade nor prices had improved so much as to justify it. The deputation said they would report the result to the National Miners' Conference at Nottingham, and no doubt the men of Yorkshire would abide by the decision there come to. If a strike were decided upon the men would come out. Eight large mass meetings were held in different parts of Yorkshire on the 19th to demand the advance. The wages position in Staffordshire is becoming serious. The employers' section of the Wages Board have resolved to refuse the demand for a reduction on the basis selling price of coal to 4s. 9d., arguing that it would raise wages abnormally high. They will advise the men to accept the present 5s. basis on the ground that probably by the second week in May the scale itself will give a 5 per cent. advance. The men may determine to send in their notices, but the masters will not give way. The board meets on Tuesday.

THE BERNER STREET POLICE OUTRAGE.

The infamous sentence passed by Jeffries Edlin upon our comrade Lewis Diemshietz is of a piece with the whole procedure of the case since the brutal outrage committed by the police on 16th March. The accused men and their witnesses were kept in dalliance around the court day by day; and to show that the other side knew perfectly well when the case would really come, no police witnesses (*sic*!) were visible until the hearing of the case.

To be ill-treated, imprisoned, and financially ruined is the lot of comrade Diemshietz, and we here appeal to all Socialists to help us in our efforts to obtain a reversal of the sentence and defray the costs of the defence. We wish also to recompense Diemshietz for his loss.

F. KITZ, Sec. Defence Com.

HACKNEY RADICAL CLUB, 5 The Grove, Mare Street, Hackney.—Monday May 6, at 8.30, Hubert Bland, "Where Radicalism Fails."

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

A new Socialist organ has been started at Paris, entitled *Quatre-vingt-treize* ("1793"). It is a weekly exponent of the revolutionary ideas, and has, among its contributors, Eugène Fournière, the author of *V'Intégral*; Basly and Cluseret, Socialist deputies; Amilcare Cipriani, the Italian soldier of universal revolution; Benoît Malon, editor of *La Revue Socialiste*; and several others.

A few days ago there died at Paris a man who has rendered great services to the cause of social revolution—Antonio de la Calle, former revolutionary Minister of Public Works at Carthage during the memorable and glorious insurrection of 1873. He was also a very distinguished philologist. From the time of the defeat of the Spanish revolt down to his death, he has lived an exile in Paris, and has written very remarkable essays and studies on the political and social events of his native country, which were published in *La Justice*.

BELGIUM.

The *Parti ouvrier* has held its annual conference at Jolimont, in the province of Hainault, and it has been attended by M. Paulari, Municipal Councillor of Paris, one of the leaders of the Possibilist party of France. The Belgian Socialists have decided to officially take part in the proceedings of the next international congress of Paris, got up by the Possibilists, in spite of the report given to the conference by comrade Volders, formerly delegate of the executive of the *Parti ouvrier* at the Hague conference—a report which concluded to the abstention of the Belgians from the Paris Possibilist Congress. The Jolimont conference, however, has also finally decided to send delegates to the Marxist International Congress.

The Belgian Anarchists have resolved to start a weekly entitled *Le Drapeau noir* (the Black Flag).

The trial for high treason of comrade Defuisseaux and twenty-seven other Socialists will begin on May 6th, before the Court of Assize at Mons.

HOLLAND.

Shortly, a new Socialist paper will appear at Flushing, province Zeeland, under the title *Licht en Waarheid* (Light and Truth). This new weekly journal, published by L. Mieremet, is intended to be a purely theoretical organ of the Socialist ideas, in order not to interfere with *Recht voor Allen*, which brings all kinds of news. Some time ago another weekly was started at Flushing, entitled *Volksstem* (Voice of the People), but it did not succeed, and was obliged to stop its publication. We hope that this venture will meet with a better fate and do good service to the cause.

Last year we announced in these Notes the death of one of the most learned men among the Dutch Socialists—comrade Roorda van Eysinga. His friends now intend to publish the articles which he wrote in various periodicals and magazines. The two first series of a book entitled '*Brieven zonder oorspronkelijkheid*' (Letters without originality) have already appeared and are most interesting. They contain a scientific demonstration of the Anarchist idea and a critical essay on parliamentarism.

Comrade Croll, co-editor of *Recht voor Allen*, has just published a small pamphlet on 'Co-operation,' in which he warns all Socialists not to lay any stress on the "co-operative business," not only as a Socialist aim, but even as a means towards the realization of the Socialist doctrines. The publication of this pamphlet is all the more significant, since comrade Croll himself has done his utmost to encourage the development of co-operative institutions, and in fact Holland has for the last two or three years indulged very much indeed in that special line. The Dutch comrades have now begun to find out that the *spirit of revolt*, without which a sincere Socialist can hardly be imagined, is vanishing away in proportion to the progress and success of the co-operative institutions, and they think that it is high time to stop that game. Comrade Croll's pamphlet has been widely spread and no doubt will do a good deal of real socialistic propaganda among the Dutch Socialists and co-operators.

The Dutch Radicals through the initiative of M. Stoffel, manufacturer at Deventer, and under the impulsion of M. Flürscheim, the German apostle of the land nationalisation idea, have just started an agrarian league, with a view of pursuing the same ends as the kindred German and Swiss associations and the English and American "peaceful transformers of private property." The Dutch Socialist workers are not in the least concerned in the new movement, which up to the present time, at any rate, is only got up by the Radical bourgeoisie.

NORWAY.

For some time past the compositors and printers have been on strike at Christiania. They do not only ask for higher wages, but also want to bring about a complete reorganisation of the printeries. It is a general strike of the whole trade that is going on, and the workers have up to now been supported by the Socialist party and by several foreign branches of their fellow-tradesmen. Some of the most important printing firms have tried to get workers from Denmark, but as soon as they arrived at Christiania they heard that they had been engaged under false pretences, and altogether refused to start work. One of these printing firms has to do all the official printery, as the publication of the parliamentary records, the official gazette, etc., and now the copy has to be sent over to Denmark. The compositors in Christiania convened a large meeting to protest against the action of the Government, but they were interfered with by the police, who proclaimed the meeting. An interpellation was made in the Chamber of Deputies, in order to protest against such proclamation, with the result that 34 members out of 78 declared themselves against the Government.

SERVIA.

Parliamentarism is flourishing in a strange way in little Servia! The other day the deputy Tovanovich, a prominent member of the progressist and Radical party, was murdered at Mutnez, at the instigation of his political opponents,—a very easy method of simplifying party politics.

V. D.

LABOUR EMANCIPATION LEAGUE.—Sunday afternoon Outings.—The first of the series will take place on Sunday May 5th, to the Merton Socialist Club, and will consist of the members and friends of the Bethnal Green Branch of the S.D.F. and the L.E.L. (Hoxton). A demonstration will be held on Mitcham Fair Green at 7 p.m. Buses will start from the L.E.L., 1 Hoxton Square, Hoxton, N., at 2 p.m. Tickets 1s. 3d. each, may be had of the members of the above organisations. Tickets must be paid for by Saturday 4th. H. A. Barker, Excur. Sec.

SOCIALIST LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS.

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